

Flood Story More Than Statistics; Hundreds Had Personal Interest

Muskrats and beavers better not show their heads anywhere near any Skagit valley farmer or volunteer dike worker. These and other burrowing animals are blamed for most of the dike leaks and possibly for the breaks.

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The McLean road fire hall took on some of the appearance of a rural church supper, with volunteer women of the area providing abundant and varied food for the workmen who were sent out from that sphere to danger points all along the west side of the river and to the sand pit at Pleasant Ridge. Crews taking sand from the ridge for filling bags performed a major face-lifting job on the landscape, incidentally, with uncounted tons of fill being carried away.

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Marysville and Mount Vernon high school basketball teams put everything they had into the game Friday night at the high school Saturday night, but some of the Marysville players, as well as the Bulldogs, volunteered to work on the dikes after the game. They were turned down, but a group of Marysville boys made a special trip up here Sunday morning and were put to work shoveling sand at Pleasant Ridge.

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Rescue workers lifted the cattle in the Nederhost herd from the flooded main floor of his barn on Fir island to the hay-mow yesterday afternoon, using block and tackle. The cows had been standing in water over their backs, with only their heads above water. "They may have been a little longer when we finished stretching them out with the tackle," said one of the workers, but they were high and dry anyway.

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In the same area, three boats were used to herd cattle along lanes as much as four feet under water to the high ground of the dike, from which they were evacuated by truck.

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Hit three ways by the flood, nobody in Skagit county had as many worries as Miss Lucille Axelson, whose farm was one of those hardest hit on Fir island. She and her brother are believed to have lost 80 head of stock. In addition to her duties at home, Miss Axelson is president of the Skagit Valley Red Cross chapter, charged with the responsibility of feeding and housing evacuees and assisting in the rehabilitation of flooded out families and is the chairman of the diking commission in her district.

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