

#15: The Joe Dice Swinging Bridge (801 Kennedy Drive - Hwy 7)

The Upper Bridge (a swinger) was erected in 1904, by Joe A. Dice as a private "toll" bridge. Destroyed in 1924 by a cyclone, the owners had contractual trouble and deeded it to Benton County in 1926. The county had similar problems and employed Mr. Dice to rebuild the bridge. In 1930, it became a State Highway bridge. Again in 1975, it was destroyed when an overloaded 18 wheeler truck fell through the bridge. It is now preserved as a walking bridge.

The Warsaw area was once called "The Land of the Swinging Bridges" and for good reason! It is the last of five swinging bridges in Benton County. Five bridges were necessary because of the meanderings of the Osage River through the hills. For some folks to get to town only a few miles away, it was necessary to cross at least three bridges, ferry or forge the river.