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BAKER DAM AIDS IN CONTROLLING FLOODS

With Skagit County suffering from the effects of the most disastrous flood it has experienced in recent years and with flood control one of the principal topics of discussion throughout the state, as well as local, the following figures furnished by C. K. Hatcher, superintendent of the Baker River plant of the Puget Sound Power & Light company, are of particular interest.

More than a week before the flood, according to Mr. Hatcher, the lake level was lowered gradually from an elevation of 435 feet to an elevation of 429 feet, thereby providing storage for part of the tremendous volume of water brought down by the rapidly melting snow.

He stated that plant records indicated that 1,247,000,000 gallons of flood water were stored on Thursday, January 24; the same on Friday, January 25 and on Saturday, January 26, 1,355,000,000 gallons were stored instead of being allowed to sweep over the dam and through the valley.

All gates on the dam were closed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday in order to lessen the flood at high tide, and during this period an additional surplus, estimated at 620,000,000 gallons, was stored and held until the receding tide permitted its discharge.

At no time, according to Mr. Hatcher, during the entire flood period did the flow of water released at the dam equal the tremendous volume poured into Lake Shannon from above. This clearly demonstrates the value of the dam and the lake in minimizing

property damage as the result of a flood.