

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

June 16, 1923

PRELIMINARY WORK ON BAKER LAKE ROAD STARTED THIS WEEK

FOREST SERVICE WILL BUILD A PASSABLE ROAD TO THE LAKE THIS YEAR - SURVEYING MEN NOW AT WORK

There will be a passable road from Concrete to Baker Lake before the end of this year, according to plans of the government forestry service. The first step towards the actual building of this road was taken the first of the week when C. R. Short, an engineer of the United States bureau of public roads, with a crew of men, started in at the Skagit county line to survey a road up the Baker River valley to the lake. It is understood that the terminus of the road to be built this year is near the hot springs, across the lake from the fish hatchery. As soon as the survey is completed, contracts will be let for the building of the road, the highway to be built in sections with bids called for each section.

The present plan is to build a passable road nine feet wide, with turnouts at convenient points, the road to be widened and otherwise improved later when more funds are available and more data at hand as to amount of the traffic the road will have to stand. There is an appropriation of \$50,000 available for the work this year, and it is expected that by next year there will be enough money available to continue the road around Mt. Baker to connect with the road being built from Glacier to Austin pass, which will give a continuous highway from this city to Baker lake, then around Mt. Baker to Bellingham. The road in to the lake will not be opened in time to be of much benefit to tourists this year, but it will be completed and should be in good

condition for tourist travel early next year.

It will be necessary for Skagit county to build about two miles of road from the end of the present road at Bear creek to the boundary of the forest reserve, and plans are now being made to open up this piece of road, so as to have it ready for use by the time the highway in forest reserve is under construction. The opening of a highway to Baker Lake and the Mt. Baker district will prove of great benefit to Concrete and the entire Skagit valley, as it will open to tourist travel some of the finest scenery in the United States.