

Hill Packing Begins Move to

New Plant

By ALTA HUFF

Hill Packing Co. is moving into the storage portions of its new 80,000-square-foot pet food processing plant at Crane and Monroe. Finished products are being moved from the company's old warehouse at 108 Kansas to the new building and production in the new plant will start soon.

The big blue steel plant features a tower as tall as most six-story buildings and containing one of the world's largest pressure cookers.

Cans of pet food will be carried by conveyor through the tower while they are being processed.

The cooker will be able to process more than 27,000 cans per hour and will permit more accurate control of the cooking process than was possible by previous methods, Don F. Hogue, president, said.

It is one of the few giant Hydroflex Sterilizers in use in the nation and the first to be used by a pet food manufacturer, he said.

In addition to the production area the plant has its own storage and warehouse facilities. A cold storage room will hold 4 million pounds of frozen horse-

meat. Hill Packing imports about a million pounds of frozen horsemeat a month from Argentina.

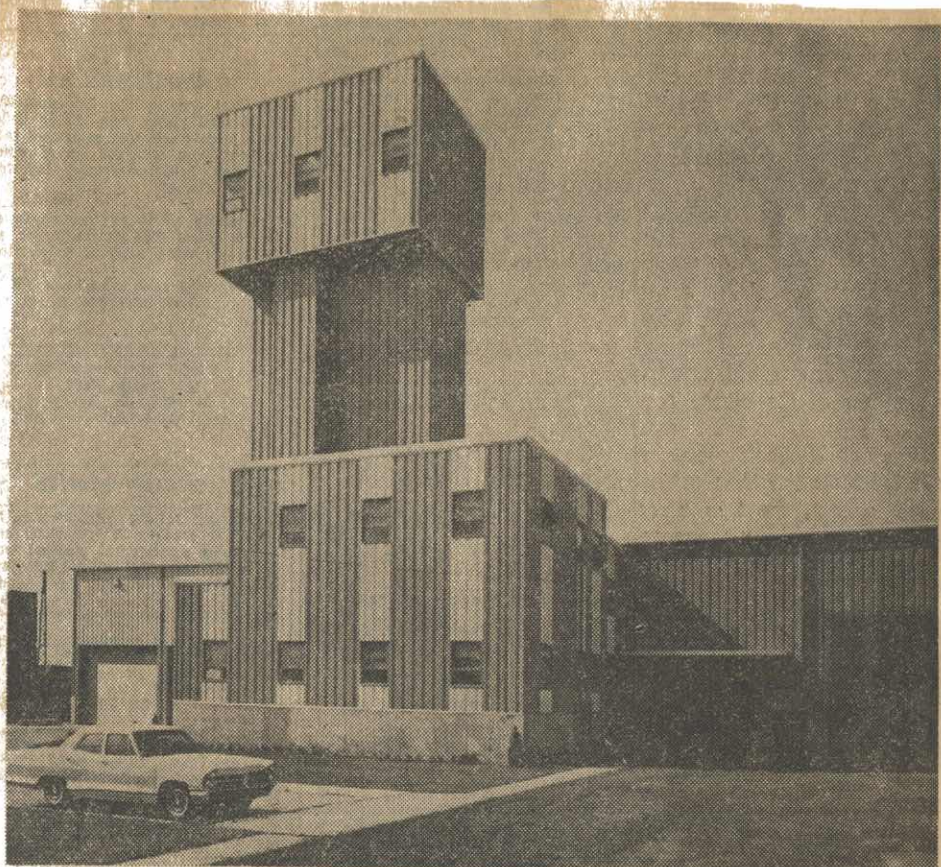
The warehouse has space for 400,000 cases of finished products. It will be served by three railroads on its two indoor tracks and will accommodate eight freight cars. Truck docks can take care of four tractor-trailer units at a time.

The mechanical building for furnishing steam and refrigeration to the new plant is in operation. It contains a standby generator to operate emergency equipment in case of power failure.

In addition to a wide line of foods for dogs and cats, Hill Packing produces prescription diets for pets prescribed by veterinarians and used in medical research.

Mark Morris Associates furnishes the formulas and quality-control for these products.

Hill Packing began as a small industry on the banks of the Kaw River 59 years ago. It has been one of the pioneer companies in manufacture of pet foods in the nation. The firm has another plant in Southbridge, Mass.



—Staff Photo

A giant pressure cooker 60 feet tall is enclosed in a tower at the new Hill Packing Co. plant at Crane and Monroe. The company, which manufactures pet foods, is in the process of moving into the new plant.

The cooker will process as many as 27,000 cans per hour. The 80,000-square-foot plant will accommodate eight freight cars on two indoor tracks. Hill's products are distributed throughout the nation and abroad.