

COUNTY SIGN SHOP RESTORES A BIT OF HISTORY AT COVERED BRIDGE

By Mike Pullen, County Communications

Cedar Crossing is the only covered bridge in Multnomah County and the last one built in Oregon. It was built by the County in 1981 - 82 to carry S.E. Deardorf Road over Johnson Creek. When the area was annexed by Portland in the 1990's, the City became responsible for the bridge.

Engineers point out it's not a true covered bridge, since the timber cover does not include a truss that supports the bridge. But it is a handsome and unique bridge that adds rural charm to a forested canyon in Southeast Portland.

Two of the biggest supporters for building Cedar Crossing were former County Executive Don Clark and Lea Wikman, the volunteer chair of the Community Covered Bridge Committee. The late Mrs. Wikman was a dedicated community volunteer. The County's Wikman Building in Southeast Portland is named for her. The bridge was her last volunteer project.

At a County Board meeting this year, Lea's son Carl Wikman shared his goals for the future of the Wikman Building, and noted that it's easy to lose signs of local history. As an example, he mentioned that a historic plaque on the Cedar Crossing Bridge had been missing for several decades. "People walking across the only covered bridge in our county have no information about why it was built," he said.

After the meeting, DCS Interim Director Kim Peoples contacted

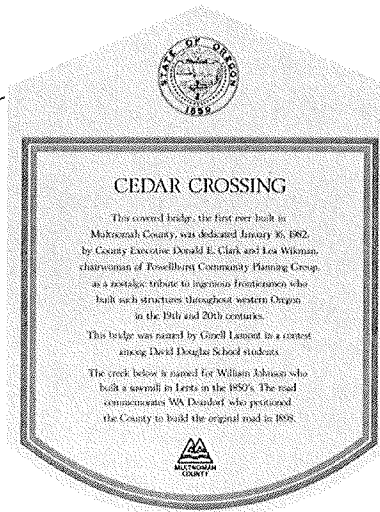
Carl. "We can help replace that sign," Kim said. Carl had the only photo of the missing plaque. New Sign Shop employee Tyler Kunter found some old sign blanks that matched the design and was able to fabricate a copy of the lost sign. Working with the City of Portland, the historic plaque was installed at the north entrance to the bridge this summer.

Recently, Carl and Tyler met at the bridge with State Rep. Jeff Reardon D-Happy Valley and Ginell Cooper. Rep. Reardon and Carl attended the bridge dedication on a cold morning in January 1982. Ginell was a 7th grader at Alice Ott Middle School at the time, and she spoke at the event. She won an essay contest to name the bridge "Cedar Crossing."

Carl thanked Tyler and Multnomah County for their work to restore the sign. "A little lost part of county history has been restored," he said. A replica of the historic plaque will be on display at a rededication event at the Wikman Building, 4420 SW 64th Ave. and Holgate on Saturday, September 28 from 1 - 3 pm.



Carl Wikman, Ginell Cooper, Rep. Jeff Reardon, and County Sign Shop employee Tyler Kunter stand in front of the restored Cedar Crossing Bridge plaque.



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The Sunday Oregonian

JANUARY 17, 1982

METRO/NORTHWE

Johnson Creek spanned 'Cedar Crossing' covered bridge opens

The spectators were all wet, but the span across Johnson Creek remained dry Saturday as officials and citizens dedicated Multnomah County's first covered bridge.

Despite drenching rain and chilly gusts, the ceremony and parade drew an enthusiastic crowd to the new bridge, which crosses the creek at Southeast 134th Avenue and Deardorff Road.

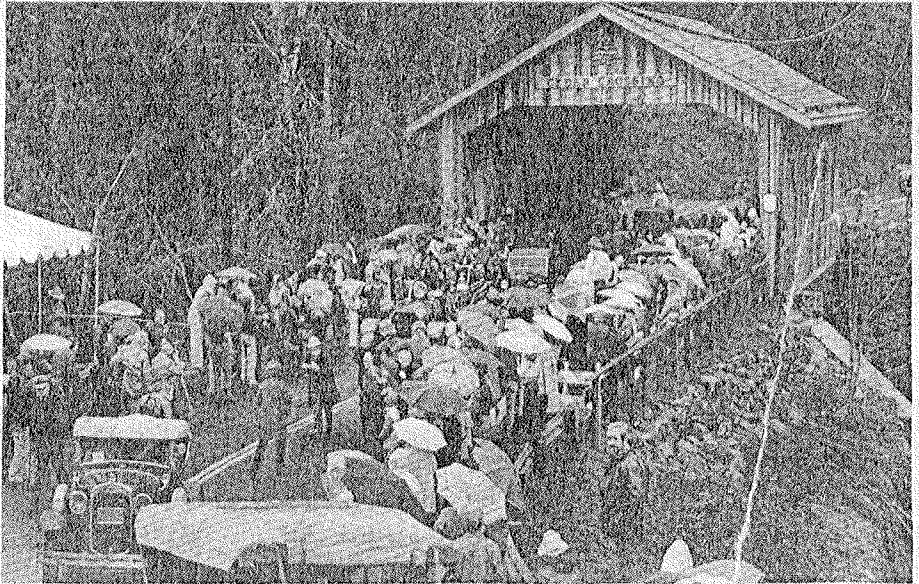
"If you've ever wondered why they put covers on bridges, if this weather doesn't tell you, nothing will," Multnomah County Executive Don Clark told onlookers.

Building a covered bridge in the county has been a dream of Clark's for many years. The opportunity arose when county engineers began considering a replacement for the aging bridge that had spanned the creek for about 45 years.

At Saturday's ceremony, Clark joined with Ginell Lamont, a seventh-grader at Alice Ort Middle School, to unveil a sign bearing the structure's name, "Cedar Crossing." The name was Ginell's entry in a contest conducted in the David Douglas School District.

Lea Wikman, head of the Community Covered Bridge Committee, and Geannie Newell, who designed and wood-burned a logo on the bridge, also assisted in the ceremony.

The 60-foot-long span, the first covered bridge built in Oregon in 16 years, has two lanes for vehicles and a 5-foot-



Staff photo by RANDY WOOD

ONE DRY SPOT — A parade of antique vehicles makes its way across the driest 60 feet of road over Johnson Creek Saturday morning, the county's new covered bridge. The bridge has been named "Cedar Crossing."

long pedestrian path. The cover has a vertical clearance of 14 feet.

The first vehicles across the newly dedicated bridge were Multnomah County sheriff's department motorcycles, which led a parade of antique vehi-

cles and drill units, including the 62-member Kelly Kadet Korp. The David Douglas High School marching band also tried out the new structure.

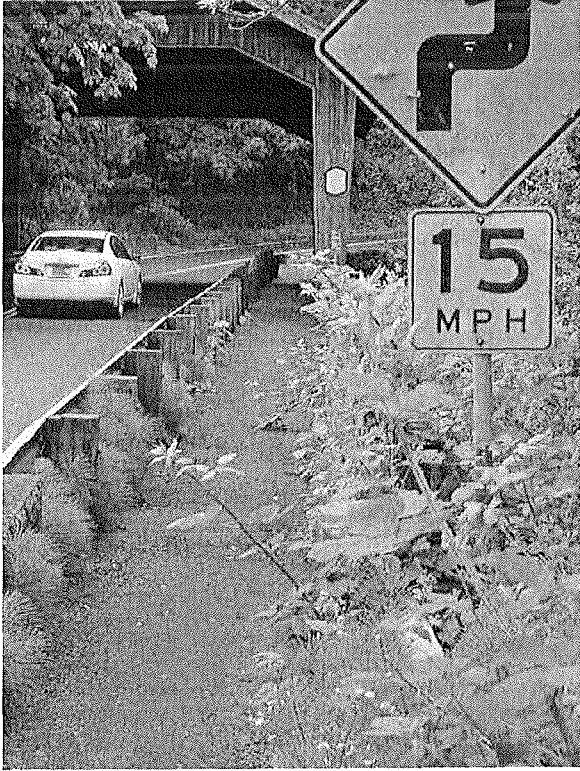
Designed by the county Department of Environmental Services, the bridge

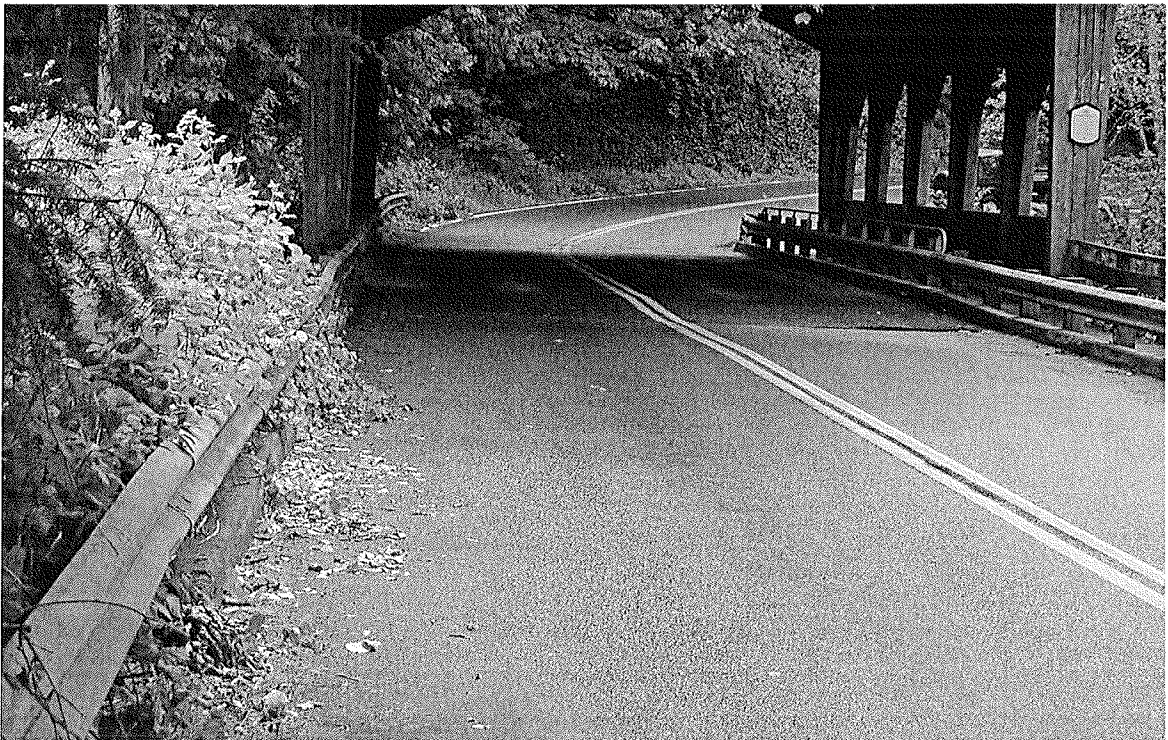
cost \$93,500, with the tab for related road work totaling \$74,800.

County Engineer Oliver Domrels said the cost of the covered bridge was lower than estimates for a standard concrete-and-steel bridge.

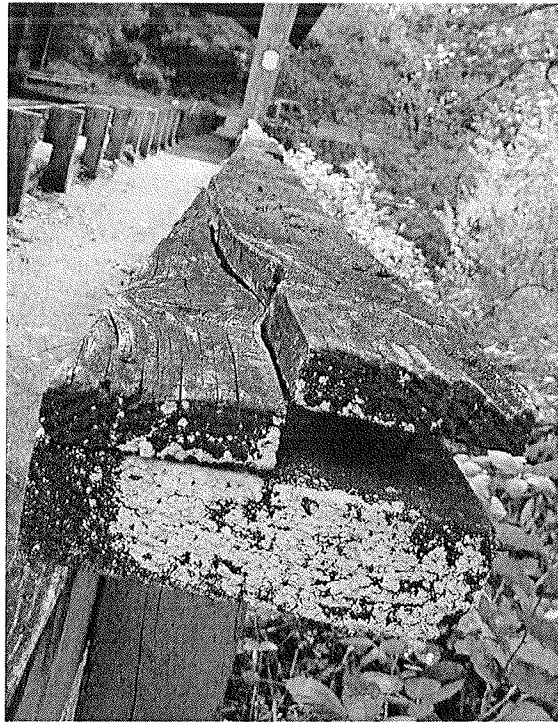
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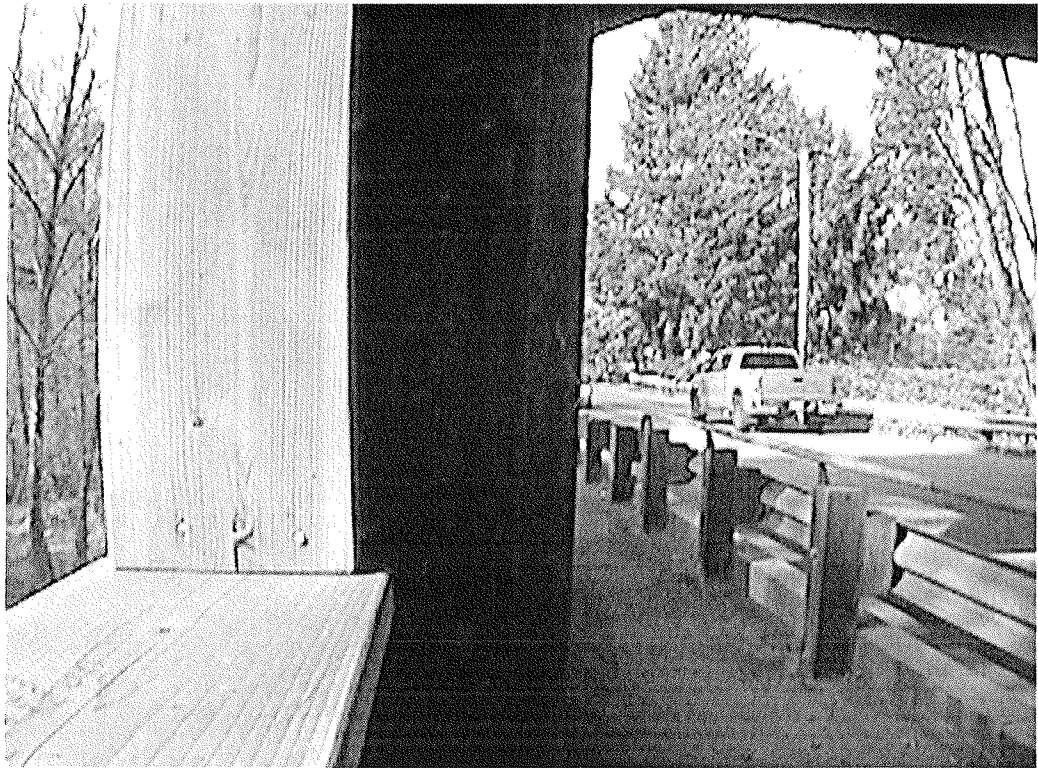
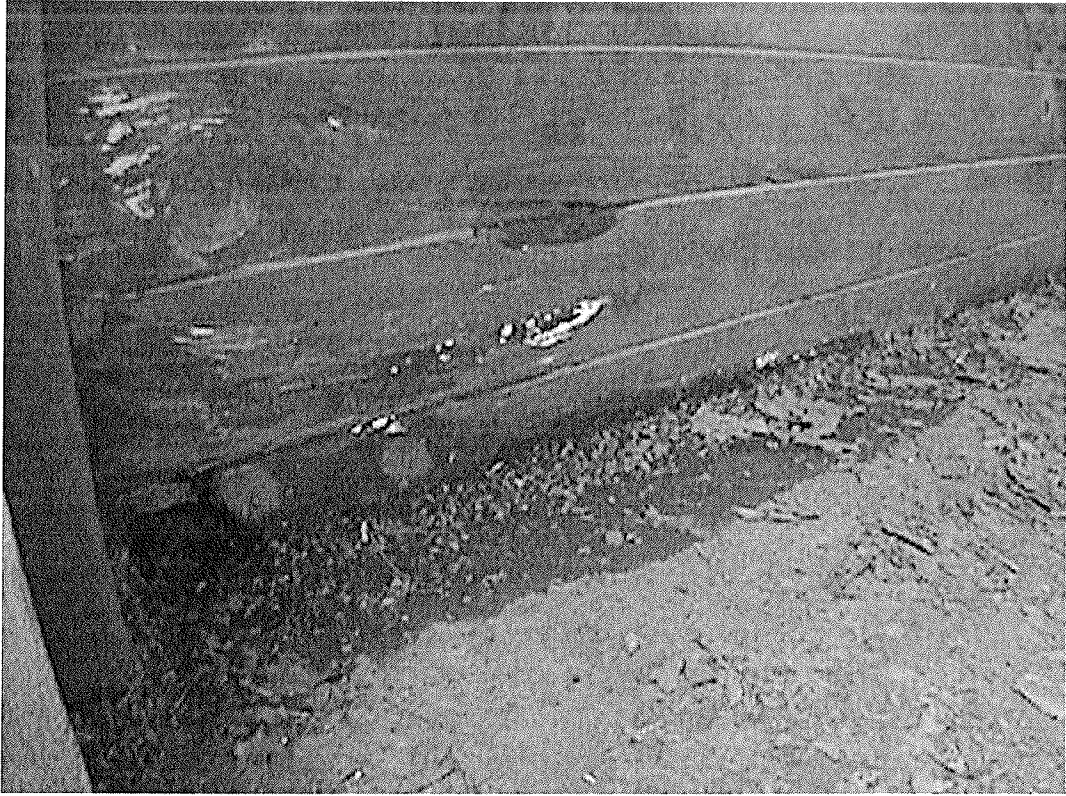
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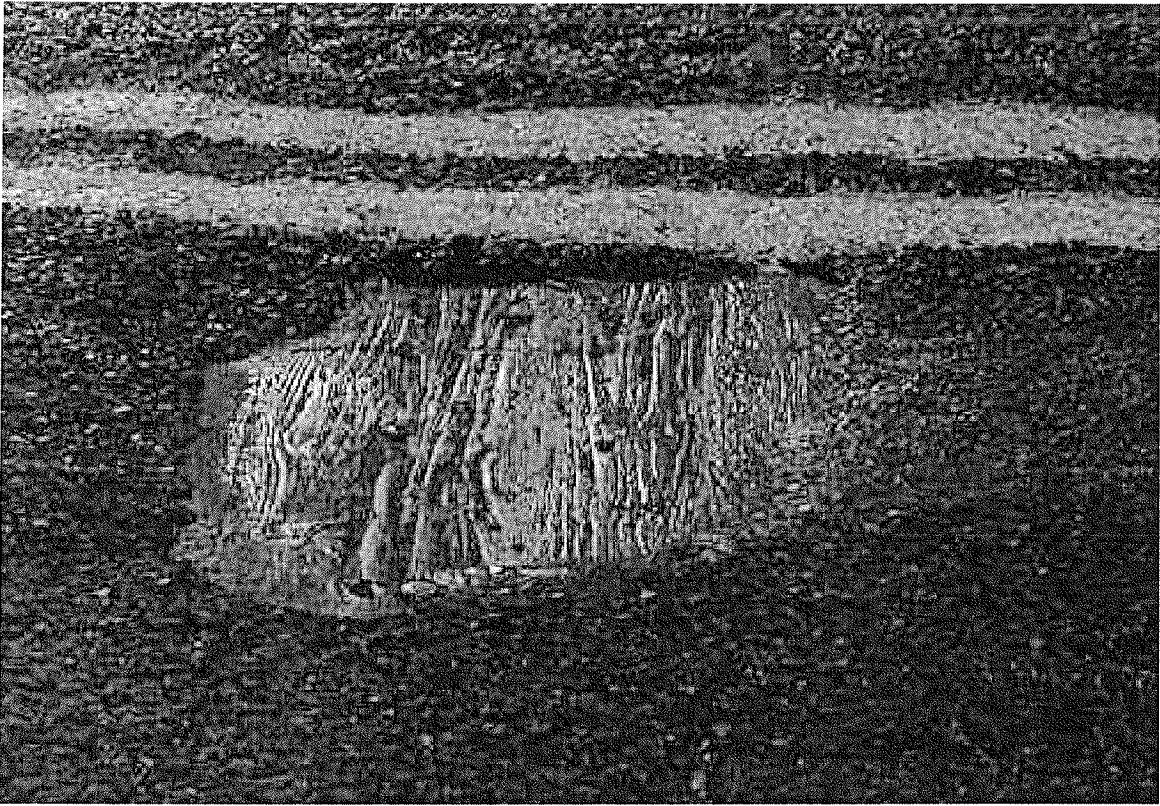


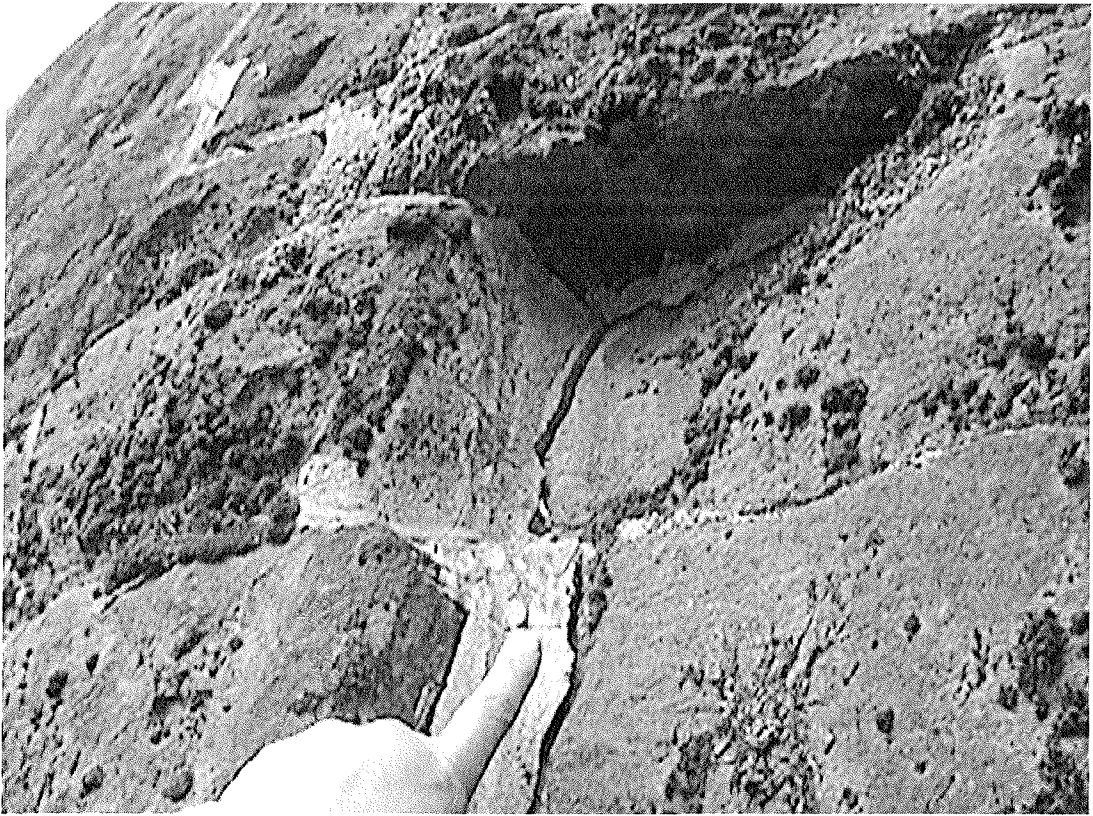


418









Moore-Love, Karla

From: Carl Wikman <carlwikman@aim.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: City Council Communications request

Dear Ms Moore-Love;

I'm requesting time in May 2014 to address the City Council in the Communications agenda time.

Name: Carl Wikman,
2901 NE Marine Dr #b-1, Portland, Or
503 638 1692

Topic: May is National Historic Preservation Month. Cedar Crossings Covered Bridge is the first and ONLY covered bridge EVER built in Portland and the only remaining structure of it's type in the Portland Metro Region.

Thanks for your assistance,

Carl Wikman

