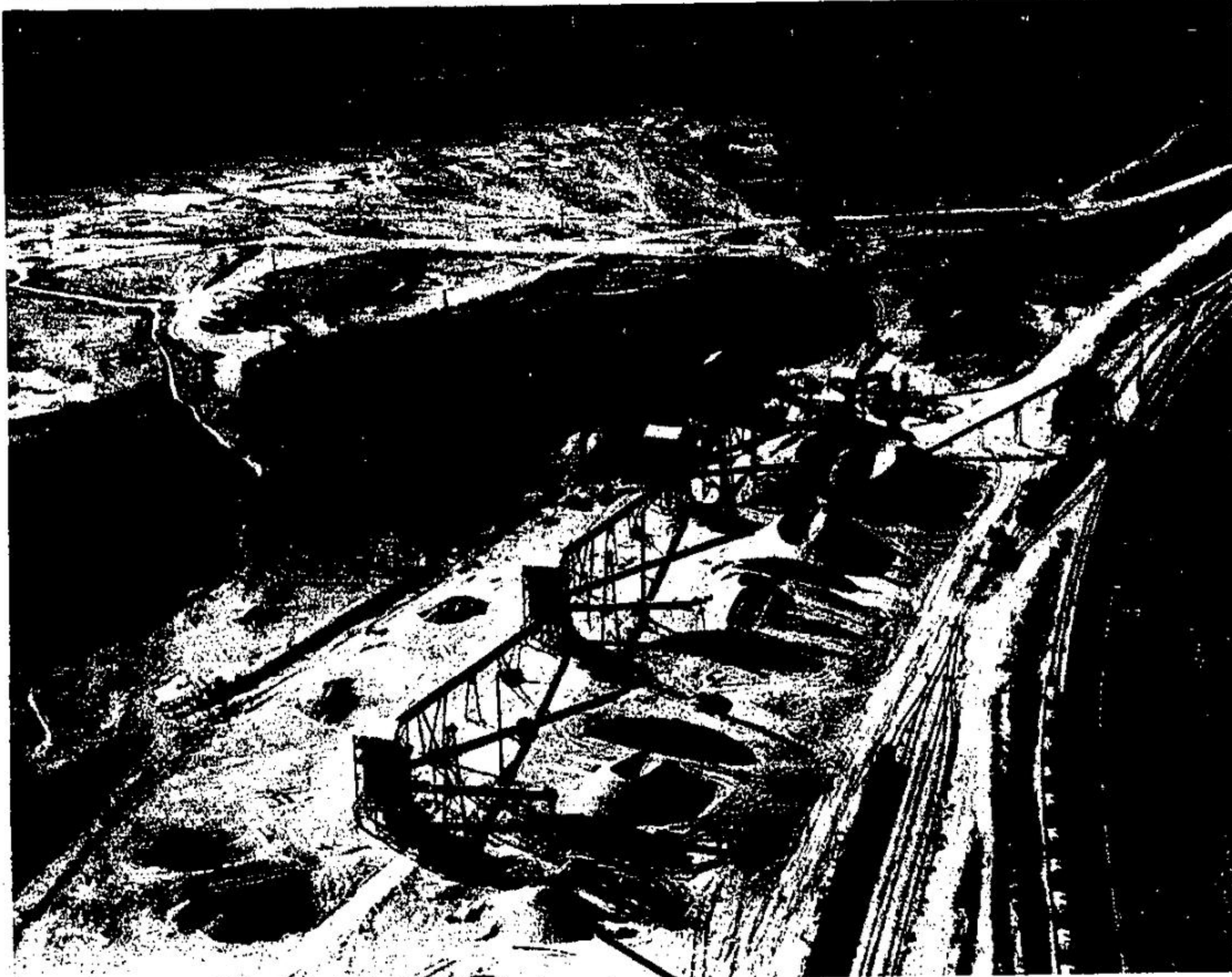


Metro Toronto expansion built on Acton aggregates



ACTON QUARRY and plant as it is today. Eventually the quarry area will be rehabilitated under a long range program to restore the environment at all Indusmin properties.

The Construction Materials Division of Indusmin Limited, including the two quarries in Halton County, Ontario, and the two distribution yards in east and west Toronto, last year sold substantially more than three and one-half million tons of aggregates for construction and road-building projects in and around the Metro Toronto area.

That is big business—and indicates the extent of Indusmin's contribution in 1973 alone to the pattern of growth and progress in the city and environs.

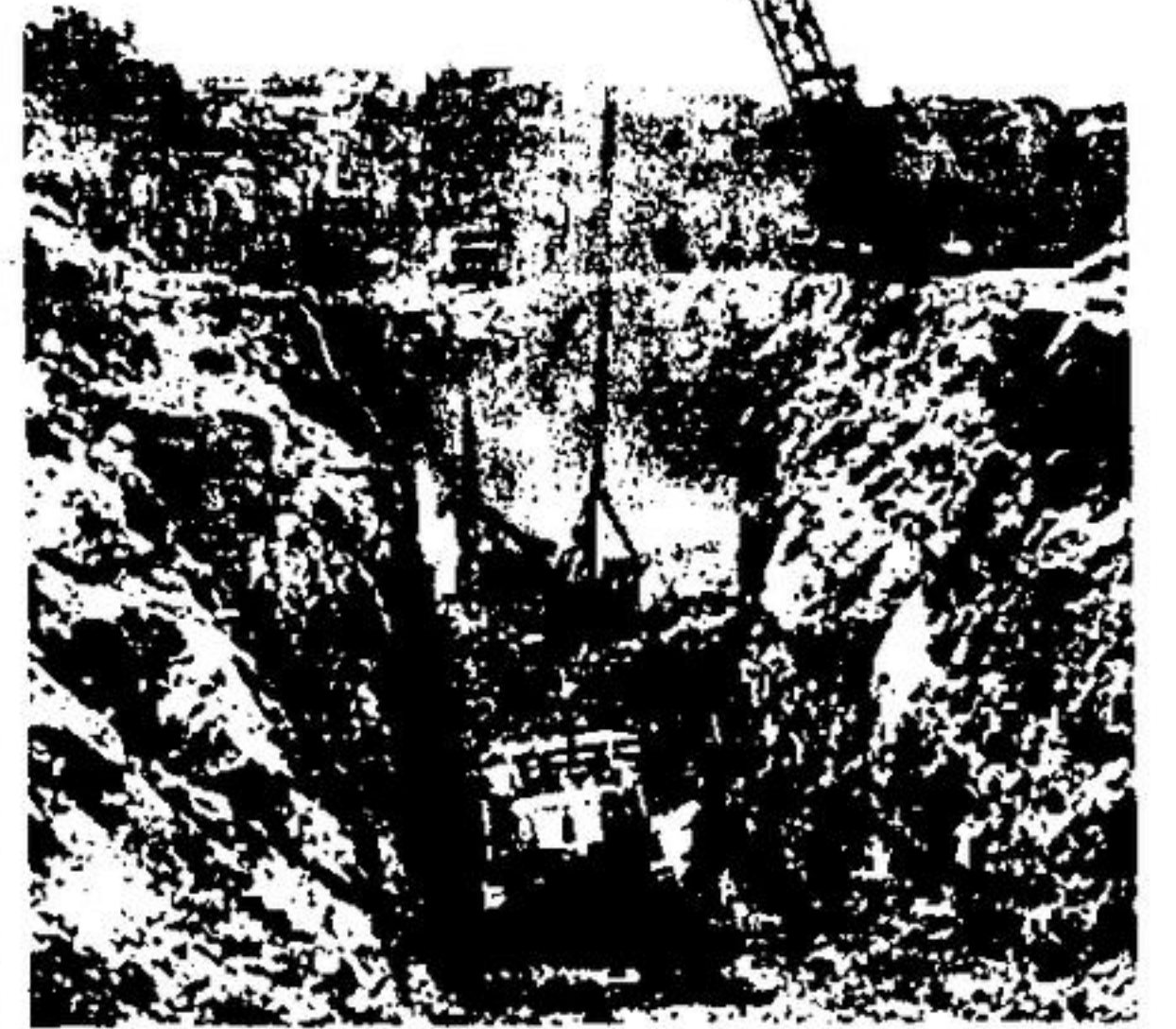
Almost half of that tonnage for instance, went into new roads to service the fast-developing Metropolitan Toronto area, and about a third of it went into construction projects of one kind or another, including homes, apartments, schools and plants.

In all, the construction materials division supplied some 1,000 individual customers in the Toronto area in 1973, compared to the 800 customers it served in the previous year.

The figures are impressive. They are even more so when it's remembered that Indusmin, which began life in 1935 as a producer of nepheline syenite and later silica, has only been in the aggregates business since 1967, or a scant seven years.

The history of the company's construction materials division is thus fairly recent, although the history of the Halton County area itself as an industrial minerals producer goes back more than a hundred years. Indusmin acquired the big Acton quarry and plant and the two associated distribution yards in Toronto, in 1967, as a result of a merger in that year with Acton Limestone Quarries Limited. Three years later, in the early spring of 1970, Indusmin acquired from Halton Crushed Stone Ltd., the quarry and plant near the town of Milton, just south and a little west of Acton.

Most modern The Acton plant was originally built in 1962 by Acton Limestone Quarries, and at the time of its construction was one of the largest and most modern aggregates operations in North America. Construction of the distribution yard at Scarborough began in late 1962, and at Pinecrest late in the following year.



EXCAVATIONS ARE going ahead for the tertiary crusher building at Indusmin's Acton quarry. The company has another quarry near Milton as well as the large Acton operation.

Although the Acton plant still operates at its original production rate of 800 tons per hour, a considerable number of improvements have been made, and are being made.

At Milton, too, there is a continuous program to improve plant efficiency, with the emphasis currently on replacement and upgrading of mobile equipment.

The Acton improvements include: —A new hazemag circuit (an impact-type crusher) to provide a more cubical shaped product for concrete aggregates.

—A wash plant, added for the rinsing or cleansing of dust from concrete stone.

—A new laboratory, to provide a continuous program of quality control for all of the Division's products.

The importance of the quality control program is underscored by the fact that the Construction Materials Division now produces more than 20 different products, ranging from rubble or pit-run material, to concrete aggregates, brick sand, inch "chip" for concrete pipe, and gabion stone used for retaining walls.

To produce these quality products in large quantities, the Division employs a total of 114 people, including those at the two quarries, the two yards, and at Indusmin head office, Toronto.

Rich in history The history of aggregate mining in the Halton County district, as noted before, is comparatively recent. As far back as the 1840's, however, there was considerable mining and processing of limestone deposits in the area, and the activity forms an interesting chapter in the early settlement of Ontario.

Still visible at Indusmin's Acton quarry, for instance, are the remains of old limestone kilns which were built in the late 1800's.

The calcareous beds of limestone in the area, and along the Niagara escarpment, were found by early settlers to be an excellent source of lime for the making of cement and plaster, and many lime kilns were built to produce this valuable material. The present village of Limehouse, near Acton, took its name from this form of mining.

The earliest lime kilns used in the area were about 10 feet high, and were known as "pot" or set kilns, and it is possible these kilns date back to the 1840's.

Limehouse was busy Then came draw or "shaft" kilns, of the type built at the Acton quarry, and these were probably constructed in the late 1870's. These kilns were roughly 18 by 22 feet at the base, tapering toward the top and reaching heights of up to 50 or more feet. It's recorded

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Continued on page B4

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STILL VISIBLE but much smaller in size, are remains of the old limestone kilns at the site of Indusmin quarry operations at Acton. This photo was taken in the 1960's. The kilns were built in the late 1800's and were part of the scene at Dolly Varden for years.

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