

TRAVEL RESTORED TO ALL MAIN ROADS IN COUNTY

Rapidly receding flood waters in the Skagit valley today spelled an end to the emergency conditions that have existed since the Skagit river poured over its banks Sunday evening and broke through dikes south of here yesterday.

There is still plenty of flood water covering valuable farmlands, particularly in the Conway-Fir Island region, but the threat of further damage is over.

The river, which had risen to a height of 26.5 early Monday morning, was down to 19.8 feet at 10 o'clock today.

Travel has been restored to most areas throughout the county with the exception of the Conway-Stanwood road and roads in the Fir island district.

A 450 foot break in a dike at Beesner's island near Conway yesterday afternoon, which spilled water across to Hall's Slough, was sealed up by a crew of hastily summoned Army workers and civilian volunteers who labored throughout the evening last night in preventing further flood damage in that area.

When the break became apparent, a call was dispatched by the county commissioners to the 56th Amphibious Battalion, who sent 115 men to the scene, and to the Battery B, National Guard of Snohomish, who dispatched 50 men to the area where the dike had broken. A total of 12,000 sandbags was furnished by the Army Engineers.

The 56th Battalion was under the leadership of Captain Green and the national guard unit under the command of Captain Gamble.

The break in the dike at Fisher's slough which had threatened the town of Conway saw concerted action on the part of volunteer workers last night but the waters of the river have receded so rapidly that further damage in that area is not expected.

Stanwood, which was threatened by the break-through at Milltown and by breaks north of the city, was reported safe today after Army and civilian personnel were successful in stemming the breaks after working all night.

An accurate estimate of total damage in Skagit county was not immediately available but earlier estimates of two million dollars damage was believed overly-high. Most of the damage appeared to be to roadways, farm buildings and to winter crops, the latter mainly seed crops in the Fir island district.

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Travel Restored

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Skagit County Commissioner Lowell Hughes reported today that the county's Lyman ferry "completely disappeared" during the flood. In commenting on the emergency work yesterday and Sunday, Hughes was high in his praise of the response received by the county in its call for aid from volunteer workers and from the Army.

Travel between Marblemount and Newhalem is still blocked off, Hughes said, but all other main thoroughfares are open. A bridge at Rocky creek on the Concrete-Baker Lake road washed out, but other than that, all other bridges withstood the flood.

Sheriff Harold H. Hinshaw today credited the Coast Guard unit of 15 men dispatched here from Seattle with aiding in the emergency greatly. The crew, he said, used amphibious ducks in evacuation work through Sunday evening and most of Monday without rest.

Cooperation on the part of the various agencies, including the state patrol, the sheriff's office, county road crews and Army and Navy personnel was credited today for the efficiency in which emergency matters were taken care of in Skagit county and for the fact that there was no loss of life and little loss to livestock. Also given high credit was the large group of volunteer workers who provided the bulwark of the labor necessary in controlling the dikes.

Residents of Hamilton, who were perhaps the hardest hit by the flood waters, were busy today cleaning out their homes of the mud and debris that rode into the city on the crest of the flood waters, estimated from two to two and a half feet.