

Expansion of Hill's started

By ALTA HUFF
Business Writer

Ground was broken this morning for a \$1.5 million expansion of the pet food plant of Hill's Division of Riviana Foods Inc. 320 E. Crane.

The 92,000-square-foot addition will be east of the present blue-and-white manufacturing plant and will be used for warehousing.

When the warehouse facilities are moved into the new structure it will become possible to go ahead with the company's long-range plan to expand its dry and soft-moist pet food production facilities in the main building, William G. Daly, president of the Hill's Division, said.

He said the expansion of production facilities is expected to create about 50 new jobs within the next two years to bring total plant employment to about 200.

The spade used in the ground-breaking ceremony this morning was used to break ground for Hill's modern plant built in 1966 and for its corporate office building at 401 Harrison in 1962.

"We'll rechrome the spade after today and return it to its glass case," Daly said.

Among those participating in today's ceremonies were Mayor Bill McCormick; Daly; Arthur Johnston, plant operations manager; Bud Knutson, Houston, project engineer for the construction; R. D. Andersen, whose company has been awarded the contract as general contractor; Bill Kiene of Kiene and Bradley Partnership, architects for the project; Ron Crow, quality control manager for the plant, and Mark Morris Jr., whose father, Mark Morris Sr., developed the first Prescription Diet formula used by Hill's.

Hill's is a homegrown Topeka company founded in 1907 by the late Burton Hill and has been a part of the Topeka



—Staff photo

Two trucks of Hill's Division pet food plant provided the backdrop this morning as company and city officials gathered for a ground-breaking for a \$1.5 million expansion of the facility at 320 E. Crane.

business scene for 70 years. It started as a small rendering plant and was expanded through the years.

Long known as Hill's Packing Co., the firm was merged into Riviana Foods Inc., Houston, in 1968 and became a division of that company. Riviana

Foods became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Colgate-Palmolive Co. last June, thus making Hill's a part of the well-known firm.

Colgate-Palmolive said at the time Riviana Foods and its subsidiaries would provide it an entry into new market categories distinct from its traditional product lines and would broaden its base of business.

The Hill's Division produces a wide