

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at a Sentinel story from 30 years ago

Feb. 26, 1986

Move the covered bridge?

A suggestion included in a downtown renovation study to move the old Chambers (railroad) bridge from South River Road to the West Main Street crossing has drawn mixed reaction from city officials.

The bridge would become a pedestrian crossing adjacent to the motor vehicle bridge. The idea came from a \$7,000 study commissioned by the city and supervised by the Downtown Restoration Association.

Any work toward moving the bridge, seen as a plug for economic development here, would involve both agencies, officials said.

Although everyone contacted agreed with the concept, city Public Works Director Bob Sisson pointed out that moving the historic structure would be a monumental task and require significant funding. He estimated it would probably cost at least \$10,000, much of that figure tied to labor expenses.

After examining the structure, Sisson noted that some of the timbers in the bridge probably weigh up to a ton and noted

the structure's hefty dimensions would add to the difficulty of a move. He measured the length of the bridge at 90 feet, width 25 feet, and estimated the height to be about 40 feet.

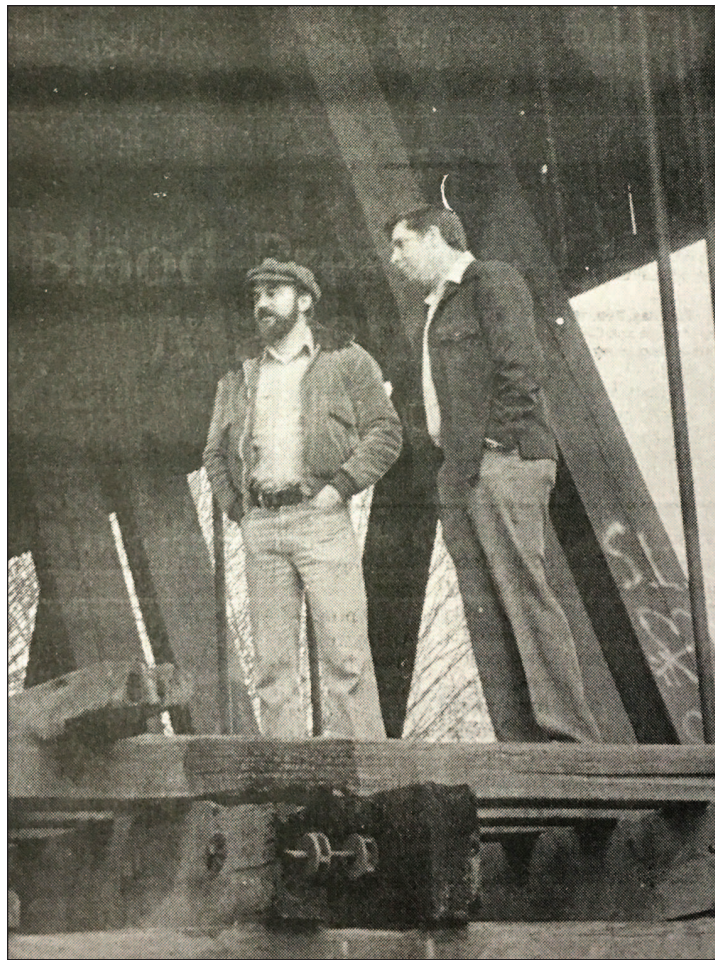
"There's a lot of hoops to jump through," said Jim Bailor, board member of the DRA. "You've got to consider the volume of work," he added while looking over the bridge with Mayor Jim Gilroy.

However, Gilroy, who also acknowledged the immensity of the project, remains enthusiastic.

"I'm really excited about it," he said. "It would really show we're the number one covered bridge capital of the world."

He pointed out that the railroad bridge is the only such structure remaining in the western states. Gilroy also said moving the bridge would protect it from the threat of vandalism, which has already taken its toll.

Because the rest of south Lane's bridges are spread around rural areas, covered bridges are less accessible for both townspeople and tourists.



Jim Bailor and Jim Gilroy examine the old Chambers Bridge. A recent study advocated moving the structure to Main Street.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

Feb. 15

UUV Recovered, Grimes Rd.

A caller at the front counter advised that there is a Jeep stuck on the powerline road on his property. During a routine check the vehicle was found to be stolen and recorded by the Eugene Police Department.

Suspicious Conditions, S. 8th St.

A caller advised that a male rode a bicycle into the location and was yelling and said something along the lines of "I'll kill you, you whore." The caller was given a courtesy ride to the City Center Hotel.

Vicious Dog, Cottage Heights Loop

A call reported a stray mini pit bull mix. The dog is brown

and white with no collar or tags. The dog has been attempting to attack other animals in the neighborhood. The dog was eventually put into custody and transported to CGPD kennels.

Criminal Mischief, HWY 99 skate park

An area resident advised that several juveniles appear to have cut the chain link fence on the northeast side of the park and are jumping through it toward the railroad tracks. An officer contacted the group of juveniles, who reported that approximately 25 feet of fence had been pulled back then they arrived; they believed it to have occurred sometime overnight.

Feb. 16

Tresspassing, Gateway Blvd.

A reporting person advised of

a male transient that was bathing in the sink at the location and has been asked to leave several times but is refusing. The subject is currently sitting in the back of the restaurant with no shirt or shoes on. The subject was advised of the complaint and moved on.

Feb. 19

Suspicious Subject, N 16th St.

A caller advised of a male transient who appears to be digging through the recycling and trash at the above location. The caller advised that the subject was doing the same thing yesterday. The subject was wearing an orange baseball cap with a beard and was riding a bike.

Feb. 20

Theft, S. 8th St.

A reporting person advised that a package has been reported as delivered, but the reporting person did not receive it. He believes someone may have taken the package from his front

porch. An officer contacted him for additional information and they determined that the package had not been delivered as stated.

Domestic Disturbance, Chamberlain/99

A caller advised of being flagged down by a female inside of a small red vehicle and she asked for the reporting person to called the police. A male was nose-to-nose in a maroon truck with the female and they were arguing about jump starting a vehicle. The officers contacted both parties and agreed to separate them.

Hit and Run, E. Main St.

A caller advised that she found damage to the rear tail-light of her vehicle and was not sure where or when it occurred. Her husband called 911 sounding very agitated. He believes the vehicle was damaged while the caller was at work, and the business owners refused to let him see the security footage.

Scenic Bikeway Committee Meeting

Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers attended a meeting of the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Committee as the representative nominated from the League of Oregon Cities to represent cities on the committee.

The committee reviewed the progress of several proponent groups that are working on designations as scenic bikeways. The committee also reviewed the strategic plan for the Scenic Bikeway program and the progress the program has made since it began in 2009. The committee also made plans for evaluation trips to scenic bikeways this summer.

Youth Advisory Council goes to Salem

On Monday, Meyers and City Recorder Trudy Borrevik accompanied eight members of the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council to Salem to visit the State Capitol.

At the Capitol the YAC met with Senator Floyd Prozanski, Representative Cedric Hayden and Craig Honeyman from the League of Oregon Cities. The youth toured the Capitol and witnessed floor activities in both the Senate and House. The YAC tried to watch a House Committee meeting, but all committee meetings were postponed due to the House Floor action. The YAC reported to Senator Prozanski and Representative Hayden the YAC's activities regarding Youth Tobacco use and

their grant from the American Lung Association. Craig Honeyman answered questions from the YAC about the role of a lobbyist and some of the current issues at the legislature.

Water line replacements

On Cemetery Road, the Public Works Utilities Crew recently completed the installation of 400 feet of two-inch PVC waterline, which connects water lines on Cemetery Road and Cottage Grove-Lorane Highway. The City said this eliminates two dead-end lines by creating a loop and also removes two flush points.

Because these were dead-end lines, the crew had to continually flush these lines to maintain proper chlorine residual.

The utilities crew also installed a two-inch auto flusher on Gowdyville Road at Halderman Road. This is a line that had to be manually flushed once per week, for an entire day. The City said this auto flusher installation will now free up many man hours and will help keep adequate chlorine residual at the west end of town.

The Public Works Department will begin installing a new water line on Ash Avenue, between N and P Streets beginning next week. This will be 600 feet of eight-inch C900 PVC water pipe replacing undersized two-inch PVC pipe. The City expects the completion of this project to result in better flow characteristics for customers in the area and increased fire flow protection.

OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

all of these issues, and several others as well, in his engineering notebooks. Since the Great War, he'd wanted to put those ideas and theories to the test. Now, thanks to the commercial success of his dry-ice venture, he had the money to do just that.

Of course, he didn't have enough money to just finance it all himself. Airships aren't cheap. He'd need investors. But it was the "Roaring Twenties," and investors were easy to come by for a charismatic and successful fellow like Thomas B. Slate.

So the money rolled in, and Slate got busy building the Airship of the Future.

It would be made of all aluminum — completely fireproof, so that even if a little gas leaked out and caught fire, it couldn't lead to a catastrophe. For helium to burn, it has to have access to oxygen; there would be no oxygen inside the fireproof aluminum hull of the airship, and the heat could not destroy that metal hull as it would that of a conventional doped-fabric airship. So even if a little gas leaked out and caught fire — as many people think happened in the Hindenburg disaster — it would simply burn itself out harmlessly and die away.

It would stay always in the air, never needing to land at airports or other special facilities inconveniently located far away from the fashionable hotels frequented by the VIPs to whom he hoped his airship service would appeal. Instead, it would hover

serenely over luxury hotels and resorts, sending down an elevator car on a heavy cable dangling beneath to deposit guests directly at their doors.

But the most revolutionary thing of all — and the most controversial — was that it would be virtually storm-proof. It would make for itself a cushion of moving air, roaring around its teardrop-shaped hull in a continuing torrent of airflow that would prevent storm-driven winds from buffeting it directly about.

So Slate settled into Glendale and got busy making his dreams into a real, live, testable prototype. As he did so, he had no idea that in his hands was the future of the airship industry. And, unfortunately for that industry, there were one or two issues that he had overlooked as he'd made those plans.

We'll talk about those oversights — and about what could have been, had they been foreseen — in next week's column.

(Sources: Benton County Historical Society, www.bchsnw.org; "The Progress of Aviation," Popular Science, June 1927; Radecki, Alan. "Slate's Strange Dirigible," MojaveWest Vintage Air, 20 Aug 2013, vintageairphotos.blogspot.com)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

The Smithsonian Institution,
The American Library Association, John Templeton Foundation,
and the Cottage Grove Public Library Present:

**"Exploring Human Origins:
What Does It Mean To Be Human?"**

Feb. 25th Wisdom Seekers Exhibit Tour and Conservation 6-8pm
with Astronomer Steve Kilston

Feb. 27th Family Art Event 1:30-3:30pm
"Cave Painting" with Tinika

March 3rd Oregon: Paisley, Columbia and Fort Rock Caves
15,000 Years of History 6-8pm
with Dennis Jenkins, University of Oregon Archaeologist

For more information: Cottage Grove Public Library:
541-942-3828 cottagegrovepubliclibrary.org

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY Feb. 25

44° | 65°



Sunny

FRIDAY Feb. 26

48° | 64°



Partly Cloudy

SATURDAY Feb. 27

45° | 55°



Poss. Showers

SUNDAY Feb. 28

45° | 62°



Partly Cloudy

MONDAY Feb. 29

46° | 61°



Poss. Showers

TUESDAY March 1

45° | 59°



Poss. Showers

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