

LEVELED Book • I

# Roadside Oddities



Written by Torran Anderson

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Signs for The Thing make some people want to stop and check it out.

## **What Is The Thing?**

Giant signs at the side of the road ask, “The Thing? What is it?” Roadside attractions such as The Thing are odd and wonderful. They ask people to stop and check them out.

# World's Largest Baseball Bat

The world's largest baseball bat is taller than the five-story building it stands beside.

It weighs as much as three school buses.



Do giants play baseball?



Ears of corn make art that's good enough to eat.

## The Corn Palace

The Corn Palace is decorated with grasses and corn of different colors. The Corn Palace is also the world's largest bird feeder.



When winter begins, the birds and squirrels eat the art!



Barney Smith stands in his one-of-a-kind museum (also his garage).

## **Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Art Museum**

**Do you have an extra toilet seat?  
Bring it to Barney Smith's Toilet  
Seat Art Museum.**

**Barney Smith has made more  
than one thousand toilet seats  
into works of art.**



A big elephant needs a big drink of water.

## **Lucy the Elephant**

The world's largest elephant is a six-story building you can climb inside!

## Boll Weevil Monument

A hundred years ago, a bug called the *boll weevil* destroyed cotton plants in Alabama.

Farmers had to grow different plants.

In the end, that helped the farmers. So they built a **monument** to the weevil.





Sign Post Forest

## Sign Post Forest

The Sign Post Forest isn't made of trees.

It's made of more than 100,000 signs.

### Do You Know?

Not all roadside attractions are made by people. General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park is the world's largest tree. It is thought to be between 2,300 and 2,700 years old.

Carhenge



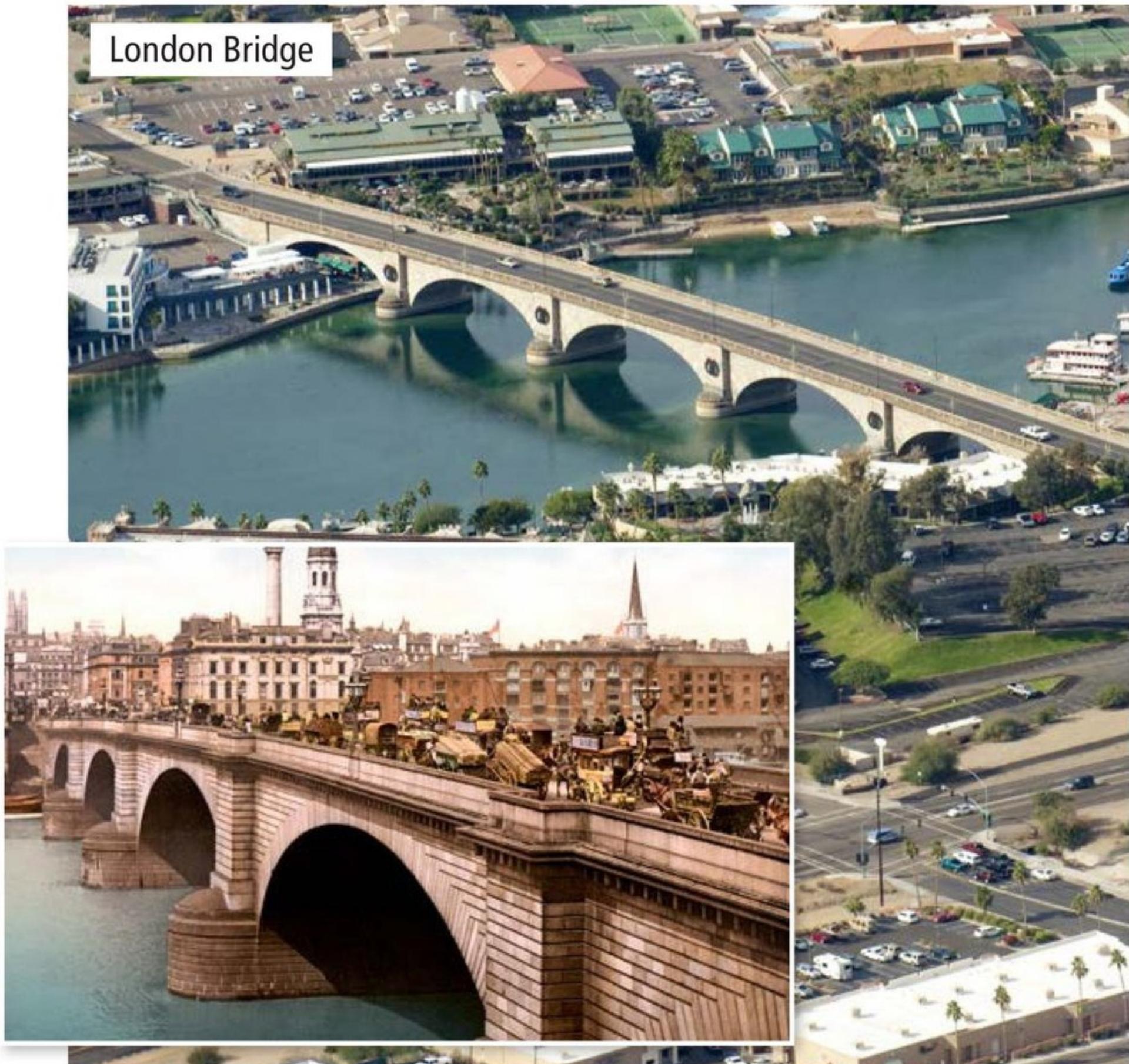
Stonehenge



Inset: Stonehenge is a ring of stones raised 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. It is 90 miles west of London.

## Carhenge

In Nebraska, you can visit a **model** of England's Stonehenge. It wasn't built with old stones, but with thirty-eight old cars.



Inset: In this 1890 photo, London Bridge still crossed the river Thames.

## London Bridge

London Bridge started out  
in London, England.  
Then an American bought the  
bridge.

He spent a lot of money to have  
the bridge moved to Arizona.



The giant handles of this basket alone weigh almost 150 tons. The handles are heated to keep ice from forming.

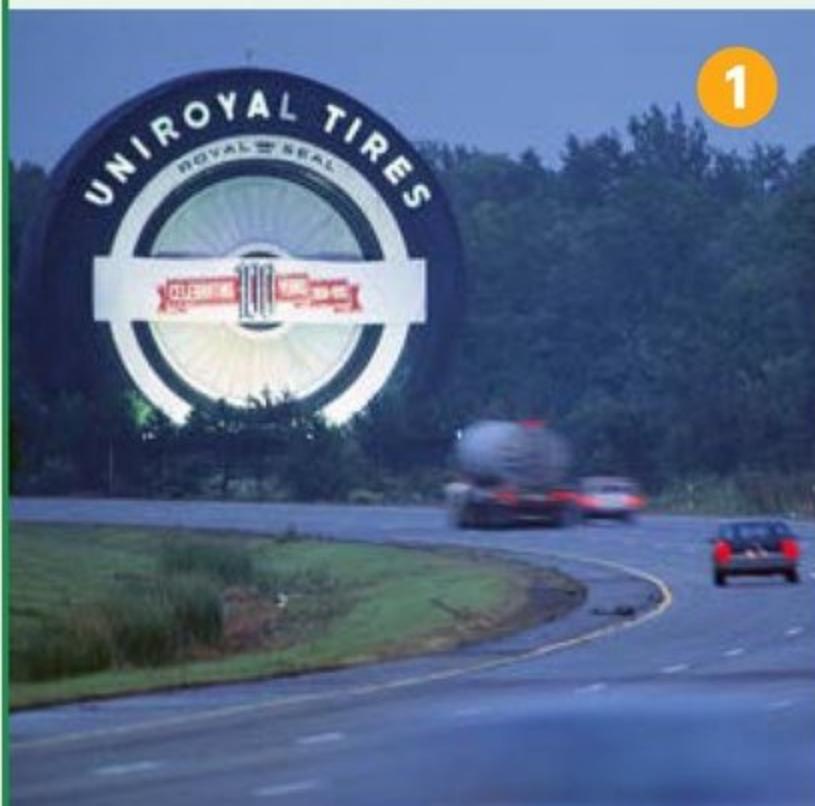
## **World's Largest Basket**

Workers at a basket company get to work inside a basket that's seven stories tall.

When it was first built, a pilot flew his small plane through the handles!

## World's Largest (You Name It)

- 1 World's largest tire, Allen Park, Michigan
- 2 World's largest chest of drawers, High Point, North Carolina
- 3 World's largest violin, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada
  - World's largest artichoke, Castroville, California
  - World's largest ketchup bottle, Collinsville, Illinois
  - World's largest cuckoo clock, Sugarcreek, Ohio
  - World's largest ear of corn, Olivia, Minnesota
  - World's largest rubber stamp, Cleveland, Ohio



1



2



3



## Stop and Look

Roadside attractions grab people's

attention and cause them to stop.

Do you want to know what

The Thing is in Arizona?

You'll just have to pull off the road

to find out!

## Glossary

<b>attractions</b> (n.)	people, things, or types of entertainment that people enjoy (p. 4)
<b>model</b> (n.)	a usually smaller version of an object made to look like the real thing (p. 11)
<b>monument</b> (n.)	a building, statue, or other structure built as a memorial to a person or event (p. 9)
<b>museum</b> (n.)	a building used to store and show things that are important to history, science, or art (p. 7)
<b>odd</b> (adj.)	strange; different from what is expected (p. 4)
<b>story</b> (n.)	a level in a building (p. 5)

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Front cover: A friendly *T. rex* rears its head beside the road in Cabazon, California.

Back cover: In Klamath, California, you can drive through a redwood tree!

Title Page: Come ride the giant jackrabbit outside Jack Rabbit Trading Post on Route 66 in Arizona.

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