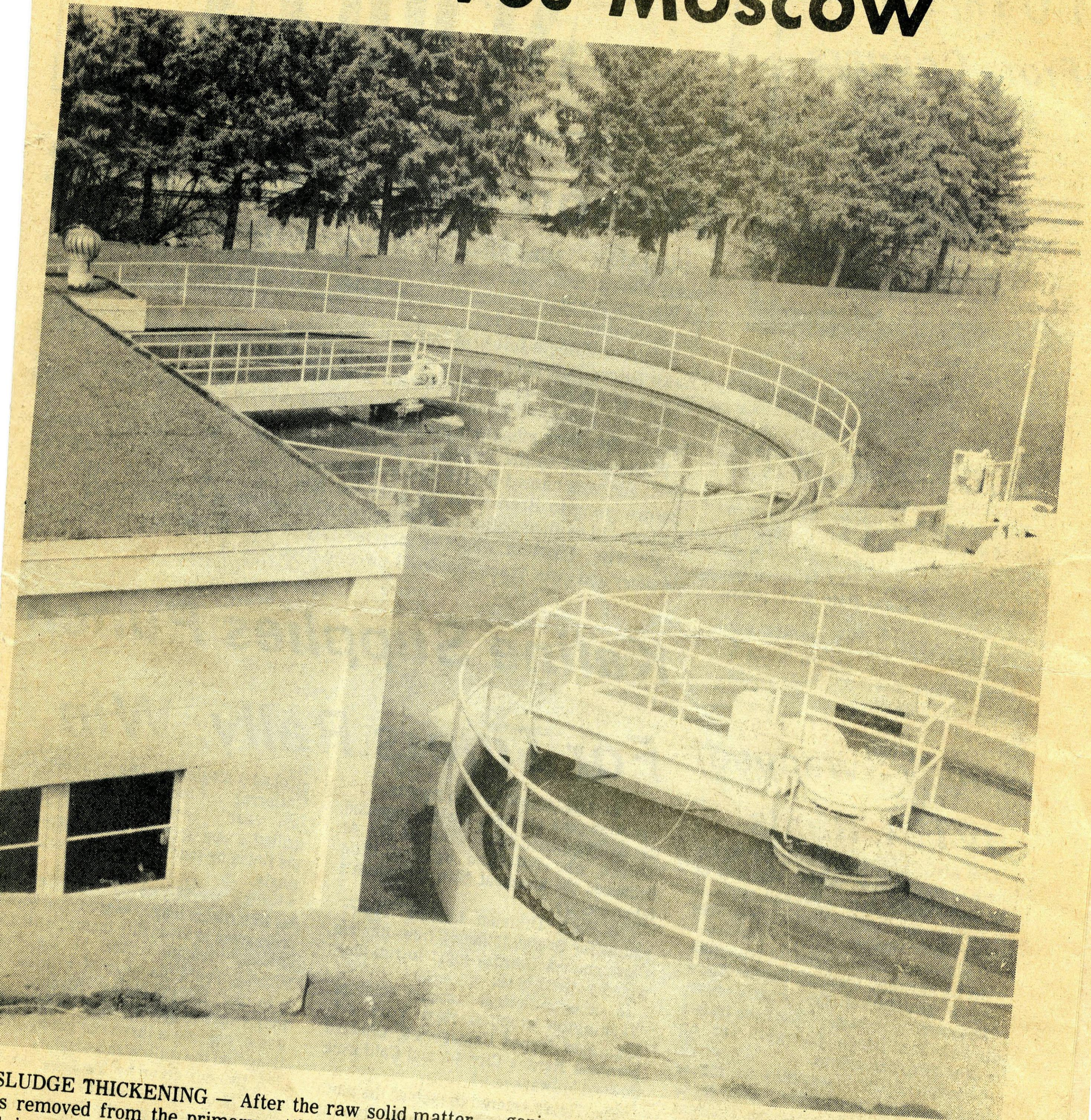


Plant Serves Moscow



SLUDGE THICKENING — After the raw solid matter is removed from the primary settling tank, left rear, it is spun to remove grit and pumped into a sludge thickening tank, foreground right, where solids settle to the bottom and water flows through seine teeth over the side. After the sludge has thickened it is pumped to a large digester. In the digester anaerobic bacteria act on the organic matter, and reduce it to stable or-

ganic compounds. The temperature of the sludge digester is kept at 95 degrees by burning the methane gas produced by the bacterial action. The sludge in the digester is rotated constantly, and the operation is geared to keep it in the digester for 25 days. After digestion the sludge flows into another tank where the solids settle to the bottom, and water is withdrawn from the top.