

RIVER CHANNEL TO BE CHANGED WITH STATE AID

Nookachamps to Be Dredged and New Road Opened

County officials this week received assurances that the State Department of Conservation and Development would grant substantial financial aid in carrying out three major projects, the bypassing of the "Burlington bend" in the Skagit river, the restoration of Nookachamps creek to its old bed and the development of the Cascade mine-to-market road.

Lowell Hughes, chairman of the county commissioners, reported that Art Garton, director of the state department, and his flood control supervisor, E. D. Berge, had given their okeh to the Burlington Bend project. A state fund of \$100,000 is expected to be made available.

The commissioners are planning to get the river project under way soon and hope to see it completed before the late fall high water period. They propose to send the river through a new channel, on a straight line from the upper end of the Burlington ox-bow to the lower end, where Nookachamps creek enters. This, they believe, will eliminate the present danger of the river's breaking out of the dikes in the bend area and threatening the city of Burlington.

The state, the county and the drainage district involved are to pay a third each, or about \$6000 apiece, to dredge out the old channel from which the Nookachamps creek moved last winter, and to clean out numerous log jams along the channel. The creek has spread "across country" for a mile, Hughes said.

"At least \$60,000" is to be made available for the mine-to-market road, on which construction may be started yet this summer, Chairman Hughes said he was informed.