

# *Town of Many Names*

- ◆ The Avon area was settled around 1830. Early settlers included some familiar family names: Jenkins, Harding, Payne, Malone, Huron, Ross, McClain, Merritt, Gossett, Barker and Siggurson.



*Old U.S. 36 bridge crossing White Lick Creek*

- ◆ **Hampton** - In 1833, this was the original name for the town. The first Postmaster was Absolam Payne who, in turn, passed the job to Dr. Malone and then to W. T. Ross (who closed the post office).
- ◆ **White Lick** - This was the name chosen by O. J. Huron in 1852, when he became Postmaster for a short 3 months.
- ◆ **Smootsdell** - John Smoot moved to the area in the late 1850s and opened his first of three stores. In 1867, Mr. Smoot petitioned for a post office to be opened in his store, but chose no name. Smootsdell was the name included in the new Postmaster's official commission.
- ◆ **New Philadelphia** - When the new Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad was being built in the area, a surveyor disliked the name of Smootsdell and christened the town New Philadelphia.
- ◆ **Avon** - When the new railway's train depot was erected, the sign on the building read: Avon. The town's citizens happily embraced this fifth and final name!