## RVI Corporation

You can't see forever from the 29th floor of Mies van der Rohe's One IBM Plaza Building—even on a clear day. But you can see to the lake's horizon. Jets cross overhead to and from O'Hare Field and smaller planes and helicopters disappear behind the buildings heading for Meigs Field. You can see the harbor and the breakwaters, the yacht basins and the locks on the brown wrong way river with the bascule bridges carrying the north-south streets. Cars, buses, trucks and elevated trains scurry below. Foreign ships are tied up at the river warehouses at-

The passenger trains are six blocks to your rear or this window would enfold all of the requirements for an updated WPA post office mural titled "The Romance of Commerce and Transportation."

tended by locomotives and strings of

freight cars.

The world's only double-decked and counterweighted bridge carries thousands of designers, photographers, artists, copywriters and art directors back and forth across the river on Michigan Avenue. Agencies, studios and design offices are stacked by the hundreds in the steel curtain wall towers and the funky neoclassic "skyscrapers."

Chicago's pride in its lakefront beaches, parks and buildings is no mere vanity. No matter that this long, narrow strip is a Chinese wall separating the "loop" and the "gold coast" from an immense reality of sprawling housing and industry crumble—the view here is grand and only interrupted by high architectural achievement. This is the locus of Chicago's communications industry.

For years, the Michigan Avenue area provided a happy compromise between the fiercely competitive New York scene and the sunny, laid-back but labor saturated west coast. A little flatfooted perhaps, hard to get rich and famous here, and impossible to keep a year-round tan—but friendly and open, the best starting salary levels anywhere and, traditionally, a very good freelance town with a fair number of medium to large sized graphic design offices doing high quality work.

In the seventies, many of these offices have closed, broken up or withered. Chicago probably has more designers working today than ever before, however many of the bigger offices—the flagships and the trainers of young designers—have suffered. Nevertheless one of the oldest, and always one of the best, not only survives but through all of the changes of 20 years in the business and the economy, is doing very well here on the 29th floor.

Bob Vogele started Robert Vogele Design in 1958. After graduating from the University of Illinois, he worked at the University Press and then came to Chicago in 1955 to be manager of graphics, packaging and corporate I.D. for Latham, Tyler, Jensen. When he left LTJ to be "A Corporate Identity Consultant," his intention was to handle a few selected accounts, with no employees, from his home-and to take a week off every month. His clients were amused by this, as I was when he told me. It doesn't fit my perception of him. I have always seen Bob as a high energy, disciplined, ambitious and business oriented type.

Over the years as his operation was evolving into its present form, Vogele, first with Chad Taylor and later with Wayne Webb (who joined in 1966 and is now President of RVI), consistently experimented with his organization's structure in ways that sometimes puzzled his peers. But these innovations were always done with a clear goal in mind: to put his design services



in a position where they would be viewed by business management as legitimate tools to assist growth and increase profits.

In 1960 Vogele headed a "communications clinic"-a consortium of three organizations; Vogele and Taylor, Inc.: Robert Kennedy Associates; and Brad Sebstadt, Inc. providing design, packaging and advertising services either as discreet entities or in combination. The idea being that the individual groups developed their own clients, gained motivation from the autonomy of the smaller profit centers, and their clients carried the overhead only for the specific services wanted. This plan worked very well until Taylor left to teach at the Institute of Design and other developments within the groups dictated combining them under a single management. The new organization was named Robert Vogele, Inc. in 1967 with Bob as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Thus began a period when Vogele seemed to some to be a designer playing 'Big Corporation' as a fresh litter of divisions were spawned: RVI Public Relations, RVI Marketing Communications, RVI Publishing, RVI Financial Management, etc. At one time there were five group presidents in a total staff approaching forty. This was a bit rococo even for Bob's notable management skills and some of the specific efforts were not sufficiently productive.

1970 brought a general business recession along with client management changes that saw the end of the long relationships with The Ansul Company and SRA and another regrouping of the design organization. The single entity, RVI Corporation, emerged in 1971 and continues today.

Bob is extremely articulate and his comments provide a clear picture of

the approach that has guided the firm through the rocks and shoals of the volatile design consulting business. Ansul was the largest among his original accounts. The Ansul program had been originally designed by the Chicago Loewy office and was a tightly controlled, comprehensive corporate I.D. program; but that was as far as it went.

"I maintained that given a communication objective we could develop and implement that objective in a form that would meet all of the marketing and design goals within a high level of creative excellence. I felt that it was critical that Ansul have a totally integrated program and that we were an organization that could approach communication problems from an unprejudiced point of view. We weren't dependent on media commissions. Tell us what you want to happen, and

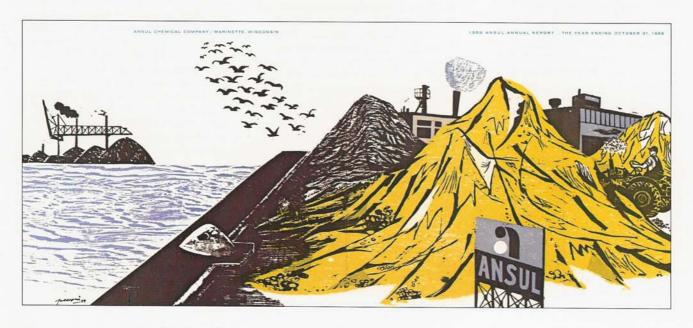
Ansul 'Sucker-Stuff' ad was part of an early Vogele marketing success.

Annual Reports for Ansul featured many noted artists and photographers. Shown here are an Antonio Frasconi woodcut (1959), a Milton Glaser illustration (1966) and a Robert Weaver painting (1967). Fifty-nine report designed by Robert Vogele. Sixty-six and sixty-seven reports designed by Wayne Webb.

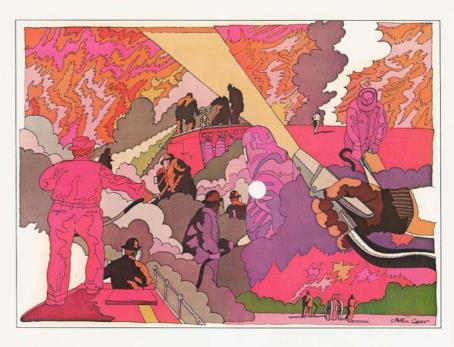
# Don't give those suckers a break.

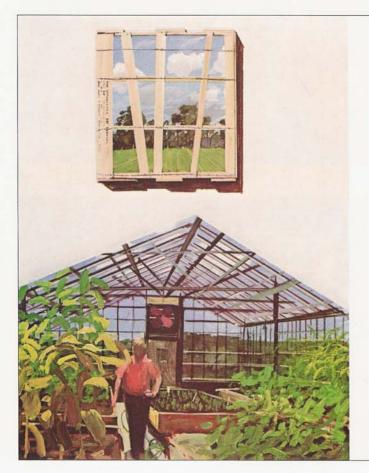
Every acre of tobacco has about 200,000 suckers. That's 200,000 reasons you ought to use "Sucker-Stuff." Just spray it on once. "Sucker-Stuff" has a quicker sticker. This makes it faster and better. Which is reason two hundred thousand and one. SUCKER-STUFF with the Quicker Sticker











1967 Operations, continued

Chemicals—Emphasis in our Chemical Products division is on developing "proprietary biological chemical technology for agricultural and industrial needs." In 1967 the division was engaged, just as was the Fire Protection division, in restructuring its organization to separate ongoing operations from development activities geared to the future.

With increasing attention to products of a more technical nature, our need for highly trained technical personnel has increased rapidly. Certainly among our most important achievements in 1967 has been a successful recruiting program in which we added a number of exceptionally well qualified people.

Government business was an important factor in our 1967 sales results. Our cacodylic acid plant was in full production during most of the year, meeting the needs of U.S. military forces in Viet Nam for "Phylar" herbicides. Although we expect to continue supplying the government, the long-range prospects for the product lie in its industrial and commercial applications. "Phyta" our trade name for cacodylic acid is a proprietary product — and our strong patent position insures that as new markets are opened up, we will realize substantial rewards. The product is a non-selective herbicide, or weed control chemical, and is highly effective in climinating vegetation along highways, railroad rights-of-way and in industrial and commercial sistes. One of its most promising immediate uses is in the railroad market, and during the past year considerable effort was devoted to the development of this market.

The situation is somewhat different in regard to our "Ansar" line of selective herbicides. "Ansar" is Ansul's trade name for disodium methanearsonate (08MA); and the product is used for the control of weeds in crops. For several year, "Ansar' has been a highly successful product in the cotton market divoker high regard to our "Ansar" for on she high regard to our "Ansar" for on the natural color of the control of weeds in crops. For several year, "Ansar' has been a highly successful

ton, This means that the company is entitled to a royalty from other manufacturers who sell their DMAs in the cotton market. Although there are delays and uncertainties inherent in working out licensing agreements, the benefits of this patent to Ansul are expected to be meaningful. The immediate future of "Ansar" as a profitable product in the cotton market is uncertain, but the long-range prospects appear to be good. There is every indication that it can be effectively employed to control weeds in a variety of crops—soybeans, vineyards, orchards, corn and many others. Before the product can be sold in these markets, however, government label approval is required; and the testing involved is a long, time-consuming process.

Among the most promising development activities during the year has been our work in the international markets. There is evidence that our herbicides will find wide application in such areas as Crutzal America and Malaysis.

the international markets. There is evidence that our herbicides will find wide application in such areas as Central America and Malaysia.

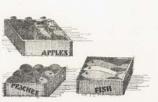
While primary emphasis was placed on development of our agricultural herbicides in 1967, the continuing development of markets for our industrial chemicals proceeded exceptionally well. Sales of methyl chloride were excellent during this past year. Our Anoon Chemical Corpplant in Lake Charles, La., which was built in 1961 (as a joint venture with Continental Oil), has been expanded each year since. We are currently increasing its capacity to 100 million pounds per year, which we believe makes it the largest methyl chloride plant in the world.

Sales of sulfur dioxide, our other bulk chemical, continue to be excellent.



YOU DON'T STOP TO WEIGH AN EXTINGUISHER WHEN THE PLANT IS BURNING ... YET SOME PEOPLE ARE STILL BUYING FIRE PROTECTION BY THE POUND—LIKE THEY BUY SUGAR OR SALT. THE FACT IS THAT SIZE, SHAPE, WEIGHT—EVEN RATINGS—ARE NO REAL MEASURE OF FKP—FIRE KILLING POWER. ANSUL EXTINGUISHERS WITH EXCITING NEW EXTINGUISHING AGENTS, IMAGINATIVE NEW DESIGNS...
PUT OUT A GOOD DEAL MORE FIRE POUND FOR POUND AND DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR. ANSUL





MYTH! SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE YOU CAN BUY FIRE PROTECTION BY THE POUND—LIKE APPLES, PEACHES & FISH. THE FACT IS THAT SOME DRY CHEMICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WILL PUT OUT ALMOST TWICE AS MUCH FIRE AS OTHERS... EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SIMILAR IN SIZE, SHAPE, WEIGHT, PRICE—EVEN RATINGS. THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE FIRE EXTINGUISHING AGENT AND IN THE DESIGN. WHEN YOU JUDGE AN EXTINGUISHER ON THE BASIS OF FKP—FIRE KILLING POWER... WHEN YOU ASK "HOW MUCH FIRE WILL IT EXTINGUISH PER DOLLAR?"THE ANSWER WILL INVARIABLY COME UP ANSUL

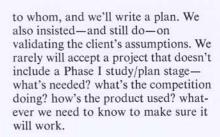








#### **RVI** Corporation

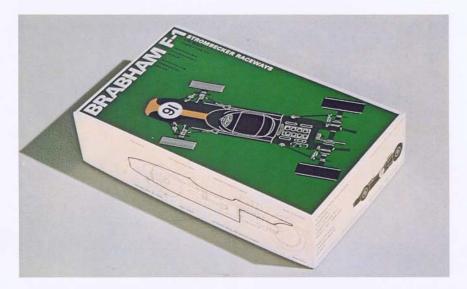


"I became very involved in how you make it work. How to start with a group of high-powered executives who sit around and decide something should happen. How do you make it happen? How do you make sure it comes out right at the other end?"

Soon they were naming new products, doing the packaging and handling the print, radio and T.V. advertising and planning, writing and designing all of the collateral materials and sales tools for Ansul, and for other clients as well.

"We got into the whole area of bridging between a consulting design firm and an ad agency. We found we could make a very strong contribution at the marketing level. With Ansul's 'Sucker Stuff' we went out and talked to the farmers in the tobacco fields to find out what they needed, what they were really looking for in order to have meaningful information to buy the product. We played down the corporate I.D. and gave the product a very strong retail marketing image because of regional attitudes. Farmers actually asked for "brand X." It was very successful.







Chad Taylor, then a Vogele partner, designed and illustrated Ansul materials such as these three ads for extinguisher equipment.

Ad and merchandising brochure for hand held fire extinguishers.

Program for Ansul 'Magnum' crash-rescue system designed by Wayne Webb.

Program for Ansul industrial fire fighting system.

Retail model car packaging for Strombecker was designed in mid-sixties.

Co-ordinated materials for teaching program were done for Borg-Warner Corp.

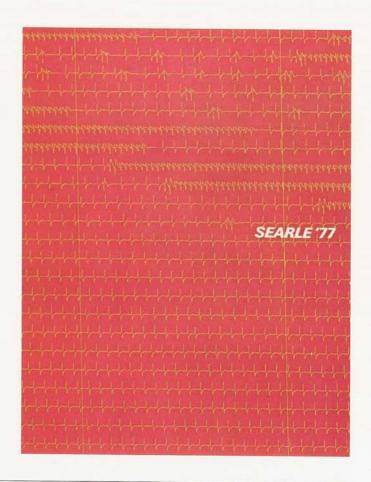
### **RVI** Corporation

New Searle signature by Bart Crosby is part of a comprehensive I.D. program.

Searle 1977 Annual Report was designed by Bart Crosby. Photos are by Wayne Source.

Booklet was 1968 office promotion for corporate identity and visual communications.

## **SEARLE**



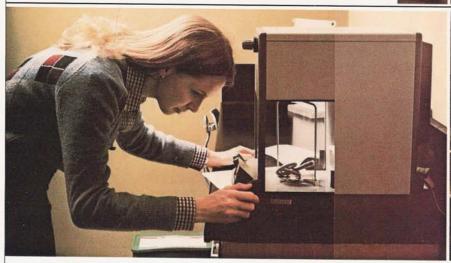
Hospital Products Group

orbogical products are or of the major lines of the hospital products group. A technician, below, runs a quality control test on a nilicone catheter at the company's Milwaukee, Wisconsin facilities. The engineer, right, is designing a mold for packaging drainage bags. A new plant in Tuction, Artizona and expansion of a plant in El Reno, Oklahoma will help meet increased demand for Searle's wrotegical products. Urological products such as later and silicone cathe fers, procedural trays and drainage bags are a major line of the hospital products group.













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Operations in the United States remain the nucleus of Searie's hospital products group. Directifures will result in greater compatibility of products marketed in Europe with products made and distributed in the United States. Efforts of the group new are focused on consumable products for hospitals and nursing homes such as disposable and reusable garments and surpical packs, lake sploves and unological products. Sales for the group were up 11 precent to \$214.5 million and operating

Research for the hospital products group is being expanded, with emphasis or developing higher technology products especially within the urological products

Domestic

Searies hospital products operation is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of hospital products in the nation. The group markets self-manufactured goods under its own brand names and distributers private label and nationally indistributers private label and nationally inproducts manufactured by Searies owned programment of the present of sales and include unploy products, later, and include unploy products, later, glower, reusable in optimistic associations.

pical packs. The plants that manufacture stex gloves also produce prophylactics which are marketed worldwide through rarious consumer outlets.

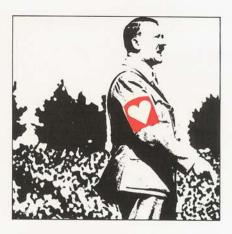
Primary brand names for the company's hospital products include the Do urology line and White Knight hospital garments.

Disposable non-woven products such as surgeons and nurses gowns, surgical drapes, face masks, caps and shee covers accounted for a significant share of hosp lal product sales in the United States. This line of products experienced a 15 percent increase in sales over 1976. A new plant is near completion in Port Worth,

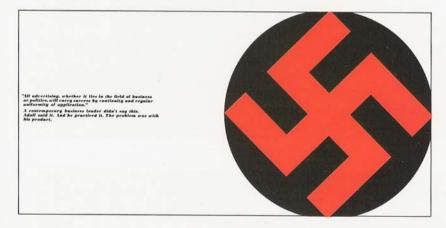
Texas to consolidate the manufacturing activities of a unit acquired in 1976 and to meet the increasing demand for this subsidiary's non-woven products. Many hospitals prefer disposable items to reduce laundry, mending and sterilizing resolves.

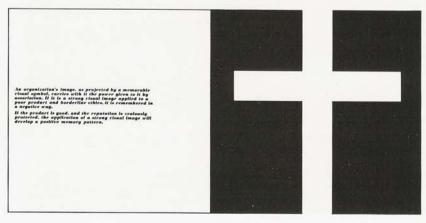
The second largest product fine is now made up of unoplicipal products such as cathelers, drainage bags and procedural vary. During 1977 unological products experienced an 83 percent increase in sales and a significant improvement in market share and operating profit. The company is completing a 40,000 square-foot facility in Tursion, Ancona to manufactures silicone

## HEIL WHO ?









"From the beginning we were prepared to provide total communications planning.

"Over the years Ansul found that what we did was very helpful. They were very visible and market directed and we helped them stay at the top of the industry, to dominate narrow market segments, and get better prices and show better profits."

In 1972 RVI was contacted by IBM to do some design and advertising as part of an effort to rent space in the large new IBM office building being constructed on the river. IBM was only going to occupy half of the available space. The office market was overbuilt in Chicago and some experts projected a rental program stretching well into the eighties rather than the full lease-up goal of April, 1974 that had been set by IBM's real estate group.

"We told them it wasn't an ad problem, it was a marketing problem. It was the coming together of everything we said we were capable of as an organization and it would mean a direct evaluation of our success or failure—spend X amount of money, we'll do such and such, and these things will happen within this time frame.

"We presented a total marketing program with a budget of \$750,000 (over 8 times what IBM was originally going to spend with Vogele) and it was based on 'bottom line' profits for IBM. It meant going out into a market with not enough prospects and churning that market. Turning disinterested people into interested prospects. We trained sales people who'd never sold real estate. We trained them to go back and back again. Not to take 'No' for an answer. The project was closed three months ahead of schedule. And then we designed a tenant oriented "We Care" management program. One of the small but nice touches that's still being done is sending a bag of candy with the rent bill."

These remarks are focused on only two of many corporate level and product marketing level programs that have been successfully handled by Vogele over the years, but they clearly express the attention to the client's problems

that has been responsible for the consistency of effort and performance that is RVI's hallmark.

In spite of the inevitable personnel changes over the years, the Vogele group has always delivered a strong and consistent creative performance. Vogele says he "looks for people who would be capable of running their own businesses." He pays his staff well, gives them real authority to go along with the demanding job management responsibilities and has always given his designers due credit. By meeting the individual's professional needs, he has built an ongoing office capability that transcends and outlasts the individual efforts within the group.

Vogele believes that corporate identity is still the major activity for RVI's growth. The climate may have changed, but the new breed of professional managers seems to understand that unified communications planning and implementation will be a critical management tool for the '80s. Right or wrong, this is where RVI continues to place its emphasis.

The continuing development of Vogele's organization over the past 20 years would seem to suggest that there may be changes to come. If they come, they will surely be the product of the principles that have been the foundation for the changes in the past: Client and marketing centered operations. sound financial planning, resilience in response to changing economic and business conditions, good pay and employee benefits, and the maintenance of high design standards-the same principles that have seen the Vogele organization, now staffed at 25 and growing, continue to be the premier tenured design office in Chicago at a period when some of the other major offices there have foundered. With two new major I.D. programs in the works as well as a heavy load of ongoing work for an impressive roster of regular accounts, the view from the RVI offices on the 29th floor looks promising.

-Larry Klein



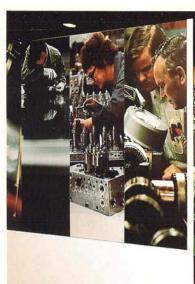
Gould Inc. mark by Peter Tuebner is from extensive ongoing program begun in 1967 which includes signage and current packaging shown here.

Corporate exhibit for Gould was designed by Robert Vogele.

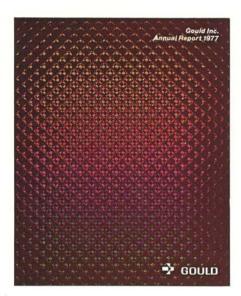
Gould 1977 Annual Report was designed by Bill McDowell with photography by Michael Mauney.



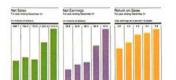


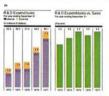




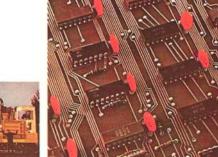


## Chairman's Report to Stockholders









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	Incheste (decrease) in other deferred credits	11,757	(63
	Cash shirtends	30,550	23,10
	Other capital transactions	222	333
	Purchase of opinion stock of LT-E Imperial Corporation		1.10
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	Total Application of Funds	521,277	363,16
	Increase (Decrease) in Cash	1,112	0.40
	Cesh at End of Year	# 71.000	6 8.50

#### Institutional Food Service

Pearce-Young-Angel (PYA), bo iquartered in enville, S.C., institutional are institutional distributors of food and related disposable products to the retail food service industry. PtA's services market primarily in North and South Carolina and Georgia. Monarch has nationwide operations servicing markets from 12 distribution centers located in or near major metropolitian areas.

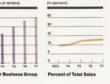
The food service industry encom-The food service industry encompasses all establishments providing meals away from home, e.g. restauranta, hospitals, schools and factory cafeterian. The market is large with estimated sales of \$30 billion (\$85 billion at retail menu prices) and a historic annual growth is projected to continue as the proprion of consumer food dollars spent away from home increases from the current \$1 of every \$3 to an estimated \$1 is of every \$2 by the mid-1980%.

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1897 Results

1897

far the largest supplier to the food service industry in its marketing area. It mos servets, so ome degree, 80-90% of the potential customers in South mos servets, so ome degree, 80-90% of the potential customers in South Period of the potential customers in South markets, expanding goographically and broadening its product lines. Starting basically with produce, PVA widened its product line to include means, seafond, for proceeding the product in the product in the seafond of the

















**Douwe Egberts** 

n January 1978, Consolidated Foods acquired 65% of the outstanding shares of Douwe Egberts, B.V. Headquartered in the Netherlands, Douwe Egberts is a leading international producer of

coffee, tea and tobacco products. For the third and fourth quar-ters of fiscal 1978—the initial sixters of fiscal 1978—the initial six-month period of association with Consolidated Foods—Douwe Eg-berts had sales of \$402 million, up 22% from the same six-month period a year ago. Calendar 1978 earnings have returned to normal levels, following disruptions in the world coffee market in 1977. The strong results also reflect the sharp depreciation of the U.S. dollar versus the Dutch milder

depreciation of the U.S. dollar versus the Dutch guider. For calendar 1977, Douwe Egberts had sales of \$705 million. Calendar 1977 earnings, however, were adversely impacted by soaring coffee prices and a resultant boarding and drop in consumer surphice thereof are

hoarding and drop in consumer purchases thereafter.
Since January 1978, however,
Douwe Egberts' brands, which have maintained their leadership positions, have regained their normal levels of profitability. Most importantly, per-capita coffee consumption is returning to normal levels and the historic 2-3% annual levels and the historic 2-3% annual levels and the bistoric 2-3% annual levels and the bistoric 2-3% annual levels and the bistoric 2-3% of annual levels and the bistoric 2-3% of the control of the contr

where it commands an important share. The company also has strong and growing positions in Belgium and France.

Future growth is anticipated from increased market penetration, new product introduction and con-tinued geographic expansion.

A particularly fast-growing segment of Dougs Erberts is Mos-

A particularly fast-growing segment of Douwe Egberts is Moccomat International. The Moccomat coffee concentrate system offers food service outlets excellent tasting coffee in less time, with less waste and pifferage problems than conventional systems.

Moccomat conventional systems.

Moccomat conventional systems.

Moccomat consists of two key elements, a specially brewed, frozen concentrate and a solid-state dispensing machine that mixes precise amounts of hot water with the concentrate to produce up to 4,000 cups of coffee per hour. Recently introduced in the United States, the division anticipates and accentance by a similfipates good acceptance by a signifi-cant number of U.S. food service operations.

Douwe Egberts' Pickwick Tea

Douwe Egberts' Pickwick Tea maintained its significant market share in Holland. The company's Amphora® pipe tobacco and rollyout-own tobaccos achieved record sales levels for the year.

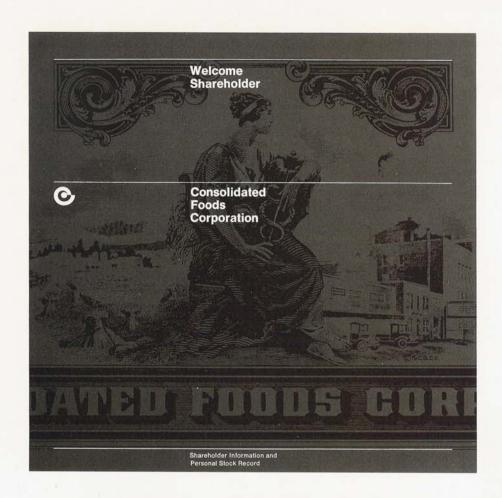
Douwe Egberts' major strengths include bold and innovative marketing techniques combined with a heavy commitment to research and development. Consolidated Foods is proud of its association with Douwe Egberts and looks forward to working together for both companies' mutual benefit in the years ahead.

Netherlands-headquartered Netherlands-headquartered Douwe Egberts is a premier Euro-pean packaged-goods consumer product company with leading brand names in coffee, tea and tobacco products.









Consolidated Foods 1977 Annual Report and Stockholder Information booklet was designed by Bart Crosby. Report photos were by Georg Bosek.

Standard Oil Building leasing center exhibit interior was designed by Robert Vogele.



### **RVI** Corporation

Banners for Bi-Centennial year in One IBM Plaza lobby and related calendar booklet that was given to building tenants were designed by Bill McDowell.

IBM Office Leasing Book was part of total marketing plan by RVI. Designed by Vogele and Gene Bellini.

Three marks from comprehensive I.D. programs: Pullman, Incorporated by Wayne Webb, Deere & Company by Robert Vogele and Illinois Savings & Loan League by Bart Crosby.

