

Flood Highlights

Riches instead of nature's wrath is often brought to the Nookachamps Valley by high water, County Agent Homer K. Rowley said this morning.

"The flooding of the valley leaves behind a rich soil containing potash which fertilizes the ground," Rowley explained.

The wheels of justice came to a temporary halt this morning in Superior Court with the stranding of Judge A. H. Ward at his Nookachamps Valley farm by the flood.

The jurist is presiding over a non-jury non-support trial which he said by telephone will continue tomorrow when he will be able to leave his farm.

Also away from the courthouse was Alfred H. Johnson, chief deputy for the county auditor's office who lives in the flooded valley.

"The last I saw of Johnson," said Judge Ward, "he was in a row boat cruising the area."

An appeal has been made by Skagit County Sheriff Harold Hinshaw for residents to volunteer the use of wide flat-bottom boats for use in emergencies.

"We would like to have at least two or three more boats on call for use in evacuating families in case of floods. The boats should be wide enough to hold several deputies in addition to evacuees," Hinshaw explained.

He also commented that his office is concerned primarily with the saving of human life and that residents who have cattle rescued should pay the boat or duck operators for rescuing the animals.