

# Before We Put ‘em Away Run

## 2023 Covered Bridge Tour by Dave Hutchison of Ragtops & Roadsters

Please Note: These are country roads, so please be careful as not to get too close to the edges, as there are some sharp drop offs. Please obey all local speed limits and enjoy the 90 minute tour.

0:0 Depart Ragtops and Roadsters, head up to 4<sup>th</sup> & Walnut, at Stop Sign

**Make Right** at Stop Sign onto Walnut Street **ZERO YOUR ODOMETER HERE**

### 0.2 The South Perkasio Covered Bridge

This is the oldest Covered Bridge in Bucks County and it is the county's most historic covered bridge for several reasons. The bridge is the third-oldest Town Lattice bridge in the United States and it was also rescued from demolition in 1958 in a landmark historic preservation act. The bridge was built by the county in 1832 in then-Rockhill Township near a mill owned by the Rev. John Andrew Strassburger. The bridge over the Pleasant Spring Creek connected the mill with several nearby villages. It soon became the focal point of a new village called Bridgetown, and then Benjamin, until Perkasio Borough annexed the village in 1898. The bridge was floated of it's moorings due to the recent Hurricane Ida. There is a fund set up to pay for the repairs, more later

0.7 **Make Left** on South Main Street by the "Perk Restaurant"

1.3 **Stay Straight** at 4 way Stop cross Branch Road

2.1 **Make Left** on Blooming Glen Road (small back sign on left)

### 2.2 Mood's Covered Bridge

Mood's Covered Bridge is in its first full reincarnation after the original bridge was an arson victim in 2004. The new version, which uses some beams from the old bridge, opened in 2008. Bucks County built the first bridge in 1874 after it received a petition from local residents for a bridge over the East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek. It was called the Mood's Ford bridge, near Samuel Mood's farm. Fast forward... In January 2004, a refuse truck one foot higher than the bridge's clearance took out most of its overhead trusses. And in June 2004, six men set fire to the closed bridge in the middle of the night. The men later plead guilty and agreed to pay restitution for about half of the costs of the new bridge.

2.4 **Make Right** at light on N. Fifth Street

4.2 **Stay straight** cross Route 313

4.6 **Make Right** at Stop Sign on Old Bethlehem Road

4.8 **Make Left** on Sweetbriar Road

6.4 **Make Right** at Stop Sign onto Elephant Road

8.5 **Stay straight** Cross Route 113

- 8.6 **Make Left** on Irish Meeting House Road
- 10.5 **Stay Straight** Irish Meeting House Road merges onto Deep Run Road
- 10.7 **Stay Straight** Cross Keller's Church Road
- 11.9 **Make Slight Right** on Quarry Road
- 12.0 **Make Left** on Deep Run Road
- 12.6 **Stay Straight** Cross to Route 611 at the light
- 12.7 **Make Left** on Old Easton Road
- 13.0 **Make Right** at Route 413 Old Easton Road
- 14.8 **Make Left** on Stump Road
- 16.1 **Make Soft Left** on Schlentz Mill Road (careful there is a hole on the right side)

## 16.9 **Cabin Run Covered Bridge**

The Cabin Run Bridge in Plumstead is one of the 10 covered bridges still in road service in Bucks County. The county commissioners asked for it to be built by late 1871 with lattice and main beams of "white oak clear of sap." A 1919 field survey listed it as County Bridge 268 on the road from Point Pleasant to Stover-Myers' Mill. Today, it sits on Covered Bridge Road over Cabin Run Creek, which feeds the Tohickon Creek.

- 17.1 **After Cabin Run** Covered Bridge (watch for dips in the road)
- 17.6 **Bear Right** on East Dark Hollow Road
- 19.0 **Bear Left** to stay on Dark Hollow Road
- 20.6 **Make Left** on Cafferty Road

## 21.3 **Frankenfield Covered Bridge**

The origins of Frankenfield's Bridge in Tinicum Township are a bit of a mystery. Today, it remains as one of the most remote Bucks County covered bridges. In 1872, Bucks County advertised for a contractor to build a new wooden structure over the Tinicum Creek. The bridge specifications called it Hillpot's Bridge, built with an oak truss and pine sidings and roof. By 1893 the structure was officially known as Frankenfield's Bridge.

- 21.9 At top of hill pass Van Sant Historic Airfield
- 22.0 **Make Right** on Headquarters Road at bottom of hill,
- 22.3 **Make Left** at Cafferty Road (very winding road)
- 23.5 **Make Left** on Geigle Hill Road/Cafferty Road
- 23.7 **Make Right** on Clay Ridge Road at second road on right (easy to miss)
- 24.3 **Bear Right** to stay on Beaver Run Road

- 24.7 **Bear Right** to stay on Beaver Run
- 24.8 **Bear Left** to stay on Beaver Run Road
- 25.9 Follow signs toward Route 611 South
- 25.9 **Stay Straight** on Marienstein Road toward Route 611
- 26.2 **Stay Straight** on Route 611 South
- 27.9 **Make Right** on Route 412 North
- 28.4 **Make Left** at light onto Mountain View Drive
- 33.8 **Make Right** on Old Bethlehem Road
- 35.0 **Make Left** on Thatcher Road
- 35.5 **Make Left** on Covered Bridge Road
- 35.8 **Sheards Mill Covered Bridge**

Sheards Mill Covered Bridge is an excellent example of a bridge paired with a mill that serviced a local rural community. Today, the mill remains next to the state-owned covered bridge, adjacent to a family campground in East Rockhill and Haycock Townships. Researchers believe a mill sat at its current site in the late 1790s at what became known as the village of Thatcher. In 1844, Levi Sheard purchased the property, which had an operating mill on the premises. County business records from 1871 show the mill was used as a grist mill and a sawmill.

- 36.3 **Make Left** on Richlandtown Road (One of Dave's favorite roads!)
- 37.5 **Make Left** on Sterner Mill Road
- 37.6 **Make Right** on Mountain Road (not marked)
- 38.5 **Make Left** on Route 313 East
- 39.2 **Make Right** on Three Mile Run Road
- 42.5 **Make Left** on Park Ave
- 42.9 **Stay Straight** Cross Ridge Road
- 43.7 **Make Left** on 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- 43.8 **Arrive Ragtops & Roadsters for Lunch!**

**We hope you enjoyed our Covered Bridge Tour...**