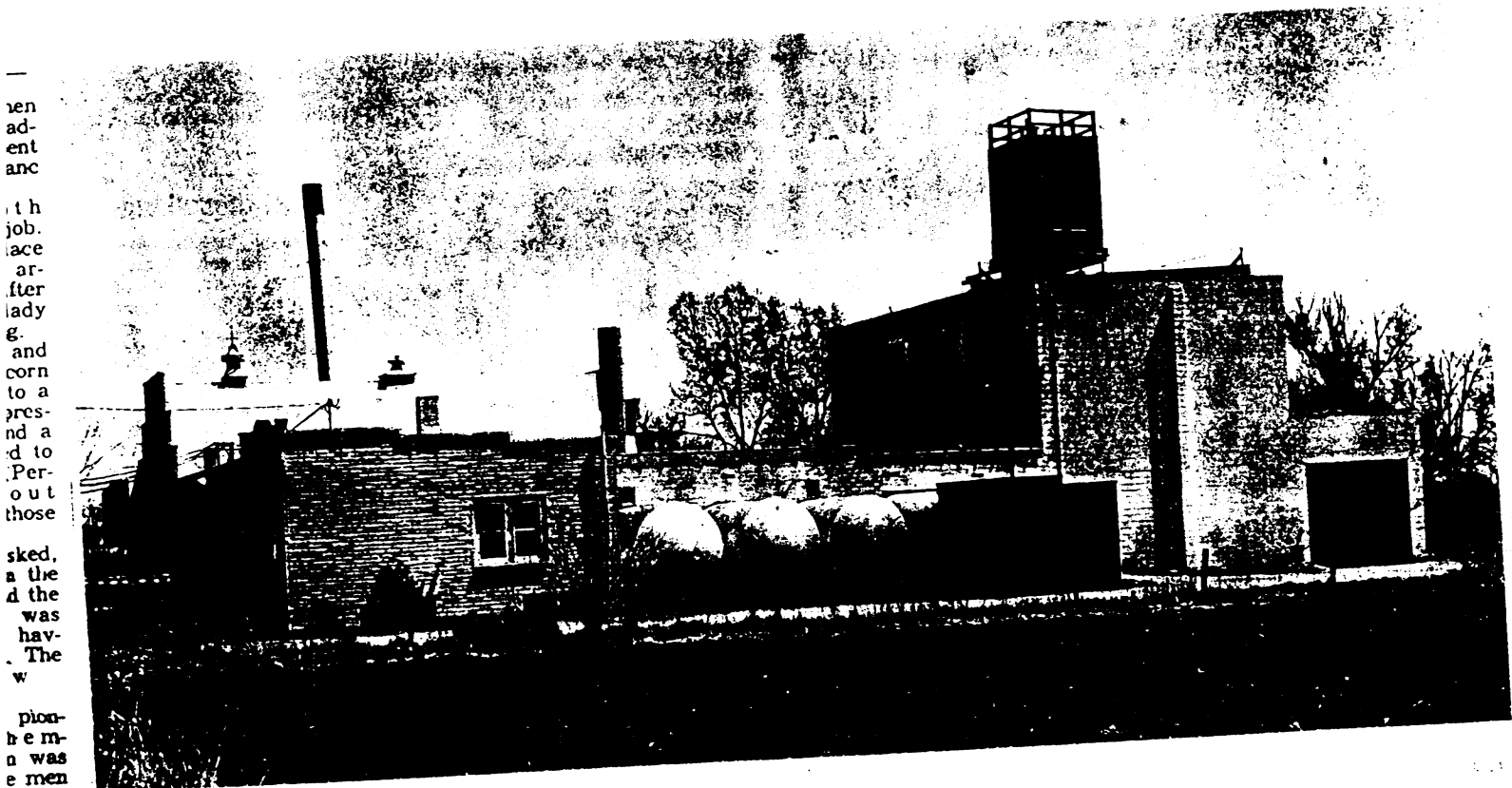


FARMER'S CREAMERY, STATE CENTER, IA. 1911



HERE IS THE Farmer's Creamery at State Center as it looked in 1911.



STATE CENTER CREAMERY TODAY.

men
ad-
ent
anc

th
job.
lace
ar-
fter
lady
g.
and
corn
to a
pres-
nd a
d to
Per-
out
those

sked,
a the
d the
was
hav-
The
w

pion-
he m-
n was
e men
when
in fin

*State Center
Creamery*

Stephen H. Sibley
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
Burns, Wyoming

January 31, 1941.

Max Nauke
State Center, Iowa.

Dear Sir:- Replying to your letter, I am inclosing herewith a rambling sketch of the early history of the State Center Creamery with the hope that it may serve your purpose.

This is, of course entirely from memory, as I have no records relating to business, and all of the Sibleys have been gone from State Center for 40 years. I will modify that last statement a little, for I still have a niece living there, Mrs W.J. Whitehill. If you should happen to contact her, kindly tell her that the Sibleys and the Pughs are well, having escaped the flu, and that Uncle Thad Cunningham, who was the butter maker, celebrated his 90th birthday November 1st, and is feeling fine. As the Cowboy says "he is wintering fine".

Yours very truly,

Stephen H. Sibley
Stephen H. Sibley, Attorney
Burns, Wyoming.

Presented by Helen Whitehill

Stephen H. Sibley
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
Burns, Wyoming

STATE CENTER CREAMERY.

In the early spring of 1879, my father, C. W. Sibley, who was a Wisconsin dairy-man to the Manor born, and would rather milk a cow than do anything else on the farm, moved his family from seven miles North of Newton, Jasper County, Iowa, where he had been farming and dairying for several years, to State Center where he established the State Center Creamery, the first creamery on the "gathered cream" plan to be opened in Marshall County.

We had formerly lived near Edenville (now Rhodes) where the family was engaged for several years in farming and dairying, and my father was well acquainted with State Center and the surrounding district and was firm in his belief that he could measure quite accurately the splendid development of the dairy industry in the district if it was properly encouraged.

He was also well acquainted with the Dunkleberger Bros., who had a basement room in State Center, and was doing what they termed a "Ladle Pack" butter business by buying roll butter from the housewives and from the merchants in the different towns along the railroad at a very low price; putting it on the sorting table and subjecting it a uniformly mild degree of heat they softened the rolls, added a little coloring matter to make it uniform, reworked, packed in firkins or tubs and sent to market a product for which there was a demand. But what about the price to the housewife for her labor, or encouragement to the dairy industry?

He rented room in a brick building on East Main street, State Center, on the North side of the Street, equipped it with a small power plant, large cream vat, box churn, roller worker and on or about May 5, 1879,

Stephen H. Sibley
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
Burns, Wyoming

opened his plant for business and the State Center Creamery became an established manufacturing plant.

He had previously canvassed the territory discussing with the farmers and their wives the possibilities of the dairy industry as a weekly cash income producer, and the advantages to be gained in price by handling the perishable product of cream in quantities and under strictly sanitary conditions. He placed among the farmers who agreed to become patrons, a milk can or container holding several gallons of milk, with a dust tight cover and a graduate glass in the side for measuring the number of units of cream raised on the milk, the can of milk to be set in a tank of fresh well water to cool the milk and hold it at an even temperature until the cream was lifted by the driver, or cream hauler, who covered his route once each day six days a week. He established five gathered cream routes, and the volume of business done the first six months exceeded his highest hopes for the venture.

During the summer he purchased along frame building which had been built some years before for a cheese factory but never completed, and moved it down to the Dudley property in the south part of town, which he had leased, and later on purchased, and there established the permanent home of the "State Center Creamery". I presume that the plant is still located on that site, though it has been fifteen years since the writer visited the old "Home Range".

My father was something of a chemist. He knew the dairy business thoroughly. He knew good butter and he knew how to make it. He engaged T. J. Shaunce who had worked for Dunkleberger Bros., and installed him as assistant butter maker, and he sure made a first class butter maker out of Tom. He also educated his son-in-law, T. A. Cunningham, who became a real expert in butter making, winning a number

Stephen H. Sibley
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
Burns, Wyoming

of "Blue Ribbons" on State Center Creamery Butter, exhibited at the Iowa State Fair, and at several Dairy Conventions.

During the '80's the dairy industry in Marshall and Story counties made a rapid growth, and especially in the East and West part of the counties, and to meet the demand two cream routes running out from Rhodes, and two running out from St. Anthony were organized and the cream transferred to the home plant. Later on when the Separator made its appearance, separator stations were established at St Anthony, Lamoile, and VanCleve a little station south of State Center on the Grinnelle and Montazuma Ry., nick-named in those days the "Get-mutch". But the large volume of business was from gathered cream.

My father never passed up an opportunity to sell on track, even at a narrow margin on a rising market, for he was a firm believer in the old adage that "one bird in hand was worth two in the bush". However thousands of pounds of butter had to be consigned, and State Center Creamery butter was an established brand in the eastern markets.

There were some "hectic" times in business in the later '80's and especially in 1890, and the creamery and dairy business had its full share. A remedy was being sought, and the spirit of cooperation was growing among the farmers. It had taken Wisconsin, Minnesota, Northern Iowa and was moving south. In December 1890 it reached State Center, and some meetings of the farmers were held. In January 1891 a committee was appointed consisting of (if my memory serves me correctly) Alex Dobbin and W. H. Whitehill, who negotiated the deal with C. W. Sibley for the sale of the State Center Creamery property to the Farmers Organization in January, 1891.

This rambling sketch is from the memory leaves of Stephen H. Sibley, son of C. W. Sibley, the founder and promoter of the State Center Cream-

Stephen H. Sibley
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
Burns, Wyoming

ery, and while hazy in some respects, it is never the less substantially correct in detail, and I trust will answer the purpose for which it is asked. Fifty years is quite a period of time, and memory may grow weak, languish and fade, and there is no law upon the statute book where by it can be revived, but a corporation with good management and proper attention to its Charter may go on forever, so far as human foresight can see.

Gentlemen, I thank you.