

# Beaver Dam Road Bridge over Beaver Dam Creek, 1935

This article is an excerpt from a longer article by [Helen M. Ewing](#) that appeared in the Patchogue Advance newspaper, 15 February 1935 page 11, titled: *The History of Beaver Dam Road Recalls Old Days in Brookhaven*. Photographs did not appear in the original article.

Some years ago when the road commissioners proposed widening that portion of the road [Beaver Dam road, Brookhaven, NY] from the South Country road to the bay road, leveling the abrupt rise over the stream [Beaver Dam creek] and concreting the road bed, a protest arose, as it was feared that the natural beauty of the road would be lost. Progress won, however, and the concrete was laid, but fortunately beauty was not sacrificed and the road is still charming. The original circular culvert was retained (though it was necessary to lengthen it) instead of a modern box culvert, so that, seen from the creek or its banks, the bridge presents much the same appearance as before. The old, natural-wood railing, deeply cut with initials, and rather rickety, were replaced by simple white palings which are just as inviting and comfortable to lean upon, and far safer than the original ones. (The above-mentioned culvert had a fascination for us children. By lying down in our canoe and giving a mighty push overhead as we entered, we could shoot through this cool, dim tunnel and emerge into the sunshine on the other side, feeling as though we had been through an exciting adventure. The many spiders that clung to the stones and the rumor that a large black snake lived under the bridge, added to the fact that every sound we made while in the tunnel returned to us with startling volume, was peril enough for any adventure.)



Beaver Dam road at Beaver Dam creek looking east, 1905. In the distance is the St. James church at the corner of Bay road; to right is the Badetty house; to left is the Fraser house. Concrete paving was provided in 1931.



Beaver Dam creek bridge, about 1910, was a stone arch bridge. When the roadway was widened and concreted in 1931, the stone arch design was retained. This picture is probably looking

preserved as a small, natural park\*. A little pond, several tiny streams, a profusion of wild flowers and shrubs, and a bit of woodland intersected by winding paths, make it a place of enchantment. Screened from the road by tall bushes and underbrush, the sounds of an occasional passing car dimmed by the murmur of the waters, it is easy to imagine oneself far away in time, as well as place, from the present day world. Nor is it difficult to imagine the pleasure and appreciation those first settlers must have felt in finding their new surroundings so pleasant.

\* This section of land was then owned by [James H. Post](#), and is now owned and maintained by the Post-Morrow foundation of Brookhaven. It still contains a short nature trail open to the public.

On the west bank of the creek, and the north side of Beaver Dam road, a section of land is being



The stone arch bridge, reconstructed in 1931 when the roadway was concreted, only lasted for seven years. It was badly damaged in the 1938 hurricane and had to be replaced. Note the white fence railings. This view is probably of the south side of the bridge. The replacement bridge, finished in 1939, was of a more "modern" box culvert design, with stone railings. [This 1939 bridge was reconstructed in 2013.](#)