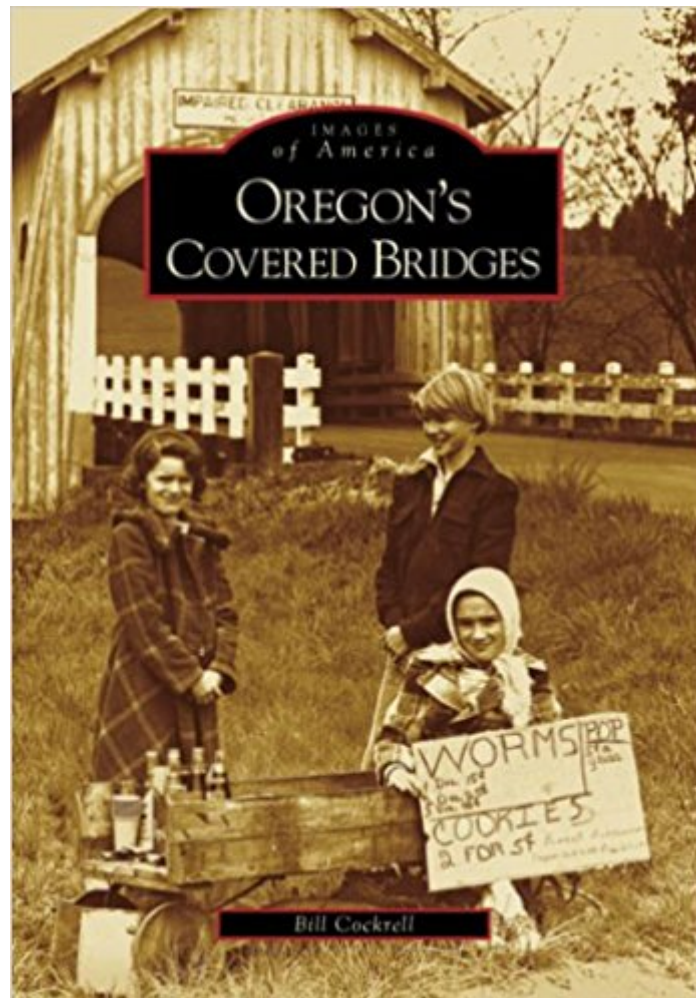




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Oregon's Covered Bridges (Images Of America: Oregon)



Synopsis

Rugged individuals armed with hand tools, sweat, and ambition began building covered bridges in Oregon during the mid-1850s. These bridge builders often camped out at remote sites, living off the land or contracting with local farmers for food. Early owners of covered bridges financed construction by charging tolls—3¢ for a sheep, 5¢ for a horse and rider, and 10¢ for a team of horses and wagon. In the early 20th century, the state provided standard bridge and truss designs to each county, and most of the resulting structures incorporated the Howe truss. With the abundance of Douglas fir and the shortage of steel during the world wars, the construction of wooden covered bridges continued well into the 1950s, mainly in the Willamette Valley. During the 1920s, Oregon boasted more than 350 covered bridges.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Title: Oregon's covered bridges
Author: Staff Writer
Publisher: Book New, Inc.
Date: February 2010
About half of Oregon's 600 covered bridges remain. The co-founder of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon presents a historic photographic tour of these wooden structures—financed by tolls—constructed from the mid-1850s to the 1950s in 14 counties from Benton to Yamhill. The cover photo of a girl selling cookies and worms during fishing season aptly illustrates the nostalgic appeal of these icons of the past. (Annotation ©2009 Book News Inc. Portland, OR)

Photographer and historian Bill Cockrell has researched more than 600 historic covered bridge sites in the state. Cockrell cofounded the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon in 1978. He is the president of the society and has been the editor of the quarterly magazine the Bridge Tender for 25 years. Cockrell and his brother have written two Oregon covered bridge books. His photographic work is included in various magazines and newspapers, and on postcards.

I have all the covered bridge books in this series that I can find. It represents so many that I will never see. Having been lost often to fire and arson but mostly to storm damage through flooding. Many are saved, nowadays, when bypassed: some left in place and others moved to parks where the wear and tear is not so damaging.

Happy with book

This book was not helpful to me as I wanted directions to find these bridges to see first hand and to take photo's of them.

Oregon used to have A LOT of covered bridges. Although a few still stand, most of them are gone, so this book is a fun photographic tour of what once was. In addition to seeing the cool historic photos, it's fun to read the stories and background on these bridges. Regarding a previous reviewer who complained that this book didn't provide directions to the covered bridges so he could take photos of them, I reiterate that most of the bridges in this book are not standing anymore.

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