



(Skagit Valley Herald Photo)

**A NEW LAKE?** — Wind rippled water lying in fields southwest of Burlington Thursday afternoon when this photo was taken. Gage's Slough, source of the water, is somewhere in foreground of photo. Most

of water, however, is overflow from slough which has spilled into nearby fields. Farmers in affected area claim at least 12 acres are covered with water.

## Slough area residents seek relief

Owners of property along Gage's Slough southwest of Burlington are hoping for relief.

For more than five weeks, waters from the slough have been backing up onto fields. At the farm of J. Lee Lindamood on the McCorquedale Road west of the Interstate 5 freeway, water covers almost eight acres of land. Nearby, J. Larry Brendle estimates he has five or six acres under water.

Gage's Slough normally runs through both properties. Since heavy winter rains began falling, however, the slough has washed over its banks until passersby standing along the McCorquedale Road at one point can see almost nothing but water between fences which usually separate fields.

Lindamood has been trying to do something about the water problem. He is circulating petitions whose aim is to have the city of Burlington provide some kind of relief from the situation. Lindamood said Burlington now is dumping its drainage overflows into the slough. Since the slough empties into the Skagit River only through an 18-inch culver, Lindamood said, it is overtaxed. More water than it can handle is flowing through it, the land owner said.

Lindamood hopes also to have a state flood control expert come to the Valley and see what has happened. His foremost aim, however, is to present Burlington city officials with his petition when he has collected enough signatures.

Lindamood told the Skagit Valley Herald he believes at least 120 acres altogether are affected by the Gage's Slough overflow.

Once before in recent years, Lindamood recalled, the slough backed up and flooded his property and others. That was about 1948 when owners of property along the slough dumped earth into its course and blocked it. Lindamood and others later filed damage claims which were granted by the county's Superior Court.