ENGINEERS MOVE BRIDGE

When the new Grand Coulee Dam was built and the water began to creep up the Kettle river in its 150 mile-wide reservoir in Washington, it was found that a timber bridge would be covered with two feet of water. In place of wasting good timber, or of tearing down the bridge on the spot, then carrying it 150 miles overland, engineers decided to drop the supports of the bridge and carry it to the Coulee Dam 150 miles away on barges.

Difficulties arose. The Kettle river was not wide enough but would widen as the water rose. Also, a new bridge had been located down stream which would not allow clearance if the water rose too high.

After the ticklish feat of foretelling the rise of the water, the bridge was dropped to the barges in one day and reached the Coulee Dam two days later.

The bridge contained:
2 all-timber spans 68 feet, weight 90 tons
151 feet, weight 210 tons

Deck elevation 1288 feet
Lumber 100,000 board feet