

# Robert Ripley and the Eleven Bridges of Wayne, Alberta

Eleven bridges in four miles  
cross the loops of Rosebud Creek—  
it's written up in Ripley's *Believe it or Not*

I believe it having driven over them  
Each bridge is a different colour  
and numbered so you can keep track

They will all be closed tomorrow  
for the filming of a mini-series  
about psychopathic killers  
It's a remake of *In Cold Blood*  
though I think that Rosebud Creek  
would be the place for a new *Citizen Kane*—  
maybe the life story of Jesse Gouge  
(a real-life name)  
who brought coal mining to this valley

A mass murderer could hardly practice his trade  
in a town where bridges outnumber people

The *Last Chance Saloon* is closed  
—a last chance indeed—  
but the *Confectionery and Arcade* is open

The confectionery has a row of candy bars  
and its arcade is one pinball machine

Mr. Ripley never actually came to Wayne  
for a coke and candy bar  
He did all his research without leaving the city  
compiling all those trivial wonders  
in the New York Public Library

And the miracle remembered around here  
never made it into Ripley:  
the time old Albert  
sold his cattle at a top price  
(a wonder in itself)  
and celebrated a little in the tavern  
then drove to the top of Excelsior Hill  
but couldn't shift back into third

Finally he realized  
that he'd made it to the summit  
in high gear  
though most people couldn't make it in second  
Believe it or not—  
and in Wayne they mostly believed it