Ottawa Herald, May 19, 1970

Eliminates 10-Gallon Can

The 10-gallon milk can is soon to be a container of the past as the Ottawa plant of Mid-America Dairymen, Inc., is concerned.

Ransom Bennett Jr., manager of the plant, said today that as of June 20 the local plant would discontinue receiving milk in cans and go to all bulk tanks. Milk will be received at the local station in tank trucks.

The present space that has been used for years for reception, storage and cleaning of cans will be cleared and used for new equipment which has already been ordered.

The new equipment includes two automated packaged boilers and a large compressor to be used in handling milk received in tank trucks and for the cleaning of such bulk equipment.

Further, Bennett announced that all processing equipment will be placed on standby basis. Both Grade A and manufacturing milk received here in bulk, will be stored and shipped to other Mid-America plants for further processing.

Bennett added that Mid-America management has under consideration installation of new equipment for the standardized handling of Grade A milk en route to bottlers in metropolitan areas. However, no decision on when such new equipment would be installed has been made.

The change to bulk tank operation and placing of processing equipment on standby basis will result in a reduction of the work forces. The local management is assisting employes [sic] in finding positions in this area.

Bennett said today that at one time the creamery here had 1,800 farmers supplying milk in cans. The change in farm economy has reduced the number of milk suppliers, now mostly bulk operators, to around 250, mostly large operators who supply about the same volume of milk.