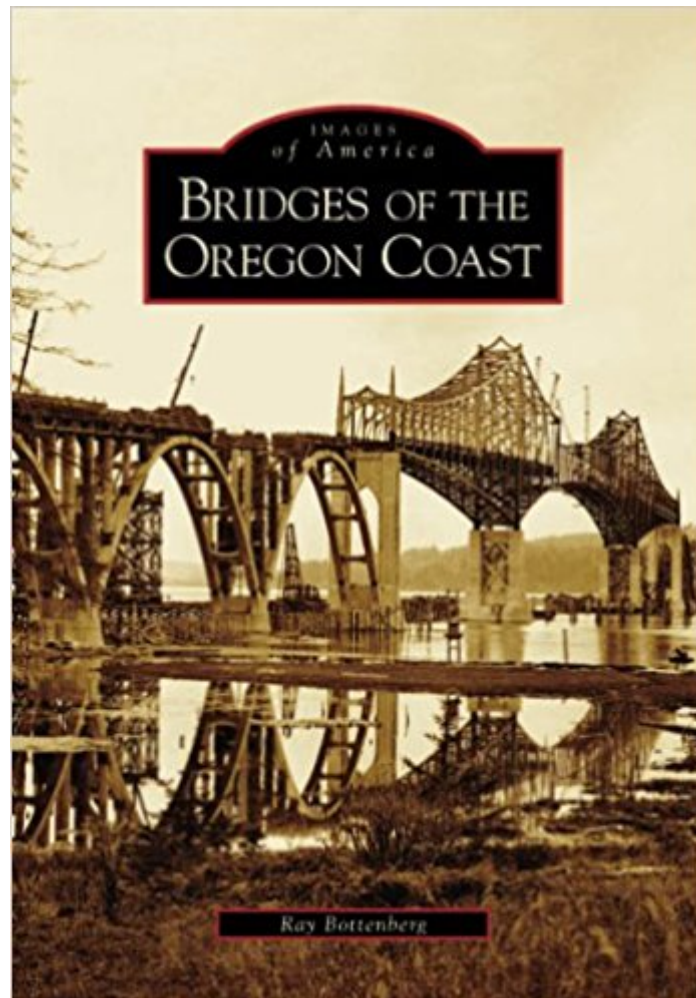




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Bridges Of The Oregon Coast (OR) (Images Of America)



Synopsis

In the 1920s and 1930s, Oregon's legendary bridge engineer Conde B. McCullough designed a first-rate collection of aesthetic bridges on the Oregon Coast Highway to enhance an already dramatic and beautiful landscape. The six largest of these, at Gold Beach, Newport, Waldport, Florence, Reedsport, and Coos Bay, eliminated the last ferries on the Oregon Coast Highway between the Columbia River and California. McCullough planned to build one bridge each year after completion of the Rogue River Bridge at Gold Beach in 1932, but the tightening grip of the Depression threatened his plans. In 1933, McCullough and his staff worked day and night to finish plans for the remaining five bridges, and in early 1934, the Public Works Administration funded simultaneous construction of them. The combined projects provided approximately 630 jobs, but at least six workers perished during construction. After the bridges were complete, Oregon coast tourism increased by a dramatic 72 percent in the first year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Ray Bottenberg is an Oregon native, a registered professional engineer, and a bridge enthusiast. In this volume, he tells the story of six remarkable bridges through an assortment of photographs gathered from such sources as the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oregon State Archives in Salem, the Cecil Ager collection, and his own private collection.

In late July and early August, 2014, I was fortunate to make my first drive of the Oregon Coast

Highway, US101, from the southern Oregon state line on the Pacific Coast to the northerly town of Lincoln City, Oregon, before turning eastward and returning home to Vancouver, Washington. All six of the featured bridges in this book were crossed during this automobile trip. The striking impression of these bridges is not just their structural beauty and aesthetic features, combining classical and Gothic-style elements with the popular art deco and Moderne influences of the late 1920's and the early 1930's, but, their variety in design and adaptability to suit each unique location where they were built. No cookie cutter designs or structures were used here as each bridge's location required specific solutions. The first one, the Rogue River Bridge at Gold Beach was completed on January 27, 1932. The State of Oregon had originally planned to build one of these six coastal bridges each year, though Depression era money had now become very limited. The newly established Works Progress Administration of the Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs offered a solution. To qualify for the funding the design drawings for the remaining five bridges were completed in a brief six months. The plans were completed on January 6, 1934. Construction of all five was finished in 1936. Of these six bridges, only the Alsea Bay Bridge at Waldport does not exist in it's original form. Built in a particularly vulnerable coastal location corrosion of this bridge's steel reinforcing bars was first noted as early as 1946. It's condition deteriorated rapidly in the 1980's requiring monthly and then weekly inspections. In 1991 a replacement bridge was constructed parallel to and designed to appear like the original. The new bridge with significantly thicker pillars has a latex concrete deck sixty-four feet wide as compared to thirty-one feet on the original, which was also narrower than the other five original bridges as each one was thirty-seven feet over all. On October 1, 1991, the original bridge was demolished. This demolition cost was more than the construction cost of the original. Detailed text and period photographs of all six bridges is enlightening and intriguing.

The history of what it took to build the beautiful coast hi way is amazing. Anyone who has driven this route will enjoy this book.

The story of the bridges of Hwy. 101 in Oregon is not well-know, but it should be. Read this, and go visit if you are able! This company always does a great job with its product.

great transaction great book

The "Images of America" are such incredible books. I have liked everyone one of them! Pictures and history of an area are so nicely done.

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