

Skagit Valley Herald

6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1960

Drainage solution expected

At long last it appears that a solution to at least part of the Mount Vernon storm water disposal problem has been found.

For several years street and sidewalk paving projects in the (hill) section of Mount Vernon have been delayed because there has been no acceptable method of disposing of surface waters. Accumulation of water in open ditches has frequently invited tragedy in neighborhoods thickly populated with small children.

Now, the City Council has worked out a program with Drainage Dist. No. 17, to the south of the city whereby a 7,000 gallon-a-minute pump will be installed to lift water from the ditches of the district into the Skagit river. At present these waters, including those from the Mount Vernon "hill", as well as those which have collected upon farms to the south of the city, run out to the bay. At high tides the gates are closed and the waters back up in the ditches overflowing onto the farm lands.

The pump with a capacity well in excess of the run off from the 200 acre hill area now makes possible, if it works according to plan, a continuance of street paving projects. However, the agreement does propose that if for any reason the pump does not accomplish its purpose in a manner satisfactory to the Drainage District, the project can be halted. For this reason complete installation of a storm sewer system must await the outcome of one year's experience with the new pump.

No official of the city doubts the success of the new installation and the plan is hailed as a successful solution to a long standing problem.