

—World-Herald Photos.

While Millard sleeps . . . these monsters crawl at the Western Electric site.

Moles, Gophers Slightly Outclassed by Machine

The Millard monsters sleep only 2½ hours a day.

Then, at 6 a. m., with guttural roar, ground-shaking violence and bestial appetite, they awaken.

Ponderously, they rumble toward their breakfast.

At once all 10 of them begin to fill their immense stomachs.

All day, almost all night, the gluttony continues.

There are few pauses and these are brief.

For these iron monsters exist only to swallow earth, transport it and disgorge it.

Through 20 working hours of six days of the week and occasionally on Sundays as well, they do nothing but that.

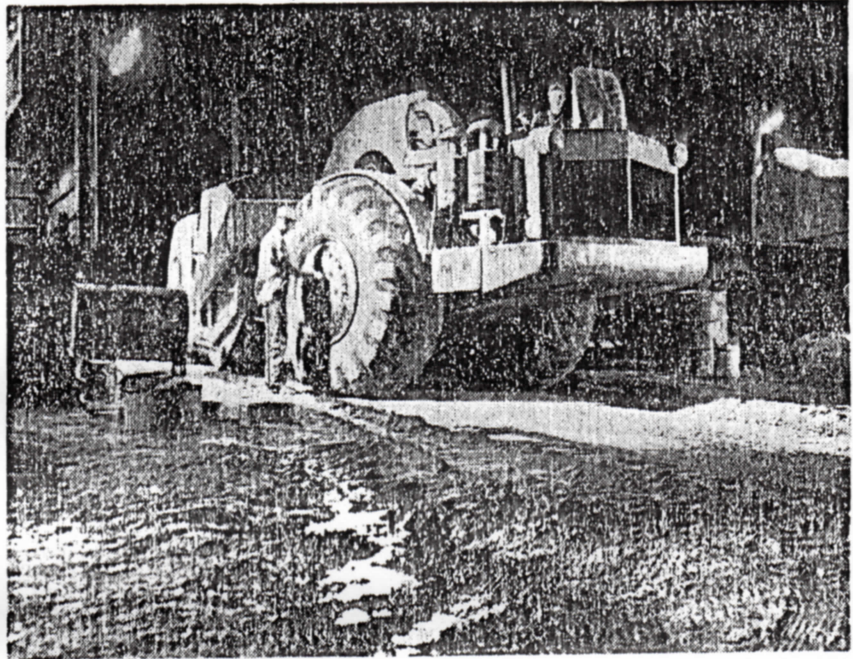
By the time they are finished on or before December 1, they will have feasted on more than one million cubic yards of earth to man-make a suitable terrain for the Western Electric Company plant adjacent to Millard.

The object of the dirt-moving project, handled by Western Contracting Company of Sioux City, Ia., is to cut away the hills and ridges on the 390-acre tract, pound the relocated earth into unyielding firmness and create a plateau on which the plant's four buildings will rise.

In the hot sun and under insect-clustered floodlights the 10 monsters and 25 attendant implements and vehicles labor.

The giant self-propelled earth-scrappers take up 24 cubic yards of earth at a gulp.

Nudged along by powerful, twin-engine steel-tread tractors, they race to the fill area, spread their cargo and speed back to the borrow pit.



One of the monsters . . . stops briefly for refueling, greasing.

Time for the round trip of 2,900 feet is four minutes.

The operators, all men in their 20's, jockey the machines around the track with only 30-minute lunch breaks and infrequent comfort stops.

They ride 60 hours a week, earn more than \$150.

"But they work for it," said night superintendent Bryan Lacore. "They take an awful pounding. That's why they're all young."

"Usually they stay on the scrapers three years. After that we try to move them to softer jobs."

In an average day, Mr. Lacore said, the 10 machines and their double crews, will move 30 thousand cubic yards of fill.

The usual four-day total and tall as the Northwestern would fill a shell as large Bell Building.

