

Flood Hit Island Four Years Ago

Another Leap Year day has rolled around and it is a different one from that experienced by one Skagit county community four years ago.

Two hundred people in one community, on Feb. 29, 1932, were so anxious and busy that they didn't have time even to consider the odd quadrennial date.

The Skagit river was on a rampage and had not quite reached its peak in the early hours of Feb. 28, when it broke through the dike on Fir Island at the Iverson farms and completely submerged hundreds of acres and caused much damage, especially to the property of I. Iverson and his son Phil Iverson.

The river continued to rise and by the next day a miniature Niagara roared through the gap. Considerable damage was caused as the water raced toward an outlet in Skagit Bay.

That day saw all danger to other diking systems along the river apparently over, and the break at the Iverson place became the Mecca for hundreds of sightseers.

After a hard night's battle to save the dikes and another night spent in keeping all property possible above the water, March 1 rolled around before Fir Island residents realized that they had passed another Leap Year day. They hope there will never be a repetition of that 1932 flood and that further Leap Year days will be as uneventful as today.