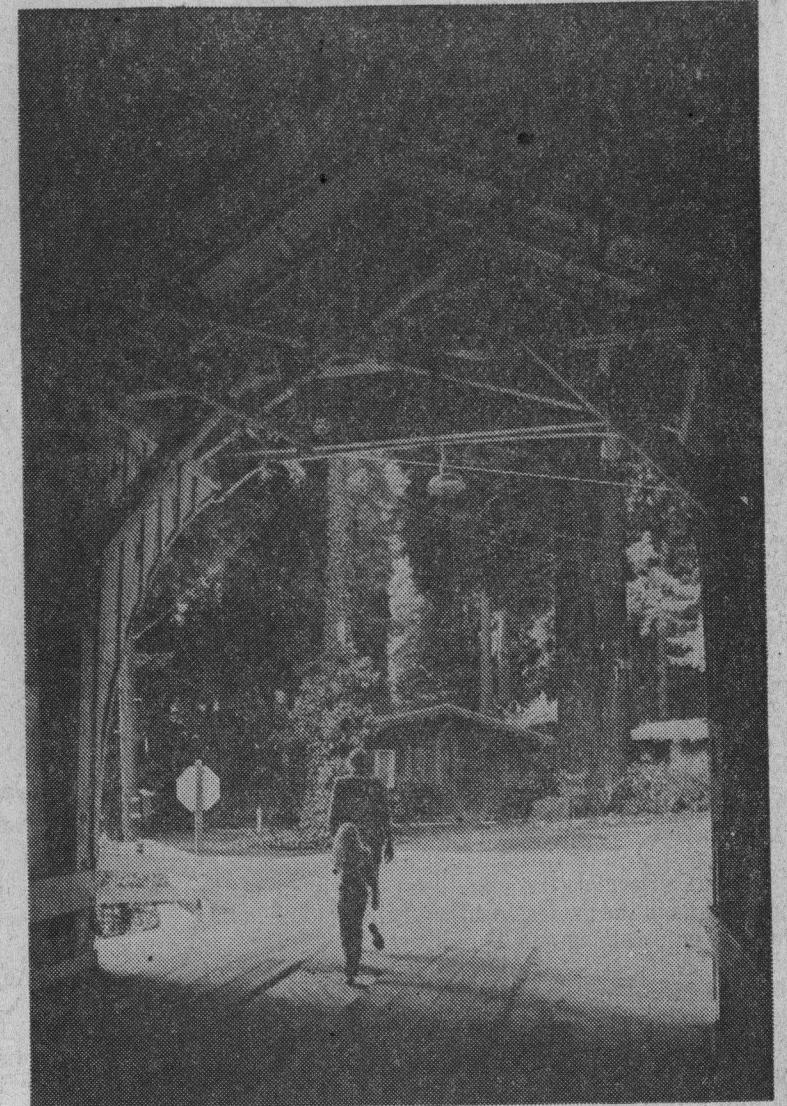


Paradise Park bridge, above and at right



## A Journey Back in Time

Covered bridges span the years.

And in Santa Cruz County in addition to our historic threesome — Felton, Paradise Park and Glen Canyon which now rests across Branciforte Creek at DeLaveaga Park — we have a recent newcomer. It's the Roaring Camp covered bridge at Felton which, along with its narrow gauge railroad, sets the stage for a journey back in time.

In 1963 when Kramer A. Adams wrote his COVERED BRIDGES OF THE WEST, he reports that of the thousands of covered bridges built in California during the pioneer days, only 11 remain with three of them in our own Santa Cruz County. Oregon and Washington are much more fortunate — 28 are listed for one Oregon county alone — but Adams notes that there are fewer than 120 covered bridges remaining between British Columbia and central California. (There are none south of Santa Cruz.)

stampede as they were driven across them. Most logical, of course, is that the roofs protect the wooden trusses from the weather.

Paradise Park bridge, built in 1872 over the San Lorenzo river, is still in use and its siding contains the only remaining examples of the once popular diamond windows. It once bore a narrow gauge railroad and traffic from the California Powder Works as well as the first pulp mill in the West. Today it serves the residents of the Paradise Park Masonic association.

DeLaveaga Park bridge, as it has come to be known locally, was built in 1891 and for 48 years spanned Branciforte Creek on Glen Canyon Road. Credit for saving the 83-foot bridge goes to the late Rose Rostron and Robert Burton who picked the site in DeLaveaga Park in 1939.

Felton Bridge, the last of the redwood





In one chapter the author discusses why the bridges are covered and lists reasons from "to keep horses from shying at the sight of boats in the river below" to the tongue-in-cheek theory that the spans were built to resemble barns so farm animals would feel more at home and would not

spans and the tallest covered bridge in the nation, was saved by Felton citizens in 1938. The state highway department obligingly left the old bridge and built a new one a half mile to the north. Built in 1892 it is kept in repair by the Felton Volunteer Fire Department.

—MILDRED ANN SMITH

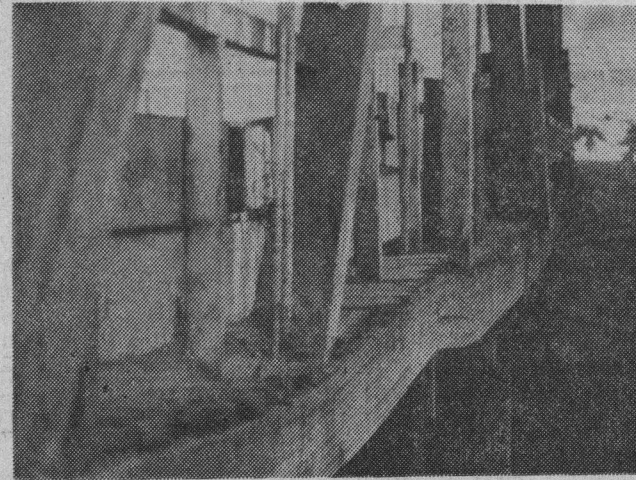


Felton bridge, above and at left



**Treß'n'Sea  
Living**

Photos by  
Pete Amos



Here was a refuge from the sudden showers that swept like moving music, field and wood, and here cool, tunneling dark when sultry hours danced with white feet beyond the bridge's hood...Yet there are soulless men whose hand and brain tear down what time will never give again.



Roaring Camp bridge



DeLaveaga Park bridge