

## The Gravel Road System -

The grading and improving of the highways in this County, took a firm hold upon the people in the year 1885. Prior to this date, the question of better roads had been agitated many years among the people. Public meetings were held at the school houses in many of the townships, and speakers from all parts were present to present the advantages of a system that would be a direct benefit to the farmers along the various and most important roads leading to the County seat. No general plan was agreed to, until after the legislature had enacted laws, by which the people could, by petition to the Board of County Commissioners having a majority of the land owners and a majority of the acres of land lying within a two mile limit of a proposed road, be constructed by grading and graveling. The costs of the road was raised by an assessment on the lands according to the benefits accruing thereto. Contracts were let by the Commissioners, who had supervision over the entire work, and when completed according to the plans and specifications of the engineer, was accepted by the board, and the road became, under the law, a County charge. It was kept in repair by a special assessment against the entire taxable property of the entire County and under the board, as Turnpike directors, the Turnpike fund was distributed among the various improved roads under the law, and kept in repair. These roads passed from the control of the Township Trustees and Supervisors.