

Fir Island had leap year flood

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Saturday, Leap Year Day, occurring only every fourth year, but 32 years ago for the residents of Fir Island it rather passed by without much thought being given to the quadrennial significance of the date.

And no doubt, older island residents still there who can remember are not hoping for any repetition of that exciting event which struck this prosperous delta farming community of some 200 people on that special day in 1932.

The Skagit River was on a flooding rampage and had not reached its peak in the early hours of Feb. 28th when, due to large rotted log under original dike, a breakthrough occurred on the west bank of the South Fork at the Iverson Farms and completely submerged hundreds of acres and caused much damage especially to properties of Iver Iverson and his son Phil Iverson.

Two breaks the year previously on west side of the island from Dry Slough branch had caused much damage and now this major one was to make it a day long remembered — 3 floods in 2 years.

The river continued to rise and by the next day a miniature Niagara ran through the gap with currents of water surrounding the Iver Iverson home and considerable damage was



done to yards, fences and topsoil as the flood roared toward lower lands and an outlet toward the salt water.

However, this large volume of flow from river had the usual effect of lower pressure on other area dikes, such as the Conway District directly across stream, and possibly saved the day for their hard pressed levies. And with all danger from

Leap Year day rampage

further breaks apparently over for other diking systems, the Iverson place became an attraction for sighthseers the next few days.

Having put in a hard night's battle to try to save dikes prior to the break and another night spent in keeping all stock and property possible above water, March 1st rolled around before Fir Island residents realized

that they had passed another leap year day.

This sudden and unexpected breakthrough of 32 years ago was at east side of Polson Road which today is highly considered a future location of a new highway to North Fork Bridge and LaConner with the new planned South Fork Bridge to occupy the exact site of the bursting levee of 1932.