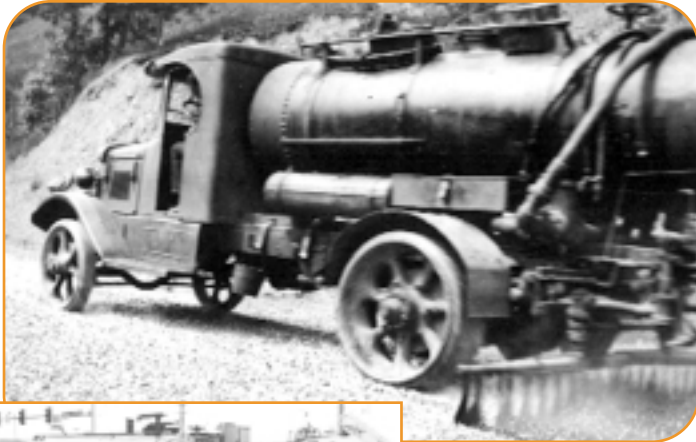


Asphalt Through the Ages:

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Computer Systems Administrator



Above: Circa 1910 asphalt distributor. Note the solid rubber wheels.



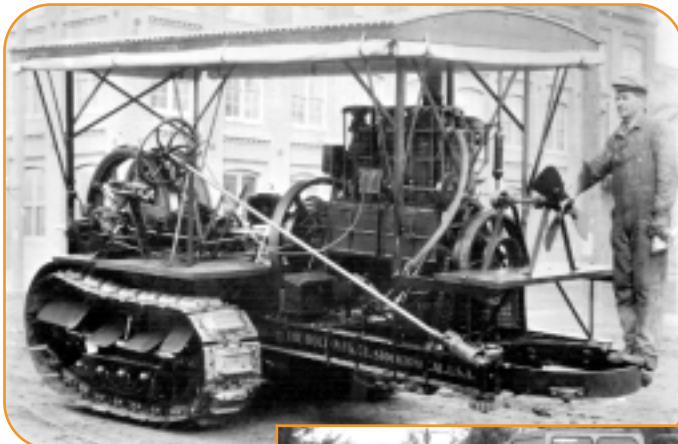
Left: Late 1990s asphalt distributor.



Above: Circa 1920 grader. Again note the solid rubber wheels.



Right: Circa 1980s grader. The basics haven't changed.



Above: This photo is circa 1920. This is the forerunner of the modern day dozer.

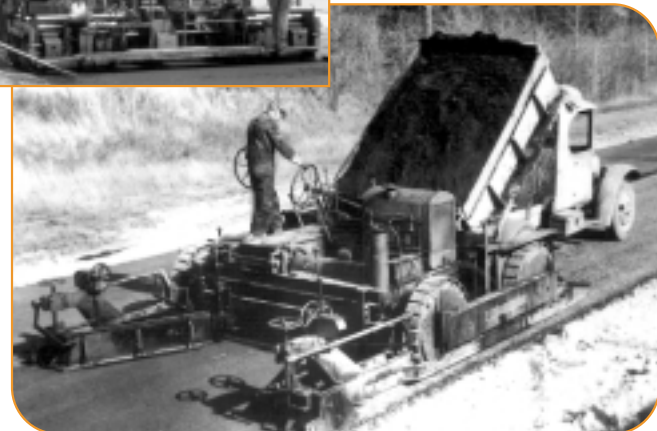


Right: A modern dozer. Photo is from about 1980.



Left: Paving operation from the 1970s.

Below: Paving operation from about 1920.



Good Basics Are the Key

As a computer person, I recently had the opportunity to work on one of the original personal computers to come on the market. It had only a 20-megabyte hard drive, less than one megabyte of ram, and its speed was less than 75 Mhz. It had the original Microsoft Windows® version with the original version of Microsoft Works®. With today's software it was unusable, but it ran the programs just as fast as the computers today run the programs on them. So even though the equipment gets faster and bigger the basics really do not change.

You may be asking yourself what this has to do with asphalt and the historical photos. Well, I noticed the same principle when going through the photos. Even though we have bigger, faster and fancier equipment for construction the basics of the machines have not changed all that much. It doesn't mean they haven't improved: they have. But starting with good basics is the key.

As a demonstration of this, I am showing some photos of the old and the new construction equipment. Now you may ask, "what's the point of all of this?"

Really, it's just food for thought. ▲

This is a 1960s asphalt plant.



A circa 1910s asphalt plant.

Right: This roller is from the late 1990s on a rubblization job.



Below: Circa 1910 Buffalo Springfield Roller.

