IOWA INDUSTRIES: Farm-oriented

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In 1927 G. A. Kent began manufacture of a cattle feed in Indianola. Nine years later the expanding business moved to Muscatine where advantage was taken of economical river transportation. Part of the original Kent mill still stands — about three miles upstream from the view shown opposite. In 1943 Kent joined with S. G. Stein to form Grain Processing Corporation. Their purpose was to operate a government-owned plant built in 1943 to manufacture grain alcohol for use in the synthetic rubber program of World War II. The plant later was purchased, enlarged, and used in the manufacture of a broadly diversified line of products derived from corn. Kent Feeds, Inc., now is a subsidiary of GPC. With plants in Muscatine, Sioux City, and Waterloo, the company employs 1,000 workers who receive annual wages in excess of $9 million.

*Kent Feeds plant, Waterloo*
PENICK & FORD, LIMITED: Cedar Rapids

A subsidiary of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Penick & Ford's largest plant is located in Cedar Rapids. In 1966 it employed 1,075 workers with an annual payroll of approximately $7 million. This contrasts with 500 employees and a $600,000 payroll when the company was organized in 1920 following the purchase of Douglas Starch Works in 1919 by Penick & Ford. The chief products of the 30-acre plant are corn starches and syrups, corn oil, gluten feed, and gluten meal. Each day the plant uses more corn than the average Iowa farmer can grow in a year on a 700-acre tract of land.
The Cedar Rapids plant (above) of Quaker Oats, with 1,400 employees, is the world's largest single-unit cereal plant. President of the company, Robert D. Stuart, Jr., is a direct descendant of Robert Stuart, one of the founders in 1873 of the North Star Oatmeal Mills of Cedar Rapids, forerunner of the present plant. The company also operates a plant in Sioux City and approximately 30 grain elevators in Iowa. Chief products processed by Iowa units are: Grocery Products: cereals, pancake mixes, cookies and crackers, pet foods, and frozen foods; Agricultural Products: livestock and poultry feeds, grains; and Chemical Products: furfural and its derivatives. Built at a cost of $1 million, Quaker's highly automated new Ful-O-Pep feed mill in Sioux City (below) is one of the most modern to be found in the nation.
Clinton Corn Processing Company, a division of Standard Brands Incorporated since April 16, 1956, was originally organized in 1906. Today this Clinton plant is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of products made from corn. The wet milling process is used, a procedure in which corn is steeped and milled during processing in chemically treated water. Basic products are corn starch, corn syrup, dextrose, gluten meal, and gluten feed. These products are sold throughout the nation with inventories carried at some 180 locations. The Clinton plant, covering an area of 50 acres, employs 1,500 workers and pays them annual wages in excess of $10 million. In addition to the Clinton plant, Standard Brands also has small egg breaking plants in Dubuque and Sioux City.
On the hog killing floor

ARMOUR AND COMPANY: Chicago

In 1935 the Jacob E. Decker & Sons meat packing plant (below) of Mason City became a division of Armour. With 1,133 employees and an annual payroll of $7,250,000, Decker was the city's largest industry in 1966. Starting up in October of 1899, Decker operated that first winter on the basis of 60 hogs per week. That is, 20 hogs were killed one day and then cut the following. The company has shown consistent growth, slaughtering operations expanding from a total of 4,692 in 1901 to over 1,300,000 animals in its biggest year. Decker, a full-line packer, slaughters cattle and hogs. Its manufacturing operation covers the processing of sliced bacon, sausage, smoked meats, and a complete line of canned meats.

James I. Hunter
Plant manager
The Fort Dodge plant of the Tobin Packing Company was purchased by Hormel in 1953. Occupying some 12½ acres of land, the plant employs 1,000 workers and has a payroll of $7½ million annually. In addition to the Fort Dodge operation, Hormel has an agreement for custom slaughter of hogs with the I. D. Packing Company of Des Moines. Hormel was the first packer to produce canned ham; first with a 12-oz. luncheon meat called SPAM; first packer (and only one to date) to have a guaranteed annual wage plan; the first to develop and use humane slaughter; and is famous for its dry sausage line of meats. The number of Hormel products now totals 750.
JOHN MORRELL & CO.: Chicago

Founded in England in 1827, Morrell began operations in Ottumwa in 1877. Today, in addition to the Ottumwa beef and pork slaughtering and processing plant, Morrell operates pork and beef slaughtering facilities in Estherville. In diversifying its operations, the company acquired Golden Sun Feeds of Estherville and Foxbilt, Inc., of Des Moines. Operating as the Golden Sun Feeds Division, these plants produce a full line of animal and poultry feeds. Some 3,500 workers are employed in Morrell's Iowa plants with annual wages in excess of $23 million. The company's plant at Sioux Falls, S. D., also contributes to Iowa's economy through the purchase and sale of livestock and meat food products and by the employment of Iowa residents.
DUBUQUE PACKING COMPANY: Dubuque

In the November, 1964, issue of *The Palimpsest*, William J. Petersen wrote as follows about Dubuque — the Key City of Iowa: "Since 1940, the population of Dubuque has soared upward approximately 6,000 each decade, an increase that can be attributed to the advent of the Dubuque Packing Company and the John Deere Company." In the 27 years since 1940 Dubuque Packing and its 3,000 employees have continued to make a significant contribution to the economy of the Key City of Iowa as its second largest industry.
OSCAR MAYER & CO.: Madison, Wis.

In 1946 Oscar Mayer & Co. acquired the Kohrs Packing Company plant in Davenport. Starting in 1883 as a small Chicago neighborhood meat market, Oscar Mayer & Co. today is known for the sausage making skills and traditions of its founders. It ranks eighth in dollar sales among more than 3,000 United States meat processing companies. Iowa’s Davenport (above) and Perry (below) plants have helped in achieving that ranking. The Davenport plant has 1,582 employees who receive $11,211,000 in annual wages. It has pork cutting facilities and processes meat. The Perry plant was acquired from the Iowa Pork Company in October of 1965. In its first six months of operation under the Mayer banner wages of $2,593,000 were paid to some 500 employees. Mayer also shares half interest with Dow Chemical Company in Davenport’s The Kartridg Pak Co., which manufactures specialized processing and packaging equipment for the food industry.
WILSON & CO., INC.: Chicago

After visiting Cedar Rapids in 1870 David Blakeley advised his friend, T. M. Sinclair, a New York meat packer, that the Iowa town would be an excellent location for a pork packing plant. Sinclair agreed and in 1871 established the firm of T. M. Sinclair and Company, quickly becoming Cedar Rapids' leading industry. The firm affiliated with Wilson & Co. in 1913 and complete control was assumed by the latter in 1930. Wilson, third largest domestic meat producer, also operates plants at Cherokee and Eagle Grove. Over 3,600 employees receive annual wages in excess of $20 million. Meat and meat products represent the company's production in Iowa. Currently a new freezer building and animal and poultry feed facility are being constructed in Cedar Rapids along with a new curing addition at Cherokee.
Automatic frankfurter loader in the Cedar Rapids plant collates and aligns 45,000 franks an hour, groups them into the correct number of franks per package, and delivers them to the vacuum packaging machine.

Another view of the loading machine . . .

As vacuum packaged franks move over the automatic scale as they leave the line.
SWIFT & COMPANY: Chicago

The world's largest processor of meats, Swift operates plants at Atlantic, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Des Moines (pictured above), Keokuk, Marshalltown, Mason City, and Sioux City. These units employ approximately 2,400 workers with an over-all annual salary of some $16,500,000. Well diversified, Swift produces a full line of meat products, dairy and poultry products, soybean oil and meal, agricultural chemicals, lawn and garden feeds, livestock feeds, adhesives, leather, wool, and other products.
Two cousins, E. F. and John W. Rath, founded the company in 1891. Starting with an investment of $25,000, a work force of 18, and a business of $101,000, the firm has grown until it now employs 4,282 persons with an annual payroll of $35 million. A Rath paycheck goes into one out of every seven homes in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area. Some $136 million was paid to Iowa farmers in 1965. Weekly 300 rail cars and trucks leave with quality Rath meat products for all parts of the nation. The plant is amazingly self-sufficient, generating 70% of the electrical needs for the 150 buildings comprising the complex. Over 12 million gallons of water are pumped each day from company wells. The equivalent of 225 tons of coal is used each day and up to 5,000 tons of refrigeration are produced in the same period.
J. I. CASE COMPANY: Racine, Wis.

J. I. Case, one of the country’s largest farm equipment manufacturers, entered the Iowa industrial picture in 1937 when the Showers Bros. Furniture Manufacturing Company of Burlington was purchased. Here are produced crawler and rubber-tired tractors, fork lifts, loaders, dozers, backhoes, and related construction equipment. In 1966 the plant employed nearly 1,300 workers. Case’s other Iowa unit, a former ordnance plant at Bettendorf (pictured above), was acquired in 1946. Its 1,500 employees now produce several types of hay machines, forage harvesters, rice, grain, corn, and bean combines.
Case's Burlington plant is pictured above. At right and below are a combine and backhoe, typical Case products on the job.
DEERE & COMPANY: Moline

Deere, manufacturer of a line of 510 separate products, has four of its 14 plants in Iowa and with 18,000 employees is the state’s biggest industrial employer. The largest facility is the John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works. Originally the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Plant, it was purchased by Deere in 1918. Some 9,500 workers produce tractors here. In 1947 the new John Deere Dubuque Works began producing a line of small tractors. This plant now has 4,700 employees. Oldest Deere plant in Iowa is its Ottumwa Works (see front cover) which dates from 1900 when it was a part of the Dain Manufacturing Company. A line of hay toos is made by Ottumwa’s 1,600 workers. In 1947 Deere got its fourth Iowa plant, the government-owned Des Moines ordnance plant whose 2,200 workers produce harvesting and cultivating equipment.
Deere plants at Waterloo (top, left), Des Moines (bottom, left), and Dubuque (above) join with the Ottumwa plant in producing more than 510 products. Three such are pictured: (right) a hay cuber made at Ottumwa; and below, a beet harvester (left) and a cotton picker made at the Des Moines plant.
Ford Motor Company observed its 50th year as an industrial citizen of Iowa in 1966. The late Henry Ford had visited the state in 1916 and decided that Des Moines should be the hub for Ford operations in this vast, rich farm area. In that year Iowa ranked sixth in the number of cars registered — a total of 146,000 —

(Continued on opposite page)
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and led all states in the number of autos per capita, one for every 15 persons. Operations began in August, 1916 in a leased building. Then followed the acquisition of the Harbach property. From that start Ford grew until today it operates four facilities in Des Moines, the Des Moines Implement Plant, Des Moines Parts Depot, Des Moines District Sales Office, and Ford Motor Credit Co.; Philco-Ford Corp. in Fairfield; and a district sales office in Davenport. The Iowa units employ some 1,200 persons who channel annual wages of more than $8½ million into the state's economy. Des Moines Implement produces industrial and farm loaders and buckets, corn pickers, forage harvesters, and hay rakes. Philco-Ford produces wringer washers and assemblies for automatic and commercial dryers.

(Left) The Philco-Ford plant at Fairfield.
(Top) Des Moines Implement plant, Des Moines. (Bottom, left) Early day assembly line.
(Right) Kent Jones does one of 140 operations necessary to build industrial and farm axles.
OLIVER CORPORATION: Chicago

In 1900 Charles Hart and Charles Parr began building internal combustion traction engines in Charles City. The first of these was completed in the winter of 1900-1901 and was bought by a Mason City farmer who proved it practical for farm use. In 1929 Hart-Parr merged with three other agricultural equipment manufacturers to form the Oliver Corporation. The Charles City plant, originally employing six men, now has 2,500 workers and a payroll of more than $12 million annually. The plant produces agricultural and industrial wheel tractors.