

Stone bridge on Spring Street

Spring Street crosses this bridge below the bridge-dam and falls. Circa 1920 photo by John Knoll (1887-1955). On the right side of the picture are the springs of therapeutic water that was bottled by Case brothers.



Below, a reprint on page 98 in *Old Manchester, The Storytellers* of a snippet by Knight Ferris (the “Old Codger” or O.C.), who mentions (on page 67) that on his school vacation he got a job with the crew installing a big roof at Case’s paper mill. “Old John,” mentioned below, worked on that crew, which ate lunch on the “the fireman’s bench in the shade of the big square chimney. O.C. took the water-pail down to the spring for water.” Elsewhere on the Manchester (CT) Historical Society’s website www.manchesterhistory.org you can read about Knight Ferris, Case brothers, Tonica Springs, John Knoll, Gorman brothers construction and quarrying business.

OLD JOHN'S SIESTA

One year, Cases were having a lot of that beautiful stone work done around the park. Mr. “Pat” Gorman was replacing the old wooden bridge in the glen near the “Tonica Springs” bottling house, with that fine stone twin arch you see now. It was necessary to blast a little for a footing at the northwest corner of the bridge. The blasting powder grains were about the size of BB lead shot.

When O. C. went for the noon water, he got two grains and put them in John’s pipe under some of the tobacco. When John’s siesta was interrupted by a sudden “Fuff” it brought O. C. to his feet. He was not the least bit startled but thought it prudent to be ready for quick take-off. However, when John succeeded in getting his lids back on his protruding eyeballs he simply said, “Damn you boy.”

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Bridge-dam above the waterfall, across from the intersection of Glen Road and Spring Street. Note the five vaults, compared to two vaults in the bridge that crosses Spring Street. This structure is unusual in that is both a dam and a bridge



The falls at Highland Park, visible from Spring Street. The water is flowing from Birch Mountain Brook. Contemporary photo by Susan Barlow.