

## WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR ROAD FUNDS?

By E. M. MURPHY,  
Hendricks County Highway Superintendent.

Ever since it was established, the office of the County Highway Superintendent has been considered a joke by a class of people that do not know the facts with reference to road maintenance. Only two years ago at our last legislature there were fourteen bills introduced in the House to modify in some way or other, the Highway Superintendent's Office, or to absolutely abolish it. The amount and cost of material and equipment used makes it the biggest job from an administrative standpoint of any in the county.

I have organized our county into sixteen districts with an assistant superintendent over each district. The road funds for the work of maintaining the roads of the county are apportioned with due regard to the topography, condition, character and volume of traffic, availability of good road repair materials, drainage, etc.

During 1924 we graded twenty-five miles of road, dragged and rolled several miles of rock road to a smooth surface, and scarified and graded a number of streets in small towns. Some township roads were graded, the county furnishing the road roller and grader and the trustee paying the operating expenses. During the last three years we have graded 135 miles of road, using a large grader with a steam roller, scarifying the road and moving the gravel to the center to permit building of the berm and side ditches. After leveling and rolling the berm we moved the material back to the edge of the berm and rolled again making the travelled way of the road perfectly smooth, with just sufficient crown for drainage.

We have several towns in our county with a population running from six hundred to one thousand inhabitants, the streets of which were a part of roads constructed under the Three Mile Road Law. These had been maintained by adding new material until the center of the streets were entirely too high. To make them safe for travel and give parking space along the side, it was necessary to scarify the streets, remove the excess dirt, re-grade, level, roll down to a smooth surface, and then resurface with new material. The county paid for the new material and furnished the trucks and drivers. The Town Board furnished the help to shovel the material into the trucks and also hauled away the excess scarified material in the streets. We have

treated the streets in this manner in eight such towns in our county in the last three years.

We have also furnished rock for part of the roads in the county in the amount of 7,000 tons; also washed and screened gravel shipped into the county in the amount of 5,800 tons; washed and screened gravel from our home plant in the amount of 3,400 tons; creek, bank and dipped gravel in the amount of 33,781 yards, graveling in all a distance of 125 miles, besides repairing other roads.

We have seven trucks, two of these trucks we rebuilt last year making them as good as new. We have a mechanic in our employ that keeps our trucks in repair at all times, and also drives our road roller when rolling and grading the roads, and is paid out of the road funds at 50 cents per hour.

We have six big wooden drags that we have built, and always keep material on hands for building and repairing drags.

I have divided my road funds into the following items of road expense:

Day Labor, 25 cents to 30 cents per hour.....	\$ 4,195.15
Team and drivers, 50 cents to 60 cents per hour.....	32,142.83
Of which \$5,742.97 was paid out for dragging, grading and spreading gravel in the different districts.	
Total cost work done with county trucks.....	9,553.89
Most of this item was for hauling new material, such as stone and gravel, mostly on long distant hauls.	
New material—gravel and stone.....	28,667.96
Tools and machinery .....	3,842.68
About \$1,000.00 was spent for rebuilding two old Indiana trucks.	
Drags and slip scrapers .....	319.30
Sewer pipe .....	311.92
Miscellaneous items of expense.....	2,801.58
Lumber for drags, drain tile, hardware, tarvia and cold patch.	
Superintendent's salary .....	1,380.00
Plus mileage for looking after road work.....	711.50
Asst. Superintendents' salaries .....	4,145.88
Total .....	<u>\$88,072.69</u>