

The Red Bridge

by Walter Green

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The old Red Bridge is about to go. This seems a good time to give a little history of bridges in this location.

The present structure is not the second but the third to cross here. The first one lasted two years, the second one about twenty, and the one now standing has been there at least thirty-three.

The original bridge was, of course, painted red, as were most bridges at that time. Pemberton, too, had its "Red" bridge, as did Coquitlam, to mention a couple. It was, locally, dubbed "The Red Bridge" to distinguish it from the Hall's Point which was known as the white bridge.

The first Red Bridge was built in 1906. The B.C. Sessional Papers dated 1907 report "Bridge over Squamish at Madill's. This consists of a 100-foot span with four bays of trestle in the north approach. It was built by day labour and cost \$1,445.35."

Madills, at the time, were living in a house rented from George Magee. This house stood at the south end of the bridge. During the 1908 flood, a large tree was swept against the piling and carried the whole span away. The late Fred Magee told me that the wreckage lay in the channel all winter.

In 1909, "A new bridge over the Squamish River at Madill's was built to replace one washed away by flood. The span is 120 feet long with an approach of 152 feet," said the "Papers" of 1910.

This brings us to the present Red Bridge. The 1929 Sessional Papers, vol.2, under the heading "Details of principal bridges constructed by day labour 1928 to 1929...Mamquam Bridge replaced...Bridge built over Mamquam River, on Indian Reserve Road, [I presume Indian Reserve Road was intended] at Squamish. Details: one 120-foot timber through Howe Truss, resting on one concrete abutment, one pile pier, six bays of trestle approach, and 225 feet of log boom."



11.55 Traffic jam caused by traffic lights at Red Bridge (over Blind Channel) which had only 1 lane ~ 1963 (suspected).