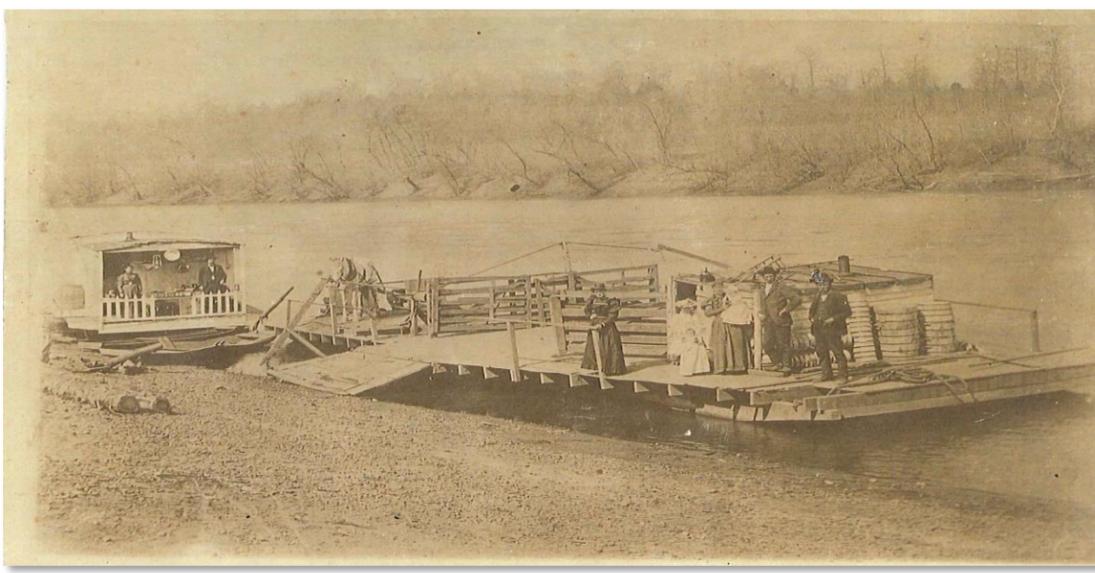


109 Gateway Bridge Now Open

See scenes from the old and new

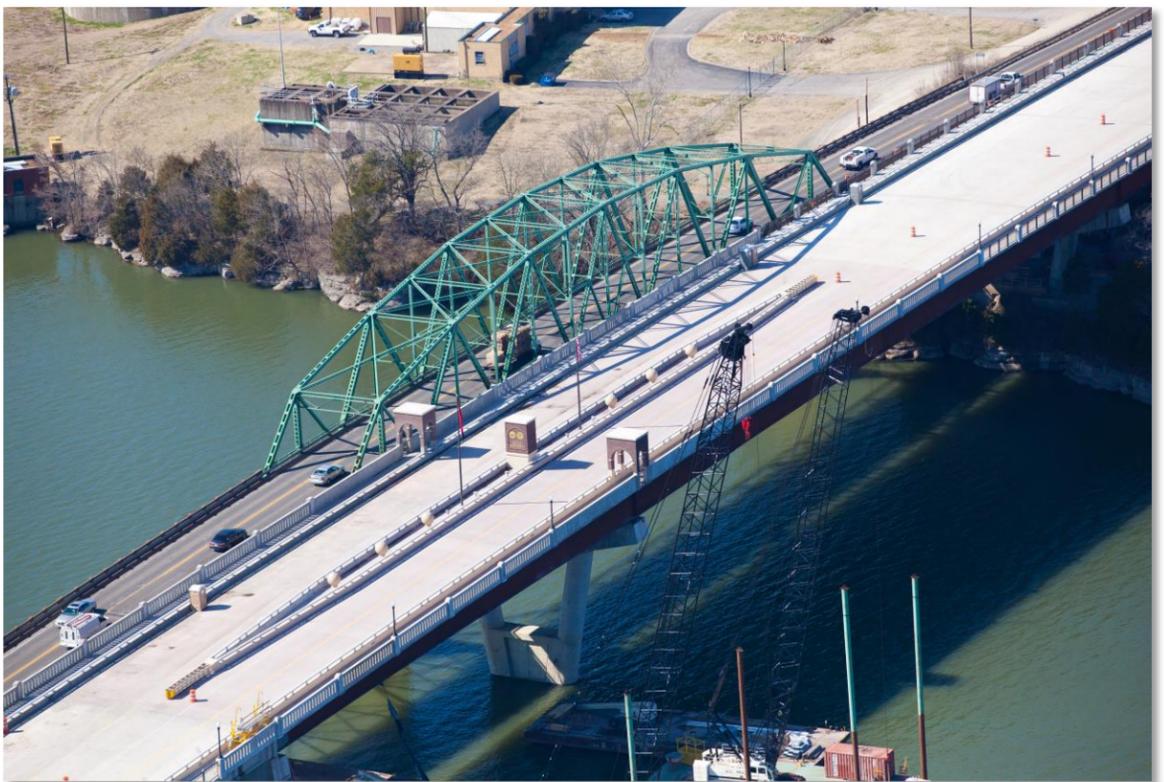


Before the old 109 bridge was built, travelers had to cross the Cumberland River via Woods Ferry. This picture comes from the collection of Frankie Lee Downs of Gallatin whose family ran the ferry up until the mid-1950s when the old 109 Bridge opened.

The old 109 Bridge, seen below, opened in 1954. It was a 2-lane steel truss bridge, meaning it used a connection of steel triangles to support the load, which was one of the most modern bridge constructions at that time. John Young, whose father ran the Gallatin water plant by the old bridge, remembers the building of the bridge and helping his father climb up under it to change out lights. The photo on the right, taken by Richard Suter Photography last week, shows the sun setting on the old bridge two nights before it closed.



Richard Suter Photography also took this aerial picture the afternoon before the ceremony for the new bridge. It shows the center plaza area featuring the seals of Gallatin and Sumner County on one side and Wilson County on the other. The new bridge is four lanes .



The lighting, reminiscent of old gas lamps, is perched on both concrete and metal rails that are open to allow for views of the river. Each side of the bridge has a scenic overlook area on the crown of the bridge covered with arched, brick columns. The photo below shows the southern end of the bridge as it approaches Gallatin. TDOT has already begun taking out the entrances to the old bridge and eventually will take down the entire bridge. Plans are moving forward to make State Route 109 either four or five lanes from I-40 to I-65. These photos are also by Richard Suter Photography.

