

PAINESVILLE ONCE SERVED BY PRIVATE ELECTRIC UTILITIES

One hundred years ago the Globe Electric Company provided electricity for the first street lights in the City of Painesville. In December 1885, Painesville Council ordered forty (40) street lights at a cost of \$6.00 per light per month.

From 1893 to 1908, the Commercial Electric Company provided street lights and electric power for lighting of homes and business places. By 1909, this firm's successors abandoned its Painesville Plant, leaving the municipal plant the sole supplier of electricity within the City.

PAINESVILLE'S FIRST PLANT

Painesville's first municipal electric plant was built in 1888 and was located on North St. Clair Street behind the site of the former Police and Fire Station. The location was know as Maiden Lane.

In 1908, a new generating station was erected on property purchased from the Painesville Cider and Manufacturing Company. This is the present location of the power plant.

LIGHT PLANT GETS ITS NAME

The early uses of electricity was limited to lighting purposes -- street lighting and home lighting, so the power generating station became known as the Light Plant, a name still in common usage, although the uses of electricity have greatly expanded to where lighting is one of its lesser uses.

GROWTH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE PLANT'S OPERATION

From 1888 to 1908, growth in the use of electricity was met by the Commercial Electric Company. In 1907, the Council determined to begin selling power on a commercial scale and the first of a long series of plant expansions began.

In December 1908, a steam driven electric production system was not until 1915 that any plant expansion was necessary.

1928 EXPANSION

In 1928, a large general expansion of the plant facilities was begun. Created by an increasing demand for electric power in the growing Painesville area. That year, a 1500 kilowatt steam turbine

generator, manufactured by Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company,
was installed and continued in operation until 197_.

EARLY HISTORY OF LIGHT PLANT

The Globe Electric Company provided the first electricity for Painesville. The Skewer Factory was the main consumer. In 1885, the Painesville Council contracted for street lights at \$6.00 per light per month.

In 1888, the Council sold bonds in the amount of \$12,500.00 for purchase or erection of an Electric Light Plant. This plant was located on North St. Clair Street near Main Street back of the old Fire and Police Station (now public parking lot). The plant continued in operation until 1908.

In 1893, Council granted a franchise for further lighting service from the Commercial Electric Company. At that time Electricity became available for use by the citizens in their homes and businesses for illumination purposes.

In 1895, Council contracted for street lights at a cost of \$5.00 per light per month during Moonlight Season or \$8.00 per light per month for all night "burning".

The Painesville Cider & Manufacturing Company property (site of present plant) was purchased in 1907 for \$2,250.00. In 1908, a new plant was put into operation. The Commercial Electric Company phased itself out of operation around this time.

EARLY HISTORY OF ELECTRICITY IN PAINESVILLE

On December 11, 1885, by authority of Ordinance Number 199, the Village of Painesville entered into a contract with the Globe Electric Company for the installation and operation of forty carbon electric street lights at a cost of \$6.00, per light per month. Time of contract three years.

The Globe Electric Company was in the Skewer Factory, then located just east of the Stowe Lumber & Coal Company property adjoining the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad right-of-way with a Generating Plant which consisted of two Western Electric Generators connected to the Skewer Factory engine using belt drive.

Beginning with 1888, Council of the Village conceived the idea of erecting Municipal Plant and on March 19, 1888, adopted Ordinance Number 223, authorizing sale of bonds in the aggregate of \$12,500.00, for the purchase or erection of an Electric Light Plant. Bonds were issued April 1, 1888, at a five percent interest rate payable semi-annually and maturing September 1, 1889-1897.

Apparently, a Municipal Plant was erected by the Western Electric Company as on June 15, 1888, Council adopted a Resolution indicating that the Light Plant of the Western Electric Company was completed in accordance with terms of a Resolution adopted

March 16, 1888, at an aggregate cost of \$12,948.90, and authorized acceptance.

The Plant was located on Village property north of Main Street and along the east side of St. Clair Street. To more readily identify the plant location with present date, it was located back of the Fire Station and continued in operation until December 19, 1908.

On April 28, 1893, Council by Ordinance Number 277, granted a franchise to The Commercial Electric Company for a term of five years for additional lighting service. The Company was required to tender a bond aggregating \$1,000.00, as a guarantee to give service within four months from date of grant and reserved right to purchase plant at an arbitrated valuation upon expiration of franchise.

With the granting of this franchise incandescent lighting was first introduced and the purpose of the grant was to give to the citizens an opportunity to use current in homes and business places for illumination purposes.

This Plant was built on the east side of Richmond Street and north of The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad right-of-way, now identified as Saari's Coal Yard on Burton Street and its operation started in August, 1893.

The Commercial Electric Company distributed current in the Village of Fairport for Commercial and Street Lighting consumption and to Commercial and private users in Painesville.

Council controlled the rate per light charge in the Village but fixed no unit price leaving same to the reasonable judgement of the Company to charge on a parity with other Villages similarly situated.

On March 1, 1895, the Village of Painesville entered into a contract with The Commercial Electric Company to install six sixteen candlepower incandescent lamps in the Electric Light Building at a cost of Five & 50/100 Dollars (\$5.50), per light per month during Moonlight Season or Eight Dollars (\$8.00), per light for all night burning and one sixteen candle-power lamps at corner of Marion Avenue and South Street at a cost of Three Dollars (\$3.00), per month.

REFUSE TO SELL

History records that in 1934, the value of the plant and distribution systems was "easily worth \$1,500,000.00, although the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company made a strong bid to purchase the franchise and rights in 1926 for \$765,000.00," and

that "after due deliberation the offer was rejected."

This refusal occurred September 21, 1926, in a dramatic session of Council. According to stories in The Telegraph at that period, the battle to prevent sale of the plant was led by Councilman Timothy J. Lynch of W. Jackson Street. The plant "was saved" when Council President Frank Morrison voiced the deciding "no" when the vote stood two-two.

On April 7, 1936, Council voted to install a \$100,000.00 boiler to replace one installed in 1915 and to supplement three others, one of which had been in operation since 1919 and the others since 1923 and 1929.

A Christmas gift was presented to consumers in this year as Council voted to write off December bills because the utility's splendid financial shape warranted it.

The second offer in twenty-five (25) years by the C.E.I. to

purchase the light plant was made Monday, January 16, 1950, when permission was asked to make a survey of the plant as a preliminary step to probable proposal for its purchase. Permission was granted by a 5 to 2 vote, with Mrs. Lillian Robinson and Leroy Braun voting "no."

At the next meeting, February 6th, hundreds of citizens jammed the Council chambers in City Hall to protest the survey, which was voted to be discontinued pending further study. On February 20th, Council, following a hearing attended by 175 citizens, ordered the survey halted permanently. James A. Creel was chairman and Mr. Cook, city manager.

PERSONNEL

1907	W.M. Collister	Superintendent of Lighting
1908	E.L. Williams	Plant Engineer
	A.W. Leland	Plant Engineer
1934	Sam Hazen	Plant Engineer
	Ray Larue	Superintendent of Distribution
1940	John Swanson	Engineer
	O.E. Ficker	Superintendent of Distribution
	James Wilson	Engineer
1950		
1960	John Leivo	
	Charles Lombardy	
1970	Joe Pandey, Jr.	
	Tom Green	

HISTORY OF EQUIPMENT AT LIGHT PLANT

1907	Gas Producer Engine and Generator
1908	Russell Engine and Western Sixty Gas Light Dynamo
1915	Erie City 372 Horsepower Boiler (Hand coal fired) 500 Kilowatt Kerr Generator
1919	Erie City 482 Horsepower Boiler (Hand coal fired) 1000 Kilowatt Ridgeway Generator
1923	Connelley 580 Horsepower Boiler 1500 Kilowatt Allis Chalmer Steam Generator
1928	Foster Wheeler 573 Horsepower Boiler (Stoker coal fired) & Superheater 2500 Kilowatt Allis Chalmer Steam Turbine Generator (Present No. 4)
1938	Babcock & Wilcox Superheated Boiler (Stoker coal fired) Rated 60,000 pounds of steam per hour (Present No. 1) 4000 Kilowatt Allis Chalmer Steam Turbine Generator (Present No. 1)
1947-48	Babcock & Wilcox Superheated Boiler (Stoker coal fired) Rated 75,000 pounds of steam per hour (Present No. 2) 7500 Kilowatt Allis Chalmer Steam Turbine Generator (Present No. 2)
1954	Riley Superheated Boiler (Stoker coal fired) Rated 50,000 pounds of steam per hour (Present No. 3) 7500 Kilowatt General Electric Company Steam Turbine Generator (Present No. 3)
1959	Riley Superheated Boiler (Stoker coal fired) Rated 250,000 pounds of steam per hour
1963	16,500 Kilowatt General Electric Company Steam Turbine Generator (Present No. 5)

1972

Babcock & Wilcox Superheated Boiler
(Pulverized coal fired) Rated 215,000 pounds
of steam per hour (Present No. 6)

25,000 Kilowatt General Electric Company Steam
Turbine Generator (Present No. 6 - being
retired)

1988

22,000 Kilowatt General Electric Company
Steam Turbine Generator (Replacement No. 6)