

# THE COURIER-TIMES

DECEMBER 1, 1949

## Mother, Child Rescued as They Hang From Rafters

### Pair Float on Mattress as House Breaks Up

Mrs. Albert L. Watson yesterday described a hectic night which she and her three-year-old son, David Allen spent floating on mattresses and finally hanging onto the rafters of their small frame house near Rockport in the raging flood of Saturday and Sunday.

The Red Cross today was caring for the Watson family who lost most of their possessions in the flood.

"The baby and I were alone as my husband, A. L. Watson and our grown son had been away working and couldn't get back across the river, Mrs. Watson said. "When the water backed up in Mosquito Slough Saturday night and started to come in our house, I was scared," the woman continued.

"I got up on a chair and then the baby and I stood on a dresser. Then I piled one mattress on top of the other and we floated on them."

Mrs. Watson said there were three rooms in the house, nailed loosely together, and they broke apart as the flood rose. The room she and the boy were in floated a short distance until it was held, tilted at an angle, by a tree.

The pair poked their heads through a hole into the attic, and Mrs. Watson had a bed slat so she could push out the shingles if they needed to climb to the roof.

Jack Smith and Harvey Sopher who were out in a light skiff with an outboard motor, rescued the pair by kicking out the roof. Smith and Sopher also rescued Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. Merten who stood waist deep in water all night. Neither the Mertens or Watsons were in grave danger when they were rescued.

Mr. and Mrs. George Moses and

their children, also residents of Mosquito Flat, climbed into two dugout canoes, paddled into some trees where they tied up, and spent the night with blankets over their heads.

The Turk house and the Moses house were both badly damaged by water that covered the flats across the river from Rockport. Turk is a mill operator.

Mrs. Jack Smith said this morning that some of the stories of the flood and rescues at Rockport had been exaggerated, and that although there had been high waters and danger for a time, that the crisis was passed by Sunday noon.