

Gary C Worrell

From: Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 23 January, 2007 01:33
To: 'Gary C Worrell'
Subject: Addendum: Postcard
Attachments: TacomaNarrowsBridge.jpg

I keep forgetting that some of you have e-mail that rejects video clips (paranoia abounds).

Attached is the photo, and you can get the clip from the address below:

<http://igx.net/Video/GallopingGertieClip.mpg>

G.

From: Gary C Worrell [mailto:gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 23 January, 2007 01:03
To: 'gcw@igx.net'
Subject: Postcard

I suspect that sometime in your life you saw what was probably the first engineering disaster caught on film.

Galloping Gertie (see video clip) was the name the local residents gave to the first Tacoma Narrows Bridge (Washington State) following its collapse in 1940. The collapse was caused by the extremely high winds that frequently occur in The Narrows, that caused the road surface to resonate and eventually fail. Ten years later, the Tacoma Narrows Bridge reopened and it's still in use today.

The first time I crossed the bridge was in 1983. You didn't need to hold the steering wheel while crossing the bridge because the road surface had deep wheel ruts from three decades of use. It was stop and go traffic that day, and while stopped you could feel the bridge sway in the wind. I didn't know the bridge was the location of Galloping Gertie when I first crossed it – a friend of mine who lives in Puyallup, Washington (who is also a member of the now famous Postcard Mailing List) told me while I was visiting him that year. Probably a good thing I didn't know that while I was swaying in the wind.

Recently construction began on a second span, and it's scheduled to open this summer. I was anxious to see how far the construction had progressed as I approached the bridge this evening, and when I rounded the bend and saw it, I

knew a postcard was forthcoming. The new span is lit for construction purposes, but there is a move afoot by the local citizenry to make sure it stays lit after it opens.

Now I know what you must be thinking... "Didn't he just send a Postcard from Honolulu last Saturday?"

Why yes, I did.

Go figure.

G.

