

9-14-61

## Old Log Jam Dike Rebuilt

To west-of-Mount Vernon suburbanites surprised recently to see the rigging of the lone Skagit steamboat going by, recent improvements to the river dike mean more than a new view.

Nearing completion this week is a mile and a quarter of bank protection and dike bolstering that should mean "we won't ever have to worry" about a flood, to quote one commissioner of Dike Dist. No. 1, which is responsible for bank protection from a little below Avon the ten miles to the North Fork bridge.

The extensive project extends from Edgewater park in West Mount Vernon to Penn road. It has included clearing trees and brush, rock-revetting the present river bank, and moving many thousands of yards of sand to enlarge the dike farther back and slope it gradually to the river edge. The commissioners believe their improvement will halt the bank cutting the river has been doing here — 10 to 15 feet more at every high water.

The downstream half of the improvement is at a sharp bend in the river, site of the tremendous log jam that kept the stream impassable for years after the settling of Mount Vernon. The jam was removed over the years by blasting and much hand labor. At the time of the 1951 flood, this bend was a major danger point and scene of frantic sandbagging for several days.

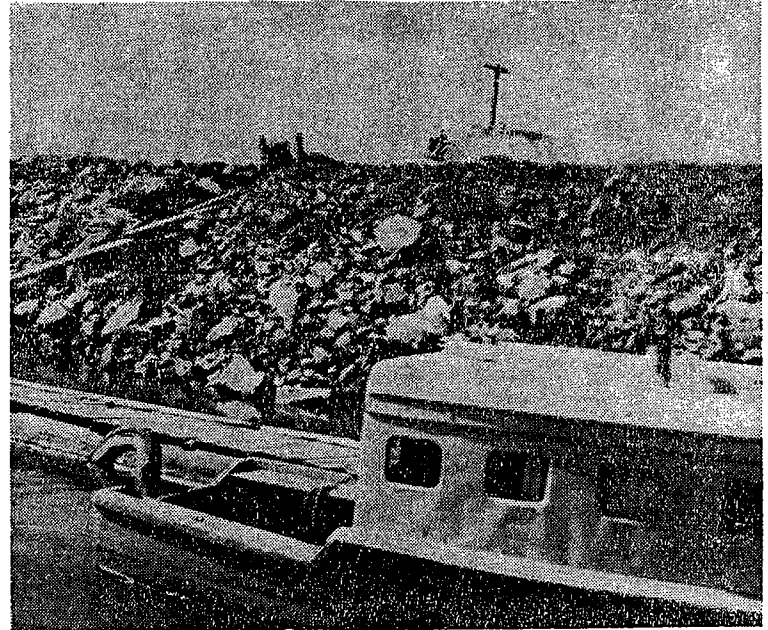
The dike is now well above that high water mark.

The grading and sand moving have been done for the dike district by day labor by Saimons Construction Co., Camano Island. The firm used three huge earth-moving machines and an outsize bulldozer for the job. They will be through or nearly so by Friday of this week. County trucks that finished the rock hauling last week are being moved upstream to the next district, No. 12, for bank improvement in that area.

The blasting felt on the "Flats" last month came from stump removal in the Dist. No. 1 project. Salable trees were cut and disposed of by the two property owners involved, Willis estate and Herman Kurth.

The Dist. No. 1 commissioners — Ben Tjersland, Oscar Helde and Tom Shane, chosen but not yet formally appointed to succeed Joe Niderost, who has resigned — hope in coming years to continue the bank improvement all the way to the North Fork bridge.

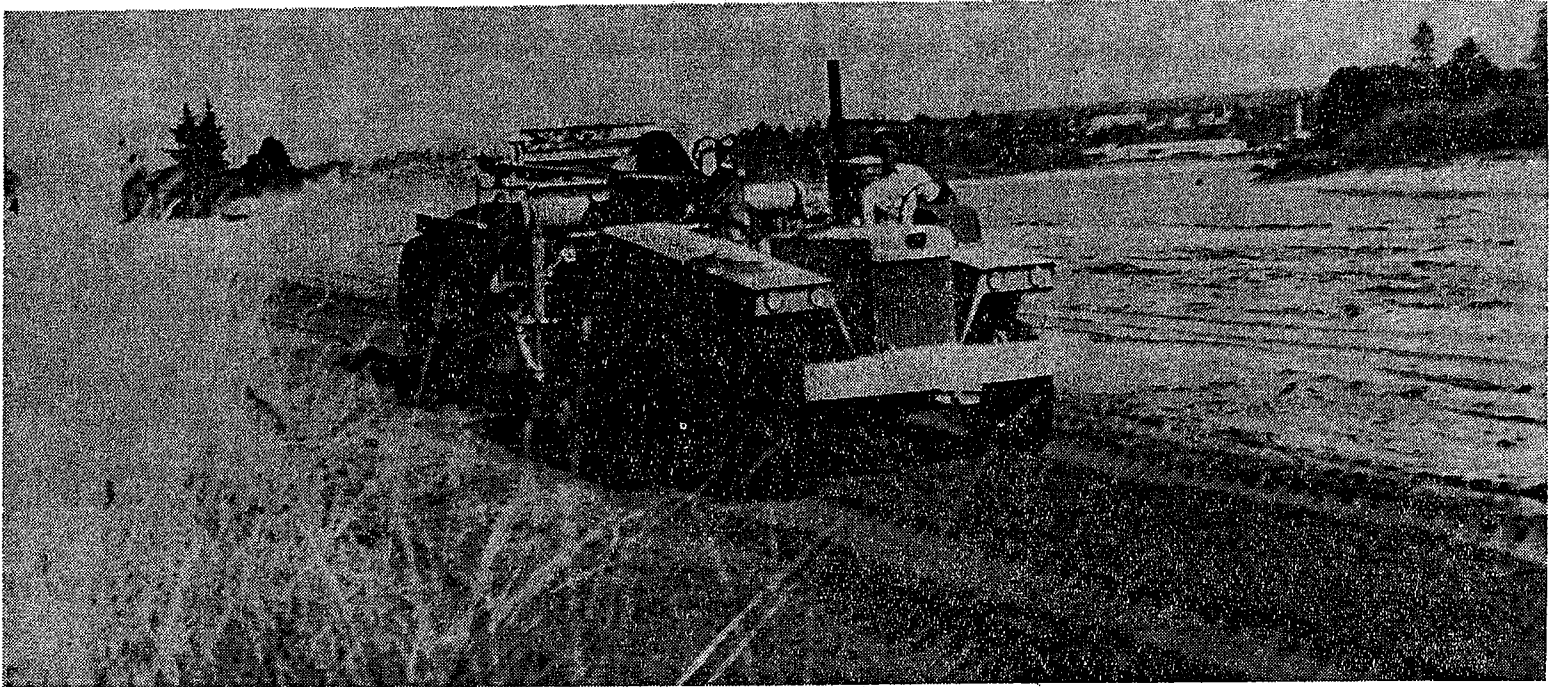
To Commissioner Helde, dike work and concern about the river are remembered back to his childhood, including the big floods of 1909 and 1917. At his parents' home, next to his own on Jungquist road, he recalls watching flood waters creep upward "one step away from being in the house."



**ROCKS BOLSTER RIVER BANK** — From-river view of new rock revetting and dike sloping work being completed this week below Edgewater park, west of Mount Vernon. Trees and brush were removed and dike, in background, widened. — Argus photo, Scana-graving.

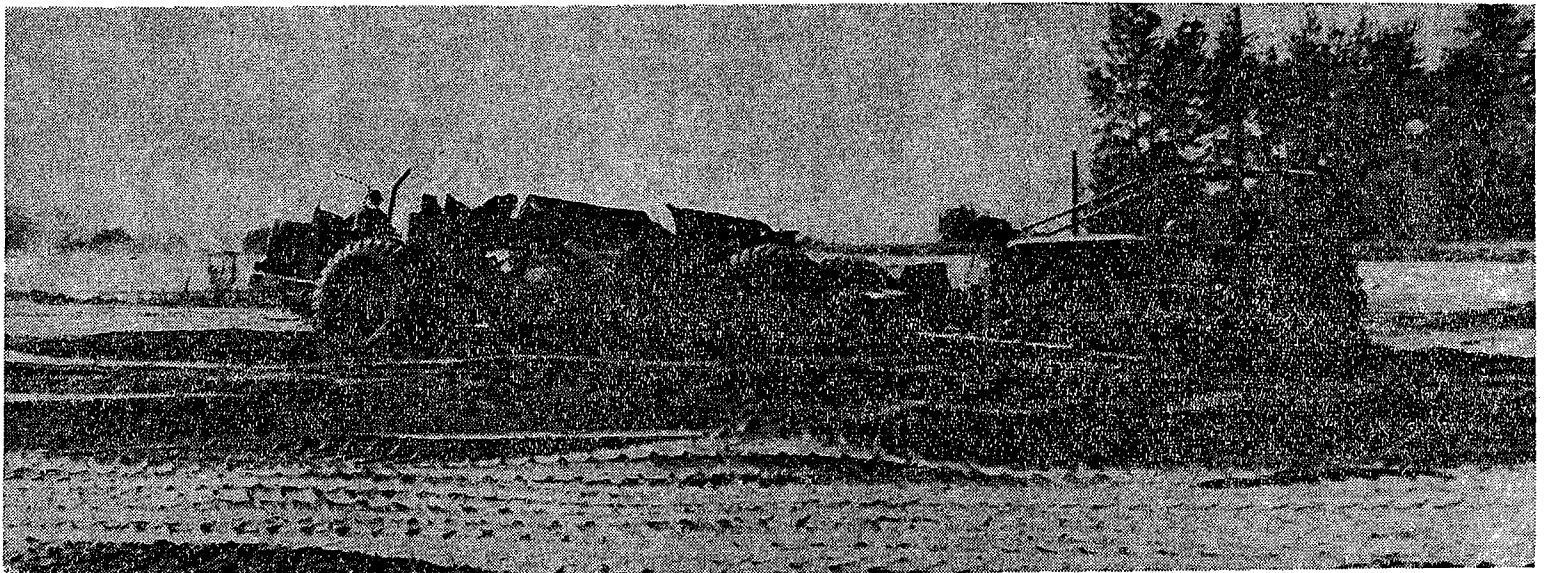
# THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

SEPTEMBER 14, 1961



**OLD LOG JAM BEND DIKE BOLSTERED** — Huge earth movers like this one are expected to finish Friday a major bank protection job along the Skagit river, from Edgewater park to Penn road, west

of Mount Vernon. Main channel once ran close to the dike, now lies about an eighth mile away, where the present river bank has been heavily reinforced with rock. — Argus photo, Scanagraving.



**PUSH-AND-PULL LOADING** — Huge bulldozer gives helping push to 12-yard earth moving machines for Dike Dist. No. 1 flood con-

trol project, west of Mount Vernon. Area between dike and river is being sloped, and dike thickened. —Argus photo, Scanagraving.