

THE SKAGIT FLOOD Dec. 1909

LA CONNER, BEAVER MARSH, CALHOUN ROAD, ETC,  
PLEASANT RIDGE, SKAGIT CO. WASHINGTON

Dear Bro. *Chester + Morris Nelson*

I will write you a few lines and take the letter to town this afternoon in a boat. I suppose (sic) you have heard of the awful flood we have had in Skagit county. The ridge is covered with horses and cattle yet it is only a small percentage of what have went to cow or horse heaven. The flood came Tues. morning thru John Killis place. I and Ole went out to the forty and got all of our stock up. Miles Fulk lost 21 head of milk cows and his horses stood in the barn in water up to their backs until Wed. afternoon when the ole man and Charley Storrs, Guy O'Loughlin, Neap and Henry Johnson and Bill Goullick and Ellis and I swam them all out, 22 head in all, we had to swim them to Jack Reays. They are all frisky now. Charley Eldes horses were in the water until Thurs. morning when we filled up the feed wagon and got them on top of that. He lost all of his cattle except two. Harrisons have got theirs in the hay-mow. Charley Conrad's barn or rather hay barn floated down the slough past LaConner with 150 tons of hay and all his farm implements; Dick Ball lost all his horses 75 head. The marsh was 8 feet deep for a while but is going down quite fast. The south approaches of the N. F. bridge (North Fork) went out Tues. It is nuthin but a solid sheet of water as far as your eye can see. It surely is a fright. There isn't a fence left standing in the beaver marsh. I don't know how bad it is down around town. Pa was in town yesterday and he said the water was in the fair store also in Polson's. Boots are a scarecity. Charly Johnson lost all of his cattle or nearly all. The Japs spuds are seeding everybody's place. There was 18 in. of water in John's new house. Me and pa went over there at 12 o'clock Tues. night and saved 10 big hogs and a calf so John didn't lose no stock. Our forty is high and dry now. Miles has his horses over around there. The ridge is covered with rats and Chinese pheasants. Lane lost his black driving horse and his big black stallion isn't expected to live all the rest are all right. The ridge seems to be the mecca of all.

Well I must be at work

Good Bye

*Melvin Nelson*

address your mail to LaConner for awhile.  
How much money do you want?