Ottawa Herald December 28, 1967

**Bennett Firm Merger Set**

 Merger of the Bennett Creamery Co., Ottawa, and Mid-America Dairymen, Inc., Kansas City, Mo. was announced today.

The announcement was made jointly by F. R. Bennett, president of the creamery here, and William A. Powell, Princeton, Mo., president of Mid-America. The merger is effective at the close of business Sunday.

The plant here will continue to operate at the present capacity with no change in personnel, management or products. Ransom Bennett Jr. will continue as manager assisted by Robert B. Anderson. F. R. Bennett will maintain his present office in the creamery building and will head an investment company which is in the process of being formed.

Jack Bennett will continue in charge of ice cream and ice cream novelities sales and Jep Bennett will continue as head of transportation and distribution.

Producers shipping milk to Bennetts may become members of Mid-America Dairymen, Inc., which is an association of milk producers and the successor to the Pure Milk Producers Association. P. D. Turner is the general manager of Mid-America.

“This business change was made,” Ransom Bennett Jr. said today, “to increase the volume which we need and because Mid-America needs greater processing capacity for surplus milk.”

Bennett said the plant here would operate under the present name for the time being. He stressed that there would be no changes in personnel. The plant will continue to produce milk powder, butter, ice cream ingredients and mix, ice cream and ice cream novelties.

The present distribution system which distributes Bennett products over a wide area will be continued.

Under terms of the agreement between Bennetts and Mid-America, title to the ground, plant and equipment here will pass to Mid-America with annual payments being made over the next 10 years. Amount of the payments was not given.

According to Turner, in a letter to members of Mid-America, “It is expected that the earnings of the plant will pay for itself over this period.”