

Westford Wanderings

By Gordon B. Seavey

With winter approaching, homeowners are busy getting their shovels up from the basement and snowblowers ready for the first snow storm. The Highway Department, as usual, is ready with its heavy duty equipment and experienced crews for the onslaught of slush and snow on the town's 130 miles of highways.

In the days when mechanical snow removal equipment was not even a dream, local farmers were able to pitch in after a heavy storm to "break in" the roads, packing the snow for easy

sledding. In the spring, the roads were muddy, in the summer dusty, but in winter they were hard packed, ideal for teaming logs or out for a Sunday's drive with a spanking horse and sleigh.

The snowfall in 1889 was heavy - and so, for those times, expensive for the town which paid \$752.80 for men and horses "breaking roads. For instance, J.A. Healey was paid \$29.70 for men and horses. There were laborers. Herb Miller got 90¢ presumably for a day's work with the shovel.

And when spring came, Beaver

Brook as usual was overflowing the ancient bridge over the stream. With a push from the town of Littleton, the Selectmen caused the bridge to be relaid raising it three feet. It was found necessary to put on several new coverings stones as some of them were broken. The archways were found to be filled with a mass of willow roots, which were removed in a thorough manner. Hammett Wriht received \$81.68 for the new stonework, George Yapp \$27 for labor and H.E. Pierce \$196 for men and horses. Total \$304.68