

## Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge



## Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge Opened 1912

Built as part of the railway serving the Mountain Quarries Company's limestone quarry operations, the bridge was "the longest span concrete arched bridge for railroad traffic owned by private capital in the world." The Railroad ran from the quarries in El Dorado County to Flint Station near Auburn. The cost of the bridge was \$300,000 equal to nearly seven million in today's dollars.

John Leonard designed the bridge and 800 to 1,000 men constructed it. Two men died during the construction. The Quarries operation ended in 1941 and by 1942 the rails had been removed and taken for scrap metal in the war effort. The Quarry is in operation today, using trucks to haul the limestone. The bridge is now used as a riding and hiking trail. It's local name "No Hands Bridge" is said to have come from the fact that for years there were no guard rails on the bridge.

American River Canyon, Lee & Lynch p. 37-54, Railroad of Placer County, Sommers & Staab p. 73, Placer Herald July 1, 1911.

Photo courtesy of Placer County Museums