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Winter Care of Roads

Keep Ditches and Drains Open
and Use Road Drag to Pre-
vent Injury by Freezing
Weather

Water, not cold, is the cause of the deterioration of roads in winter, according to the road specialists of the department of agriculture. Cold weather does not in itself injure roads no matter whether they are earth, gravel, or macadam. In fact, an earth road will stand more traffic when it is solidly frozen than at any other time. Excess water, however, is always detrimental to a highway. When cold weather turns this water into ice, the damage that it does is greatly increased. Ice occupies considerably more space than the water from which it is formed, and every person who has lived in a cold climate is familiar with the powerful bursting effect of water when left to freeze in a confined vessel. The same action takes place when a wet road freezes to any considerable depth. It simply bursts, or, as we generally term it in road parlance, the road heaves. Later, when the frost leaves, the road is disintegrated and ruts badly. If this process is repeated a number of times during the winter, a gravel or macadam road may be practically destroyed, while an earth road may become entirely impassable.

A dry road will not heave. Rock, gravel, sand and even clay when perfectly dry contract slightly on freezing. In order to expand on freezing, these materials must contain or be mixed with water, and the more water they contain the greater the expansion which takes place. But so long as the road remains frozen the damage does not become apparent. Hence the frequent and erroneous idea that it is the thaw which injures the road. The injury was done when the water in the road froze and the particles of road surface—broken stone, sand, or still finer particles of earth or clay—were pushed apart by the expanding power of the freezing water. The thaw merely allows the ice to melt and assume its original volume as water.

The remedy is self-evident. Keep the water out of the road. If the road goes into the winter thoroughly dry, with the surface and drainage in good condition, the chances are extremely favorable that it will come out all right the following spring.

The job before the road man is to keep the hard, dry surface formed in the summer time from becoming softened by the fall and winter rains and snows. When the fall rains begin the earth or gravel road should be dragged frequently to prevent the formation of ruts and the collection of water. All raveled places on macadam surfaces should be carefully filled in and consolidated.

During the winter, whenever a thaw is coming on, the cross drains and side ditches should be opened up as far as possible so as to prevent water collecting along the roadway. If the thaw is so pronounced that the roadway is softened, the drag should be used; sometimes one round trip of the drag, with the hitch reversed, will entirely rid the earth of slush and melting snow and leave the road surface practically dry. Don't get the idea that the drag is not needed on your earth and gravel roads in the winter time. Instead, keep it where you can get at it readily, for if the winter is an ordinary one you will need it many times.—U. S. Dept. Agriculture News Letter.

Bear This in Mind

"I consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy by far the best medicine in the market for colds and croup," says Mrs. Albert Blosser, Lima, Ohio. Many others are of the same opinion. Obtainable everywhere.

Cottonwood Tip Top flour makes the bread that makes the man.

Christmas Frolics For the Children

A CLEVER little entertainment was given on a recent Christmas by a number of young girls and boys. These girls and boys represented wax works of all the children of the nursery. There were Old Mother Goose, Red Riding Hood, Bo Peep, Little Boy Blue and all of the children imaginable from nurseryland. They were dressed in costumes to suit the character, each labeled with his or her own title. Of course the children had to stand as erect and as immovable as wax works, and, while some laughable incidents occurred, they did not dare smile.

Some one played a lively song to awaken Sleeping Beauty from her Christmas dream, and when she came out on the stage in her white gown to get her Christmas presents she was confronted by the whole nursery family in wax works. She talked to them, but they were very immovable and unapproachable, so she sat down in their midst and cried, for it was a very lonely Christmas. A fairy then appeared and said she would make the dolls talk and play with her, so she went around and passed her magic wand before each girl and boy, and immediately they began to jerk their arms, legs and heads stiffly. Before the music ceased they all joined hands and were singing and dancing. The pretty effect of this entertainment is produced by the children acting very much like unjointed statuary.

This entertainment can be made very beautiful and attractive with merry songs and dancing. The children should wear crape paper or cheesecloth costumes and have their faces and hair powdered white and the stage or room must be decorated with white cotton for snow and elaborately trimmed with holly and pine.

A holiday party for a large number of children might consist of an old fashioned store. This store should be made in the parlor and the children given small checks representing money, with which they are to buy certain articles. Of course each check will correspond with a number upon some article, and all will be supposed to divide what they get. There should be big surprises in the candy boxes, jelly glasses and bottles, and immense boxes should contain popcorn, apples, candy or kindergarten trifles. Some of the largest boxes might hold little things picked up in the ten cent store. The entertainment should be planned in a manner to give each child something attractive and something fun provoking, without slighting any. The storekeepers should be the older brothers and sisters of the little folks, and the store should be as much like a country store as possible.

It would be a clever idea for a party for a hostess to send out invitations to the friends of her children and state that Mrs. Santa Claus would entertain the children at her home on a certain night or afternoon between Christmas and New Year's. The house should be decorated for the occasion, and Mrs. Santa Claus must wear a black or red dress, large white apron and cap and spectacles and have white hair. Of course if Mr. Santa Claus is present it will add that much to the merriment. If little girls are invited they might come prepared to dress little dolls to send to the hospitals or children's homes, and if they cannot dress dolls at least they could make candy and popcorn to send to these little folks. Another amusement would be the making of pretty paper dolls. Then there could be games of different kinds, such as throwing bean bags and while blindfolded hanging the Christmas bell upon a paper Christmas tree pinned on the wall or door. When the invitations are sent tell the little girl or boy to bring her or his favorite toy.

Holly and Mistletoe Game

Provide green and red ribbons of about two inches in width. Divide the party into sides, giving one side red, the other green streamers. Those holding red are holly; the green are mistletoe. One person holds the end of all the ribbons in his hand; a child holds the end of a single ribbon. Form a circle with the ribbons radiating from the center like the spokes of a wheel. The test is this: When the leader calls, "All holly let go!" they must hold on tight, while the mistletoe drop their ribbons, and when the command is "Let go mistletoe!" the hollies must obey. The ones who fail to do the reverse of the command are required to pay a forfeit—recite, sing, draw a picture or do some amusing "stunt." Paying the penalties may be made a very entertaining feature of an evening's fun.

"Night Before Christmas" Game. Everybody has read "The Night Before Christmas," most famous of Yuletide poems, many times. It is an interesting intellectual Christmas game to try to set down how much one remembers of the verses. Tablets and pencils are passed, and each player is asked to write as much as he or she can remember of the poem. Allow fifteen minutes for the recollection and compare the different papers with the printed poem. Give an illustrated copy of the poem as a prize for the best recollection of it.

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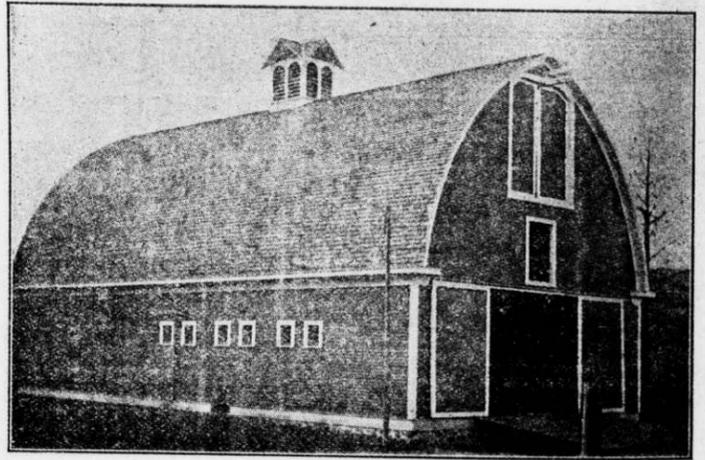
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We furnish FREE OF CHARGE a complete set of working plans and specifications when the bill of material is purchased from us. These are not mere outline sketches but full, detailed working plans, from 8 to 12 sheets according to the size of the building.



The Modern Type of Barn that is Becoming Very Popular

We show here a barn that has excited favorable comment from every farmer who has seen it. Note the large open loft with its ample storage space for hay. As shown here, the floor plan measures 36 feet in width and 64 feet in length and can be built in units of 8 or 16 foot lengths and continued to any desired length; thus an addition can be built after a few years as more room is needed. Any carpenter with a hand axe can form the main rafters and there need not be a piece in the entire construction longer than 8 feet. The barn roof has been figured at a radius so that the shingles will lay perfectly flat, without any extra nailing. This barn will not only prove most practical, but will also be very economical when it comes to be used for storing hay or overhead grain bins.

While the plan shown here, as above stated, is 33x64 feet, the plan can be varied in any way desired, to suit any possible condition, and it can be built in widths varying from 30 to 50 feet.

We can figure this barn for you in any way that you want it as regards floor plan. The illustration shows a driveway running the entire length of the building with stalls to be arranged to suit your needs, or grain bins can be built at one end as also harness room, or if stalls are not wanted the space can be used for storing buggies or wagons.

The driveway can also be placed the other way of the building just as you may want it. While we have many plans of barns that are well arranged, and some of which may suit your ideas better than this one does—this particular type of barn is giving great satisfaction wherever it has been introduced. One barn of this type has already been built south of town about four miles, and another is under construction. We have received numerous inquiries regarding the same and there is no doubt that it will prove equally as satisfactory here as in other sections of the country where it has been introduced.

We believe that we have considerable information along this line of building construction which it would be to your advantage to have. We'll be glad to go into this matter with you at your convenience and help you all we can. Remember, that this service costs you nothing and even should you select one of our plans does not place you under any obligation to buy your material from us. We are here to serve you.

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