

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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FLOOD IN SKAGIT DOES NO DAMAGE IN THE COMMUNITY

LOWER VALLEY BEARS BRUNT OF HIGH WATER WHEN SKAGIT GOES ON RAMPAGE-BRIDGES OUT IN UPPER VALLEY

With the heaviest snowfall in the mountains that has been known in twenty years, a raging Chinook wind accompanied by heavy rains, found conditions just right to bring on a flood and do it quickly. The rains started last Thursday and continued steadily until Saturday afternoon, and during most of that time the rain was heavy as well as steady. The Chinook continued through the greater part of the day. It was exceptionally warm for this season, raising the temperature almost to summer level during the afternoon.

Flood Comes Quickly

All the streams in the Skagit valley began rising Thursday afternoon, and had already reached about the highest stage of the winter by the time the Chinook struck Friday. Then the smaller streams became raging torrents and the Skagit began a steady climb that did not reach its peak until late Saturday night. When the river began to drop Saturday night, it still lacked six to eight feet of being up to the record level of 1921, but it was high enough to cause some worry among the residents of Crofoot's addition and East Concrete. Low-lying gardens on the east side were covered but Crofoot was not even dampened. The Baker River dam held back the flood waters of the Baker for over 24 hours, and then only a comparatively small amount of the stream came over the dam. Had

this stream been added to the water already in the Skagit, Crofoot would have been flooded by Friday night and the communities of the lower valley suffered much damage.

Jackman Bridge Out

Jackman creek at Van Horn reached about the highest point in the history of the valley, and for a time threatened much damage. A log jam a short distance up the stream from the new wagon bridge threatened to tear out all three bridges and also to divert the stream through the community. The jam was blasted out, but the stream had already washed out the piling under the west end of the bridge, and as the bridge was likely to fall in at any moment, the structure was torn out. The old bridge, condemned some years ago, is being used for up-river travel until the main bridge can be rebuilt, which will likely take several weeks. The Lorentzen and Muller places were flooded during the high water, but only small damage was done.

On the new Faber road, a large slide came down, crossed the new road and completely blocked the old road and the Great Northern tracks. The old wagon road was cleared on Monday, but the railroad is still under the slide. Few details as to damage further up the valley have been to . . . Birdsview the greatest damage was to the Great Northern railroad, with the Grandy

creek bridge and considerable track washed out, and at the fish hatchery, where grounds and buildings were flooded. Hamilton and Lyman suffered only the usual damage from high water, with no buildings washed away. Nearly the whole of Hamilton was covered at the height of the flood. In the lower valley the most damage was done Saturday by breaking dikes along the lower river. The approach to the Skagit river bridge at Sedro-Woolley and a considerable portion of railway track between Sedro-Woolley and Lyman were washed out.

Mail Through Monday

The county highway between Concrete and Sedro-Woolley was quickly opened after the water receded and auto travel to that city was open Monday, when the first mail and papers were received here since Friday night. Travel to Mount Vernon and to Bellingham and Seattle were opened that afternoon. Highway travel is now back to normal both up and down the valley, but the railroad is still closed to between this city and Sedro-Woolley, although it is expected that trains will get through to Concrete by tomorrow night. It may be a few days later before trains will be able to continue to Rockport.