

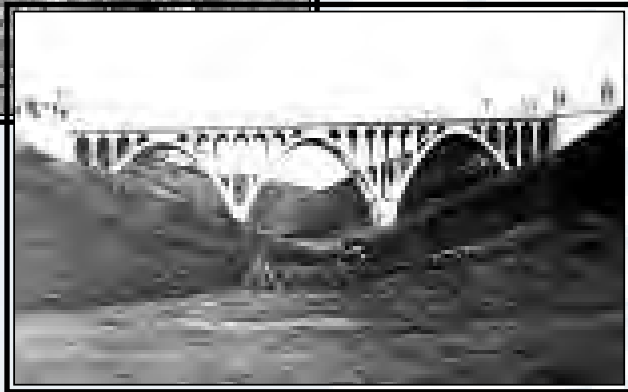


# THE Franklin

**FIRST IN A SERIES OF FAMILIAR LOS ANGELES BRIDGES.**



Above and right: Photos taken during construction of the Franklin Avenue bridge in Silver Lake.



The Franklin Avenue Bridge, built in 1925, is one of 15 bridges in the Los Angeles area that had been destined to become part of the Los Angeles River Bridges Recording Project. Twelve of these bridges cross the Los Angeles River. Two others span deep ravines and a third is an important grade separation. Built between 1909 and 1934, the group of river bridges contains many of the finest examples of City Beautiful bridges and viaducts in the United States.

On June 5, 1990, following the Oct. 17, 1989, Loma Prieta earthquake in Northern California, the voters of the City of Los Angeles passed Proposition G, a \$376 million seismic bond issue that included \$78 million for the retrofit of the Los Angeles River bridges. Over the last decade, the Bureau of Engineering, Public Works, has seismically retrofitted these bridges.

The Franklin Bridge, sometimes called the Shakespeare Bridge, has a fairy-tale appearance. It has gothic turrets and structure. In some instances it does not resemble Los Angeles design, with the exception of a Hollywood movie prop. The bridge was originally built in 1926, and was retrofitted in 1994. The Franklin Avenue Bridge was constructed to connect the Franklin Hills area to East Hollywood and the Ivanhoe District.

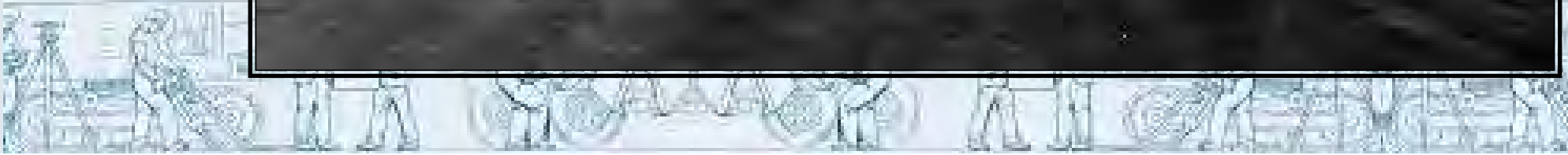
Built with arch construction, it supports Franklin Avenue over Monon Street near Los Feliz. It is slightly more than 261 feet in length.

It has been featured in several Hollywood films including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Dead Again*.

**1926**



The Franklin Ave. bridge as it appeared when it opened.



# History Comes Alive!

by Hynda Rudd,  
City Archivist (Retired),  
and Club Member



Tales From the City Archives

# Avenue Bridge



ABOVE: The Franklin Avenue Bridge as it appears today. The turrets lent the bridge its nickname, the Shakespeare Bridge. (Standing on right: Isaiah and Noah Hawkins)

*Did You Know?*

**In 1942, the Bureau of Inspection became a separate bureau within Public Works. In 1952, the Bureau's name was changed to Contract Administration.**

*Did You Know is provided by Larry Williams, Bureau of Contract Administration.*

BELOW: The Bureau of Engineering produced these wonderful analytical sketches of the Franklin Bridge. Images courtesy the Los Angeles City Archives.

