

Business - Hills McCanna

A-L

Carpentersville's asset

Hills-McCanna, a \$32 million business

Local History
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by **TERESSA PRZENICZNY**
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Hills-McCanna Company,
located at 400 Maple Ave., Car-
pentersville, has become a \$32
million business.

The quiet, clean, well-
landscaped plant, nestled at the
north-end of the industrial park,
moved into the village of Car-
pentersville in 1957. It makes three
kinds of basic valves used in food
processing, chemical and phar-
maceutical plants, atomic sub-
marines and now in Russian
ammonia plants.

Petroleum and petro-chemical
industries also use these valves as
well as utility companies, waste
treatment systems and atomic
reactor plants. Other products
manufactured are pneumatic and
electronic actuators and industrial
pumps.

The company moved from the
city of Chicago into a building
which contained 163,000 square feet
of space and employed 188 people
in Carpentersville. In 20 years time
it has grown, through building
expansion to 254,000 square feet of
space and now 700 employees.

The Hills-McCanna plant in
Carpentersville is the company's
headquarters. They have a small
facility in Toronto, Canada, used
primarily as a distribution center
and small assembly operation.

Hills-McCanna is part of a larger
corporation called IU International
located in Philadelphia.

The headquarter's plant is
primarily a machine shop
with attendant assembly and
support operations where rough
castings and other raw materials
are machined and assembled into
finished products.

Thinking in terms that this is a
man's type of work, it was in-
teresting to learn that the company
has hired approximately 169
women. They not only work in the
office but in the plant doing
assembly operations and as
machine operators.

Hills-McCanna makes three
basic types of valves—a ball valve,
diaphragm valve and butterfly
valve. These valves are used in
various ways to control the flow of
liquids, gases and semi-solids.

Actuators, which control the
operation of the valves by elec-
tronic or pneumatic means, are
also manufactured.

A third product line is a variety
of proportioning metering pumps
which are used to automatically
dispose measured amounts of
chemicals or other substances at
designated intervals.

The materials the products are

made from are varied. They in-
clude metal or an alloy, stainless
steel, titanium, cast iron, plastic
and fiberglass.

The chemical proportioning
pump made by the company is
being utilized by the new Spruance
class multi-mission destroyers
which have been joining the U.S.
Navy fleet since September 1975.

The proportioning pump is used
to meter precise amounts of a
chemical inhibitor into the ship's
main fuel lines to retard algae
growth. Algae is carried into the
fuel tanks by seawater that is taken
in by each Spruance destroyer fuel
tank which has been programmed
to this automatically as fuel is
being used. This procedure keeps
the ship trim in the water regard-
less of speeds in excess of 30
knots.

The diaphragm valve, made by

the company, was used in the
processing of the Salk polio vac-
cine. It is also used in manufac-
turing chocolate and candy bars.

Ball valves and high-
performance butterfly valves are
being utilized in the U.S. Navy's
new Trident nuclear missile-firing
submarines.

The Trident Submarine is
capable of launching 24 nuclear-
powered ballistic missiles and
remaining under the surface of the
water indefinitely—limited only by
the 154-man crew's endurance.

More than 100 butterfly valves
manufactured by the company are
being used in Russian plants which
are making ammonia and super-
phosphoric acid.

The valves are being purchased
by Adtek Engineering Division of
Occidental Petroleum Company.
Adtek is building ammonia plants
in Russia, which will supply am-

monia to Occidental's customers
throughout the world.

Adtek has purchased the valves
because they cost 20 to 30 per cent
less than the equivalent stainless
steel valves and have a greater
heat operating range.

The high-pressure butterfly
valves have been trade-named
"McCannalok" by the company.

An interview with Robert Roller
made the above information
possible. Roller is the Industrial
Relations Director of Hills-
McCanna. His job involves him in
employment, safety, wage and
salary administration, labor
relations, employee welfare and
community relations.

Roller has been with the com-
pany for about four and one-half
years. He formerly worked in
Michigan. He lives with his family
in West Dundee.



Steve Schultz is operating a numerical control lathe. The machining
operation is controlled by computerized tape. Over the last four years,
the company has purchased 14 of these machines. Another machining
center operation controlled by computerized tape is being done by War-
dell Scruggs. Betty Stewart is pictured above operating a Sheldon lathe
also computerized. Elizabeth Badgerow is one of the laminated
molders working in the fiberglass department. Pictures, in a circular
sequence from top right, illustrate some of the different processes
which create the finished product.

