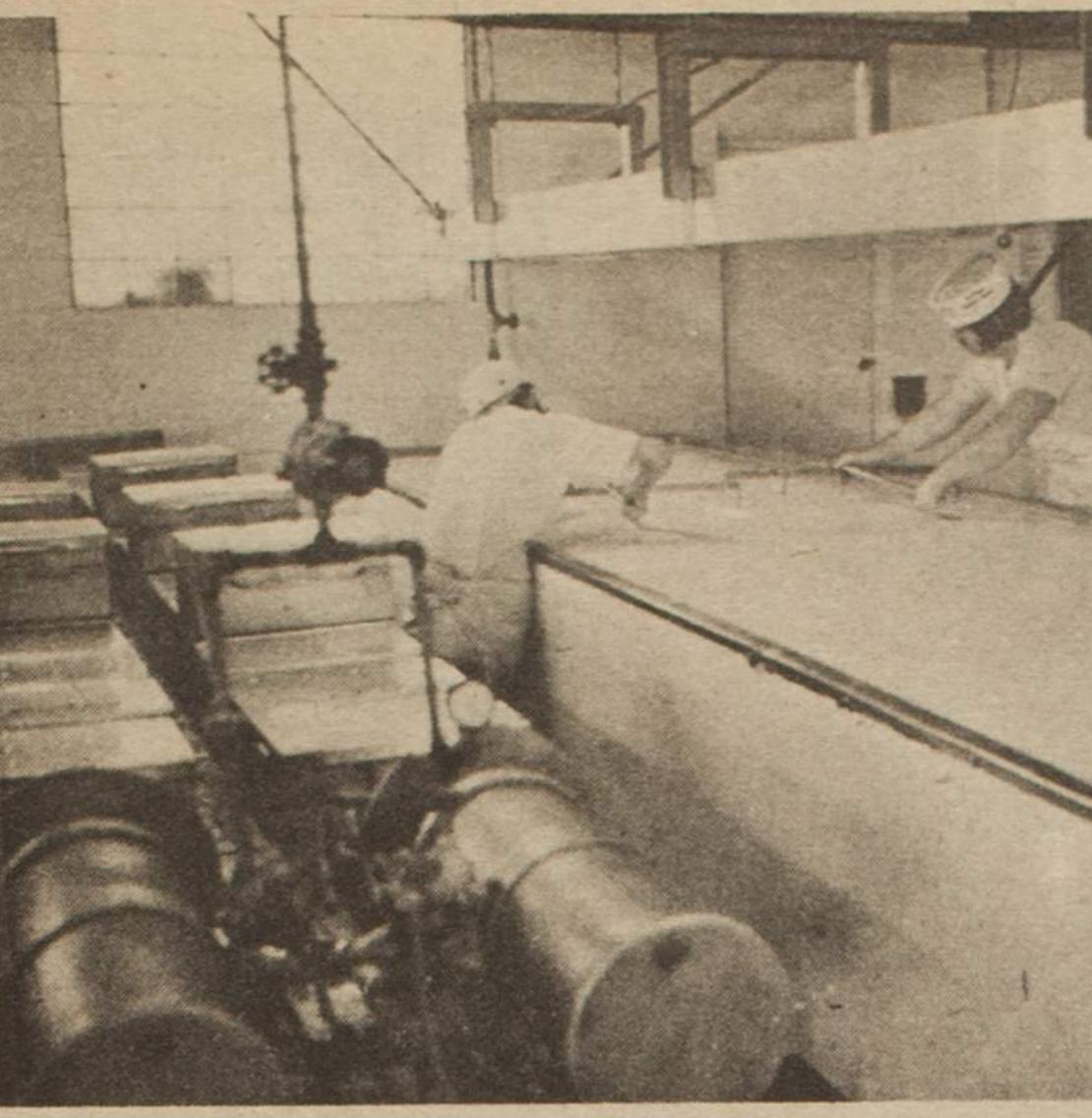
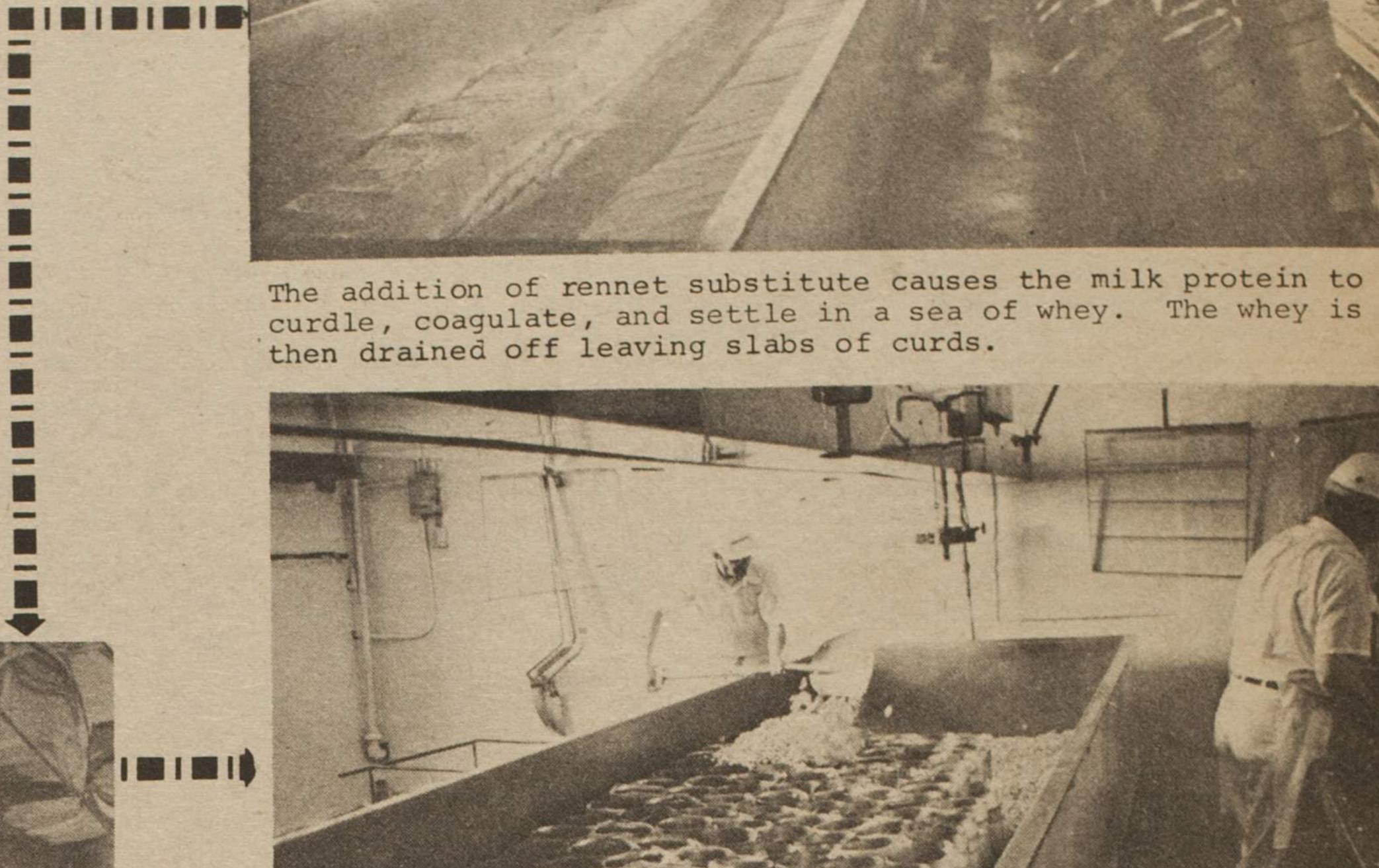
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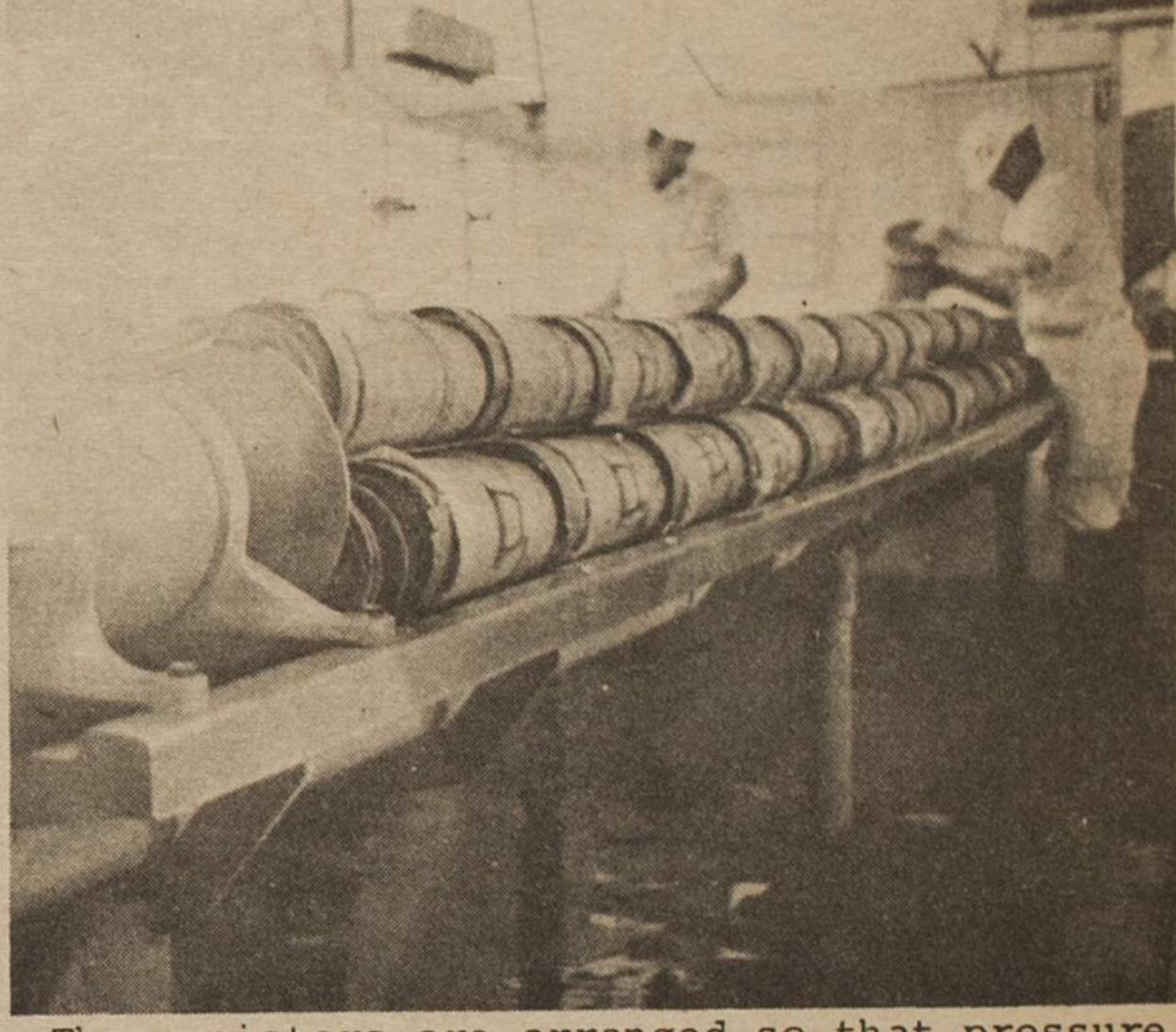
The Community Mercantile buys its cheddar and monterey jack cheese from the Dwight-Alma Cheese Company which has been making cheese in the Flint Hills town of Alma since 1945. Every morning before sun-up this vat is filled with 14,000 pounds of milk from local farmers



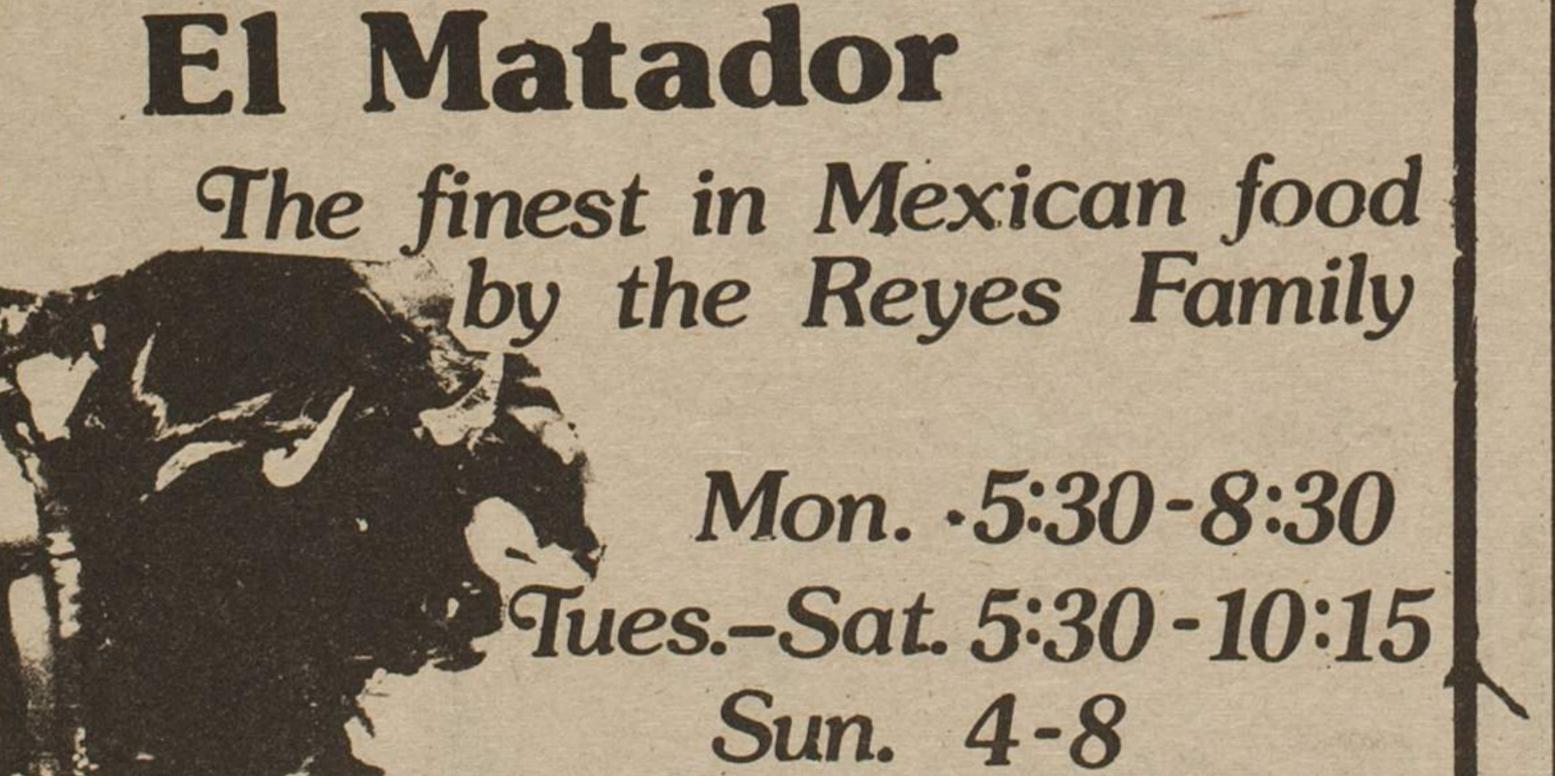
After the curd pieces are salted, they are shovelled into metal canisters (in this case, tube-like containers which give longhorn cheese its distinct shape).



The slabs are fed into a machine which cuts them up into nibble-size pieces. And at this point in the process, they are already good enough to eat!



The canisters are arranged so that pressure can be applied overnight to compress their contents. The cheese is then moved to refrigerated storage for aging.



446 Locust

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