

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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## Crew of Men Now at Work On Revetment

### Building Big Mat For Diverting Current Near Skiyou

By AL ARNST

Snorting "cats" and busy men are bulwarking with trees and rock one of the Skagit's troublesome bank erosion areas, located on the Reese place east of town. Under supervision of the county engineer's office, work is progressing satisfactorily on this river stretch. It is one of the three problem spots slated for treatment as a result of the cooperative survey made by the county planning commission, the county, the Skagit Soil Conservation district, and other agencies and individuals.

On the Reese place the Skagit has been gouging a progressively deeper U-shaped hole, extending in length about 800 feet above the entrance to Skiyou slough, a channel which could bypass the Skagit's flow should active erosion eat away the protecting bank. Upstream from this active erosion the WPA revetment has begun to slough out in spots, which will develop into larger cuts if allowed to continue.

It is the plan to divert the river's attack by building out a floating, interlaced mat of large trees, complete with branches. These hemlock, firs, maple and alders now are being dragged to the bank area and being jostled and lashed into position with cables anchored to a series of buried "deadmen" inland. Out in front a 1,000 foot stretch of cable, to which a tree raft will be anchored, will straighten out the bank line and act as the main baffle mat. This extended mat is intended to slow down the current, catch debris and gradually build up a thick wall to keep swirling flood waters away from the bank.

Rock is being dumped on other bank spots to reinforce the vegetative mat. The old WPA revetment is being strengthened and repaired at critical points. Some fifteen men, several cats, trucks and other equipment are being used to push the project to completion.