

Old Electric System Discontinued

One of the oldest electric systems in service anywhere in the country has been discontinued. It was part of the Edison three-wire, direct current network, first established in Rochester in 1886, and has been in continuous service for 82 years.

Francis E. Drake, Jr., board chairman and chief executive officer of RG&E, opened the switch, shutting down the system. Commenting on the network, he said, "This system was one of the real workhorses of its day. It was very adaptable for use in electric motors, and as such played a very important role in the development of industrial uses of electricity."

The Edison system was one of the first in the country to bury its wires, thus becoming the forerunner of RG&E's vast underground network. It was also the start of RG&E's steam system, which now provides heat for nearly 500 customers. Exhaust steam from the engines driving the original 125 volt generators was used for heating adjacent buildings.