

County Project

*San Joaquin Builds New
Span Across Mokelumne*

By JULIUS B. MANTHEY, San Joaquin County Road Commissioner

Editor's Note: This is a Federal Aid County Road Project. The engineering was done by San Joaquin County Forces

NEWEST LINK in the San Joaquin County Federal Aid Secondary Road System, a bridge across the Mokelumne River on FAS Route 901 between Thornton and Woodbridge, now is in service as a unit of the farm-to-market highway facilities in northern San Joaquin County.

East-west traffic across the northern portion of San Joaquin County has been hampered for many years by the lack of facilities for crossing the Mokelumne River between Thornton and Woodbridge. As there is a large volume of truck traffic hauling produce to processing plants in the vicinity of Thornton, Walnut Grove, Woodbridge, and Lodi, it was considered imperative to furnish more direct facilities to serve this highly developed agricultural area.

FAS Route 901, known locally as

the Peltier Road, extends from the vicinity of Thornton to the vicinity of Lockeford and, with the recently completed project furnishing the crossing of the Mokelumne River, provides a cross-country artery which will serve considerable through traffic as well as local residents and farm-to-market vehicles.

The design of the structure was financed with funds provided by the State Legislature under postwar planning grants. San Joaquin County, with its many miles of road serving the Delta areas, is confronted with a serious problem in attempting to replace the many bridges which have become obsolete.

The new bridge, constructed as part of this project, consists of a 150-foot steel truss span with 731 feet of concrete slab approach trestle, a total

length of 881 feet, and provides a clear roadway width of 24 feet. Constructed as a joint venture by A. A. Edmondson of Glendale and A. L. Miller of Sacramento, the total cost of the bridge, exclusive of engineering, was \$164,233.55.

The 0.82 mile of approach road consists of a 3-inch by 22-foot plant-mixed surface placed on a 6-inch by 24-foot untreated rock base, with 4-foot bituminous treated gravel shoulders. Constructed by C. C. Wood of Lodi, the cost of the road work was \$50,511.84, exclusive of engineering.

Right of way and preliminary and construction engineering were provided by San Joaquin County. The contract costs were financed from federal aid secondary funds provided by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1944 and state matching funds provided by the County Highway Aid Act of 1945.

Span of new Mokelumne River bridge. This view is looking northwest and down the stream





UPPER—This view looking northeast shows new bridge and portion of span across Mokelumne River

CENTER—Looking north at the new bridge on FAS County Route 901

LOWER—Deck of new bridge looking west

Construction engineering for both contracts was performed by county forces. D. C. Nelson acted as resident engineer on the bridge project, and K. D. Thomas was resident engineer on the road job.

State Highway Engineer G. T. McCoy has expressed his appreciation for the excellent supervision of the contracts by the San Joaquin County Road Department.

