

RG0142.MI - Someone Pays the Piper

[An automobile accident on a state highway in Nebraska becomes the catalyst for a review of the responsibilities and challenges of the State Highway Commission.]

Sponsored by the State Highway Commission as a Public Service
Filmed by Photographic Productions, University of Nebraska

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Art Direction: Sid Tingle
Directed and Supervised by Gerard Schaefer
Written and Produced by John F. Britton

The film begins as a man and his wife get into their car, drive away from their residential neighborhood, and continue their trip on a state highway. A serious accident occurs, apparently because of a poorly maintained roadway. While the man suffers only a minor injury, his wife is taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Seeking answers to his questions about road maintenance, the husband makes an appointment with the State Highway Commission. A private meeting with the State Engineer follows, during which the challenges facing the State Highway Commission are introduced.

Good highways are crucial to the profitability of the State's agricultural enterprises; indeed, the entire economy of the State is dependent on an efficient transportation system.

Adequate funding for the highway system is always an issue, as the Department of Roads receives only a portion of the money raised by the tax on gasoline.

Good roads are essential for the development of industries across the state; and improved roads would enhance the safety of children getting out of school buses on busy highways.

The Department of Roads has developed a rating system that facilitates decisions regarding which roadways to repair or improve first. Weighing stations have been established to monitor the weight of trucks using the highway system. But "the roads are wearing out faster than we can replace them."

Federal grants for roads must be matched by State funds, and this requirement presents financial challenges to the Legislature and to all citizens of Nebraska.

The husband thanks the State Highway Commission and the State Engineer for taking the time to listen to his concerns.

A phone call indicates that the wife is now on the way to recovery.

[In the final credits, all of the actors in the film are named, along with the members of the State Highway Commission.]