

I, Fred W. Slipper, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declare as follows:

1. I was born on May 14, 1917 in my mother and fathers house in Hamilton, Washington. A picture of the house is shown below as it appears today.



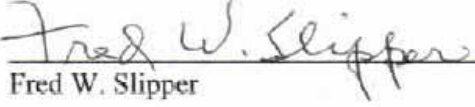
2. The house was originally built in 1887 and moved to this location, 584 Maple Street, in 1902. At this location it only had floodwater in it during the December 1921 flood. At no time previous nor subsequent to that date did it have floodwaters in it until the November, 1990 floods.

3. The reason I remember this is because my mother and father had just installed hardwood floors the year before and they were very worried that the 2 inches of floodwater were going to hurt the floors. Because the floodwater was only in the house for a little over an hour or two, the hardwood floors were not damaged. They talked about this from time to time during my childhood.

4. Before 1990 the first floor of the living quarters sat approximately 2 to 3 feet off the ground. The house was raised after the second November 1990 flood when it again had floodwater inside, this time I am told it had 16 inches of water in it.

5. For over 9 years I worked as a weekly columnist for the local Courier Times. On January 7, 1981 I reminisced about my boyhood days in Hamilton and wrote about the infamous December 1921 flood. A copy of that article is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6. There were a handful of other homes in Hamilton that never had water in them during any flood event until the decade of the 1990's. One of them was called "The Smith House" which is situated at the east end of town at 307 Maple Street. The Smith House was built in 1908 as determined by Skagit County Tax Assessor Records.


Fred W. Slipper

April 29, 2006 Sedro-Woolley, Washington
Date and Place of Execution

Slipper's Soliloquies

Floods, the headache of Hamilton



By Fred Slipper

Sitting at home last night (Dec. 26th) listening to the radio flood reports brought back a lot of memories. I may have reminisced on this subject in the past but that would have been in 1980, and this is a new year, so repetition doesn't count....

I thought when all the dams were built up river our floods were supposed to be controlled. At least that is what they told us in the old days. It seems the floods are worse than ever. The radio said Hamilton had been completely evacuated. Back in my childhood I don't remember anyone leaving town. Our house was built quite a bit above the ground, about four feet, and altho water did come in and cover the floor, my folks didn't leave. They did put all the furniture up on blocks dad had stored in a shed just for flood emergencies, and they rolled up the rugs and put me upstairs so I would be out of the way. Many of the other houses were built the same way-two that come to mind are the Jim Smith house and the house that was owned by Great Northern station agent, Mr. Belfry. Nick and Ella Brando are the present owners. Since I have lived there, many of the new houses are the type built on a slab so they are very susceptible to flood conditions.

Our flood gauge was a stick put in the ground down by Sam Morrell's and when the water got to a certain level everyone knew the water was coming. It used to cover the road first down past the school buildings, near the cheese plant owned and operated by Louie Castrilli. (I wonder how many of the present day residents of Hamilton know the cheeses produced by Louie won many blue ribbon awards at various World Fairs?)

When the flood waters finally receded the clean up began. We would find everything in our yard-fence posts, firewood, dog houses, anything that would float was moved to a new location. I could tell just how high the water on each preceding flood had risen by the mud rings around all of the out buildings. There was no way out of town, as the only road out was the old highway, and down near Val Adams (about half way to Lyman) the water got about two feet above the road level.

Then when the water finally receded the work began. In my younger days the houses didn't have wall to wall carpet and the rugs weren't fastened down so they could be rolled up and put on tables, etc. But the mud was still there. The first flood I can remember that covered the floor of our home was 1921. The summer before my folks had put hardwood floors in, and mom was afraid they would be ruined, but apparently they survived.
