

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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

August 30, 1945

County Engineers Begin Diagrammatic Sketch For River Survey

County engineers this week have begun a diagrammatic sketch of the Skagit and Samish River watersheds preparatory to submitting the drawing to Congressman Henry Jackson and a group of United States engineers who will be in this district soon investigating flood control needs locally.

Federal funds allocated through the Rivers and Harbors committee, of which Jackson is a member, are being sought that reinforcement for river banks and dredging of shallow bars along the Skagit and Samish rivers might be obtained.

Recently, agriculturists whose farms border the Samish near Edison issued a plea to Skagit county commissioners that debris and shallow bars along points of the river be dredged in the interest of flood prevention.

It will first be necessary for promoters of the project to establish practicability of dredging in order that expense of a government survey might be justified.

Project Costs High

H. O. Walberg, county engineer, pointed out that although costs of this nature cannot be computed without first conducting a survey, expenditures for the project will far exceed those which could be covered by the Skagit county budget.

It has been estimated approximately 90 per cent of all WPA. flood control dikes, constructed as far back as 1932, have eroded, and at one point east of Burlington, in the Nookachamps sector 200 feet of land

bordering the Skagit have been washed away in the past year, rerouting the river's flow and exposing raw banks.

A serious condition has been found to exist in Whatcom County where the Nooksack and Samish rivers are separated by a quarter mile of flat land. During months of high run off the Nooksack overflows into the Samish causing an unnecessary rise of that river's level, and creating additional flood hazards south in Skagit county. Plans for a dike on the division line of flat land are being considered.

County commissioners, who will meet with Jackson and Army engineers on their tour of inspection, will ask a survey be made in order that a bid for federal funds might be submitted for acquisition of a Harbor and River improvement appropriation in the interest of Skagit and Samish rivers flood control.

On a map now being drawn up, flooding and erosion areas have been indicated, including the Nookachamps area one mile east of Burlington to acquaint Jackson, with problems of the district.

It was ascertained by Walberg that glacial water came down through the Samish last winter, possibly from the Nooksack overflow. Last year the Skagit rose high enough to inundate grazing and lower farm lands near Nookachamps, the site of a large basin. A map was recently drawn to study this sector of the river and a copy submitted to the United States engineer's office in Seattle.

Rivers continually erode banks and threaten to open up new pathways, Walberg

said. Ox bows and convolutions often are altered so a river will change its course entirely. Farm lands located on stream and river banks have been irreparably damaged by rerouting of predetermined channels as a result of erosion.

The course followed by flood waters of the Skagit near Burlington indicates the river once flowed by Samish bay as was discovered by geologists who conducted a study of soil and rock formations from Burlington to the bay long ago.

***NOTE:** Unfortunately the article becomes almost unreadable from this point forward.*

Insufficient outlet... Skagit to eliminated... once led to proposals... of a spillway... into Padilla Bay, but... purchasing right of... project resulted in its... project resulting in its... Plans are still in the... engineers and it is... may someday be followed.

“Spot surveys have been... -ed throughout past year... routing,” Lee Wright, county engineer pointed... cribbing alteration of... kept by that department.

“All along the Skagit... are desolving and news... opening up because of... continued. “Between Sedro-Woolley and Lyman where... been routed from old... some places have beginning... back, is one of the... spots along the river.”