

Buller Warns of High Water Peril In Skagit Runoff

This is no time to be sitting complacently behind the Skagit river dikes saying "It can't happen here," Richard Buller, long-time resident of the upper valley, told a Daily Herald reporter yesterday.

Dropping in to the Herald office on a visit to Mount Vernon, Buller said: "There are the makings of another flood like that in 1894, up there in the Cascades."

"There is more snow in the high Cascades right now than for any of the 58 years I have been at Marblemount," Buller said, "and a series of hot days could duplicate the result of a similar situation in '94."

"Now is the time to look to the dikes," Buller said, "not when the first flood warning comes — that will be too late."

Buller said high waters in the Skagit river last week were merely the result of melting snow in the foothills, where snow stayed unusually long this year. "The high snow is still there," he said, "only well packed down."

The upper valley, Buller said, has had only three days of warm weather so far this spring and up until the past week end snow thawed on the mountains part of the day and froze again at night.