

Archie Stevenot Bridge

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Archie Stevenot Bridge

Route 49 Stanislaus River Bridge

Melones, California, United States

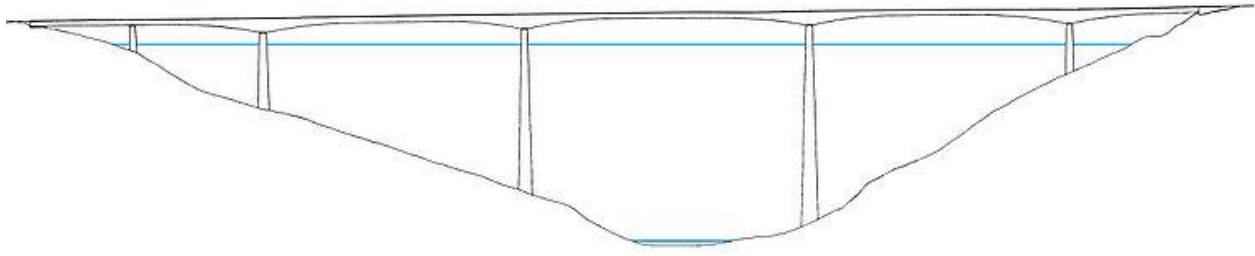
450 feet high / 137 meters high

550 foot span / 168 meter span

1976



One of the highest reservoir bridges in the United States, Archie Stevenot bridge carries route 49 across the Stanislaus River and the New Melones reservoir in the Gold Country area of Northern California. Rising approximately 400 feet (122 mtrs) from foundation to cap, the central pier is tied with California's Auburn-Forest Hill as the tallest ever built in the United States. Located several miles upstream is the 355 foot (108 mtr) high Parrotts Ferry bridge. Like Archie Stevenot, the Parrotts Ferry bridge is underwater most of the time. Both bridges were completely out of the water in 1992 from a severe drought. I know of no reservoir in North American history that ever dropped more than 367 feet (112 mtrs) as the New Melones Lake did during October of that year. You can check on current levels at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html>.



Archie Stevenot Bridge Elevation



Image by Eric Sakowski / HighestBridges.com



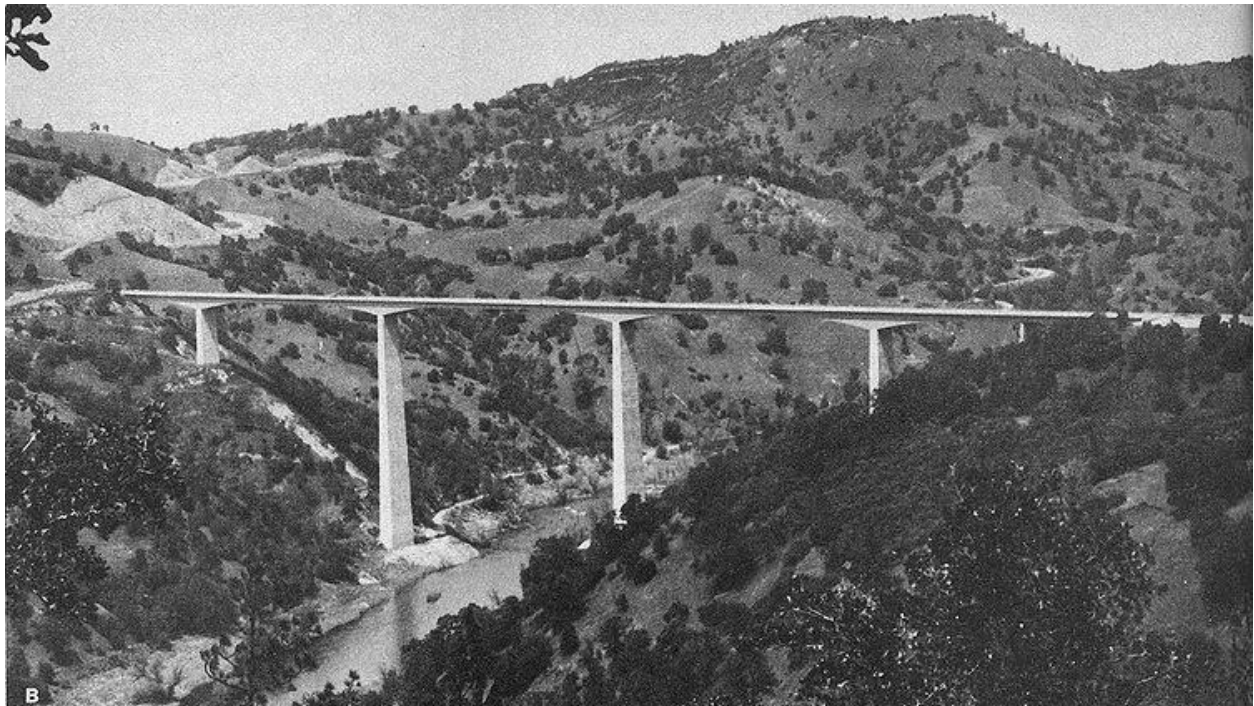
Image by Eric Sakowski / HighestBridges.com



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The Archie Stevenot Bridge was completed before the New Melones Dam and reservoir. Anyone out there have color photos from the 1992 drought?

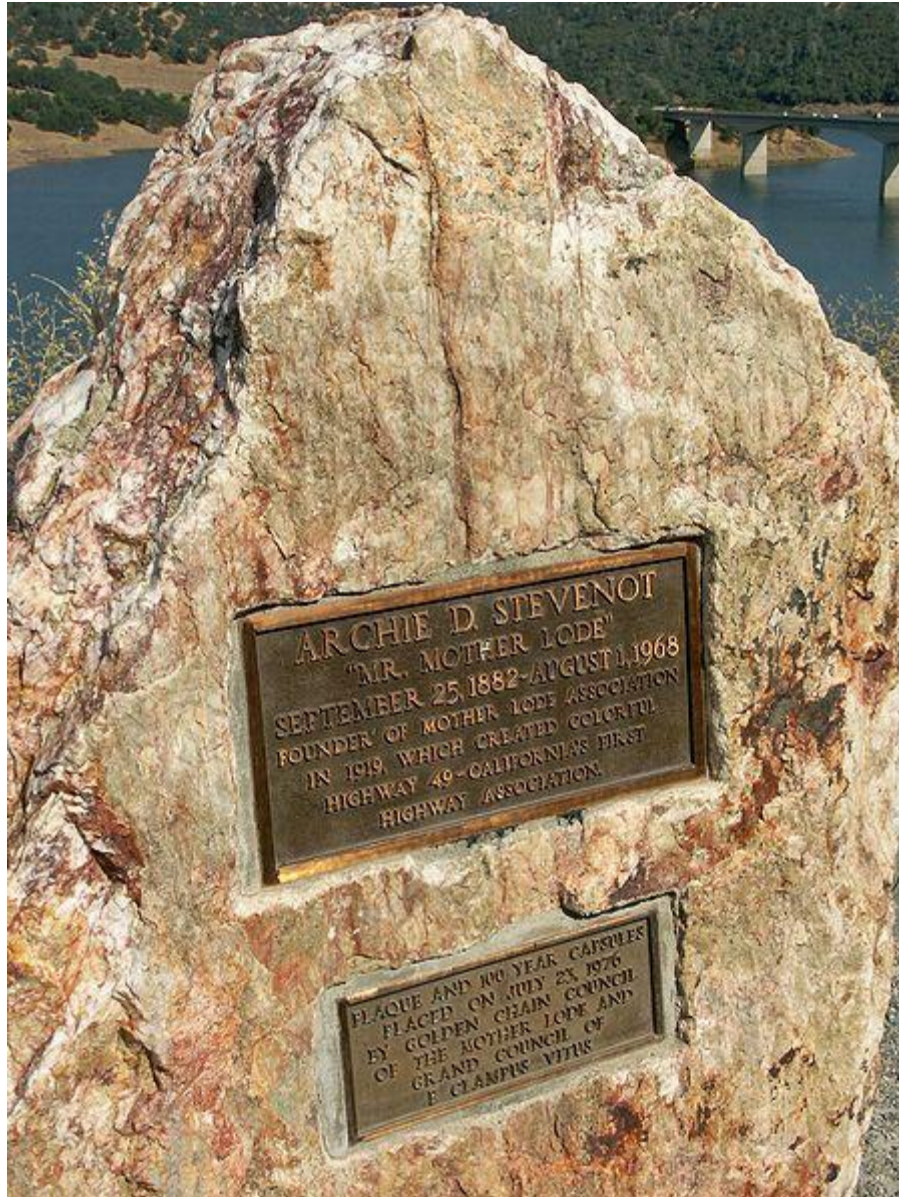


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Memorial plaque to Archie D. Stevenot "Mr. Mother Lode" on the north side of the bridge. There is also a 100 year capsule that will be opened in 2076. Image by Eric Sakowski / HighestBridges.com



Archie Stevenot Bridge satellite image.