

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Thursday, June 25, 2009

from the Personal Journal Section, Leisure and Arts, p. D6

NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

*From "Notes on a bridge" by Amy Farnsworth
in the June 16 Christian Science Monitor*

For most of his career Joseph Bertolozzi has written music for symphony orchestras. But his most recent composition was written for an instrument towering 135 feet above the Hudson River: The Franklin D. Roosevelt Bridge in Poughkeepsie, N.Y....Bertolozzi was only allotted three days in 2006 and two days in 2007 to record sounds from the bridge. Over those five days, he brought along a sound engineer and asked bridge laborers to record sounds that were higher up and harder to reach. Using contact microphones to capture the sounds, Bertolozzi struck the various parts of the bridge – including guardrails, spindles, and girders – with wooden and metal mallets, hammers, and logs....Though he was accustomed to writing compositions for percussion and the organ, Bertolozzi's notation sheets for the bridge music featured rather different parts for 24 "musicians," such as guardrails and signs.