

Maliwada, Maharashtra, India

14 February 1979

Eight o'clock AM was the opening ceremony for the new Joseph Wesley Mathews Street and Bridge in the village. School children lined both sides of the road and sang, "When Iron men Go Marching In" as Lyn, Joe's widow, and Pundlick, a local leader, walked between them in the banner-bedecked bridge. There Lyn broke a coconut shell, cut the ribbon and made a brief speech: "Joe was always a bridge-builder...had special love for Maliwada...and would probably approve of this, although he disliked monuments...."

Of all the bridges in the world – the Golden Gate, Tower Bridge, Hoogley, Sydney Harbor, Brooklyn Bridge, etc. – this one probably best represents what we are all about:

- It's one bullock cart long and just as wide;
- It's over a bone dry ditch that has water at most one or two weeks in a year;
- It's in the shadow of the Daulatabad Fort, symbol of past glory;
- It's opening a street for new housing which is already committed;
- It's a labor of spirit and care;
- Men, women, children, and elders participated in the construction and the celebration;
- It's transparent spirit in primal community.

And perhaps as symbolic as anything of Being's wink, this sign – newly painted and neatly lettered – reads: "Dr. Jou Mathus Road.

