

Covered Bridges Of Santa Cruz Shown

Structures Of Early California Days Are Subject Of Interesting Research.

By SUTTON CHRISTIAN

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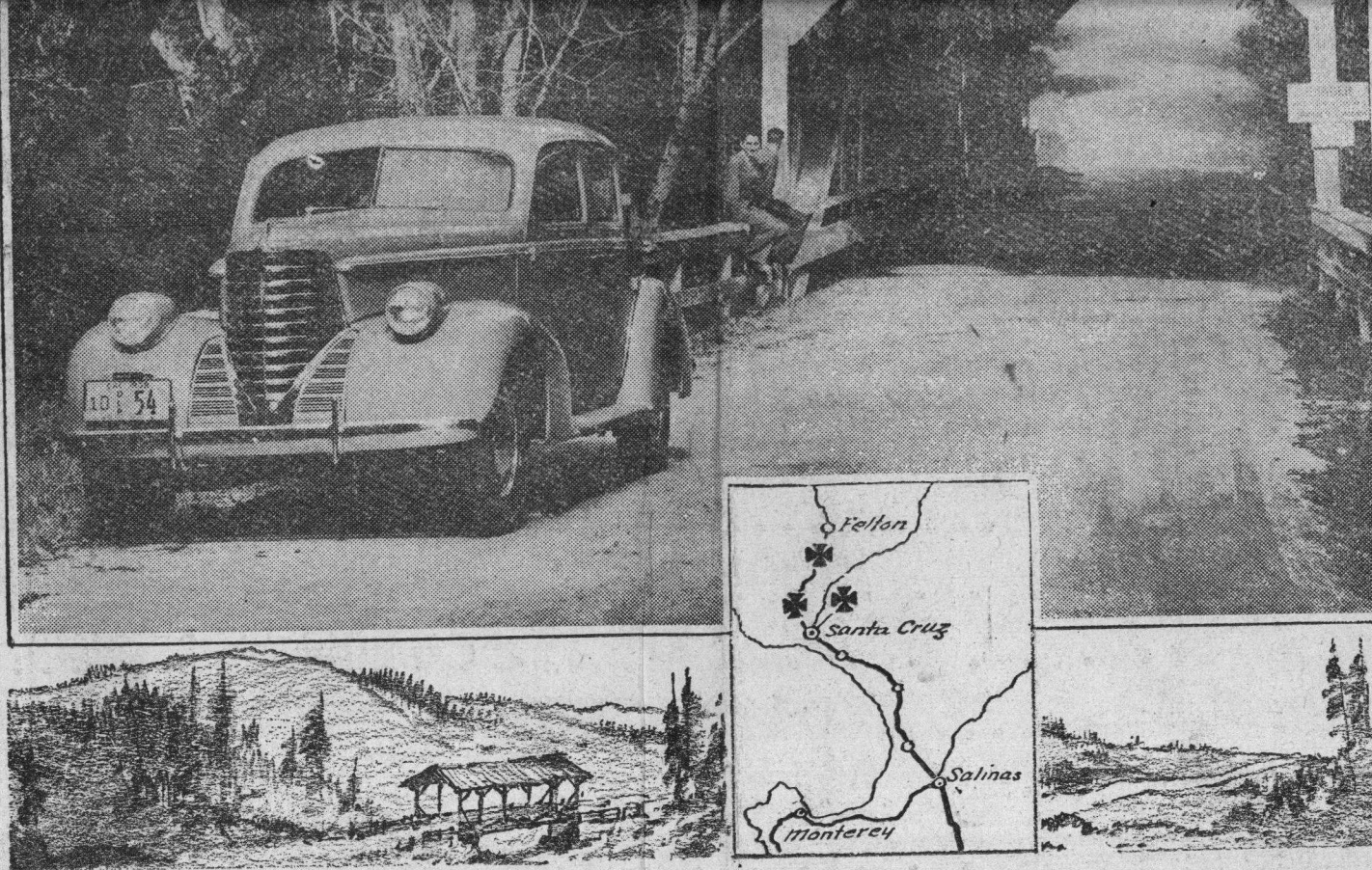
National attention has been focussed on these interesting structures by a recently published book, "The Covered Bridges of California," by Dr. S. Griswold Morley, of the University of California. The author spent several vacations in "collecting bridges," a good excuse for exploring this beautiful state.

Admitting that the covered bridge is not suitable for high speed motor traffic, Professor Morley shows that within its limitations the covered bridge is an efficient structure. For those who wonder why a bridge is covered, the book explains that the roof protects the floor trusses from moisture and adds many years to the life of a wooden span. Covered bridges are still being built in California, and even as late as 1936 Humboldt county built two over Elk River.

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Of the some 30 old covered bridges remaining in California, three of the most scenic are to be found in Santa Cruz county. Upper left is shown the ancient bridge spanning the San Lorenzo near Felton. At right, the Paradise Masonic Park covered bridge over

Of the some 30 old covered bridges remaining in California, three of the most scenic are to be found in Santa Cruz county. Upper left is shown the ancient bridge spanning the San Lorenzo near Felton. At right, the Paradise Masonic Park covered bridge over San Lorenzo river. Below, a car standing beside the Glen Canyon covered bridge over Branciforte creek.



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If proof is needed as to the strength of a covered bridge one can find plenty of evidence in Santa Cruz county. The bridge in Paradise Park was built in 1872, and to this day it can support heavy traffic. "Sturdy enough to carry the traffic of a highway, it is curiously out of scale in this playpark," Morley writes. "More pedestrians than automobiles go through it in a day. The five-foot curved over-hang of the ends distinguishes it from all other covered bridges in the state. It is unique also in that no steel tie rods are used in its construction; fourteen wooden crosses from the Warren truss."

The covered bridges on Glen Canyon road and across the San Lorenzo river at Felton were built in 1892. Soon the Felton bridge will be only a relic, for a new \$40,000 concrete span is being erected to support the modern traffic.