



Photo courtesy of June W. Kennedy

Making good grades

A spring 1899 photo shows road commissioners working on seasonal road repairs. Before asphalt was made the material of choice, thoroughfares were put in order by the grading of dirt, combining horse-drawn equipment and heavy rake-work by a large crew of men. Even after the advent of motorized vehicles, the late Walter Fletcher once-recalled: 'On Plain Road the ruts were so deep you didn't even have to keep your hands on the truck to steer. You were in that rut and you weren't going anywhere.' The white-whiskered man in the photo (third from right) beside the rear wagon wheel is Benjamin F. Day, counterpart to today's highway superintendent Pete Wyman.