

## The Editor's Day Off

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Skagit river showed last how quickly it could rise to a serious flood level.

**WORS**  
Usually did Skagit citizens swiftly they could roll emergency action, apparently specific call but more sense of the need for quick, neighborly initiative.

**NEOUS**  
has been much talk of warning service, disaster relief and coordinated emergency. It seemed to me as if in at a number of the spots Sunday night and Monday morning, that if there coordinated action, it was accident than by an over-reaction from any single commander official.

**WORSE DISASTER**  
The main point is that people in the emergency. And that to the wholesale volunteer-personal labor and of the tools, trucks, sandbags, services and communication Skagit area was spared much worse disaster.

fact, this was not a disaster the term is usually meant. was no widespread dis- of communications, no tion of large population

it was a personal disaster, al losses, to numerous indi- families and farmers. Any store or farm that is blank- with muddy flood waters is and the owners put to effort to clean up and get ing back to normal.

**CROSS READY**  
where the American Red will come in. A disaster to Cross may be the great phe which we usually take meaning of the word, or it a severe loss to a single or person, be it from fire, other destructive force. Red Cross is now busy sur-

and the reports on the need for men and equipment at various danger points. Hanson then knew what was going on out there along the river banks and where to send his men.

### ALL-NIGHT SHIFT

The ham radio operation had its confusions. What emergency service didn't that night? But it helped. Only source of information on conditions at Hamilton for several hours was by amateur radio. One ham who came over from Anacortes went on duty at 3 p.m. Sunday and remained on the job until 7 a.m. Monday until relieved, then was back early Monday night. I don't know if Whiting ever went to bed.

### 3 A.M. CONFERENCE

Back in Mount Vernon at 3 a.m., I found the Red Cross officers and disaster committee officials hard at work despite the late hour, checking the situation, arranging for assistance where it had not been supplied, preparing for next day's big task of relief to flooded families.

### CITY, COUNTY ON JOB

At the city hall, officials from Mayor Harve Vaux on down were standing by or working to ease the street flooding in the south part of the town, as the situation demanded. At the courthouse the engineer's office and road crews were on the job, too.

### ELKS FEED HUNDREDS

In Mount Vernon the Elks lodge threw open its club rooms as an assembly and feeding place for dike workers. By 3 a.m. Monday more than 500 men had come and gone; Manager Chris Rogers estimated. At at the Conway fire station, one moment the place would be full of men and next, as a fresh emergency call came in, empty.

### HELPED AVERT DISASTER

Radio station KBRC, which we have considered as a fellow public service more than as an advertising competitor, really came into its own that night. Many farmers

## FRESH RISE IN RIVER NOT HELD CAUSE FOR FEAR

### Weekend Loss Held Down by Volunteer Dike Assistance

An anxious Skagit county kept its eye on the Skagit river late Thursday as word came from the state highway department of new snow and winds in the Baker area.

But although the river had climbed to 19.6 feet early Friday the weather bureau's flood warning office told the county engineer's office there appeared "no cause for alarm." The river started falling at Concrete at midnight. Snow was falling high in the mountains.

Engineer Hjalmar Walberg said a 20.8 foot peak was expected about 2 p.m. Friday, a level that ordinarily causes no trouble.

Upriver and down Skagit county residents were cleaning up today from the flash flood that roared out of the mountains early Sunday morning to give the valley its worst ducking in many years.

Areas in which the water inflicted severe loss were few, in comparison with the county as a whole, but acute. Loss estimates could not be made until waters receded farther from flooded areas but there was a belief in official circles that they would settle down at substantially less than a million dollars.

These same sources believed the two million dollar loss estimate, published in Seattle, to be as fantastic as the outside radio reports that Mount Vernon Sunday night had a foot of water flowing through its business