



# The Newsletter

*of the National Society for the  
Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc.*

Spring 2017

## The Old Covered Bridges of America

There spans the beautiful winding creeks  
And rivers of the U.S.A.  
Many a picturesque old covered bridge  
Which still is in use today ...

They were built by the craftsmen of old  
So quaint, artistic and strong,  
And have weathered the sun and the gales  
For more than a century long.

Right there in the primeval forests  
They hewed the oak trusses fine,  
And felled for the lattice and shingles  
The tall straight cedar and pine.

They laid the huge solid oak trusses  
On strong and well driven piles  
Then raised up the sides and with shingles  
Built roofs in various styles.

These bridges in many fair settings  
Are framed upon memories' wall  
With maples and beechwoods a-blazing  
With the red-gold fires of Fall

Or Spring with the yellow buds gleaming  
And life held never a care  
When as children they raced thru its portal  
And rode on the old bay mare.

Of angling their lines thru the lattice  
And catching their very first trout,  
Of finding high up in the rafters  
A wee baby robin hatched out.

Or picnicing down by the river  
When the summer days were long  
And plighting their troth in its shadow  
With a love proved true and strong.

The cool of its shade in the summer  
Its silhouette in the snow  
Its shelter when gales are raging  
And waters rushing below.

Of Fall with golden rod waving  
With corn in the setting sun,  
And cows coming home for the milking  
Thru its portal one by one.

Long life to the old covered bridges  
In the land of the U.S.A.  
May they be preserved with their beauty  
For many and many a day.

by: Mrs. Elizabeth B. Oke  
Gooseham  
Morwenstowe  
Bude, Cornwall, England

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## *Editor's Comments ...*

The **Newsletter** is published quarterly. It includes current bridge news and information about upcoming events.

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In recent weeks I have finally begun to go through my mother's covered bridge files handed down to me following her passing some years ago. Lorry Mitchell began her covered bridge hobby more than 60 years ago. She was a member of various covered bridge societies and organizations, including the NSPCB, for which she often contributed information, photographs and interesting articles about covered bridges she visited both in the US and abroad. She, together with my late father, would often travel through the countryside and farmlands of southeastern Pennsylvania "bridging" on weekend sojourns. When I was much younger, many of those outings would be prefaced by a "fly-over" – my father was a private pilot and would often take us flying in his "Charlie" Cessna to scope out our next trip. Together, and following my father's retirement, they visited Canada and Europe writing about their covered bridge findings in various articles which have appeared in past issues of Topics. Lorry was also a poet and an avid collector of all sorts of poetry with a concentration on those about covered bridges. The piece on this edition's cover is from her collection. Unfortunately, the date and the source were not recorded.

It was due to her passion for covered bridges that I too became interested. Following a move from Pennsylvania to Massachusetts more than 40 years ago, my wife Kathy and I have since traveled to most of the covered bridges in New England taking in their beauty, design and, yes, the senseless damage caused by vandals, too.

Please forgive the sentimentality, but I think she would be pleased with my carrying on the family's covered bridge interests she instilled years ago and would, therefore, like to dedicate this issue to my mother, Lorraine E. Mitchell (1919-2010) for encouraging me in this wonderful hobby.

*Happy Bridging!!*

## *Summer 2017 Newsletter Deadline ...*

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in June. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **May 15, 2017**. **Please note:** it is requested that your information be typed or printed on plain white paper, including proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), and sent via U. S. Mail to: Rob Mitchell, NSPCB Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 375, Marshfield, MA 02050. Thanks! Please, remember that we always appreciate any news or comments sent in even if we can't ultimately use it.

## *President's Message ...*

Welcome to Spring! Hopefully some of you were able to get out and visit a few bridges during the winter.

Last summer you heard about the National Park Service sponsored project to learn more about the impacts of weight loading on different floor system configurations. The testing took place in Campton, New Hampshire. Since our previous Newsletter, three floor beams from the test bridge were sent to the University of Maine for further evaluation. The three beams were loaded until they failed in a controlled environment. The data obtained during those tests provided additional information about the stress on the beams during the summertime evaluation and also emphasized the importance of good wood selection. One of the timbers had some large knots in it which caused it to fail more quickly than the other two. We look forward to seeing Jim Barker's full report on the testing later this year.

The saga of our other large project, the Gorham pony truss bridge, continues on. For those who haven't heard any updates in a while, our plans to reconstruct this bridge have had a few false starts and the parts are still sitting at the Gorham Historical Society awaiting their new home. My predecessor, David Wright, worked with a number of organizations to no avail. Since then, we have seen a couple more excellent alternatives fall by the wayside. There are two possible options still in the works. The White Mountain National Forest is interested in reconstructing it somewhere within the forest. The site with the most potential is at the Dolly Copp Campground, south of the bridge's original location in Gorham. There is also some interest from the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway in Alna, Maine. They are expanding their line and will reach an active stream which will need a bridge at least 34 feet long. Having a collection of bridge components which were already designed for rail loading would be a great help to them. It would be wonderful to see this structure used in active service on a rail line.

Jenn & I spent the last couple days of January meeting with event planners from Travel Lane County plus visiting covered bridges, hotels and restaurants to prepare for our summer tour of central Oregon. Those of you who have been to the area in the winter may agree that it is not the ideal time for a visit (mostly cold and rainy), but we made the best of it. Details of the trip are in a separate article. Being on the other side of the country and only having one opportunity to visit the area before the tour, the potential success of the event is significantly improved by assistance from the local communities.



*Hannah Bridge,  
Linn County, Oregon*

We started researching potential tour routes and hotels in November. By January we had narrowed the hotel list down to three locations in three different cities. One was a location suggested by Travel Lane County and two we found on our own. All three had restaurants and meeting rooms within the hotel or close by. Once we visited all three locations, the decision was an easy one. Cottage Grove is quite proud of its covered bridges and even has a covered bridge incorporated into the city's logo. Everyone we spoke to there is eager to have us in the area.



I would like to thank Linda Norris and Juanita Metzler of Travel Lane County for all the help they have provided so far and the work they are continuing to do as we refine the details of the weekend's events. We are also receiving lots of assistance and support from Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers and Travis Palmer, Executive

Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

*Bill Caswell*

## *NSPCB Facebook Page ...*

To help spread the word about our mission, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. has a Facebook page. The page is used for sharing current bridge related news and Society meeting information. If you use Facebook, visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/nspcb>. "Like" our page and share it with your friends.

## Membership

### Welcome New Members ...

Kaye Lynn Astorino, Avon, OH  
 Diane Aubrey, Hillsboro, NH  
 Johnny Barrett, Union Grove, AL  
 Stan Bucklin, New London, NH  
 Bessie Cuming, Temple, NH  
 Linda Davis, Weare, NH

Kathy McDaniel, Long Bottom, OH  
 Jennifer Meade, Wentworth, NH  
 Cheston Newbold, Cornish, NH  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Parker, New City, NY  
 Ron Schubert, Marine, IL

### Final Crossings ...

Patricia Goldie Brock, 81, of Vernon, CT passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at Rockville General Hospital. Patricia was born on June 4, 1935, in North Haverhill, NH, daughter of the late Leslie and Maude (Gould) Gadwah. She had grown up in Vermont before becoming a resident of Vernon for the past sixty years. Patricia was the owner of Clean Team cleaning service. She is survived by her three sons Earl J. Brock and his wife Diane of North Haverhill, NH, Michael D. Brock of Manchester, CT, Dan J. Brock of Vernon, CT; her two daughters Bonnie Jones-Riker of Vernon, CT, Cheryl Brock of Winter Garden, FL; her brother Charlie Gadwah; her nine grandchildren Tom, Kristy, Kelly, Tanya, Katie, Erin, Justin, Joshua, Sharon; as well as her ten great grandchildren. Patricia was predeceased by her brother Shirley Scott and her sister Frances Esposito.



## Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges

This section lists updates since the previous newsletter. For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at [www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org) and click on the World Guide link.

- Page 58 update the directions of the Ashokan Bridge in Ulster County, NY, 32-56-05. The site is no longer a NY State University campus.  
 1.5 miles northeast of NY213 and Olivebridge on NY28A, then 1.0 miles right on Beaverkill Rd. to main gate of **the Ashokan Center**, then 0.1 miles right to parking area and walk 0.5 miles south. East of Olivebridge. (NR) N41° 55.673' W074° 11.755'
- Page 92 correct street name in directions of Earnest or Russell Bridge in Lane County, Oregon, 37-20-35#2, from Pasche Road to **Paschelke Road**.
- Page 93 update coordinates of Chambers Railroad Bridge in Cottage Grove, Oregon, 37-20-40#2, to **N43° 47.363' W123° 04.190'**
- Page 94 update coordinates of Weddle Bridge in Sweet Home, Oregon, 37-22-05, to **N44° 23.667' W122° 43.609'**
- Page 116 update coordinates of Eberly's Mill or Bitzer's Mill Bridge, 38-36-04, to **N40° 08.425', W076° 09.115'**
- Page 147 update the construction date of the Depot Bridge in Pittsford, Vermont, 45-11-06, to **1853**.

## *Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...*

### *2017 Meeting Schedule*

All meetings begin at **1:00 pm** unless otherwise noted.

**Sunday, March 26** – Masonic Lodge, 17 Church St., Warner, NH.

**Sunday, April 23** - Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., Grafton, MA.

**Sunday, June 25** – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, NH.

**Sunday, July 23** - Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec St., Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

**Saturday - Monday, August 26 - 28** – Central Oregon Tour. See details in separate article.

**Sunday, September 24** – Hyde Hall Mansion, Glimmerglass State Park, Cooperstown, NY.

## *Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...*

**Sunday, March 19, 2017** – 1:30 pm Ohio Historic Bridge Assoc. Meeting at Ohio History Connection Auditorium, 800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Columbus, OH.

**Sunday, April 2, 2017** - 2:00 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA. Program: "Highlights of Our Trip to New England in 2016" by Tim & Connie McLaughlin

**Sunday, April 9, 2017** - New York State Covered Bridge Society Annual Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 N. Clinton St., Syracuse, NY. Doors open at 11 AM, Lunch at 12 Noon. The meeting to follow with the induction of the new officers.

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** - 11 am to 3 pm Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, Dutch-Way Farm Market and Family Restaurant, Gap, Lancaster County, PA

**Sunday, May 21, 2017** - Ohio Historic Bridge Assoc. Spring Bridge Tour.

**Saturday, June 3, 2017** - Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting during the Society's Safari in Bedford & Somerset, PA counties. Saturday (time & place to be announced)

**Sunday, June 11, 2017** - New York State Covered Bridge Society Annual Dinner at Myers' Gardens, 1071 Michigan Hollow Rd, Spencer, NY. Open at 12 Noon— Bring your own lunch, meeting at 1 PM

**Sunday, July 2, 2017** - Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Annual Picnic at Historic Poole Forge & Covered Bridge Park Sunday, gather at 12 noon, picnic lunch and meeting shortly thereafter. Everyone bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people.

**Sunday, July 16, 2017** - Ohio Historic Bridge Assoc. Summer Picnic at Salt Creek Bridge east of Zanesville off I-70 on Arch Hill Road.

**Saturday, August 5, 2017** - The seventh annual Dinner on the Medora Bridge (WG #14-36-04) will be Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. The Country Cookin' Restaurant will again cater the meal. The menu includes: Fried Chicken and Roast Beef, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Broccoli Salad, Grape Salad, Rolls, Homemade Pie, Tea, Lemonade and Water. Tickets can be ordered by sending a check for \$25.00 for each meal to FMCBA, P.O. Box 132, Medora, IN 47260. Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope.

## 2017 *Eric DeLony Scholarship*

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges invites applications for the 2017 Eric DeLony Scholarship. The scholarship honors Eric DeLony, who served as chief of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) from 1971 to 2003 and is a noted historic preservationist. Mr. DeLony was particularly interested in the preservation of historic bridges.

The Society established the scholarship program to encourage students to pursue degrees that will lead to a career involving covered bridge preservation, repair and/or restoration. One or more awards may be offered for up to \$1000 each. The applicant must be enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate historic preservation degree program in an accredited institution. Applicants who are not in an historic preservation program, but can demonstrate an interest in historic bridge preservation in their chosen field are also encouraged to apply.

All applications and supporting documents must be received by April 15, 2017 by United States mail or as an electronic file and must be fully completed to be considered. Award decisions recommended by the Scholarship Committee will be confirmed at the Society's executive board meeting in May with awards distributed by July.

## *Archives Update*

On the cold winter days, we have taken refuge in our warm homes and had opportunities to work on organizing the archives collections. With the help of Bob & Betty Pauwels, we have been working on sorting through donated books and postcards to identify what will become part of the Society's permanent collection and which items will be offered for sale to our membership.

Joseph Conwill recently finished scanning photographs of covered bridges in the western states from Richard Sanders Allen's collection. He is now going through the paper files on Canadian bridges which Mr. Allen donated. In early December, Joye Olson and Jenn & Bill Caswell visited former Secretary Christine Ellsworth at her home in Worcester, Massachusetts. Christine has donated her collection of covered bridge items to the Society.

In early January, we were contacted by Judy Russell of Keene, NH, who offered her mother's collection of covered bridge slides and other items to the Society. Terry Lively, president of Vandalia Productions in West Virginia donated two copies of their DVD, *West Virginia Covered Bridges*.

## *January Board Meeting*

The Executive Board met in Penacook, NH, on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss financial matters of the Society. Two donations towards fire retardant efforts were approved at the meeting. The Society contributed \$1,000 towards fire retardant used to protect covered bridges in Columbiana County, Ohio last fall. Another contribution went to Arnold Graton Associates for fire retardant applied to the Corbin Covered Bridge in Newport, New Hampshire.

## *Use Smile.Amazon.com when you Shop Online*



Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is a program where Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit organization. There is no cost to you. In September, we received a donation of \$11.65. That may not sound like much, but every little bit helps. Having more people participate will increase the funds we have available to contribute towards fire retardant and other worthwhile preservation projects.

For more details, go to <http://tinyurl.com/nspcb-amazon>. If that doesn't work, try the original link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6060691>.

## *Interior Department Announces 24 New National Historic Landmarks*

Excerpt of Press Release from the Office of the Secretary, US Department of the Interior

Date: January 11, 2017

Contacts: Interior\_Press@ios.doi.gov

Thomas Crosson, thomas\_crosson@nps.gov, 202-208-3046

WASHINGTON – As the National Park Service enters its second century of service and strives to tell a more inclusive and diverse story of America’s history, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today announced the designation of 24 new National Historic Landmarks.

The National Historic Landmarks Program recognizes historic properties of exceptional value to the nation and promotes the preservation efforts of federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribes, as well as those of private organizations and individuals. The program is one of more than a dozen administered by the National Park Service that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition and funding to help preserve our nation's shared history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

“These 24 new designations depict different threads of the American story that have been told through activism, architecture, music, and religious observance,” said Secretary Jewell. “Their designation ensures future generations have the ability to learn from the past as we preserve and protect the historic value of these properties and the more than 2,500 other landmarks nationwide.”

If not already so recognized, properties designated as National Historic Landmarks are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

“As the National Park Service kicks off its second century of stewardship of America’s natural and historic treasures, we look forward to connecting new generations of Americans to the places and stories recognized as National Historic Landmarks today,” said National Park Service Acting Director Michael T. Reynolds.

The 24 national historic landmarks announced today are:

[non-covered bridge items removed]

Constructed in 1860 as the Allen’s Mill Bridge, **Eldean Bridge** in Miami County, Ohio, is an excellent example of nineteenth-century covered bridge construction and its span is a rare surviving Long truss, a highly significant nineteenth-century timber truss type. Eldean Bridge is the most structurally intact of less than a dozen surviving Long truss covered bridges in the United States.

Constructed in 1876 by J. J. Daniels, one of the nation’s most prolific covered bridge builders, **West Union Bridge** in Parke County, Indiana, is an outstanding, intact example of the Burr truss, a highly-significant American timber bridge type that was widely used for a century. West Union Bridge is one of the most visually impressive and structurally intact of approximately 180 surviving Burr truss covered bridges in the United States.

When sharing this information with us, Christopher Marston, Project Leader of the HAER National Covered Bridge Recording Project added:

“These landmarks mark the sixth and seventh covered bridges to be designated as NHLs since 2012. They join the Humpback Bridge (VA), Knight's Ferry Bridge (CA), Duck Creek Aqueduct (IN), Brown Bridge (VT), and the Powder Works Bridge (CA) as "nationally significant historic properties of exceptional value to the nation.”

“This achievement represents part of a fifteen-year effort by the Historic American Engineering Record, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration's National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program (NHCBP), administered by Sheila Duwadi. I would like to acknowledge historian Lola Bennett, who researched and authored the National Covered Bridge Context Study, and wrote all of the nominations. We are also indebted to Joseph Conwill, who shared his encyclopedic knowledge of historic covered bridges, and has advised the program since 2002. I would also like to thank all the many partners who have assisted us on the NHCBP over the years and continue to be part of this successful, multi-faceted program. More information on the HAER National Covered Bridge Recording Project is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/hdp/project/coveredbridges/index.htm>”

## *NSPCB Oregon Tour*

by Bill Caswell

Planning for the summer tour of central Oregon is well underway. We are planning three days of visits to the covered bridges in the area, August 26–28 (Saturday-Monday), which will be based out of the Village Green Resort in Cottage Grove. They have offered us a rate of \$109/night for their deluxe rooms which is about 1/3 off of their normal August rates. The deluxe rooms are outfitted with a fireplace, private garden patio and refrigerator. Note that all rooms in the resort are non-smoking. The room rate includes a continental breakfast each morning with the usual breads and cereals plus a waffle maker and hard-boiled eggs. Village Green has a restaurant on premises and lounge with live entertainment every night.

To make reservations, call [541-942-2491](tel:541-942-2491) and tell them you are with the "National Society of the Preservation of Covered Bridges" to get the room block and rate. Our block of rooms is only being held until July 25<sup>th</sup> so we recommend that reservations are made before then. If you have any difficulty making reservations, please feel free to contact the Front Desk Manager at [541-767-4009](tel:541-767-4009). If you are only staying for the tour period, August 25-28, you can make your reservations online at <https://reservations.moonstonehotels.com/irmnet/login.aspx?re-sort=12>. Enter the Group ID & Password when prompted. Both are: **NSPCB**.

Since most of you planning to attend will be from out of town, the nearest airport is in Eugene, a half hour away. The Eugene airport is served by Alaska Airlines, Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta and United. The next best alternative is the Portland airport which tends to have lower airfares and is served by all major airlines, but is 2½ hours away.

For those who have never visited Oregon's covered bridges, one thing that will certainly get your attention is the massive size of the structures. Many were built to bear the weight of logging trucks which frequent the roads throughout the region. Structurally, they resemble the railroad covered



*Deluxe Room at Village Green Resort*



*Mosby Creek Bridge  
Lane County, Oregon*



*Larwood Bridge  
Linn County, Oregon*

bridges of New Hampshire and Vermont more than the smaller rural structures of the eastern states.

Another thing you will notice is that the bridges are much younger than the ones we Easterners are used to. Wet weather, insects and heavy traffic take their toll on the bridges. Many are replacements for earlier covered bridges at their locations. Also, due to the prevalence of high quality timber, wooden bridges continued to be built in Oregon long after other parts of the country had switched to steel and concrete.

Some have asked about transportation on the tour. Typically, we would have a parade of vehicles traveling to each location. We are looking into the possibility of renting a coach bus for one of the days. In addition to simplifying parking at the bridges, it also provides the convenience of having a restroom available when you need it. At this time the least expensive option we have found will

cost \$785 for the day. We are still looking at alternatives such as renting a large van instead of the bus. We will keep you posted.

Although the details of exactly which bridges will be visited are still being worked out, the noteworthy examples in the area will be included. These include:

- the Pengra Bridge which has the longest known timbers for an existing covered bridge. The lower chords are single sticks of wood 16" x 18" and 120 feet long!
- the Office Bridge which is Oregon's longest at 180 feet.
- the Goodpasture Bridge which is the state's second longest at 165 feet and one of the most photographed.
- the Lowell Bridge is an excellent example of Lane County structures with a wonderful interpretive display about the bridge's history.



*Lowell Bridge  
Lane County, Oregon*

The first two days are likely to focus on eastern Lane County while the third day will be a one-way trip from Cottage Grove northward into Lane and Marion counties. The following list includes the bridges that we are planning to visit. Due to time limitations, some may need to be dropped from the tour routes. While you are on the west coast, I would encourage you to add a few extra days to your trip and see more of the state.

Bridges likely to be included (with construction dates):

37-20-10 ..... Goodpasture Bridge (1938)	37-20-39 ..... Office Bridge (1944)
37-20-15#2 ... Pengra Bridge (1938)	37-20-40#2 ... Chambers Railroad Bridge (2011)
37-20-17#2 ... Unity Bridge (1936)	37-22-02 ..... Hannah Bridge (1936)
37-20-18#2 ... Lowell Bridge (1945)	37-22-03#2 ... Shimanek Bridge (1966)
37-20-19#2 ... Parvin Bridge (1921)	37-22-04 ..... Gilkey Bridge (1939)
37-20-22#2 ... Currin Bridge (1925)	37-22-05 ..... Weddle or Devaney Bridge (1937, moved 1987)
37-20-23#2 ... Dorena or Star Bridge (1949)	37-22-06#2 ... Larwood Bridge (1939)
37-20-27 ..... Mosby Creek Bridge (1920)	37-22-08 ..... Hoffman Bridge (1936)
37-20-28 ..... Stewart Bridge (1930)	37-22-15#2 ... Crawfordsville Bridge (1932)
37-20-35#2 ... Earnest or Russell Bridge (1938)	37-24-02#2 ... Stayton-Jordan Bridge (1998)
37-20-36 ..... Wendling Bridge (1938)	

Bridges in the outer limits of the tour area which may or may not be included:

37-10-02 ..... Pass Creek Bridge (1925, moved 1987)
37-10-04 ..... Rochester Bridge (1933)
37-20-02 ..... Coyote Creek Bridge (1922)
37-24-01 ..... Gallon House Bridge (1916)

37-20-e ..... Centennial Bridge is near the hotel. Because of limited parking in the area, you are welcome to visit this one on your own.

Cottage Grove officials and the Chamber of Commerce are excited that we will be visiting the area. They are organizing a dinner on the new Chambers Railroad Bridge for Saturday evening. This will be a great opportunity for us to interact with the residents of Cottage Grove and spread the word about our organization.

If you are interested in participating, please let me know and I will add you to my list for updates. Send an email to me at [wscaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:wscaswell@yahoo.com) or, for those of you who prefer real letters over email, send your postal address to Bill Caswell at the address on page 2.



*New Chambers Railroad Bridge  
Lane County, Oregon*

## *Covered Bridge Happenings ...*

### *California:*

#### *Cost Increase Doesn't Stop Bridgeport Bridge Repair Project ...*

When Gov. Jerry Brown's state budget proposal was released on January 13<sup>th</sup>, it included a \$3.226 million allocation to restore the Bridgeport Bridge (WG #05-29-01) on the south fork of the Yuba River in the South Yuba River State Park. The original estimate in 2014-15 to restore the bridge was \$1.3 million. Following an extensive assessment, however, the price tag climbed to \$3.9 million. California State Parks Sierra District Chief Ranger Matt Green said the proposed renovation would restore pedestrian traffic but not vehicular traffic. Reached late Friday shortly after the governor's budget proposal was released, Green did not have information readily available for how the nearly \$700,000 gap between the estimated costs and the state's allocation will be bridged. Green credited Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee Chairman Douglas Moon and Nevada County District IV Supervisor Hank Weston for spearheading efforts to renovate the bridge. The South Yuba River Citizens League was also credited for its efforts.



(From: The Union of Grass Valley, January 13, 2017)

Photo contributed by John Field, Publicity Chair of the South Yuba River Park Association)

#### *Felton Bridge Receives New Roof & Survives Flood...*

On December 17, 2016, Felton residents celebrated the completion of a new roof on the Felton Covered Bridge (WG #05-44-02) which was built in 1892. The bridge was bypassed in 1938 and is now maintained as a historic site. The daylong community party included music, wine and beer, food, crafts and holiday merchandise.

The celebration honored those volunteers who helped put a new roof on the structure this year. There was a ribbon cutting by the San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce, for the "new and improved" bridge, located at Felton Covered Bridge Park at the San Lorenzo River and Graham Hill Road in Felton.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the bridge was threatened by an overflowing San Lorenzo River. Heavy rains in northern California caused the river to breach its banks at the covered bridge and flood 53 homes in the Felton Grove neighborhood. The water was as much as four feet deep in some homes. There was no damage to the bridge.

(Press-Banner, December 15, 2016 and February 17, 2017)

### *Delaware:*

#### *Historic Bridge Hit By Plow, Closed For Repairs*



The historic Ashland Covered Bridge (WG #08-02-02) near Hockessin, Delaware, is closed for repairs this week after being hit by a snow plow. The accident damaged many roof braces causing closure of the bridge. The Delaware Department of Transportation will repair the damage. In 2014, the bridge's beams were damaged when struck by an oversize vehicle attempting to cross the wooden span. In 2011, it was damaged by another too tall truck, which apparently ignored the posted size limit and tried to drive across. One of three covered bridges in the state, the Ashland Bridge has been a landmark since about 1850, despite frequent damage.

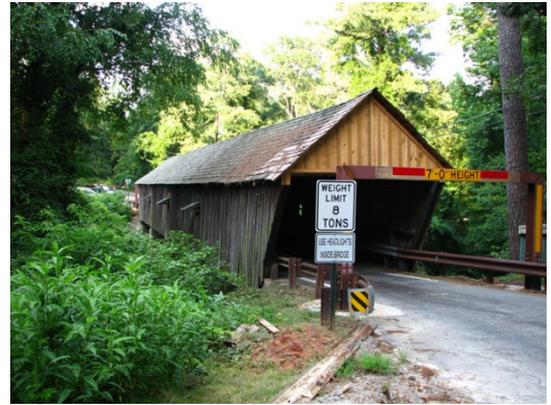
(The Delaware News Journal, January 11, 2017, Bill Caswell Photo)

## Georgia :

### *Concord Bridge Work...*

The Concord Bridge (WG #10-33-02) in Cobb County will be closed to repair damage caused during a number of incidents, especially one last October which has caused the structure to lean to one side. A steel frame will be constructed inside the bridge for additional support. The project will cost \$600,000 to \$700,000. The bridge is very busy carrying 7,000 to 10,000 vehicles per day.

(WGCL-TV Atlanta, February 14, 2017. Photo by Bill Caswell)



## Indiana :

### *Rob Roy Work to Begin Soon...*

Work on the Rob Roy Bridge (WG #14-23-03) in Fountain County is set to begin in January or February 2017. The contractor selected for the project, Dan Collom, is currently finishing another project. In addition to the needed repairs, the bridge will receive fire retardant. We look forward to more details in the summer edition.

(Information and Photo Courtesy Friends of Rob Roy Covered Bridge Facebook page)



### *Saga of the Shieldstown Bridge Continues...*

Work on the Shieldstown Bridge in Jackson County, Indiana has been stalled. Jackson County Commissioners President Matt Reedy has attended several progress meetings with Indiana Department of Transportation officials, but the project's contractor, Duncan Robertson Inc. of Franklin, has not attended those meetings. INDOT plans to have another progress meeting in early 2017, but local officials are not confident that any progress will be achieved.



The contractor has not submitted a construction timeline or reordered materials for the project. Mr. Reedy would like the state to provide the county with funds to hire another contractor to complete the rehabilitation of the 140-year-old bridge. The county can pursue legal action against the state to gain access to the contractor's performance bond for the project.

The \$1.1 million project was awarded in early 2015 with a completion date of July 31, 2016. The work, which includes replacement of some of the wood beams and roof and replacing the joists under the bridge, is far from complete, and the company is incurring fines at the rate of \$1,500 a day. According to county attorney Susan Bevers, the fines now total more than \$200,000. Workers with Duncan Robertson recently returned to the site to place a wrap long enough to cover the open sides of bridge, which sits along County Road 200N in Hamilton Township.

(Seymour Tribune, December 22, 2016, Greg McDuffie Photo)

## *Kentucky:*

### *Beech Fork Update ...*

Work continues on the restoration of the Beech Fork Bridge (WG #17-115-01) in Washington County, KY. With the structure supported by a steel truss, work has begun on the truss members and abutments. There are some deteriorated posts which are being replaced along with repairs to some upper scarf joints. While making those repairs, the camber of the bridge is being adjusted along with repairs to the arches. A portion of the west wingwall is being repaired to improve support for the structure. Work will continue through the winter as weather permits and is expected to be completed in late 2017.



*(Meg Dansereau Photo, December 8, 2016)*

## *Maryland:*

### *Frederick County Officials to Determine How to Protect Bridge...*



The Roddy Road Covered Bridge (WG #20-10-02) near Thurmont, Maryland was badly damaged by an oversized vehicle on June 16, 2016. Work on the bridge began in October and was nearly complete at the end of February. The large timbers are new and this will be listed as a new covered bridge.

According to the contractor, Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction of Thurmont, Maryland, the top three feet of the center 'King posts' had both been shattered from the impact of the truck. In order to replace the king posts the bridge had to be completely disassembled due to the way that the posts and diagonal braces are interlocking. All four braces were rotted at the bottom ends and were replaced. The braces had been repaired before and it was deemed better for the long term safety of the bridge to replace them this time.

*(Information from Frederick News-Post, December 26, 2016 and Michael Rudnick Photo, January 17, 2017)*

## *Michigan:*

### *Whites Bridge Project Update ...*

During our last update, we indicated that timber specifications for the replica bridge were being revised. According to Tom Byle, the good news is that the cost of the large timbers was reduced by over \$60,000. The bad news from the contractors was our construction estimate was low. Low to the point, the project no longer has sufficient funds.

The shortfall at the current time is about \$425,000. A second round of fund raising has begun to make up the difference. The MDOT Local Bridge Program has indicated that they can apply for additional funding June 1st. Requests are being submitted to many West Michigan foundations for donations.



*(Rebuild Whites Bridge Facebook Page, January 3, 2017, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)*

### *New Hampshire:*

#### *Firefighters Respond to Alarms at Slate Bridge...*

Swanzy firefighters responded to two alarms at the Slate covered bridge (WG #29-03-06 #2) on January 13 and 16, 2017. Both alarms were pranks. In both cases, someone broke into the alarm control box and triggered the alarm. Swanzy police are investigating.

(Keene Sentinel, January 18, 2017)



#### *Wentworth Village Common Covered Bridge Update ...*



“The Friendship Bridge” (formerly the Goffe’s Mill Bridge WG #29-06-a) has been restored to 90% complete and was rigged over the Baker River Falls in Wentworth on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Relocated in March of 2015 (after being rescued from demolition at the Wayfarer Inn, Bedford, NH), restoration has been on-going and sponsored by the 501c3 non-profit Friends of Wentworth Parks and Recreation. Siding and flooring was installed last fall with



approaches and fencing slated for next spring. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on December 31, 2016.

(Information Provided by Jen Meade, Photos by Scott Wagner)

#### *Corbin Bridge Damage Repaired...*

On August 20, 2016, the eastern portal of the Corbin Covered Bridge (WG #29-10-05#2) in Newport was damaged in a hit and run incident. Arnold Grāton Associates has repaired the damage and also replaced the ridge cap, applied no-char and cleaned and inspected the structure.

(Information from Arnold Grāton Associates)



### *New Jersey:*

#### *Bridge in Need of a Home...*



There is a covered bridge in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, in Millbrook, Warren County, New Jersey which needs a home. Information and photos were sent to Arnold Graton by Thomas Horsfield and then were forwarded to us. The bridge was built by 7 volunteers over a period of about 5 years with the permission of the National Park Service. Unfortunately, without the necessary permits to place it over the water, it sits where it was built. The non-profit Millbrook Village Society is in the process of obtaining permission from the NPS to move the bridge out of the park. The bridge is 40' long, 8' 6" wide inside, & 10' 8" outside. The trusses are 10' high. The bridge sits on the wrong side of the stream for easy removal. They would like to get \$5,000 for the bridge but are most interested in making sure it has a good home.



## *New York:*

### *Beaverkill Bridge Restored...*



The 1865 Beaverkill Bridge (WG #32-53-02) in Sullivan County has recently undergone a much-needed restoration. The bridge was put on the state historic register in 2007, and six years later a state Department of Transportation inspection revealed major structural problems, pushing DOT, the Department of Environmental Conservation; Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the local municipalities to begin crafting a full renovation. Friends of Beaverkill Community, Catskill Mountainkeeper and Open Space Institute played significant roles lobbying for the bridge's restoration and also in the investment in the adjacent DEC campground, which was established in the 1920s. The \$1.97 million construction contract to fully restore the bridge was bid out in 2015.

Sullivan County Paving and Construction worked on the bridge throughout 2016. To preserve the integrity of the bridge and stay true to its historic construction, the team jacked up the old bridge, took it apart piece by piece, salvaged what they could and rebuilt it one piece at a time. The bridge itself is now complete, but laborers are taking apart the stone ramp leading to the bridge, sifting through the usable rocks and rebuilding it.

(Middletown Times Herald-Record, November 16, 2016, Bill Caswell Photo)

## *Ohio:*

### *Knowlton Bridge Repairs Planned...*

Woolpert, an engineering firm with offices in 14 states, was hired by Monroe County to rehabilitate two historic covered bridges, and has been assisting the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with a project to help preserve and protect historic covered bridges throughout Ohio.

Rehabilitation of the first of the two Monroe County projects, the Foraker Covered Bridge, was completed in late October 2016. Woolpert's design for the Knowlton Covered Bridge is set to get underway after the first of the year. Built in 1887, it is the state's second longest historic covered bridge. James Fleeman, Monroe County assistant engineer, said the Knowlton Covered Bridge is much more complex than the king post design of the Foraker.

"Knowlton is composed of a three-span superstructure," Fleeman said. "That incorporates not only the traditional king post design, but tied timber arches in the middle span, which are unique to the structure." In addition to the repair work, they are also researching methods of protecting the bridges such as fire retardant, alarm and security camera systems. Woolpert is partnering with Jones-Stuckey Ltd., a division of Pennoni Associates, to help the state in this effort.



(Woolpert Press Release, Photo by Jim Smedley)

**Ohio (continued):**

**Ballard Road Repairs Nearly Complete...**

The Ballard Road bridge (WG #35-29-18) in Greene County is nearly complete. The bridge was removed from its abutments to the adjacent cul-de-sac to be worked on. The trusses were dismantled and have been rebuilt with only a couple new timbers in the walls. We do not know if any timbers needed to be replaced underneath.



Greg Borgwald Photo, February 11, 2017

**Oregon:**

Thanks to Bill Cockrell, President Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, for providing Oregon updates.

**Larwood Bridge...**

A January 29<sup>th</sup> article in the Albany Democrat-Herald about Linn County’s bridges included photos of the Larwood Bridge (WG#37-22-06) which was rehabilitated last year. As part of a maintenance routine, Linn County workers tightened 450 nuts on bolts that connect to the bridge deck. The bridge is also equipped with surveillance cameras inside. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell, February 1, 2017.



**Belknap Repairs Completed ...**

The Belknap Bridge (WG #37-20-11#2) in Lane County was closed during the fall for rehabilitation work. The work appears to be complete and the bridge is now open to traffic. The project replaced some of the structural elements of the truss as well as the floor decking. The exterior received a new coat of paint as well. The \$830,475 project also added lights down the middle of the bridge (inside) to increase safety, especially for pedestrians. Workers from Oregon Woods, Inc. were to add “post tensioning” along the bottom, which helps strengthen the structure. The project was funded in part by two federal programs: the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Project and the Highway Bridge Fund.

(Information from McKenzie River Reflections, August 3, 2016, Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell, February 1, 2017)



## Oregon (continued):

### Other Oregon News...

In Benton County, an inspection of Hayden Bridge (WG#37-02-05) showed decay in some of the bridge timbers that necessitated the reduction of the load limit to 3 tons. A Benton County Public Works crew used a hydraulic jack to remove some of the original Douglas fir beams and insert newly milled timbers in their place. Work to replace the damaged beams was to be complete by February 9th after which the load limit would be raised to 10 tons.



*Gilkey Bridge, Linn County  
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo, February 1, 2017*

(Corvallis Gazette-Times, January 27, 2017)

According to Linn County officials, the contract for work at the Gilkey Bridge (WG#37-22-04) will be let later this spring. Additionally, work to repair and upgrade the Shiminek Bridge (WG#37-22-03) will be done in 2 to 2½ years from now.

(Thanks to Bill Cockrell, President Covered Bridge Society of Oregon)

## Pennsylvania:

### Work Proposed for Dreibelbis Bridge...

Pennsylvania DOT is working on plans to repair the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge (WG #38-06-07) in Berks County. At present, the plans include replacement of the concrete-encased stone abutments with new concrete abutments and replacement of the historic timber floor support system with steel beams. NSPCB sent a letter to the DOT which was presented at a November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to review the historic impacts of the project.

(Information and Photo from Bill & Jenn Caswell)



### Bitzer's Mill Bridge Repairs...

Bitzer's Mill Bridge (WG #38-36-04) in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania was closed in the spring of 2016 after an inspection identified significant concerns. Repairs are underway. The project was recently complicated by a partial failure of one of the approaches. The bridge is expected to be completed by March 30, 2017 when the bridge will be re-opened.



January 12, 2017



February 8, 2017

(News and Photos by Anita Ford)

## *Pennsylvania (continued):*

### *Sheeder Mill Bridge Damaged By SUV Rollover Inside ...*



The Sheeder Mill Bridge (WG#38-15-12) was involved in an incident on November 20, 2016 resulting in structural damage that required the bridge to be closed. West Vincent Police officers charged Hanna Rendin, 28, for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving and criminal mischief relating to a “serious crash” that left her 2004 Toyota 4-Runner on its side and wedged inside the bridge. By the time police arrived on the scene the driver, and sole occupant had exited the vehicle, reportedly telling officers she was okay, “just drunk” and refused any assistance or medical help.

“Extensive damage” to large interior support beams, sides and arches caused PennDOT to close the bridge indefinitely until an examination of the damage could be completed and a rehabilitation plan could be developed. The 110 foot single span Double Burr Arch Truss bridge crosses French Creek and was built in 1850. The single lane bridge was reconstructed in 1996 including the addition of a supporting steel I-beam.

(Information from the Mercury News, December 16, 2016, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

## *Vermont:*

### *Seguin Bridge Repairs Complete ...*

Charlotte residents and the local Conservation Commission celebrated the restoration of the historic Seguin Bridge (WG #45-04-02) on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The bridge is one of three historic covered bridges within the town of Charlotte. It was built around 1850, was closed in June with repairs beginning in July. Work is now complete and the bridge was reopened to traffic on December 9<sup>th</sup>.



The reconstruction cost about \$650,000, most of which came from federal funding that the Vermont Agency of Transportation receives for bridge repairs. The bridge was suffering from rot and carpenter ant damage that had been found as early as 2013. It is believed to have been built by the Edgerton family and named after the Seguin family. Members of the Seguin family from Vermont and Connecticut attended the celebration. At the reception following the ceremony, Cecile Seguin Tyl spoke about the family’s history.

The bridge connected the communities of Hinesburg and Ferrisburgh and bordered three mills that functioned on Lewis Creek. The three mills included a clothing mill, a sawmill and a gristmill that provided early settlements with flour.

John Weaver, an engineer for the Agency of Transportation, said the Seguin Bridge retained 60 percent of its original truss arches throughout the project, and any rotted or damaged wood was replaced using Southern yellow pine. Most covered bridges in Vermont were built originally with spruce, fir or pine.

The Seguin Bridge has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. According to Conservation Commission Chair Amos Baehr, nearly 80 people came to celebrate the bridge’s restoration.

(Information from VTDigger, January 23, 2017 and Melrose Duff. Photo Courtesy Melrose Huff)

## *Vermont (continued):*

### *Salisbury Station Bridge Remains Cleared Away ...*

The remains of the Salisbury Station Bridge (WG #45-01-01) connecting Salisbury and Cornwall have been removed and a temporary structure is in place to carry traffic until a new permanent bridge can be constructed. The historic covered bridge was lost in a devastating fire on September 10, 2016. As of the end of December, fire officials have still not determined a cause for the blaze. Town officials have heard from many people who wish to see a new covered bridge built at that location.



A few days after the fire, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. visited the site to check if a colony of endangered little brown bats had survived. The bridge was one of only two summer sites since before the onset of white nose syndrome, a fungal disease that ravaged the bat population throughout the northeast, and first discovered in Vermont in 2007. Although the early summer count had been only 181, the last count in July, before the fire, there were only 95. According to Cornwall Fire Chief Dennis Rheaume, “Whatever was inside the bridge if they didn’t fly out or wake up they didn’t make it.” Investigators do not believe the fire was a malicious act, no signs of accelerant were found and there was no evidence that the fire was purposely set.

(Information from VTDigger, October 9, 2016 and NECN, December 27, 2016. Photo by Scott Wagner, September 18, 2016)

## *New Brunswick:*

### *French Village Bridge to be Repaired...*

On October 5, 2016 a 13 ton excavator owned by a contractor repairing the Hammond #2 Bridge (WG #55-06-05) in French Village, NB, fell through the bridge while attempting to cross it. After the additional damage to the structure, the Department of Transportation began re-evaluating the project to determine if the bridge was to be repaired or replaced.



A public meeting was held on November 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the alternatives. The attendees, which included NSPCB members, overwhelmingly supported repair of the bridge instead of replacement. NSPCB also sent a letter to Transportation Minister Bill Fraser supporting the alternative to repair the structure.

On December 9, Minister Fraser announced that, due to the substantial local support, the bridge would be repaired. The repairs will take about eight months and cost about one million dollars.

(Information from CBCNews, December 9, 2016, Photo by Clarence Ball, December 27, 2016)

### *Hartland Bridge Sustains Minor Damage from Snow Plow...*

The Hartland Covered Bridge (WG #55-02-07) in western New Brunswick was damaged on November 28<sup>th</sup> when a snow plow salting the entrance to the bridge slid into the frame in the east end. The New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure released a statement that there was no structural damage to the bridge and it remained open to traffic. The estimated cost of damage is between \$1,500 and \$2,000. A crew from the DOT was expected to visit the site within a week to repair the damage.

(CTV News, November 28, 2016)

## Québec:

### *Pont des Défricheurs Repaired ...*



Located just north of Sainte-Lucie-de-Beauregard, Pont des Défricheurs (WG#61-47-02) suffered significant damage from a hit-and-run driver in August 2016. During a visit in December, Robert L'Heureux discovered that the bridge has been repaired and is now open to traffic. This will please the snowmobilers who use the bridge during the winter. The 1936 bridge is a 97 foot long single span with a variation of the Town lattice truss. The bridge crosses the Rivière Noire Nord-Ouest.

(Information and photo by Robert L'Heureux, December 2016 reported in *Blogue sur les ponts couverts*, [pontscouverts.com/blogue/](http://pontscouverts.com/blogue/))

### *Reward Offered for Pont Brabant-Philippe Arsonist ...*

The Brabant-Philippe Bridge (WG #61-25-c#2) in Gatineau was burned a first time, then rebuilt, and then burned again. The Echec au Crime organization is offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to an arrest. People can give information confidentially, through [echecaucrime.com](http://echecaucrime.com) or by calling 1-800-711-1800. The picturesque red bridge in Parc William off Rue des Sables was for pedestrians and cyclists, and it connected neighborhoods on opposite sides of the Rivière Blanche.

Built in 2007, it burned completely in 2011, and reopened in 2015. It was an easy target for arsonists. On the north side it is separated from the small residential neighborhood by dense bush, then train tracks, then more bush. On the south side there's a river, then more trees. Four teenagers were convicted after the 2011 fire, but there have been no arrests in the most recent one.

(Ottawa Sun, February 3, 2017)

## China:

Super typhoon (Hurricane) Meranti impacted Taiwan and southeastern China on September 15, 2016 with devastating destruction of some of the region's most important covered bridges. Among the losses were the 504 year old Xuezhai Bridge, 262 year old Wenzhong Bridge and 159 year old Wenxing Bridge, all in Taishun County of Zhejiang Province. The good news is that through several days of hard work, the villagers found most of the pieces of all three bridges, and many people have made donations towards rebuilding them. Also, there are many covered bridges experts and construction workers have or will come to Taishun to work on this project.

The Ohio Historic Bridge Association, which has a Sister Bridges Agreement with the Wenzhou Covered Bridge Society is collecting donations to help towards rebuilding efforts in the impacted area. They have already sent more than \$3,000 to China for this effort. If anyone is interested in donating towards the reconstruction projects, you can send a check made out to OHBA and marked as for the Taishun China Disaster Relief to their treasurer, Joe Charles at 726 Newark-Granville Road, Granville, OH 43023-1451.

(Information and Photos from Zhou An relayed to NSPCB by Terry Miller and David Simmons)



### NSPCB Promotional Items

Show your support for the Society with these items.

All income from sales goes towards preservation projects such as donations of fire retardant.



Water Bottle



Baseball Cap Design

All items are navy blue with the design in white. Prices include shipping charges.

Short Sleeve Tee Shirts.....	\$15.00
Long Sleeve Tee Shirts .....	\$22.00
Short Sleeve Polo Shirts.....	\$30.00
Crew Neck Sweatshirts.....	\$30.00
Hooded Sweatshirts .....	\$40.00
Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirts.....	\$50.00
Baseball Cap.....	\$18.00
Water Bottle (25 oz.) .....	\$15.00

T-shirts and crew-neck sweatshirts include the front and back designs.

Hooded sweatshirts only have the small logo on the front.

Polo shirts have the small logo embroidered on the front.

Baseball caps have a similar design embroidered on the front.

Shirts and sweatshirts are available in medium, large, XL, 2XL and 3XL.

All items are navy blue with the design in white.

**Note: Items can only be shipped to US addresses.**

Send a check or money order made out to **NSPCB** to:  
 Jennifer Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244,  
 Credit card orders can be processed on our website by using PayPal -  
<http://coveredbridgesociety.org/promotions.htm>  
 Have questions? E-mail Bill at [wscaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:wscaswell@yahoo.com)