

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Paving the Way to the Future

"Hot-mix asphalt technology has turned into rocket science in the past 10 years."

260

AS THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM matured, highway builders found new ways to solve old problems. One of those was how to reuse the materials from which roads are built. The idea of recycling road materials has always had its appeal. The Romans maintained their roads by removing stones and then returning them to the roadbed; McAdam also invented a system for renewing his road surfaces through reuse of the original materials. The builders of early asphalt roads in America, including the Warren Brothers, sometimes tried to reuse sheet asphalt but, with the technology available at the time, found that impracticable.

As recently as 1965, recycling asphalt pavement was an idea whose time had not yet come. But the concept interested James Gallagher of Gallagher Asphalt Corporation in Illinois—a son of the man who had provided liquid refreshment on street corners to help sell the idea of paving. He contacted one of the country's top



Milling machines developed in the 1970s are used for rehabilitation. They also make recycling easier.