

CHEESE FACTORIES MILK PLANT

At one time almost every house in the country was situated on a small farm where the farmer might not have any more than 8-10 cows. All cows were milked by hand with many wives going to the barn twice a day to help ~~to help~~. Slowly one by one the small farmer sold out to the larger farmer and now while more milk is produced there are fewer and fewer farms. At one time there were eleven cheese factories in the town. These factories closed down during the winter months, opening again in the spring with the flush of milk. The farmer managed his dairy in such a way that the lactation period was from early spring to late fall. Two of the factories made linburger cheese with the others making what was called Yankee cheese. Drawing his milk to the factory was an every day chore for the farmer. Now having the milk picked up tank truck is a far cry from the day the farmer hitched his horse to the milk wagon to go to the factory after the morning's milking was done.

There were two factories in Calaboga, two at North Hammond, three at South Hammond area, with one on the River road, Rossie road, at Chippewa Bay and the village of Hammond. One by one these factories closed.

A fluid milk plant had been built in Hammond from which was ^{N.K.} shipped as ~~cheese~~ manufacturing cheese. In 1922 the Dairymen's League co-op Ass. purchased that plant and made it ready to handle fluid milk, replacing the wooden structure in 1949 by a modern tile building. On Oct. 1, 1966 the plant closed with milk being transported by tank trucks to areas. At the present time the building is owned by Art Teuscher and used for storing.

The plant, a model of efficiency, had a capacity of 1000 cans of milk a day with a daily cooling capacity of 100,000 pounds of milk. Dairyman League had Operated the plant in Hammond for forty four years.

A milk strike was experienced here in the summer of 1939 with violence on Sunday, August 24th. After four days of quietness, on that morning, upwards of 500 pickets and about that same number of spectators were at the plant with the fever running at a high pitch. Some deliveries were made when a number of troopers and sheriffs accompanied the trucks through the picket line with the volumn of milk taken in being about one quarter of the usual flow. One car was overturned and badly damaged, milk was dumped from a truck that was waylaid by the pickets, another truck was nearly wrecked because of excessive speed when rounding a corner, one man suffered a scalp wound and another a broken arm. Leslie Chase suffered a heart attack and died after being over excited by the commotion. The troopers seized a heavy plank studded with spikes intended for truck tires and some pickets managed to get the rail tracks greased so the milk train had difficulty leaving the station.

Monday morning found no violence and there were no pickets on Tuesday.