

Nearby Waterloo region has unusual scenes, ways of life

A horse drawing a buggy along a rural Waterloo road?—An unusual sight here but a common happening where drivers are advised horse drawn vehicles use the road.

Motorists who keep to 7 Highway's beaten path on their way to Kitchener-Waterloo miss Mennonite country in a region which has a number of unusual attractions. If it's Sunday, that buggy you've seen is probably a family of Old Order Mennonites on their way to and from church.

A "plain people" the Old Order families still keep many of their old customs and speak a language known as Pennsylvania Dutch. They shun cars and electricity relying on horsepower from its original source and yet their farms are among the best in the world.

They are part of a Canadian mosaic that allows them to preserve a way of life that disappeared a century ago in most other parts of Ontario. Their distinctive dress, modest in the extreme—full length gingham and denims for women and girls,—baggy pants and stetson-like hats for men—marks them as different from the majority.

Not all adhere so rigidly to the old custom. Many Mennonites have gradually accepted modern improvements, drive dark cars without ornament, accept electricity on the farm. Like their stricter brethren they descend from settlers who made the first purchases of land in Waterloo in 1800. From Pennsylvania they came to Canada following the American Revolution to escape similar persecution they faced in Europe and which brought them to the British colonies. They came by Conestoga wagon.

Their settlement in Waterloo soon brought in other Germans and Swiss of different faiths and left a Teutonic legacy unique in Canada that is only a short drive from this area.

You can see Ontario's only covered bridge at West Montrose. Built in 1881 at a cost of \$3,000 from white pine and oak flooring the "kissing bridge" spans the Conestoga River in a region of fine farms.

Stop at Maryhill where an old twin spired Catholic church in the German tradition overlooks a cemetery with exquisite wrought iron grave crosses. Two old hotels at the village centre are renowned "watering" spots.

Elmira is the centre of Mennonite country—a pretty town totally unlike the grim picture given by a U.S. magazine a few years ago. Many picturesque hamlets and villages cluster through the county turning thoughts back to Old Germany. How about Heidelberg, Rummelhardt, Breslau, Mannheim and New Hamburg?



WATERLOO

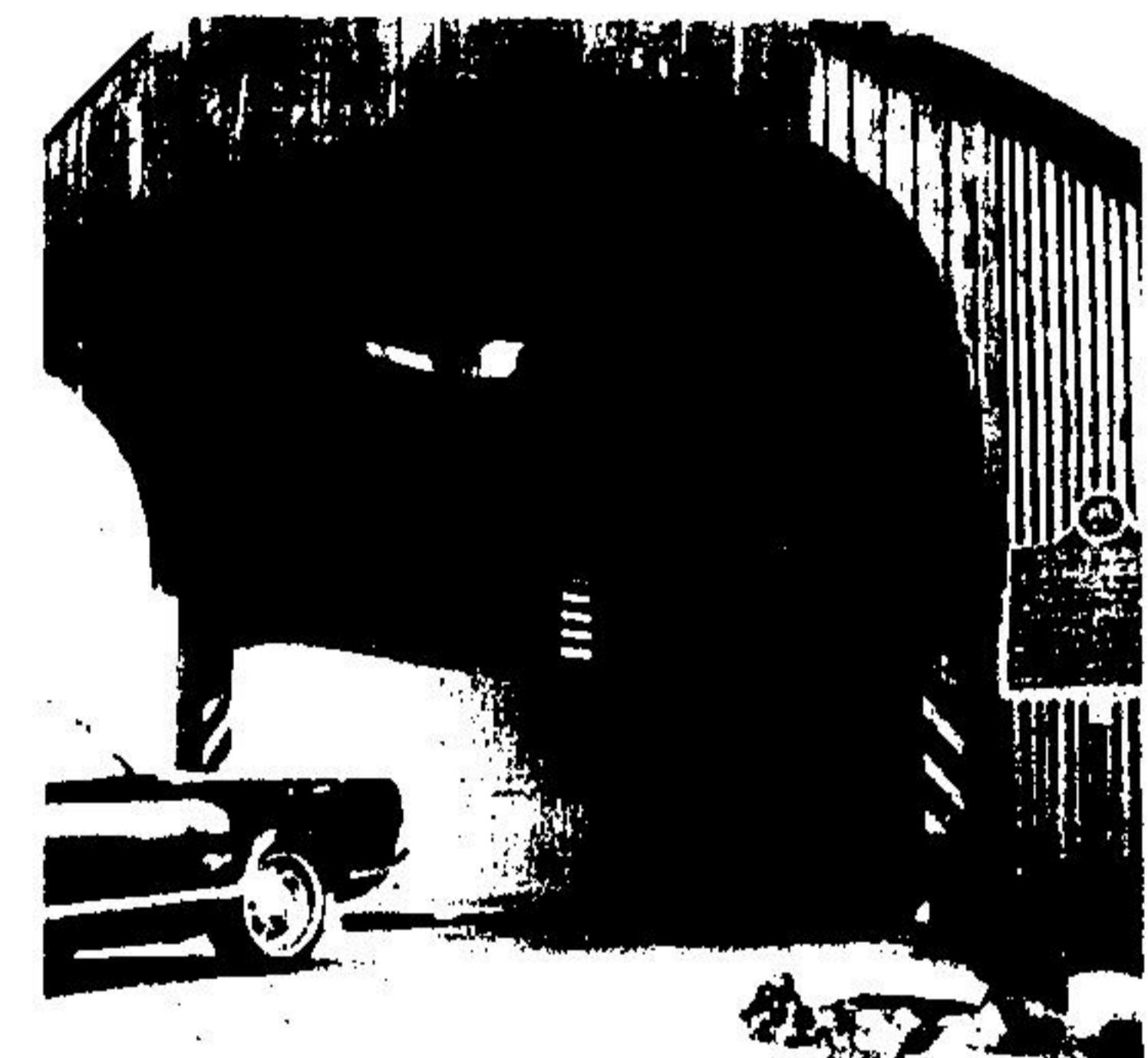
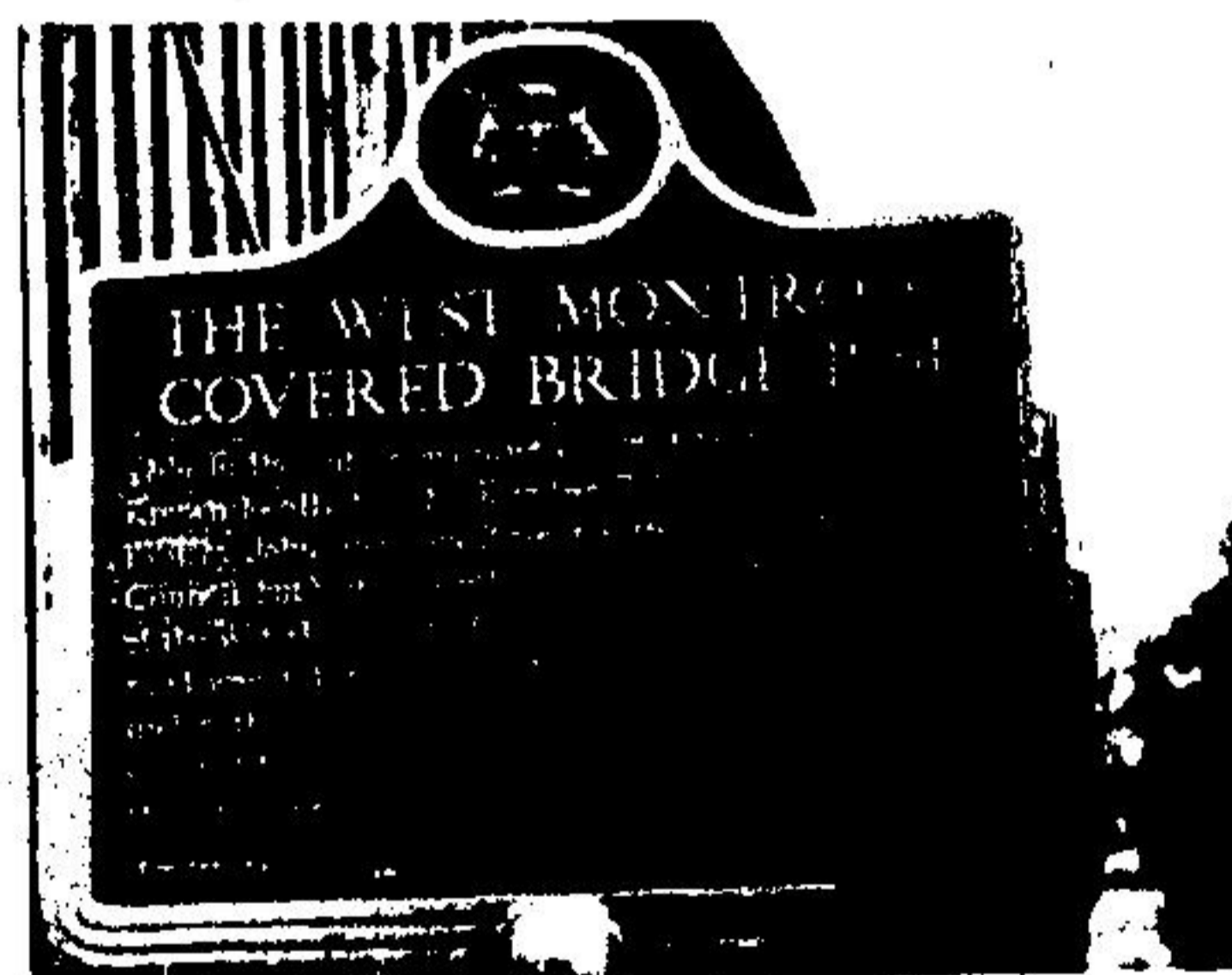


Maryhill.
o prosper.



UNIQUE iron grave crosses in the Swiss and German tradition are part of many cemeteries in Waterloo region. This one is in St. Boniface cemetery at Maryhill.

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SOME WATERLOO NAMES

are derived from German or Pennsylvania-German family names

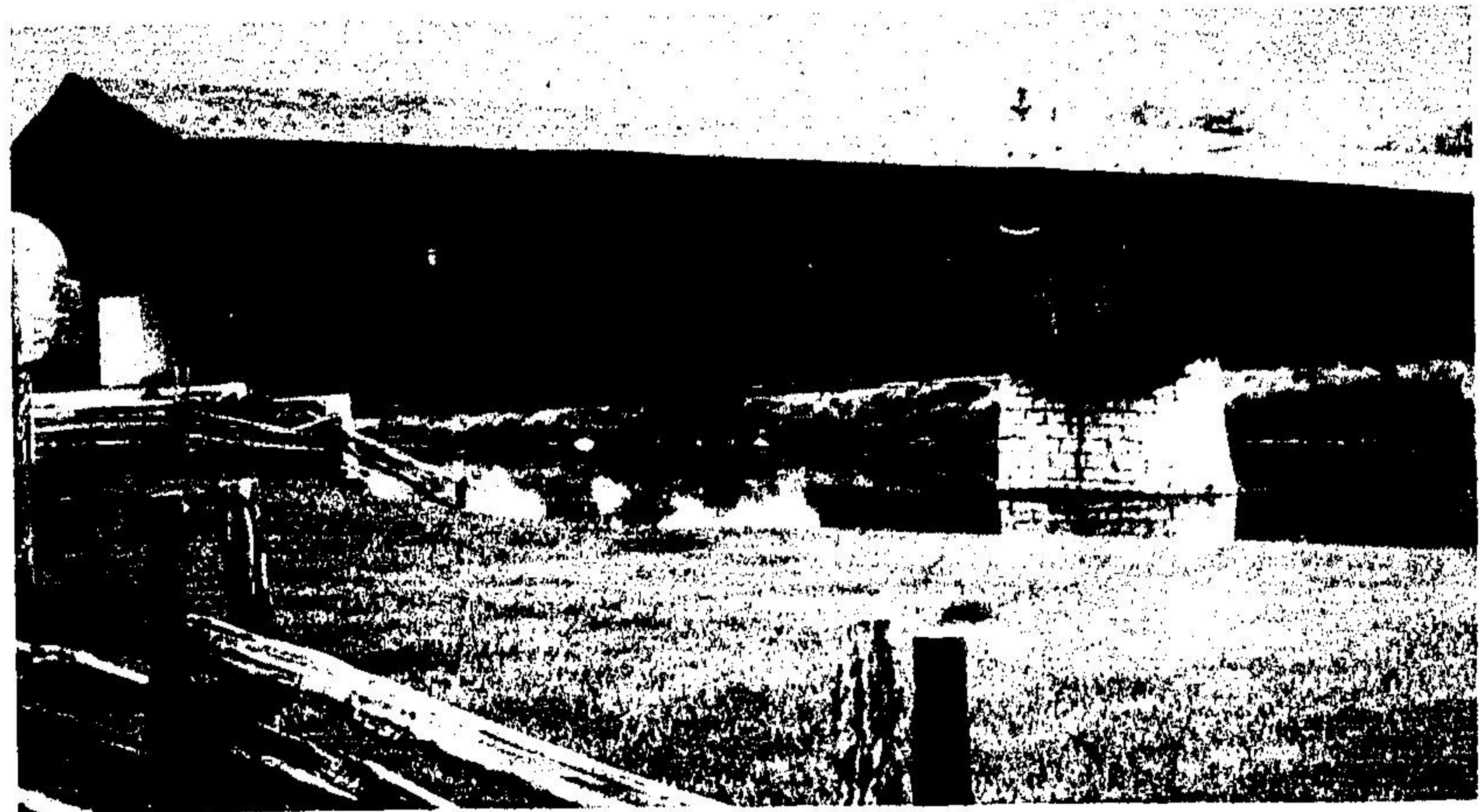
Albrecht	of distinguished race
Conrad	bold in Council
Dietrich	ruler of people
Eckert	strong sword

Becker	baker
Baumgartner	orchard-grower
Kaufman	merchant
Schenk	cup-bearer
Schlegel	one who hammers
Schmidt	smith

Bach, Bacher	who live near a brook
Berger	lives on mountain
Boehm	a Bohemian
Brubacher	village in Zurich
Detweiler	from Canton Zurich

Engel	angel
Hahn	rooster
Helm	helmet
Hertzog	duke
Kalb	calf

Frohlich	cheerful
Jung	young
Klein	small
Kurtz	short



ONTARIO'S ONLY "kissing bridge" is still used in the village of West Montrose. It is situated a few miles off Highway 7, adjacent to Highway 89 between Guelph and Elmira. It spans the Conestoga River, a tributary of the Grand.



ings in buggies. Drivers in Waterloo region are reminded by signs to watch for horse driven vehicles.