# Public Roads 

A JOURNAL
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H I G H W A Y
RESEARCH

UBLISHEDBY HE BUREAU OF UBLICROADS, 1. S. DEPARTMENT IF COMMERCE, VASHINGTON


An additional cent of gasoline tax, costing the average motorist 13 cents a week, will provide many miles of better highways

# Public Roads 

A JOURNALOFHIGHWAY RESEARCI Vol. 26, No. 8 June 195

Published Bimonthly

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Public Roads is sold by the Superintendent of Documen Government Printing Office, Washington 25 , D. C., at $\$ 1 \mathrm{~F}$ year (foreign subscription $\$ 1.25$ ) or 20 cents per single cos Free distribution is limited to public officials actually engag in planning or constructing highways, and to instructors highway engineering. There are no vacancies in the free at present.

The printing of this publication has been approved by 1 : Director of the Bureau of the Budget January 7, 19.

Contents of this publication may be reprinted. Mention of source is requested.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROAC
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERC

# The Gasoline Tax in Relation to Automobile Operation and Hiģhway Costs 

BY THE RESEARCH REPORTS BRANCH bUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

Fiorted by E. M. COPE, Chief, Highway Statistics Section<br>al L. L. LISTON, Transportation Economist

ASOLINE TAXES constitute a very small part of the total cost of owning operating an automobile, and revenues fm gasoline taxes are falling far short of aded highway construction and maintenice expenditures. While other prices and cts have nearly doubled in the past 10 y rs, the tax on gasoline has increased only 17 percent. It is the purpose of this study t:ompare trends in gasoline taxes, costs of orating an automobile, and costs of consucting and maintaining highways.
1 previous article in Public Roads ${ }^{1}$ reted a study of gasoline price and tax ireases during a 30 -month period ending Je 30,1948 . Although there were subsntial gasoline price increases in all States al gasoline tax increases in 12 States durthat period, these increases had no rasurable effect on consumption of gaso1). In the 1949 study, however, no efft was made to establish the relation bethen gasoline costs, total vehicle operating cts, and the portion of the vehicle operat's dollar that goes for road-user taxes. ith comparisons are made here.

## Gasoline Prices and Taxes

fasoline prices have continued to increase see 1948, and there have been increases igasoline taxes in some States. The incases in gasoline prices (excluding taxes) al in State gasoline taxes during the 54nath period from January 1946 to June 10 are shown in figure 1. This figure is a extension of figure 2 in the 1949 study, ich covered the 30 months from January 16 to June 1948. The findings for the 1 ger-period are in such complete agreent with those of the original study that teration of the conclusions in detail would needless repetition.
The earlier study established that no gasotax increase has had a measurable efft on the consumption of gasoline, and He within reasonable contemplation apIrs likely to do so. Theoretically, any te in the cost of operating automobiles suld have some restraining effect on the sount of vehicle use. The reason that

Unit costs of highway construction and maintenance have almost doubled in the last 10 years, considerably exceeding the 77 -percent increase in the basic cost of living. The price of gasoline, excluding tax, rose 62 percent in the same 10 years, but since the tax on gasoline rose less than 13 percent during this period the net effect felt by the motorist in his purchases of gasoline was an increase of only 47 percent in the total of price plus tax.

There has been a substantial increase in revenue for highways over the 10-year period, resulting from the tremendous growth in the number of motor vehicles. This has been nullified, however, by the extreme increase in highway costs and the contrastingly small one in tax rates. Current revenue will buy no more highway work than did the 1940 revenue. Yet the need is far greater, for the constantly multiplying number of vehicles continually intensifies our traffic problems.

The public apparently does not have a clear picture of the relation of taxes to the total cost of owning and operating an automobile. An analysis for a typical passenger car indicates that the taxes represent only 11 percent of the total ownership and operation costs-less than any other major item of cost involved. Put in practical terms, of the 6.6 cents per mile it costs to own and operate an automobile, all taxes combined represent seven-tenths of a cent.

The gasoline tax accounts for only $61 / 2$ percent of the total cost of owning and operating a car, or four-tenths of a cent per mile, and the tax rate is actually lower in proportion to individual income now than it was in 1940. Each cent of the gasoline tax rate costs the average motorist seven-hundredths of a cent per mile, or about 13 cents a week-just about 1 percent of the total ownership and operation cost.
no effect has been noted is rather obvious-the gasoline tax constitutes only about 6.5 percent of the total cost of operating an automobile (as will be shown later), and has actually been declining in terms of its relation to the total cost.
There were net tax increases, during the 54 -month period, of from $1 / 2$ cent to 2 cents per gallon in 23 States, and a net tax decrease of 1 cent per gallon in one State. There were net price increases, excluding taxes, in all States during the same period. In Utah the price increase was only $1 / 2$ cent per gallon, and in California the net price increase was only 2 cents per gallon. In other States, however, the net price increases were much higher-ranging from 3.4 cents per gallon in Arizona to 8.5 cents per gallon in Wyoming. Available information indicates that the Utah and California increases were relatively small because of intense competitive conditions in those areas.

## Relative Cost of Gasoline

It has never been possible to measure the extent of the effect of operating costs on
vehicle ownership and use. Much of the discussion and publicity on the point has centered around the cost of gasoline, probably because this is an item with which the public comes in daily contact. Gasoline taxes have assumed a disproportionate importance to the public because considerable publicity has been given to gasoline prices and taxes when matters pertaining to them have been under study by State legislatures, and to the allegation that "gasoline is cheap-only the tax is high."
The emphasis on gasoline taxes has tended to obscure the fact that many items of the cost of operating a motor vehicle considerably exceed gasoline tax payments. It is not generally recognized that both gasoline prices and gasoline tax rates have risen more slowly than general price levels. The average retail price of gasoline in 1940, including taxes, was 18.4 cents per gallon. During the 10 years to 1950 the retail price alone, excluding taxes, increased 62 percent. It is worth noting that this increase, though substantial, was considerably less than the 77 -percent increase in the cost of living reflected in the Bureau of Labor Statistics

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ARIZONA
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CALIFORNIA
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CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE
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W YOMING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA


1 Increase in state tax rate
INCREASE IN PRICE EXCLUDING STATE TAX
Figure 1.-Gasoline price and tax increases, January 1, 1946-June 30, 1950
index. In the same 10 -year period the weighted average of State and Federal gasoline taxes rose only 12.7 percent. Thus, due to the relative stability of gasoline taxes, the total cost of gasoline to the consumer increased only 47.3 percent. Since wages have risen considerably more than the cost of gasoline, the consumer is actually in a better position now than in 1940 with respect to his purchases of gasoline. The percentage increase in the cost of gasoline, even though it was approximately five times as great as that for gasoline taxes, was
still 20 percent less than the percentage increase in the cost of living reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A comparison of gasoline taxes and prices in 1940 and in 1950 is given in table 1.

## Highway Costs

The economic factors that brought about increased costs of gasoline also caused increased costs of raw materials, wages, transportation, and other components of the total price of motor vehicles, gasoline, and associated products. Likewise, they brought
about sharp increases in the costs of structing highways-a rise of 97 perce: the 10 -year period from 1940 to 1950. increases in the costs of constructiona reflected in table 2.
During the same period highway nintenance costs rose 87 percent. This fiure is a composite of the relative increases 1940 to 1950 in the unit costs of the cipal items of maintenance, which as follows: Labor, 114.27 percent; matitial, 56.72 percent; equipment, 72.73 percent ind overhead, 67.10 percent.

Table 1.-Gasoline price and tax changes, 1940-50


Prices in effect in the capital cities of the States except for Maryland and Oregon, where the prices are for Baltimore ortland, respectively.

Table 2.-Changes in unit costs of highway construciion, 1940-50

| Item | 1940 | 1950 | Increase |  |
| :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |

"igure 2 shows the relative increases in cost of living, the price of a new automothe price of gasoline (excluding tax), gasoline tax rate, and the unit costs of hway construction and maintenance. It be noted that the price of gasoline did increase as much as either the cost of ng or the price of a new automobile. t even the petroleum industry, generally sidered to be one of the most efficient in economy, found it necessary to increase price of gasoline five times as much 1 a percentage basis) as gasoline taxes re increased.

## Automobile Operating Costs

State gasoline taxes, which are the prinal source of revenue for highways, cost average automobile user about 65 cents veek. This fact is of limited significance til it is related to total costs of vehicle ceration. In order to establish the relation, estimate of the cost of owning and opfiting an automobile is presented in table It is not based on actual records for y particular vehicle or group of vehicles, the figures are believed to be typical, mid-1950 prices, for average operation of type of automobile considered.
The estimate is based on a low-priced 50 -model four-door sedan built by a lead; manufacturer, and covers an assumed -year life for the vehicle. The automobile assumed to be registered in Baltimore, d., and subject to normal taxes in that ea. Although the mileages, operating costs, d other factors in the estimate are beved to be reasonable, they are not purrted to be averages or for an average hicle. Data for such purposes are not ailable in sufficient coverage. The esntial factors of the estimate are stated the notes below table 3 .
In estimating expenditures for repairs id maintenance, the Service Job Analysis timate compiled by Motor Service Magane was used. This analysis lists the num-
ber of jobs of different kinds done by car dealers and independent repair shops for several years. A sample group of jobs, comprising more than two-thirds of the total listed, was chosen as representative of the maintenance and repair work which would be done on a typical automobile during the 10 -year period. These items range from major repairs such as a complete engine overhaul to minor maintenance items like washing and lubrication. The frequency of the jobs listed in the Service Job Analysis and the experience of men familiar with automotive maintenance and service were used as guides to the number of times each job would be required during the life of the car. Costs, including parts, were then obtained from the most recent flat-rate manuals, and the prices of parts as listed in the manual were checked locally to de-
termine any necessary adjustments for the Baltimore area.

The expenditures for major items-replacement tires, motor overhaul, painting, for example-are distributed over a period of years, rather than being charged entirely to the year of actual expenditure, because the benefit of each expenditure extends beyond the year in which it was made. The cost of the motor overhaul, for instance, occurs in the seventh year but is distributed over the seventh through the tenth years.

No costs for car financing, for fines and forfeitures, or for automobile club membership are included, nor is any interest on the investment included. Although these items may add substantially to the cost of owning and operating an automobile in some instances, the wide variance in their application among motorists makes it impractical to include them in this study.

## Relation of Cost Elements

It is somewhat surprising to note that the several factors entering into the cost of operating the vehicle tend to keep the cost per mile within the rather narrow range of 7.35 cents in the first year to 5.24 cents ${ }^{2}$ in the tenth year. The high depreciation and insurance costs of the first few years are offset to a considerable degree by greater mileage and low maintenance costs, and by absence of tire replacement expenditures. Although the estimate is based on the assumption that the vehicle will be scrapped after 10 years of use, the probability is, in a period in which there is a relative shortage of vehicles, that it would pass into the hands of a marginal user and continue in service. It is not likely, however, that the over-all cost per mile would

2 These costs are all based on mid- 1950 price levels.
Practically all items of cost, with the exception of
taxes, have increased since that time. taxes, have increased since that time.

Table 3.-Estimated cost of owning and operating an automobile

| Item | ${ }_{\text {(12,5st jear }}^{\text {(1iles) }}$ ) |  |  |  | $\underbrace{\text { (11,000 miles) }}_{\text {Third year }}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {Fourt }}^{\substack{\text { Fourt yer } \\ \text { (10,00 miles) }}}$ |  | $\underbrace{\text { (10,000 miles) }}_{\text {(1ifth year }}$ |  |  |  | $\underset{\substack{\text { Seventh year } \\ \text { (9,500 miles) }}}{ }$ |  |  |  | $\underset{\substack{\text { Ninth year } \\ \text { (8,500 miles) }}}{ }$ |  |  |  | $\underbrace{\substack{\text { a }}}_{\substack{\text { Ten-year period } \\ \text { (10,000 miles) }}}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ${ }_{\substack{\text { Total } \\ \text { cost }}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Cost } \\ & \text { permile } \end{aligned}$ | $\xrightarrow{\text { Total }}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cont } \\ \text { per mied } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \substack{\text { otatal } \\ \text { cost }} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cost } \\ \text { per mile } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { cost } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cost } \\ \text { per mile } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { cotat } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { Cost } \\ \text { per mile } \end{array}$ | Total <br> cost | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cost } \\ \text { per mile } \end{gathered}$ | Total <br> cort | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cost } \\ \text { per mile } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { cost } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cost } \\ \text { per mile } \end{gathered}$ | ${ }_{\substack{\text { Total } \\ \text { cost }}}^{\text {cot }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Cost } \\ & \text { per mile } \end{aligned}$ | Total cost | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { Cast } \\ \text { per mile } \end{array}$ | $\xrightarrow{\text { Total }}$ cost | Cost eer mile |
| ing | Dolurs | Cer | Doli | Cents | Dollars | Cents | Dollars | Cents | Dollars | Cents | lars | Cents | Dollars | Cents | lars | Cents | Dollars | Cents | Dolle | ents | Dollars | ents |
| , | 366.00 <br> 46.25 | ${ }^{2.880}$ | ${ }_{5}^{337.00}$ | ${ }_{\text {2 }}^{2.750}$ | ${ }^{200.00} 87$ | ${ }_{1}^{1.818}$ | ${ }^{125.00} 1$ | ${ }_{1.120}^{1.250}$ | ${ }_{\text {cose }}^{100.00}$ | ${ }_{1}^{1.1330}$ | 5.00 | ${ }_{\text {O }}^{0} \mathrm{O} .890$ | ${ }_{\substack{\text { 75.00 } \\ 150 \\ 18}}$ | ${ }^{0.790}$ | ${ }^{65.00}$ | ${ }^{0.722}$ | ${ }^{40.00}$ | 0.471 | 30.00 | 0.375 | 1,400.00 | 1.400 |
| (Replacement tires and |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ${ }_{\substack{260 \\ .149}}$ | 23.00 14.83 14 | (1.250 |  | 1.263 | ${ }_{14} 2.83$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.2761626 \\ .255 \\ 155 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} 22.00 \\ 14.83 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.344 \\ & .244 \\ & 1.454 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70.36 \\ & 20.00 \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{2}^{285}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 36.08 \\ & 20.00 \\ & 20.0 \end{aligned}$ | : 250 | - ${ }^{984} 160$ | -984 |
| ${ }_{\text {Ginas }}^{\text {Gasa }}$ | ${ }_{\substack{163.46 \\ 16.94}}^{\text {a }}$ | ${ }_{\text {1.307 }}^{136}$ | ${ }_{\substack{155.80 \\ 16.17}}^{\substack{\text { a }}}$ | ${ }_{1}^{1.307}$ | cisisi.67 | ${ }_{\text {1. }}^{1.307}$ |  | ${ }_{\substack{1.397 \\ 1.143}}^{1.15}$ |  |  |  | ${ }_{\text {coli }}^{\substack{\text { 1.35 } \\ 170}}$ |  | - 1.307 |  |  | citis | - 1.374 | cesti. | 1. 184 <br> 1.307 | ${ }_{1}^{1,3088.078}$ | . $\begin{array}{r}\text {. } 138 \\ .307 \\ \hline 1.88\end{array}$ |
| Insuranee Garaging, parking, otolis, | ${ }^{116.00} 90$ | : 2828 | ${ }_{\text {110,00 }}^{110.00}$ | $\begin{gathered} .967 \\ .750 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|c\|} \hline 16.690 \\ 90.00 \\ 90 \\ 90.00 \end{array}$ | ${ }_{\substack{1.055 \\ \text { i.85 }}}^{0.08}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1412.200 \\ & 90.00 \\ & 90 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.148 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 151.00 \\ & 90.00 \\ & 90.00 \end{aligned}$ | c.1.100 | $\begin{aligned} & 59.08 \\ & \hline 6.00 \\ & \hline 0.00 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .670 \\ & .647 \\ & .820 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 59.71 .70 \\ & 90.00 \\ & 90.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 134 \\ & .824 \\ & .927 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 12.32 \\ & \hline 9.00 \\ & 90.00 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .13765 \\ & \hline \end{aligned} .$ | $\begin{aligned} & 9.69 \\ & \hline 9.00 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .1144 \\ & \hline \\ & 1.059 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 119.40 \\ & \hline 9.00 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.133 \\ \text { 1.125 } 127 \end{gathered}$ |  | 184 .8 .800 .800 |
| Total | 797.15 | 6.377 | ${ }^{781.55}$ | 6.513 | 668.47 | 6.077 | 623.8 | 6.239 | 600.5 | 6.005 | 577.47 | 6.079 | 556.79 | 5.861 | 509.84 | 5.665 | 415.01 | 4.882 | 365.78 | 4.572 | 5,896.46 | 5.896 |
| Taxes and fees: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 10.00 <br> 31.00 <br> 18 | :0818 | 10.00 |  | ${ }^{10.00}$ | . 091 | ${ }_{10.00}^{35}$ | - 100 | ${ }_{10}^{30}$ | - 100 | ${ }_{10}^{31.60}$ | ${ }_{\substack{0 \\ .3053}}^{\text {a }}$ | ${ }_{10}^{31.65}$ | ${ }_{.105}^{0.335}$ | ${ }^{30.00}$ | ${ }_{.111}^{0.333}$ | ${ }_{10.0}^{28.35}$ | ${ }_{.119}^{0.333}$ | ${ }_{10.00}^{28.65}$ | ${ }_{\text {O }}^{0.333}$ |  |  |
| Property Subtota Feral | ${ }^{5} 5$ | . 0402 | ${ }^{5.00}$ |  | ${ }_{\substack{51.00 \\ 51.06}}^{\text {5, }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .045 \\ & .469 \end{aligned}$ | ${ }_{\text {5. }}^{5} 5$ |  | ${ }_{4}^{5.000}$ | 050 <br> 483 <br> 8 | ${ }_{4}^{5.000}$ | - 053 | ${ }_{5}^{5.00}$ | ${ }_{\substack{053 \\ 491}}$ | 5.00 45.00 | ${ }^{056}$ | - ${ }^{53.00}$ | . 065 | ${ }^{51.00}$ | ${ }_{\text {. }}^{062}$ | 31.00 <br> 510. <br> 50.45 |  |
| Gasoline. .............. Automobie, tires, parts, Aut <br> Subtotal | ${ }^{12.51}$ |  | ${ }^{12.00}$ |  | ${ }^{11.00}$ |  |  |  | 10.00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 21.00 } \\ & 34.19 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .168 \\ & .278 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 19.196 \\ 31.79 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .1060 \\ & .265 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.65 \\ & 23.39 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1007 \\ & .1213 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { a. } 9.47 \\ 20.027 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & .007 \\ & .020 \\ & 202 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & .009 \\ & 2000 \end{aligned}$ |  | :007 |  | (007 | ci.48 | (005 |  | - |  | (008 |  | (007 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total of atil cos | 121.87 | 0.975 | 86.79 | 0.723 | 75.04 | 0.682 | ${ }^{68.57}$ | 0.685 | 68.29 | 0.683 | 64.19 | 0.675 | 63.41 | 0.667 | 60.70 | 0.674 | 56.39 | 0.664 | 53.65 | 0.671 | 718.90 | 0.71 |
|  | 919.02 | 7.352 | 868.34 | 7.236 | 743.51 | 6.759 | 692.43 | 6.924 | 668.83 | ${ }^{6.688}$ | ${ }_{641.66}$ | 6.754 | 620.20 | 6.528 | 570.54 | ${ }^{6.339}$ | 471.40 | 5.546 | 419.43 | 5.243 | 6,615.36 | 6.615 |

[^0]appreciably reduced, provided the vele was maintained at a level to assure nimum safety and comfort.
Of the 7.35 cents-per-mile total operating its in the first year of the estimate, the it of gasoline, including all taxes, was ' 4 cents per mile. Gasoline taxes sounted to only 0.433 cent per mile, or 167 cent per mile for each cent of the tax te. Thus each increment of 1 cent of $x$ adds less than 1 percent to the total it of operating the vehicle. Under these cumstances it can be understood why no $x$ increase has ever made a measurable ference in, the highway use of gasoline. There is good reason to believe that the erage motorist does not understand the de relation between his vehicle ownership d operation costs and the tax monies exnded for the highways he uses. It would obably come as a surprise to him to learn at the total amount he pays in highwayer taxes, toward the construction and aintenance of the roads over which his itomobile is operated, is substantially exeded by all of the other major items of hicle operation cost. This fact is prented graphically in figure 3.
Because of the widely quoted statements ade in organized opposition to proposed creases in gasoline taxes in several States, ost automobile owners might be reluctant believe that each cent of the gasoline tax counts for only 1 percent of total vehicle erating costs. The average motorist also probably not aware that highway aprovements made possible by each addional cent of gasoline tax not only add to le safety and convenience of motor-vehicle avel, but also reduce operating costs trough improved surfaces, grades, and inement, reduced mileage, and lessened affic congestion.

## Highway Revenues and Needs

Although road-user tax rates have risen ss than any other automotive operating ist during the past 10 years, the revenues om them have increased substantially as a esult of the large increase in the number $\ell$ vehicles. The increases in highway conruction and maintenance costs, however, ave so reduced the value of the highway ollar that total revenues today will proide only about the same number of units $f$ construction and maintenance that were urchased with 1940 revenues. While this eduction in the purchasing power of revnues is undoubtedly the most serious single roblem now facing highway authorities, zere are two others of almost equal im-ortance-the mounting volume of traffic or which highway capacity must be proided, and the higher standards to which oday's highways must be constructed to llow safe travel for present speeds and oads. If prices had remained at 1940 evels, current revenues would be adequate - maintain our then-existing system of


Figure 3.-Distribution of automobile ownership and operation costs.
roads and streets, and to improve and expand the system as needed for the greatly increased number of vehicles. But with present revenues able to purchase only the amount of construction and maintenance that was purchased with 1940 revenues, highway authorities are finding it impossible to provide adequate highway capacity for a 51-percent greater number of vehicles and a 60-percent increase in traffic volume.

## Effect on the Individual

Discussions of road-user taxes are frequently of a technical nature not readily understood by the automobile owner. He is exposed to diametrically opposite views and irreconcilable statements. The allegation is made that "gasoline is cheap-only the tax is high." Yet the price of gasoline (excluding tax) now represents 19.8 percent of total automobile operating costs, while the gasoline tax is only 6.5 percent, and the tax portion of the total price of gasoline has decreased approximately 7 percent during the past decade. The motorist appears to be willing to pay tolls that cost the equivalent of an additional 15 -cent tax per gallon for the use of controlledaccess toll highways, but seems not to under-
stand the relatively low cost, per vehiclemile, of adequate free highways. When automotive taxes and highway programs are discussed, he unfortunately sees figures only in large multiples of any amounts familiar to him. Being impressed by their magnitude, he does not realize that the portion of these amounts that he pays as an individual is actually very small.

In most States there are certain minimum amounts that must be spent for highway administration, equipment, and maintenance. After these requirements have been met, any funds remaining are available for construction. Small increments in tax allocations under these circumstances can amount to relatively large increases in funds available for construction. If the 19 States having gasoline tax rates of less than 5 cents per gallon were to increase their rates 1 cent, the State funds available for highway construction would be increased, on the average, by more than 40 percent. In over two-thirds of these States the construction funds would be increased an average of more than 50 percent. Yet this increase would cost the motorist (at 15 miles per gallon), only 0.067 cent per mile, or about 13 cents a week.

# Volume Changes in Sand-Gravel Concrete 

BY THE PHYSICAL RESEARCH BRANCH BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

Reported by F. H. JACKSON, Principal Engineer of Teis and A. G. TIMMS, Senior Materials Engin?r

Abnormal expansion, as evidenced in mapcracking, has been observed in concrete pavements built with sand-gravel aggregate in some midwestern States. Tests with this and two other aggregates of widely different mineral composition, combined with different types of cement and subjected to various weathering conditions, produced effects in the laboratory which correlated with those observed in the field.

Expansion of concrete specimens made with sand-gravel was much greater than that of similar specimens containing the other aggregates, and appeared to be due to some characteristic related to the mineral composition of the sand-gravel. The magnitude of the expansion was markedly influenced by the properties of the cements used.

The addition of crushed limestone to the sand-gravel, producing a normally graded coarse aggregate which contained about 50 per cent calcareous material, eliminated the abnormal expansion entirely.

## Introduction

ABNORMAL EXPANSION of concrete pavement with resultant so-called "map-cracking" of the surface, which has been widely observed in certain midwestern states, particularly Kansas and Nebraska, prompted the Bureau of Public Roads about 10 years ago to initiate a series of tests to determine whether these effects could be reproduced in the laboratory and, if so, just what combinations of materials produced them and what steps might be taken to eliminate the trouble. The tests involved the measurement of changes in length of concrete specimens containing aggregates from three sources: The Platte River in Nebraska, Chicago, Ill., and Long Island, N. Y.

The Platte River aggregate was representative of a class of materials locally known as "sand-gravel," which contains only a small percentage of particles larger than $3 / 8$ inch in size. Most of the concrete pavements in these areas which have shown distress were constructed with this type of aggregate. The aggregates from Long Island and the Chicago area were selected as representative of two sources differing widely in mineralogical composition but possessing excellent service records in concrete.

Each of the three aggregates, in three different gradations, was used in combination with each of four cements. All of the latter met the usual American Society for Testing Materials requirements for type I cement, and two of them in addition met both the A.S.T.M. requirements for type II cement and the requirements of the Board of Water Supply of New York City.

The concrete specimens made from these aggregates and cements were subjected successively to various types of laboratory weathering cycles which involved alternate wetting and drying together with alternate heating and cooling, but without freezing and thawing. In general the program followed the pattern set by W. E. Gibson, of the Kansas State Highway Laboratory, who began studying this problem as early as 1932. The results of Gibson's findings were reported before the Highway Research Board in 1938. ${ }^{1}$

A progress report giving the results of the studies made by the Bureau over a 2 year period was presented before the Highway Research Board in 1942. ${ }^{2}$ This was followed in 1949 by a final report which reviewed the earlier work and gave the results of further measurements up to a total of 9 years of exposure. ${ }^{3}$

In the report presented here the data and discussions of the latter two papers have been combined into a single report which is intended to serve as a complete and final report of this investigation as it was originally planned.

## Summary of Observations

The principal indications of these tests were as follows:

1. A laboratory weathering cycle which involved immersion in water at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. for 24 hours followed by drying in air at $130^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. for 24 hours produced length changes and visual effects (such as map-cracking) in concrete test specimens that correlated with the behavior of similar concrete in the field.
2. Concrete specimens containing only the Platte River sand-gravel aggregate

[^1]developed, in general, much larger exp sions than similar concrete containing other two aggregates. In many cases appearance of map-cracks on the surfeas of the specimens provided visual evidece of abnormal expansion.
3. The abnormal expansion that de oped when the Platte River sand-gravel used as total aggregate appeared to be to some characteristic related to its minial composition rather than to its gradingor to the high cement content normally red with this type of material.
4. In the concrete specimens containg the Platte River sand-gravel as total ag egate, the magnitude of the expansions as influenced to a marked degree by cer in differences in the properties of the tur cements used. However, there was no lation observed in this study between he amount of expansion and any of the p sical or chemical properties of the cemets.
5. Adding crushed limestone with a $n \mathrm{X}$ imum size of $11 / 2$ inches to the Platte Rer


Figure 1.-Typical map-cracking of gravel concrete pavement.

Table 1.-Chemical and physical properties of portand cements

|  | Portland cement |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Chemical analyses (percent) : |  |  |  |  |
| Silica $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right)$ | 21.95 | 20.60 | 22.71 | 23.16 |
| Alumina $\left(\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right.$ ) | 5.57 | 7.74 | 4.72 | 5.11 |
| Ferric oxide Lime ( CaO ) | 32. 20 | 2.65 62.70 | 4. 68 | 3.67 |
| Magnesia (MgO) | 2.99 | 2.77 | 62.54 2.77 | b4.28 1.15 |
| Sulfuric anhydride ( $\mathrm{SO}_{3}$ ) | 1.70 | 1.79 | 1.51 | 1.32 |
| Sodium oxide ( $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ). | . 26 | . 36 | . 19 | . 26 |
| Potassium oxide ( $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ) Alcali | . 67 | . 56 | 43 | 47 |
| Alkali calculated as Na 0 O | 70 | . 73 | 47 | 57 |
| Water-soluble alkali calculated as $\mathrm{Na=O}$ | . 52 | . 38 | . 18 | 21 |
| Computed compound composition ${ }^{1}$ (percent) : |  |  |  |  |
| Tricalcium silicate ( $\left.\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~S}\right)$ | 42 | 38 | 39 | 42 |
| Dicalcium silicate ( $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{~S}$ ) | 32 | 31 | 36 | 35 |
| Tricalcium aluminate ( $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~A}$ ) | 9 | 16 | j | 7 |
| Tetracalcium alumino ferrite ( $\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{AF}$ ) | 10 | 8 | 1. | 11 |
| Calcium sulfate ( $\mathrm{CaSO}_{4}$ ) | 2.8 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| Physical Specific surface ( |  |  |  |  |
| Specific surface (Wagner) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . cm. ${ }^{-2}$ per gm Sugar test (Merriman): | 1,850 | 1.705 | 1,965 | 1,815 |
| Neutral point. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ml | 33.2 | 36.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| .Clear point..... . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ml | 48.1 | 57.5 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Autoclave expansion..................... . percent | . 09 | 25. 42 | . 05 | . 01 |
| Normal consistency . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . percent | 24.5 | 25.5 | 23.5 | 24.0 |
| Tensile strength (1:3 mortar) : |  |  |  |  |
| At 7 days. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 lb . per sq. in . | 305 375 | $\begin{aligned} & 340 \\ & 420 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 315 \\ & 445 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 360 \\ +35 \end{array}$ |

1 The compound compositions given are in "shorthand" form.
nd-gravel, in the proportion of about 50 rcent by weight of the total aggregate, iminated the abnormal expansion. This as true for all four of the cements inuded in this investigation.
6. Concrete containing the sand and avel from Long Island, an aggregate esntially siliceous in character, developed eater expansions than similar concrete intaining the essentially calcareous sand id gravel from Chicago. This applied - all three gradings in which these marials were used and to all four cements. 7. Both the specimens containing a blend : the Platte River sand-gravel and crushed mestone and the specimens containing the ong Island sand and gravel, when used i normal gradation in combination with le two cements relatively high in comated tricalcium aluminate, developed reater expansions than similar specimens ontaining the two cements having relavely low percentages of this compound. owever, this trend was not noted in the jecimens containing the sand and gravel om Chicago.
8. These tests indicate that aggregate naracteristics other than size and grading, ach as particle shape, surface texture, lineral composition, etc., will affect the mount of cement necessary to maintain a iven consistency, using a fixed waterement ratio, to a much greater extent than as been commonly assumed.

## Use of Sand-Gravel

The lack of suitable deposits of coarse ggregate for concrete in many parts of Tansas and Nebraska, and in certain secions of western Missouri and Iowa, has ed to the extensive use of a naturally iccurring mixture of sand and fine gravel is total aggregate for concrete work in hese regions. This material, substantially lll of which passes a $3 / 8$-inch sieve, is known ocally as "mixed aggregate" or "sand-

The sand-gravels vary somewhat in mineral composition from place to place, but in general they are composed of quartz and granitic materials with varying amounts of feldspar and very little limestone or other calcareous material.

The local sand-gravel deposits, widely distributed along the beds of such streams as the Arkansas and Kaw Rivers in Kansas and the Platte River in Nebraska, furnish the only type of aggregate available in many parts of these States. These aggregates in general are reasonably well graded from $3 / 8$-inch down, although the pracess of washing results in a deficiency in the finer sand sizes, particularly in the material passing the No. 50 sieve. The availability of these deposits makes them exceedingly attractive from the economic point of view, even though the fine grading has in some cases necessitated the use of cement contents as high as 7.5 to 8.0 sacks per cubic yard in order to meet requirements for design strength.

The belief that these materials were of satisfactory quality, and the fact that they were so readily available, resulted in their use in the construction of a substantial mileage of concrete pavements in Kansas
and Nebraska. For example, most of the
gravel." Concrete in which it is used is known as sand-gravel concrete to distinguish it from concrete containing normally graded coarse aggregate, which is called locally "fine-and-coarse-aggregate" concrete.

Table 2.-Grading, specific gravity, weight, and absorption of aggregates

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{} \& \multirow{3}{*}{Grading 1 (as used)} \& \multirow{3}{*}{Grading 2 (as used)} \& \multicolumn{3}{|c|}{Grading \({ }^{1}\)} \\
\hline \& \& \& \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{Aggregate} \& \multirow{2}{*}{Combiner (as used)} \\
\hline \& \& \& Fine \& Coarse \& \\
\hline \& \& \& \& \& \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
\(11 / 2\)-inch sieve \\
\(3 / 4\)-inch sieve
\end{tabular} \& - \& 0 \& \& 0
55
83 \& 0
35
54
54 \\
\hline \(3 / 8\)-inch sieve
No. 4 sieve. \& \({ }_{10}^{5}\) \& \& 0 \& 83
100 \& 54
64
64 \\
\hline No. 4 sieve. \& 30 \& 30 \& 20 \& 100 \& 72 \\
\hline No. 16 sieve.. \& 55 \& 50 \& 40 \& 100 \& 79 \\
\hline No. 30 sieve.
No. 50 sieve. \& \begin{tabular}{l}
80 \\
95 \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& 65
80
80 \& 84 \& 100 \& 86
\(9!\) \\
\hline No. 50 sieve.
No. 100 sieve. \& 100 \& 95 \& 97 \& 100 \& 93 \\
\hline Fineness modulus \& 3.75 \& 3.35 \& 3.01 \& 7.38 \& 5.84 \\
\hline Bulk specific gravity (dry) : \& \& \& \& \& \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
A-Platte River. \\
B--Long Island
\end{tabular} \& \(\stackrel{3}{3} \cdot 61\) \& \({ }_{2}^{2.65}\) \& \({ }_{2}^{2.61}\) \& 2.63 \& \\
\hline C-Chicago.... \& 2.62 \& 2.62 \& 2.62 \& 2.65 \& \\
\hline Weight, dry rodded (lb. per cu. it.) : \& \& \& \& \& \\
\hline A-Platte River ........... \& \begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
112 \\
112
\end{tabular} \& 122 \& 118
109 \& 1101
111

1 \& <br>
\hline $\stackrel{\text { B-Long Island }}{\text { C-C }}$ - \& 112
110 \& 117 \& \& 103 \& <br>
\hline Absorption (percent) : A-Platte River \& 1). 32 \& 0.32 \& 0.27 \& 11.17 \& <br>
\hline B-Lang Island \& .29
-.34 \& .23
.98 \& 1.69 \& 1.30
1.79 \& <br>
\hline C--Chicago... \& 2.34 \& 1.98 \& 1.69 \& \& <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

1 For this grading, where the Platte River combination was used, the materials include a combination of Platte River aggregate, grading 1, and sufficient crushe 1 limestone to give desired grading.

Table 3.- Other physical properties of aggregates

|  |  | Aggregate |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | A Platte | $\begin{aligned} & \text { B-Long } \\ & \text { Island } \end{aligned}$ | C--Chieago |
| Soundness (sodium sulfate loss at 5 cycles) ' <br> Resistance to abrasion (Los Angeles loss for grading D) <br> Organic matter (color test) <br> Mortar strength ratio, 7 days ${ }^{3}$ | percent percent | $\begin{gathered} 3.2 \\ 29.0 \\ 0 \mathrm{~K} \\ .94 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.4 \\ 2.8 \\ 2.8 \\ 0 \mathrm{~K} \\ 1.05 \end{gathered}$ | $10.2$ <br> 21.7 <br> ${ }^{0} \mathrm{~K}$ |

${ }_{1}$ Weighted average loss based on grading 1.
${ }^{1}$ A.S.T.M. standard C 131-39, tentative revision 1942 .
${ }_{3}$ A.S.T.M. standard C $87-42$.

Table 4.-Mineral analyses of aggregates

| Rock or mineral | Percentage composition for each sieve size indicated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Average compositio |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 11 / 2-\text { to } \\ & 3 / 4 \text {-inch } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 / 4 \text { - to } \\ & 3 / 8 \text {-inch } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 3/-inch to } \\ & \text { No. } 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. } 4 \text { to } \\ & \text { No. } 8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. } 8 \text { to } \\ & \text { No. } 16 \end{aligned}$ | No. 16 to <br> No. 30 | No. 30 to No. 50 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. } 50 \text { to } \\ & \text { No. } 100 \end{aligned}$ | Passing <br> No. 100 | Gravel | Sand |
| A-Platte River aggregate: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Granite ${ }^{\text {2 }}$ Feldspar $\ldots . . . . . . .$. | (5) | 59 19 | 51 25 | 32 40 | 8 34 | 21 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 18. |
| Feldspar |  | 8 | 19 | 25 | 55 | 74 | 89 | T 96 | 94 | 13.5 | 72. |
| Chert.. |  | 3 | T | T | T | 1 | T | T | 3 | 1.5 |  |
| Quartzite |  | 4 | 3 |  | ${ }^{3}$ |  |  |  |  | 3.5 |  |
| Sandstone. . . ${ }_{\text {Ferruginous sandstone }}$ |  | 3 2 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |  |
| Ferruginous sandstone Rhyolite |  |  | T | T | T |  |  |  |  | T | T |
| Epidosite |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | T |  |
| Hornblende schist Andesite |  | T |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | T |  |
| Andesite Hornblendite |  |  |  | 1 | T |  |  |  |  |  | T |
| Biotite. . . . |  |  |  |  |  |  | T |  |  |  | T |
| B-Long Island aggregate: <br> Quartz | 87 | 71 |  |  |  | 93 | 95 | 96 | 98 | 77.3 | 92. |
| Quartzite . . . . . . . . . . . | 13 | 16 | 9 | - 5 | 4 | 3 | T | 1 | 98 | 12.6 | 2. |
| Schistose quartzite |  | 1 | 3 | 2 |  | . . . . . . . |  | . . . . . . . . | - . . . . . | 1.3 |  |
| Hornblende schist |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $1^{.3}$ |  |
| Feldspar ......... |  | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1. |  |
| Ferruginous sandstone |  | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 |  |  |  |  | 2.3 |  |
| Granite . . . |  |  | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | T |  |  | 2 | 1. |
| Gneiss. |  |  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |  | . . . . . . | . . . . . | . 6 |  |
| Sandstone . |  |  | T | T |  |  |  |  |  | T | T |
| Barnet schist. |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | T |  |  |  | T |
| Muscovite. |  |  |  |  |  |  | T |  |  |  | T ${ }^{1}$ |
| Hornblende |  |  |  |  |  |  | T |  |  |  |  |
| Sericite. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | T |  |  | T |
| C-Chicago aggregate: <br> Dolomite |  | 98 |  | 95 | 92 | 91 |  | 61 | 78 | 89.6 |  |
| Quartzite. | 11 |  | 3 |  |  |  | 3 | 4 |  | 4.6 | 1. |
| Trap... | 7 |  | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | T | 3.6 | 1. |
| Limestone |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | . 6 |  |
| Chert |  |  | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |  |  |  | 1.3 | 1. |
| Quartz |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 34 | 22 |  | 14. |

: Gravel size considered as material retained on No. 4 sieve, sand as that passing No. 4 sieve.
${ }^{2}$ Consists of quartz and feldspar with occasional biotite.

- This size Platte River aggregate not available.
- Trace.
original concrete pavement along $U$ S 30 in Nebraska was of this type. This route follows the Platte River for many miles and the local sand-gravel is available at almost any point along the road with very short haul.
Unfortunately, the sand-gravel type of concrete pavement has not proved entirely satisfactory. Defects in the form of mapcracking of the surface frequently developed on many sections within a few years. Sometimes these defects led to progressive failure of a type which eventually required repair or replacement of the affected areas. A survey of Nebraska pavements conducted in 1939 by the Bureau of Public Roads in cooperation with the State Department of Roads and Irrigation revealed that about one-third of the approximately 500 miles of sand-gravel concrete pavement surveyed, all of which was constructed between 1925 and 1935, had developed map-cracking of a type which appeared to be progressive. In contrast to these observations on sandgravel concrete, no evidence of map-cracking had developed up to 1939 on any of the pavements laid with fine-and-coarse aggregate concrete.


## Map-Cracking

Map-cracking as used in this report may be defined as the type which forms a pattern of irregularly shaped blocks in the surface of the concrete. Map-cracking per se is not necessarily serious; nor does it necessarily lead to disintegration or complete failure. Some badly map-cracked pavements have proved durable under severe weather-
ing conditions. However, when map-cracking is accompanied by other evidences of abnormal expansion, deep scaling, or unsoundness, as revealed by a lack of ring under the hammer, it can be generally assumed to be of the progressive type. An advanced stage of map-cracking of this type is shown in figure 1. Such a condition is evidence of disintegration even though under favorable conditions it may be possible to maintain traffic over the road for many years without the necessity of making extensive repairs or replacements.

The fact that map-cracking sometimes develops on roads carrying comparatively light traffic would indicate that the fundamental causes underlying the initial cracking are independent of this factor. The primary cause appears to be excessive and abnormal expansion of the concrete. Evidence of this is found in the closed expansion joints which usually accompany the appearance of map-cracking. Furthermore, this expansion seems to be confined to the sand-gravel concrete, being almost entirely absent on pavements containing the conventional fine-and-coarse aggregate type of concrete.

## Object of the Investigation

One of the objects of this investigation was to determine whether the characteristic map-cracking which is frequently associated with the use of sand-gravel as total aggregate could be reproduced in the laboratory. As early as 1938 Gibson had shown that this type of failure could be developed in the laboratory by subjecting specimens
of concrete to alternations of heating ad cooling and wetting and drying without $e$ introduction of a freezing cycle. It v s considered desirable to continue the line if attack suggested by Gibson by makinga series of tests which would include, in :dition to the Platte River aggregate, niterials from two other sources differig widely from it and from each other in mineral composition. It was also consiered desirable to study the behavior of cicrete containing these other materials whn graded exactly the same as the Platte $\mathrm{Ri} \cdot \mathrm{r}$ aggregate. In addition, the tests we planned to compare the behavior of cicrete containing the Platte River mateal with sufficient added crushed limestone: 0 make a conventional total aggregate graltion, with that of concrete of the sale proportions containing the other two agg:gates. Complete descriptions of the $1^{-}$ terials, the mix data, and the weatherg cycles used in the study follow.

## Cements and Aggregates

Thirty-six combinations of materials volving four cements and three aggregars in each of three gradations were used in these tests. The cements were chosen 0 give a considerable range in chemical ciposition, particularly with respect to percentage of computed tricalcium alu nate $\left(\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~A}\right)$. The results of physical teis and chemical analyses of the cements e given in table 1. Major differences in cements were as follows:
ment 1.-A.S.T.M. type I, with 9 pertricalcium aluminate ( $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~A}$ ), low autoexpansion, high Merriman sugar-test 3, 0.70 percent total alkali, and 0.52 int water-soluble alkali.
ment 2.-A.S.T.M. type I, with 16 pertricalcium aluminate $\left(\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~A}\right)$, relatively autoclave expansion, high sugar-test $3,0.73$ percent total alkali, and 0.38 ent water-soluble alkali.
ment 3.-A.S.T.M. type II, with 5 pertricalcium aluminate ( $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~A}$ ), low sugarvalue, low autoclave expansion, 0.47 ent total alkali, and 0.18 percent water-放 alkali. Cement 3, in addition to ing the A.S.T.M. requirements, also the requirements of the New York City d of Water Supply. It would therebe classified as a "Merriman" cement." ment 4.-A.S.T.M. type II with 7 pertricalcium aluminate $\left(\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{~A}\right)$, low r-test value, low autoclave expansion, percent total alkali, and 0.21 percent r-soluble alkali. Cement 4 was also sified as a Merriman cement.
will be observed from table 1 that cet 2 has a considerably higher autoclave unsion than the other three. It is also coarsest in terms of specific surface. of interest that cements 2 and 3 were 1 the same mill, the former being the lar commercial product and the latter a ment modified to meet the requirements ot he New York Board of Water Supply. Itshould be noted that this work was iniated before the question of an alkaliafregate reaction as possibly contributing thap-cracking had been raised. For this Ifson no attempt was made to secure wide viations in the alkali contents of the four ct ents.
he physical properties of the aggregates a given in tables 2 and 3 and the mineral cuposition of the various size fractions in tile 4. All three of the aggregates met t) conventional A.S.T.M. physical test reqrements for concrete aggregates. A 3 eral description of the aggregates folks:
Iggregate $A$. - Sand-gravel from the Ptte River at Schuyler, Nebr., composed centially of granite, quartz, and feldspar, Wh about 0.3 percent material classified as 0.1. The amount of feldspar, predominitly potash (orthoclase and microcline), $v$ ied widely in the different sizes from a hh of 40 percent in the No. 4-8 sieve size $t$ a low of 3 percent in the material passit the No. 100 sieve. This aggregate has, i general, a poor service record.
1ggregate $B$.-Sand and gravel from lng Island, N. Y., (the so-called "Cowe Iy" material). The sand and gravel were 2nost entirely siliceous, being composed

The term "Merriman" cement is frequently used to ine portland cement that will meet the specifications the Board of Water Supply of the City of New $t_{1}$, edition of 1937. These specifications, which con$t_{1}$ certain special requirements not found in the 1.T.M. specifications, were developed by the late
iddeus Merriman, consulting engineer for the Board 1 many years. Mr. Merriman felt that his special uirements were necessary in order to insure proper ning, thereby insuring a more volume constant and ${ }^{i}$ tore durable product.

Table 5.-Mix data ${ }^{1}$

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Cement } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { aggregate } \end{gathered}$ | Proportions by - |  | Actual cement content (sacks per cu. yd.) | Net water content (gal. per sack) | Weight of fresh concrete <br> (lb. per cu. ft.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Dry weight | Absolute volume |  |  |  |
| Series I, Grading 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{B} \\ & 1-\mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 2-\mathrm{B} \\ & 2-\mathrm{C} \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3-\mathrm{C} \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4-\mathrm{B} \\ & 4-\mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | $1: 4.10$ $1: 3.73$ $1: 3.39$ $1: 3.83$ $1: 3.15$ $1: 2.98$ $1: 4.01$ $1: 3.44$ $1: 3.30$ $1: 4.12$ $1: 3.61$ $1: 3.30$ | $1: 4.92$ $1: 4.43$ $1: 4.05$ $1: 4.60$ $1: 3.74$ $1: 3.56$ $1: 4.82$ $1: 4.08$ $1: 3.94$ $1: 4.95$ $1: 4.28$ $1: 3.94$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.4 \\ & 7.9 \\ & 8.5 \\ & 7.7 \\ & 8.7 \\ & 9.2 \\ & 7.6 \\ & 8.3 \\ & 8.6 \\ & 7.4 \\ & 8.0 \\ & 8.6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 143 \\ & 143 \\ & 145 \\ & 142 \\ & 140 \\ & 143 \\ & 144 \\ & 142 \\ & 145 \\ & 143 \\ & 140 \\ & 144 \end{aligned}$ |
| Series I, Grading 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{B} \\ & 1-\mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 2-\mathrm{B} \\ & 2-\mathrm{C} \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3-\mathrm{C} \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4-\mathrm{B} \\ & 4-\mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | $1: 4.04$ $1: 3.53$ $1: 3.10$ $1: 3.62$ $1: 3.02$ $1: 2.71$ $1: 3.87$ $1: 3.30$ $1: 3.17$ $1: 4.13$ $1: 3.50$ $1: 2.93$ | $1: 4.86$ $1: 4.20$ $1: 3.70$ $1: 4.35$ $1: 3.59$ $1: 3.24$ $1: 4.65$ $1: 3.91$ $1: 3.79$ $1: 4.96$ $1: 4.15$ $1: 3.49$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.5 \\ & 8.1 \\ & 9.0 \\ & 8.1 \\ & 9.0 \\ & 9.8 \\ & 7.8 \\ & 8.6 \\ & 8.9 \\ & 7.4 \\ & 8.2 \\ & 9.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 144 \\ & 141 \\ & 145 \\ & 143 \\ & 140 \\ & 143 \\ & 144 \\ & 142 \\ & 145 \\ & 144 \\ & 140 \\ & 143 \end{aligned}$ |
| Series II, Grading $1{ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{B} \\ & 1-\mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 2-\mathrm{B} \\ & 2-\mathrm{C} \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3-\mathrm{C} \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4-\mathrm{B} \\ & 4-\mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | $1: 4.10$ $1: 4.10$ $1: 4.10$ $1: 3.83$ $1: 3.83$ $1: 3.83$ $1: 4.01$ $1: 4.01$ $1: 4.01$ $1: 4.12$ $1: 4.12$ $1: 4.12$ | $1: 4.92$ $1: 4.86$ $1: 4.89$ $1: 4.60$ $1: 4.55$ $1: 4.57$ $1: 4.82$ $1: 4.76$ $1: 4.79$ $1: 4.95$ $1: 4.89$ $1: 4.92$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7.4 \\ & 7.2 \\ & 7.2 \\ & 7.8 \\ & 7.4 \\ & 7.5 \\ & 7.6 \\ & 7.2 \\ & 7.3 \\ & 7.3 \\ & 7.0 \\ & 7.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.0 \\ & 5.8 \\ & 6.3 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 6.0 \\ & 6.1 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 6.1 \\ & 6.4 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.9 \\ & 6.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 142 \\ & 140 \\ & 144 \\ & 143 \\ & 139 \\ & 143 \\ & 144 \\ & 140 \\ & 143 \\ & 141 \\ & 138 \\ & 142 \end{aligned}$ |
| Series II, Grading 2 ? |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{B} \\ & 1-\mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 2-\mathrm{B} \\ & 2-\mathrm{C} \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3-\mathrm{C} \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4-\mathrm{B} \\ & 4-\mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | $1: 4.04$ $1: 4.04$ $1: 4.04$ $1: 3.62$ $1: 3.62$ $1: 3.62$ $1: 3.87$ $1: 3.87$ $1: 3.87$ $1: 4.13$ $1: 4.13$ $1: 4.13$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 4.86 \\ & 1: 4.80 \\ & 1: 4.83 \\ & 1: 4.35 \\ & 1: 4.29 \\ & 1: 4.32 \\ & 1: 4.65 \\ & 1: 4.60 \\ & 1: 4.62 \\ & 1: 4.96 \\ & 1: 4.90 \\ & 1: 4.93 \end{aligned}$ | 7.5 7.2 7.2 8.1 7.8 7.8 7.8 7.4 7.5 7.4 7.0 7.1 | $\begin{aligned} & 5.0 \\ & 6.0 \\ & 6.4 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.8 \\ & 6.1 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 5.9 \\ & 6.1 \\ & 5.0 \\ & 6.1 \\ & 6.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 144 \\ & 140 \\ & 143 \\ & 143 \\ & 139 \\ & 142 \\ & 144 \\ & 140 \\ & 143 \\ & 143 \\ & 138 \\ & 142 \end{aligned}$ |
| Series I and II, Grading 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{B} \\ & 1-\mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 2-\mathrm{B} \\ & 2-\mathrm{C} \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3-\mathrm{C} \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4-\mathrm{B} \\ & 4-\mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 2.53: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.53 .4 .49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.53 .4 .49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.53: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \\ & 1: 2.43: 4.49 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 3.04: 5.43 \\ & 1: 2.86: 5.37 \\ & 1: 2.92: 5.31 \\ & 1: 3.04: 5.43 \\ & 1: 2.86: 5.37 \\ & 1: 2.92: 5.31 \\ & 1: 3.04: 5.43 \\ & 1: 2.86: 5.37 \\ & 1: 2.92: 5.31 \\ & 1: 304: 5.43 \\ & 1: 2.86: 5.37 \\ & 1: 2.92: 5.31 \end{aligned}$ | 5.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.1 <br> 5.1 5.1 <br> 5.1 | $\begin{aligned} & 6.1 \\ & 6.0 \\ & 6.3 \\ & 5.8 \\ & 6.0 \\ & 6.6 \\ & 6.1 \\ & 6.0 \\ & 6.5 \\ & 5.8 \\ & 6.0 \\ & 6.5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 152 \\ & 151 \\ & 154 \\ & 152 \\ & 151 \\ & 153 \\ & 152 \\ & 152 \\ & 153 \\ & 152 \\ & 150 \\ & 152 \end{aligned}$ |

${ }^{1}$ Slump for gradings 1 and 2 in both series was approximately 1 inch; for grading $3,21 / 2$ inches. Fineness modulus was 3.75 for grading $1,3.35$ for grading 2, and 5.84 for grading 3 .
${ }_{2}$ In the case of aggregate A (Platte River) for Series II, the proportions and water content for each cement and grading are the same as was used for the corresponding combinations in series I. In the case of aggregates B (Long Island) and C (Chicago), the proportions were the same as were used for the corresponding combinations involving aggregate A. The water content was varied to maintain the desired slump.
of about 90 percent quartz and quartzite, with practically no feldspar. This aggregate has an excellent service record.

Aggregate C.-Sand and gravel from Plainfield, Ill., in the Chicago area. In contrast with aggregate $B$, it was almost entirely dolomitic in composition, the sand being about 80 percent and the gravel about 90 percent dolomitic material. About 15
percent of the sand was quartz. This aggregate also has an excellent service record.

## Grading and Proportioning

Three different aggregate gradations were investigated. Sieve analyses of the various aggregates and aggregate combinations are


Figure 2.-Horizontal comparator with test specimen.
given in table 2. A summary of the gradings follows:

Grading 1.-The gradation of the Platte River sand-gravel as normally used: In reality a coarse sand, only 5 percent being retained on the $3 / 8$-inch sieve and only 5 percent passing the No. 50 sieve.

Grading $\therefore$.-The same as grading 1 but with sufficient fines added (from the same source) to bring the total passing the No. 50 sieve up to 20 percent. The maximum size was not increased.

Grading 3.- A conventional aggregate gradation, from $11 / 2$-inch size down, with 64 percent retained on the No. 4 sieve. For
aggregate A this was accomplished by adding crushed limestone ( $11 / 2$-inch to $3 / 8$-inch
in size) from Bethany Falls, Kans., to Platte River material (a procedure lo known as "sweetening"), resulting in a bined aggregate consisting of 53 pel limestone and 47 percent sand-grave weight. For aggregates $B$ and $C$ the aggregate was obtained by using $g_{1}$ from the same source as the sand, gradings being practically identical that used for aggregate A combined the crushed limestone.

Each of the four cements and threta gregates was tested in each of the $t$ gradations, making 36 combinations ira Two series of tests were run and two sic mens were cast for each combinatio each series, making a total of 144 speciel in the entire program.

In test series I , for gradings 1 a the proportions were determined on


Figure 3.-Exaggerated sketch of test beam after various exposure cycles, showing cal expansions.

Table 6.-Cumulative changes in length after various storage periods

| Cement and aggregate | Test Series I: Percentage change in length after storage of- |  |  |  |  | Test Series II: Percentage change in length after storage of- |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 160 days (cycle A) | 360 days (cycle B) | 660 days (cycle C) | $\begin{aligned} & 2,450 \text { days } \\ & \text { (cycle D) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 3,270 days } \\ & \text { (cycle E) } \end{aligned}$ | 160 days (cycle A) | 360 days (cycle B) | 660 days (cycle C) | $\begin{aligned} & 2,450 \text { dayz } \\ & \text { (cycle D) } \end{aligned}$ | $3,270$ |
| Grading 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-A . \\ & 1-B \\ & 1-C \\ & 2-A \\ & 2-B \\ & 2-C \\ & 3-A \\ & 3-B \\ & 3-C \\ & 4-A \\ & 4-B \\ & 4-C \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.005 \\ -.005 \\ =.017 \\ -.005 \\ -.008 \\ -.019 \\ -.010 \\ -.012 \\ -.017 \\ -.010 \\ -.016 \\ -.022 \end{array}$ | 0.001 -.002 -.010 .008 -.002 -.011 $=.013$ -.012 -.005 -.011 -.015 | $\begin{array}{r} 0.772 \\ .044 \\ .010 \\ .018 \\ .0318 \\ .015 \\ .203 \\ .010 \\ . .316 \\ . .309 \\ -.002 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.910 \\ .108 \\ .038 \\ .156 \\ .047 \\ .052 \\ .459 \\ .059 \\ .036 \\ .029 \\ .010 \\ .010 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.968 \\ .966 \\ .003 \\ .133 \\ .034 \\ .013 \\ .508 \\ \hline .004 \\ .548 \\ .017 \\ -.006 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.009 \\ -.010 \\ =.019 \\ =.010 \\ -.027 \\ =.009 \\ =.017 \\ =.023 \\ =.015 \\ =.013 \\ -.028 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.002 \\ =.001 \\ -.003 \\ .007 \\ .006 \\ =.007 \\ -.005 \\ =.005 \\ -.003 \\ -.004 \\ -.013 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.752 \\ .02 \\ .016 \\ .024 \\ .022 \\ .445 \\ .019 \\ .016 \\ .0106 \\ -.005 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.952 \\ .023 \\ .023 \\ .026 \\ .016 \\ .648 \\ .032 \\ .023 \\ \hdashline .020 \\ 0 \end{array}$ |  |
| Grading 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{R} \\ & 11 \mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 8 \\ & 2 \mathrm{~B} \\ & 2 \mathrm{C} \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3-\mathrm{C} \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4-\mathrm{B} \\ & 4-\mathrm{C} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.010 \\ =.007 \\ -.018 \\ =.006 \\ -.012 \\ -.022 \\ -.013 \\ -.020 \\ -.015 \\ -.016 \\ -.013 \\ -.021 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ -0.004 \\ -.015 \\ .002 \\ .003 \\ -.010 \\ =.017 \\ =.017 \\ =.014 \\ =.015 \\ -.016 \end{array}$ | 0.198 .033 .011 .082 .033 .018 .030 .012 .008 .007 .003 | 0.605 .072 .026 .098 .060 .041 .095 .057 .026 .038 .019 .014 | $\begin{array}{r} .607 \\ .059 \\ 0 \\ .093 \\ .039 \\ .010 \\ .099 \\ .045 \\ .009 \\ .011 \\ .008 \\ -.001 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.010 \\ -.010 \\ -.019 \\ -.015 \\ -.014 \\ -.021 \\ =.017 \\ =.021 \\ =.015 \\ -.019 \\ -.020 \end{array}$ | -0.006 $=.001$ -.011 .001 -.002 -.006 -.006 -.008 -.014 -.010 -.007 | 0.646 .041 .013 .035 .022 .144 .022 .010 .027 .008 | 0.720 .042 .019 .039 .036 .204 .033 .013 .041 .019 .013 |  |
| Gradivg 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1-\mathrm{A} \\ & 1-\mathrm{B} \\ & 1-\mathrm{C} \\ & 2-\mathrm{A} \\ & 2-\mathrm{B} \\ & 2-\mathrm{C} \\ & 3 \\ & 3-\mathrm{A} \\ & 3-\mathrm{B} \\ & 3 \\ & 4-\mathrm{A} \\ & 4+\mathrm{B} \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.003 \\ -.004 \\ -.004 \\ -.004 \\ 0 \\ -.007 \\ -.008 \\ =.010 \\ =.013 \\ -.009 \\ -.006 \\ -.009 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} -0.001 \\ -.004 \\ .002 \\ 0 \\ .004 \\ -.005 \\ -.006 \\ -.003 \\ -.001 \\ -.003 \\ -.001 \\ -.001 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 0.022 \\ .062 \\ .009 \\ .012 \\ .024 \\ .007 \\ .005 \\ .016 \\ .008 \\ .004 \\ .002 \end{array}$ | 0.042 .187 .024 .078 .072 .043 .014 .030 .027 .010 .046 .13 | 0.033 163 .016 .081 .078 .014 .009 .023 .016 .007 .033 .007 | -0.001 $=.006$ -.012 $=.005$ $=.007$ $=.018$ $=.007$ -.012 $=.009$ $=.013$ -.014 | 0.006 .002 .006 .003 .004 -.003 .001 0 0 .001 -.002 -.004 -.002 | 0.035 101 .019 .023 .030 .016 .016 .028 .015 .012 .014 .014 | 0.017 .169 .020 .108 .068 .029 .026 .032 .017 .015 .019 .014 | 0 |

[^2]s of an approximately constant slump a constant water-cement ratio of 0.67 olume ( 5.0 gallons per sack), for all oinations of cements and aggregates. resulted in average cement contents ibout 7.6 sacks per cubic yard for the te River material, or about the same used in the roads which had given ible. The corresponding cement factors aggregates B and C were considerably ier, averaging about 8.4 for aggregate nd 9.0 for aggregate C. For both grad; 1 and 2 a slump of approximately 1 (1) was used, as this is the consistency mally employed in actual construction h h sand-gravel aggregate.
n test series II, for gradings 1 and 2 itical proportions (by weight) and conency were used for all three aggregates a given cement as were used in series vith that same cement and the Platte er material (aggregate A). This was the purpose of equalizing somewhat variations in cement content which reted from the use of a constant wateraent ratio in test series I. The resultant ter-cement ratios in test series II varied isiderably, running as high as 6.7 gals per sack as compared to the 5.0 gallons - sack used in all mixes containing the atte River material.
For grading 3 (the normal concrete grad5) in both test series I and II, the comlations were proportioned on the basis an approximately constant cement factor 5 sacks per cubic yard, with the slump aintained at approximately $21 / 2$ inches. It will be seen from the foregoing that, r each variable involving aggregate A gradings 1 and 2 , results based on four ecimens of a kind (two in series I and ro in series II) were obtained as compared two specimens of a kind in the case of rgregates $B$ and $C$. Thus, for aggreite A, series II served as a check on series For grading 3, all of the data from ries II served as a check on series I inasuch as the same mixes were used for both. omplete mix data are given in table 5.

## Mixing and Storage

Aggregates in gradings 1 and 2 and the ne aggregate fraction of grading 3 conlined some free water at the time of mix1g. The coarse aggregates used in grad1g 3 were in a saturated and surface-dry ondition at time of use. The necessary orréctions for free water were made when omputing the net water-cement ratios. lixing was done in an open-pan Lancaster hixer, sufficient concrete for one 6 by 6 by 0 -inch specimen being mixed at one time. me specimen for each of the three aggre:ates, the three gradings, and two of the our cements was made on each working lay, making 18 specimens per day, or a total if 144 specimens in 8 working days. All pecimens containing the $3 / 8$-inch maximum ize aggregate (gradings 1 and 2) were nolded by thoroughly spading the concrete with a trowel, as it was found that the itandard rodding procedure was not satis-

SERIES I


CEMENT । SERIES II


CEMENT 2


Figure 4.-Effect of aggregate type: Grading 1.
factory for these mixtures. Specimens of normal concrete (grading 3) were molded by rodding in the standard manner. The consistency was not controlled directly by the use of the slump test but was judged by means of the flow test. The concrete mixes were adjusted to provide a consistency corresponding to approximately a 1 -inch slump for gradings 1 and 2 and a $2 \frac{1}{2}$-inch slump
for grading 3. All specimens were cured 1 day in the molds in the mixing room and 27 days in the moist room, prior to testing.

After a preliminary moist storage period of 28 days, the concrete test beams were measured for length and then exposed successively to a series of cycles of heating and cooling and wetting and drying. As will be seen later, the pattern of cycles
was established during the course of the work, as need for change in procedure was evidenced. The complete series of cycles was as follows:

Cycle A.-One day in moist room at $70^{\circ}$ F., followed by 1 day in air at $130^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., followed by 2 days in air at $70^{\circ}$ F.: 40 cycles, requiring 160 days.

Cycle E.-One day in water at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., followed by 1 day in air at $130^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., followed by 2 days in air at $70^{\circ}$ F.: 50 cycles, requiring 200 days.

Cycle C.-One day in water at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., followed by 1 day in air at $130^{\circ}$ F.: 150 cycles, requiring 300 days.

Cycle D.-Continuous storage in moist air at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. for 1,790 days (approximately 5 years).

Cycle E.-Exposure outdoors near Washington, D. C., for 820 days (approximately $2 \frac{1}{4}$ years), followed by 4 days resaturation in water.

## Measurements

The test specimens used in this study were concrete beams 6 by 6 by 20 inches in size. Stainless steel plugs were set in the center of each end of the specimens and brass inserts, provided with drilled gage seats, were set in the upper and lower surfaces. Three sets of length-change readings were taken-one on the end plugs and the others along the upper and lower surfaces of the specimens. These latter measurements were made with a mechanical strain gage over a 10 -inch gage length; the end measurements were made with a horizontal comparator reading to 0.0001 inch. The comparator is shown in figure 2. All measurements were taken with the concrete in a moist condition at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. in order to eliminate insofar as possible differences due to variations in temperature and moisture conditions at the time of test.
In general the surface measurements showed the same trends as those taken along the central axis. However, the surface measurements, which were made with a mechanical strain gage over a gage length of 10 inches, were somewhat erratic. The end measurements were made with a horizontal comparator over the entire 20 -inch length of the beam and were quite consistent. The individual discrepancies noted in the surface readings reveal the difficulty of securing consistent results with a mechanical strain gage, which involves the personal equation. With the horizontal comparator, on the other hand, very consistent results are obtainable because the personal equation is absent.

## Discussion of Observations

The surface measurements, though erratic, do indicate two definite trends, neither of which would have been revealed by end measurements. During cycle D (continuous moist storage for 1,790 days) the surface measurements revealed appreciable warping in many of the specimens, particularly those which had developed large residual expan-


Figure 5.-Effect of aggregate type: Grading 2.
sions at the end of cycle C. These were principally the combinations involving aggregate A (the Platte River material) in gradings 1 and 2 . The over-all expansion of these specimens at the end of cycle $D$ was also large. In other words, they continued to expand after the wetting and drying cycle had been discontinued.

Warping was revealed by substantially higher expansion along the top surface than along the lower surface. This caused the ends to curl downward, as illustrated in figure 3 , which shows readings for one of the beams in the combination of aggregate A (in grading 1) with cement 1. These measurements no doubt reflected the tendency of the surface mortar to expand at a greater rate than the mass of the concrete. Such a tendency probably exists in most concrete pavements because, due to finishing operations, a layer of mortar of distinctly inferior quality is formed on the surface of the pavement. These length differentials between the upper and lower surfaces were found only in the combinations which
had expanded excessively. Where the cer all expansions were small ( 0.1 percen ot less), which was the case with the majcit of the combinations, the warping tendic was not indicated by the measuremits. This was due, it is believed, to the fact 12 : the surface measurements were not suciently precise to reveal the very small le th. changes involved.
Another interesting trend was the ip ward warping at the ends of most of he specimens at the end of cycle $E$ (outior storage on the ground for $21 / 4$ years).
warping was probably due to differevial drying out of the top surface with resect to the lower surface, since the latter a in contact with the ground. Here agin. however, the individual results show min inconsistencies. Although the general trid indicated by the surface measurements re probably bona fide, it is believed the $n$ dividual measurements, for the rea ns stated, are not sufficiently accurate to mit detailed comparisons between combiations where the total movements are sr. 11 .

## CEMENT ।



Figure 6.-Effect of aggregate type: Grading 3.

The include most of the combinations 2v ving aggregates B and C as well as glegate A in grading 3. For this reason data are omitted and the balance of he eport will be limited to a discussion of hif ind measurements only.
e cumulative percentage changes in h of the test specimens along the cenaxes, at the expiration of the various sure periods, are given in table 6 and plotted in figures 4-7. Each value is diverage of measurements on two specimade on different days. In the case ggregate A in gradings 1 and 2, and Wll ree aggregates in grading 3 , the same mortions and consistency were used in test series I and II. In this case, inefore, the results of the two series are lix tly comparable, a point which should eorne in mind when studying the data. Tt he other hand, combinations involving dg egates $B$ and $C$ in gradings 1 and 2 are 0 trictly comparable in the two series due 0 he fact that a constant water-cement was used in series I whereas in series le weight proportions were kept con; for each cement. Even in these cases, ever, reference to the data will show the differences in cement content and Wer content, although quite large, were an rently not sufficiently great to affect th yeneral trends to an appreciable extent.

At the end of cycle A (160 days), it was found that all of the specimens were showing small residual contractions. This indicated quite definitely that 24 hours in the moist room was not long enough to insure complete resaturation after drying at $130^{\circ}$ F. Cycle B was therefore introduced, to provide for immersion in water instead of storage in the moist room. After 50 alternations of cycle $B$, however, the net expansions were still found in all cases to be very small.

Cycle C was then instituted, omitting: altogether the 48 -hour storage period in air at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. Under this procedure the specimens were immersed immediately in water upon removal from the drying oven at $130^{\circ}$ F., thus simulating the effect of a sudden cool shower upon a concrete pavement at the close of a hot dry day. This treatment had the effect desired: It differentiated quite definitely between the concretes in a manner similar to that observed in service.

Cycle C was continued for 300 days. Abnormal expansion (an increase in length of almost 1 percent in certain cases) had developed in some of the Platte River sandgravel combinations by that time, with resultant map-cracking and other evidences of deterioration. This indicated the desirability of discontinuing the type of cycle which involved daily handling of the speci-
mens. They were therefore stored in the moist room for approximately 5 years (cycle D), after which they were again measured for length and then stored outdoors on the ground in the vicinity of the laboratory (cycle E). The final set of readings was taken after about $21 / 4$ years of storage outdoors, at which time the specimens were approximately !) years old.

## Effect of Aggregate in Grading I

Figure 4 shows for grading 1 and for each cement the effect of aggregate type on length change. It will be seen that the various combinations involving aggregate A, all of which showed relatively high expansion at the end of cycle C , continued to expand through cycle D and, in most cases, through cycle E. The concrete containing cement 2 is the only exception to the latter tendency. On the other hand, the concretes containing aggregates B and C , although showing small additional expansions at the end of cycle $D$, all contracted as the result of the outdoor exposure of cycle E . These facts would indicate that whatever the nature of the internal reactions which caused the excessive expansion with aggregate $A$, the same reactions were continuing through cycle E. Otherwise, contractions would be expected during cycle E similar to those shown in the case of aggregates $B$ and C .

It should also be noted that the amount of the expansion occurring in the concrete containing aggregate A was influenced appreciably by the cement, cement 1 being by far the most active and cement 2 the least active of the four. When studying figure 4, it is important to remember that, insofar as aggregate A is concerned, the proportions used in series II were identical with those used in series $I$, although an interval of nearly a month elapsed between the casting of the specimens in the two series. The similarity of the trends as revealed in the two series is quite striking and tends to show that the trends shown in series I were not accidental.

It should be observed. also, that the influence of aggregate grading has theen entirely eliminated by this grouping of the data since all of the specimens, regardless of aggregate type, contain material of identical grading (in this case grading 1 , the normal grading of the Platte River material). The data show conclusively that aggregate grading is not responsible for the excessive expansions which have taken place.

As noted ahove, all of the concretes containing aggregates B and C expanded somewhat during cycle $I$ and then showed contraction at the end of cycle E. Furthermore, aggregate B , the siliceous material from Long Island, consistently showed higher expansions than aggregate C , the dolomitic material from Chicago. There is a strong possibility that these differences, although small as compared to the expansions found in the case of aggregate A, may be related to differences in the thermal


Figure 7.-Wffect of cement: Grading 3 (average for tests series I and II).
characteristics of the two aggregates. However, there is no evidence of abnormal growth with either of these materials. The maximum expansions with all but one cement were less than the 0.1 percent, which is frequently indicated as the dividing line between normal and abnormal behavior in this regard.

The reason for the abnormal expansions found with the Platte River material remains unknown. There is the possibility of a slight alkali-aggregate reaction, but the fact that the Platte River aggregate used in these tests contained only 0.3 percent opal, coupled with the lack of relation between the alkali contents of the four cements and the resultant volume change, would tend to minimize this possibility. Neither can these abnormal expansions be due to the rich mix that was used, because in series 1 the cement contents of the combinations involving aggregates $B$ and $C$ were actually higher than those which involved aggregate A .

There remains the possibility that these abnormal effects are due to differential thermal characteristics of the aggregates. Blanks" has called attention to the fact that aggregate of the same general nature as the Platte River material contains substantial amounts of the orthoclase and microcline feldspars and that these minerals have a very low thermal coefficient of expansion. The Platte River gravel used in these tests contained varying amounts of these minerals, ranging up to as much as 40 percent in the Nos. $4-8$ sieve size. It is possible that the deterioration of concrete containing this material may be due, at least in part, to stress developed within the concrete as the result of thermal incompatibility. This fact alone however, would not account for the wide differences in expansion noted with the different cements. These differences must be related to some

[^3]characteristic or characteristics of the cof bination which are influenced by both il aggregate and the cement. Whether thi effects are physical or chemical, or a co bination of the two, has not been det mined.

## Effect of Aggregate in Grading

Figure 5 shows, for each cement, the fect of aggregate type when used in gradi 2. This grading was the same as gradi 1 except that sufficient fine material fr the same source was added to increase it total amount passing the No. 50 sieve fr 5 percent to 20 percent, with no incre: in the amount retained on the $3 / 8$-inch sie,
A comparison of figures 4 and 5 indicat for cements 1 and 2, trends almost identi in grading 2 with those found with gradig 1. In the case of cement 1 , the addition fines, while causing some reduction, did :1 appreciably decrease the excessive expil sion shown by aggregate A in grading In the case of cement 2, about the same pansions were noted for both gradings, values being comparatively low in b cases. In the case of cement 3 in series and cement 4 in both series, the abnorm expansion shown for aggregate A in grof ing 1 was largely eliminated. In fact, far as cement 4 is concerned, the expansi s found for all three aggregates were all wll within the 0.1 -percent limit previously m. tioned. In other words, for this cemeth as well as for cement 3 in series I, concrie containing the Platte River material grading 2 behaved normally.

In general it may be said that the aci tion of fines to the Platte River mateji reduced the expansions somewhat, amount of the reduction varying with cement. Moreover, the tendency for chir tinued expansion with cements 1,3 , an during cycle E, noted in the case of grad 1 , was not found with grading 2 .

Attention has been called to the fact tht in series I , the cement contents of the c crete containing aggregates B and C wit substantially higher than those used wh aggregate A. For example, in the case aggregate C in grading 2, cement 2 of ser I (fig. J), the cement factor was 9.8 sare per cubic yard as compared to 9.0 for gregate $B$ and 8.1 for aggregate $A$. Thi values, as well as the corresponding cemit factors for the other combinations used n series I, gradings 1 or 2 , are shown $n$ table 5. The variations were necessary in order to maintain the same water-cemat ratio throughout the series. The data sh ir definitely that there is no relation whate between cement content and expansion. fact, as will be seen later, the actual explsions of certain combinations in grading and 2, all of which involved the use of $\mathrm{v} y$ rich mixes in series I, were no higher any time than the expansions develond with grading 3 (the normal concret where the cement content was reduced $t$ sacks per cubic yard.

## fect of Aggregate in Grading 3

he effect of aggregate type in grading 3 1 each cement is shown in figure 6. It be noted that in practically all cases abnormal expansions which occurred n using aggregate A in gradings 1 and ere eliminated by the use of a normal rete grading obtained by mixing the te River material with crushed limee. In fact, the maximum expansions 1 this combination were actually less in cases, except with cement 2 , than were :e for the corresponding combinations ,lving aggregate B. In studying figure should be borne in mind that aggregate the Platte River sand-gravel, has been bined with crushed limestone in about 1l proportions. This substantially reed the silica content of the aggregate, ch may account for the smaller expanis found in the case of aggregate A as pared to aggregate B, which was almost rely siliceous. In the case of cement 2, 3 series show higher expansions for aggate A than for either B or C. This fersal cannot be considered accidental :e the results of the two series check h other almost exactly.

## Effect of Cement in Grading 3

ixcept for the combination involving ient 1 and aggregate B, virtually all of expansions observed in the normal rerete (grading 3) were within the ge of 0 to 0.1 percent. It was deed, therefore, to plot the length changes this grading on a very much larger tical scale than that used in figures 4-6. igure 7, the chart so produced, differences expansion of the order of 0.01 percent or ; are clearly indicated and may be of re interest. Each point used in plotting curves was the average of four deter-lations-two in series I and two in series The corresponding length changes for $h$ series separately are shown in table 6 . n studying figure 7 , the nature of the ious exposure cycles should be kept carly in mind. It will be recalled that le A involved a 72 -hour drying period flowed by 24 hours in moist air. Figure hows clearly that 24 hours of resatura$n$ in moist air was not sufficient to prevent idual contraction. Furthermore, there med to be a definite tendency for cements and 4 to show greater contractions than rnents 1 and 2 (except the aggregate $C$ (nent 2 combination), this trend being evi(1t in the case of all three aggregates in 1/h series. Also, for a given cement, conre containing aggregate C showed someat greater contraction than the concretes which aggregates A and B were used. the conclusion of cycle A the moist store condition was changed to 24 hours in iter instead of in moist air, the period of wing remaining the same. At the expiran of 50 cycles of this treatment (cycle B), of the specimens had expanded, although most cases they still showed some residual intraction.


Figure 8.-Abnormal expansion of specimens containing sand-gravel aggregate: (op) grading 1 with cement 1, at end of cycle $C$; (center) grading 2 with cement 1. at end of cycle $E$; (bottom) grading 1 widh cement 3, at end of cycle $E$.

With the elimination of the 48 -hour drying period at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. (cycle C ), the specimens continued to expand, this trend continuing through cycle D. It will be noted that at the expiration of cycle C all combinations showed residual expansion, the amounts varying with both the cement and the aggregate. Cements 1 and 2 expanded more than cements 3 and 4, the difference being much more marked in the case of aggregates $A$ and $B$ than in the case of aggregrate C.

In most cases the specimens contracted during cycle E. After $21 / 4$ years of outdoor exposure, the 96 hours in water which was provided at the end of cycle $E$ was apparently not sufficient to resaturate the specimens. In the case of cement 2 with aggregate B , readings at the end of cycle E showed further expansion, which is a definite exception to the general trend. However, it should be noted again that the same tendency was found in both series (see fig. 6)
The chief point of interest observable in figure 7 is the relatively high expansion which took place in the combinations involving cements 1 and 2 with aggregates A and B. Aggregate A in this grading was
composed of a mixture of the Platte River material and crushed limestone in about equal parts; aggregate $B$ was almost 100 percent quartz or quartzite; and aggregate C about 95 percent dolomite. The chief difference in the cements is the fact that cements 3 and 4 , in addition to meeting the standard A.S.T.M. requirements, also met the specification requirements of the New York City Board of Water Supply.

Cement meeting these requirements would be classified as A.S.T.M. type II, principally because of the limitation on alumina, but they are much more restrictive than type II in that they also include limitations on sugar solubility (a test devised by Merriman to detect underburning) as well as a requirement on maximum allowable watersoluble alkali. The authors are not prepared to advance an explanation for the increase in expansion noted in the case of cements 1 and 2 in combination with aggregates $A$ and $B$ as compared to the expansion noted for other combinations. Howcver, the trends are so definite and are repeated so consistently in the two series of tests as to make it extremely unlikely that they are accidental. The data are presented as an interesting example of the
possible variations in the volume change characteristics of different combinations of cements and aggregates. They illustrate a principle which is being recognized more and more: The volume constancy of concrete is influenced to a marked degree by the particular combination of cement and aggregates used in the mix, and these materials must be studied in combination with each other in concrete rather than individually.

Examples of the excessive map-cracking which developed in many of the specimens containing aggregate A are shown in fig. 8.

## Unsolved Problems

It is realized that the foregoing discussions raise many questions for which answers have not been supplied. This is just as true now as it was in 1942 when the
original progress report was prepared. For example, no one, as far as the authors are aware, has yet advanced an entirely satisfactory explanation for the abnormal expansion which takes place when Platte River or similar aggregate is used in concrete with certain cements. Nor has an adequate explanation been forthcoming as to why this expansion can be stopped by the addition of crushed limestone to such aggregates.
These tests, as well as tests made by other investigators, have proved that conventional factors such as aggregate grading, aggregate quality as measured by conventional tests, cement content, free lime in cement, etc., are not sufficient to explain this abnormal expansion. The probability that the aggregate is mildly alkali-reactive, combined with the fact that from one-fourth to one-third of the aggregate consists of a
type of feldspar having a low thermal efficient of expansion, may supply the swer, but the data of these tests indicte quite definitely that neither of these $f_{i t}$ taken separately is the answer. Moreo $r_{i}$ the fact that the Platte River aggregla used in these tests contained only 0.3 Jr cent opal, and insignificant amounts other possibly reactive aggregates, wco indicate that the alkali-aggregate reactn as it is generally considered. was not important factor.

It is also difficult to visualize the mech? ics of an action which results in expansyn due to the use of aggregate having a thermal coefficient of expansion. Howe r there is also the possibility that the fe par may contribute to the expansion in sne other way, due possibly to alteration, wh time, of its physical properties.

## A FACTUAL DISCUSSION OF MOTORTRUCK OPERATION, REGULATION, AND TAXATION

The Bureau of Public Roads has recently published A Factual Discussion of Motortruck Operation, Regulation, and Taxation, a 113 -page bulletin presenting in summary form the factual records and other data available to the Bureau, with discussions of their significance, which might prove useful in any study and investigation of the transportation problem. The bulletin may be purchased from the Superintendent of Docu-
ments, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 30 cents a copy.
The subject material in the bulletin is presented in seven parts, covering the growth of motor-vehicle registration and use, the effects of size and weight of vehicles on the geometric design and traffic capacity of highways, axle loading and its effect on roads and legal limitation, weight of vehicles and its effect on bridges, the character of overloaded vehicles and their pay loads, highway-user tax payments in relation to highway revenues and expenditures, and the allocation of highway tax
responsibility. Several appendixes conts ing valuable information are also inclucd.

The report was prepared at the requit of the Subcommittee on Domestic Land id Water Transportation of the Committee in Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Unid States Senate, which was investigating prolems relating to the transportation and c(1munications industries. The report lis presented before the committee in Jie 1950 and is reprinted from the committe's hearings, which appeared under the tie Study of Domestic Land and Water Tra:portation.

## Highhway Soil Eng̈ineering Film


#### Abstract

Highway Soil Engineering, a motion picture produced by the Bureau of Public Roads to illustrate field surveying and sampling and laboratory testing of soils encountered in highway construction, is now available on loan to highway departments, universities, and other organizations. The 16 -millimeter film, with sound and in full color, has a running time of almost two hours. The subject treatment is technical in nature and of interest primarily to engineers and engineering students.

Highway Soil Enginerring describes the


two distinctive components of soil-granular and silt-clay materials-and illustrates the methods employed in surveying and sampling soils in the field. Laboratory tests are presented in sequences which show the step-by-step procedures involved. The tests demonstrated are those used by the Bureau and many of the State highway departments, and cover the complete range needed to examine the properties of soils that are of interest to highway engineers.
The picture shows the striking contrast in condition and in maintenance require-
ments of pavements laid on good and 1 poor subgrade soils. It concludes with demonstration of the value of a sand stbase in preventing intrusion of subgrade sl into the overlying crushed-stone base cour

Highway Soil Engineering may be brrowed by any responsible organization wiout cost, except for the nominal transpor tion charges. The film may be obtainl for showings by writing to the Visual Eccation Branch, Bureau of Public Roa Washington 25, D. C.

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Annual Report, Bureau of Public Roads, 1950. 25 cents.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS

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Public Roads Administration Annual Reports: 1943.
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1945.

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

Bibliography on Automobile Parking in the United States.
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Indexes to Public Roads, volumes $17-19,22$, and 23.
Road Work on Farm Outlets Needs Skill and Right Equipment.
STATUS OF FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAM AS OF APRIL 30, 1951
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[^0]:    Garaging, parking, tolls.-Monthly charges of $\$ 5.00$
    for garage rental or indirect cost of owner's garage for garage rental or indirect cost of owner's garage
    and $\$ 2.50$ for parking and toll fees were included. Taxes.-Taxes represented are Federal and Mary-
    land gasoline taxes at $11 / 2$ and 5 cents per gallon,
     spectively; Maryland registration fee of $\$ 15.00$ per
    year, including the property-tax component; Maryland year, including the property-tax component; Maryland
    titling tax at 2 percent of retail price; Federal excise taxes on motor vehicles, tires, tubes, and accessories; Benefit period.-The costs of certain major items are spread over a period of benefit rather than being charged entirely to the year in which the expenditure
    bushing replacement twice, and other intermediate and minor repairs. Fender and body work averaging
    about $\$ 8.50$ per year was also included.

    Replacement tires and tubes.-Purchase of 8 new tires and tubes during the life of the car was assumed. Gasoline and oil.-Gasoline consumption was set at the 10 -year period, with cost and amount adjusted to the age and condition of the car. public liability, $\$ 5,000$ property damage, and comprehensive fire and theft, etc., was assumed for the full
    10 years; $\$ 50$-deductible collision insurance for the first 5 years.

    Automobile.-The vehicle considered was a $1950-$
    
    the end of 10 years was placed at $\$ 50.00$.
    Accessories.-Accessories provided included heater
    Maintenance and repair.-Maintenance and repair covered rcutire lubrication, brake adjustment, replacement of minor parts such as spark plugs, ignition points, wiper blades, fan belts, etc. Additional items assumed were brake relining twice, clutch replacement joint replacement once, complete motor overhaul once, one new axle, one complete repaint job, kingpin and

[^1]:    A study of map cracking in sand-gravel pavements, by W. E. Gibson. Proceedings of the Highway Research Board, Vol. 18, Part I, 1938, p. 227.
    ${ }^{2}$ Volume changes in sand-gravel concrete, by F. H. Jackson and W. F. Kellermann. Proceedings of the Highway Research Board, Vol. 22, 1942, p. 252.
    ${ }^{3}$ Volume changes in sand-gravel concrete, by F. H. Jackson and A. G. Timms. Proceedings of the Highway Research Board, Vol. 29, 1949, p. 212.

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ Each value ${ }^{2}$ is the average of tests of two beams.

[^3]:    Morlern concepts applied to concrete aggregate, by R. F. Blanks. Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Vol. 75. No. 4, April 1949, p. 441.

