

At the opening ceremonies of the Mrs. Tucker plant in Jacksonville, Ill., August 13, 1953, left to right in photo are Attorney-General John Ben Shepperd of Texas, Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois, President Lamar Fleming, Jr. of Anderson, Clayton and Company of Houston, and W. S. Dorset, president of Mrs. Tucker's Foods, Jacksonville and Sherman, Texas.

## Notables Gather for Tucker Opening

A new multi-million dollar industry was added to the Midwest on August 13, 1953, when Gov. William Stratton of Illinois accepted the dedication of the new giant Mrs. Tucker's Foods plant at Jacksonville.

Lamar Fleming Jr., president of Anderson, Clayton and Company, of which Mrs. Tucker's is a division, made the dedicatory address. Governor Stratton responded on behalf of the people of Illinois. Greetings from Gov. Allan Shivers of Texas, the home of both Mrs. Tucker's Foods and Anderson, Clayton and Company, were then played from a recording and added to by John Ben Shepperd, attorney general of Texas, in person. An estimated crowd of 14,000 was conducted on an inspection tour of the plant and served refreshments on the grounds, according to W. S. Dorset, president of Mrs. Tucker's Foods.

Capable of handling over 600 railroad tank cars of vegetable oil at a time, the new plant is one of the largest and most modern in the world. It includes a tremendous battery of storage tanks, a hydrogen plant, a refrigeration plant, a vegetable oil refinery, manufacturing plants for the processing and packaging of vegetable oil foods and cooking fats, warehouses, maintenance shops, office space, and a control laboratory. Three years were required for construction.

Dedication of the plant marked the 40th anniversary of Mrs. Tucker's Foods, an early vegetable food products pioneer whose activities had previously been confined to the South. Today, with distribution set for the Midwest, products such as Mrs. Tucker's Shortening, Meadolake Margarine, Mrs. Tucker's Salad Oil, and a number of institutional cooking fats and oils will be produced at Jacksonville for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and adjacent territories.

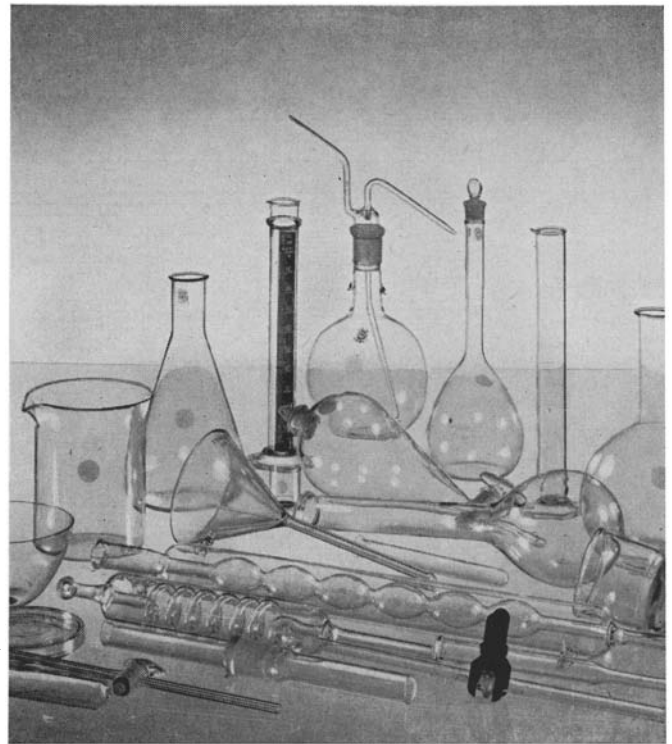
Among the members of the American Oil Chemists' Society who attended the dedication were several from the Chicago area: Leo Brown and H. E. Robinson, Swift and Company; G. A. Crapple and H. C. Dormitzer, Wilson and Company; A. R. Baldwin and R. A. Reiners, Corn Products Refining Company, Argo. Also present was Lamar Kishlar, Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Fleming said, in part: "I do not feel, in talking about Mrs. Tucker's Products, the inhibitions that modesty demands of the men and women whose lives have been spent in building its business, standards, and good name. I come from another side of a recent merger, which brought together the businesses of Mrs. Tucker's and Anderson, Clayton. So I have known Mrs. Tucker's Products longer from the outside than from the inside.

"The business was started 40 years ago in Sherman, Tex., not far from Dallas. Arthur Hopkins, Shep Dorset, and their colleagues, through unstinting effort and high character, have built it into one of the outstanding producers of vegetable oil food products. . . . To our profound sorrow Arthur Hopkins was taken from us last year. He died on the job of building this plant.

"I can say for all of us in Anderson, Clayton and Company that we are proud of our association with the Mrs. Tucker's organization, its fine people, and its fine standards."

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