

Oral History Interview  
Abram Forney  
May 13, 1964

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Mr. Barbash: Mr. Forney, could you, please give us the background on the founding and establishment of the Belle Springs Creamery in Abilene. . . .

Mr. Forney: The production of this creamery [original site located south of Abilene] soon expanded to where they had large surpluses of butter, for which they had no sale. So it was then decided to build a larger plant in Abilene where rail transportation was available for shipments of butter. A plot of real estate was purchased east of the city limits, at the east end of Cottage Avenue. A large building was built and was equipped to produce a large quantity of butter. This building was built and in operation by 1890. . . . An office was opened on the second floor of Hodge Brothers Hardware building which was located just south of the present location of the Post Office. The first property purchased a few years later was the property of the old Drovers Hotel, the famous hostelry of the cattle drivers from Texas. The Creamery office was located in this building. The Bar room and Dinning Room were used as storage for car lots of tubs, salt, and box shucks. This property purchased with additional property, is now the present location of the creamery. A bronze plaque on the front of this building, donated by the D.A.R., contains the Historical status of this location. Then, in later years, about 1900, came another increase, much larger business, so they branched into the manufacture of ice and ice cream and cold storage. This company turned out to be one of the largest independent creameries in the Middle West.