

645 Hadley Avenue
San Jose, California 95126
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To whom it may concern:

How can it be explained to someone who plods along to the dull tune of pragmatism alone that there can be magic in history that far outweighs the singular practicality of a utilitarian bridge? Why do we travel to some places for pleasure and renewal and not to others?

I can't understand a blindness to what is special and evocative in a wooden railroad trestle, a symbol of a past way of living when agriculture and food preservation dominated Santa Clara Valley. Some people have a stubborn devotion to just getting things done. When weighed against the speed with which our history is disappearing and the purpose of the trails, I don't understand the lack of imagination in replacing something historical as well as practical with something merely practical.

I would take my grandchildren to stand on a railroad trestle and talk about the history of trains and the Valley of Heart's Delight, but we would just walk over a newly manufactured steel trestle on our way to somewhere else.

Sincerely,

Janet Burdick
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