

Scholarships for Preservation Workshop, Notes from SIA conference, and a Mystery Bridge

Five \$600 Scholarships for Engineering Students

“Will all the engineers attending today’s conference please raise your hands?” asked a well known and highly regarded spokesman for the Historic American Engineering Record at a recent historic bridge conference. He went on to name other professionals associated with bridge preservation, and I waited to hear “craftsman,” acknowledgement of those who fabricated, erected, and maintained metal truss bridges. It never came. Bridge preservationists often focus on the engineering legacy, overlooking the enduring legacy of the local community and its family connections to early craftsmen. From the beginning and through the lifetime of service of the local metal truss bridge, it was the craftsmen and women, masons, stone cutters, blacksmiths, iron and steel fabricators and those who followed who had a lifetime connection with the bridge. Great and talented engineers have left us with spectacular engineering monuments that stand today, but the endurance, stability and preservation of these monuments depend on the craftsman’s labor as well as the engineer’s design.

To advance the craftsman’s legacy in engineering education, five \$600 scholarships are to be awarded to engineering students to attend the March 2010 Workshop *Preservation of Historic Iron and Steel in Bridges and Other Metal Structures*. This workshop is sponsored by Lansing Community College (LCC) in Lansing, Michigan, made possible through a grant from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) to further the preservation of historic metals. The grant will be used for LCC training activities, workshops, informational web-based videos, and curriculum development that promote the use of new or adaptive technologies. The grant-funded scholarships will be provided to selected undergraduate and graduate engineering students to promote the future use of the preservation procedures and tools demonstrated at the workshop. Application forms will be available on the Lansing Community College website (www.lcc.edu) and www.HistoricBridgeRestoration.com after August 1st.

Below is a tentative schedule of activities for the March 2010 Workshop. Visit the Lansing Community College website and www.HistoricBridgeRestoration.com for updated information, including registration forms.

<i>First Day, Monday March 8</i>	<i>Second Day, Tuesday March 9</i>	<i>Third Day, Wednesday March 10</i>
Presentations MDOT “Michigan Historic Bridge Inventory” Dr. Frank Hatfield “Engineering and Historic Metal Truss Bridges” David A. Simmons “The Continuous Clatter”: Practical Field Riveting” Dr. James Cooper “Historic Bridge Preservation” Luncheon Speaker William Vermes “Design and Performance of Riveted Bridge Connections” Dr. Dario Gasparini “Wrought Iron and Historic Steel” Lincoln Electric Company “Arc Welding Wrought Iron and Historic Steel”	Shop lectures followed by demonstrations on each of the following processes and their applications for restoration of historic metals: Heating steel rivets Rivet hammer safety Driving rivets using field riveting equipment Rivet hammer safety for field riveting Pack rust removal and rivet removal Heat straightening wrought and steel	Shop lectures followed by demonstrations on each of the following processes and their applications for restoration of historic metals: OFW (Oxygen Fuel Welding and Brazing) SMAW (Shielded Metal Arc Welding) ACA (Air Carbon Arc Gouging) GMAW (Gas Metal Arc Welding) FCAW (Flux Core Arc Welding)

Society for Industrial Archeology 2009 Annual Conference

The Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA) Annual Conference was held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Iron and steel brought this city industrial fame. Its craftsmen forged, hammered, and erected iron and steel bridges across its spectacular rivers and gorges, bridges designed by prominent bridge designers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The SIA members who organized this excellent event on the theme “Our Rivers’ Heritage” provided the participants with an opportunity to view the craftsmen’s work. On the last day of the SIA conference, a bicycle tour led by David Wright was made to a few of these historic bridges that span the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers for close up views of many riveted connections. See attached photo album. I would like to express my gratitude to the SIA organizers for providing a display table for information about the March 2010 Workshop “*Preservation of Historic Iron and Steel Bridges and Other Metal Structures*” to be held at Lansing Community College. The craftsmen’s heritage is the record they left in the metals they worked, and it is important to provide methods and training for the restoration of historic metal to preserve the craftsmen’s record.



Informational poster displayed at SIA conference



A Bridge Worth Saving

Mystery Bridge



Can you tell us where this bridge was located? Please see attached page for details.