Indiana Gas Was Columbus Light and Coke

Indiana Gas company, which began lighting the streets and homes of Columbus in 1869 as Columbus Gas Light and Coke company, today serves 12,048 customers here.

customers here. The company, in addition to providing energy for lighting, also furnished gas for cooking and water heating. In the be-ginning, it was called "illumi-nating gas." and was made by baking coal in air-tight retorts or ovens

The high temperature caused part of the coal to turn to gas. The gas was collected from the overs and stored in a gas holder for use as needed. What was left of the baked coal was known as "coke." In 1908, the gas manufac-tured was "coal-gas and carbu-reted water-gas." and the company name became Co-lumbus Gas Light company. In 1930 Columbus Gas Light was absorbed by a large interstate

1930 Columbus Gas Light Was absorbed by a large interstate holding company known as In-terstate Public Service com-pany. This company piped the coal-gas and carbureted water-

GAS

GAS A gas company was formed and organized at Columbus in 1869, and entered into a con-tract with the city to furnish it gas at a price agreed upon. The company erected the neces-sary buildings, laid pipe, erected all the lamp posts, and on Nov. 6, 1860, the city was first lighted by gas.

gas cross-country from Terre Haute to Franklin and down to Columbus. In 1931, the name of the company bringing gas to Columbus from Terre Haute became Public Service Com-ners of Judgen.

Columbus From Ferre Haute became Public Service Com-pany of Indiana. Natural gas, piped from gas fields in Texas and Louisiana to the Midwest reached Colum-bus in 1940. The gas operations in Columbus were acquired by Indiana Gas and Water com-pany in 1945, the company that was formed to operate the gas and water utility properties being spun off from Public Ser-vice Company of Indiana. At that time there were 2,981 gas customers in Columbus. These included 2,730 residential and 232 commercial and 19 indus-trial customers. Only about 10 per cent used gas for space heating. The old gas holder exected

trial custom. per cent used gas tor op-heating. The old gas holder, erected at Fifth and Harrison streets in 1927, was a landmark until it was born down in 1950, when it no longer served a useful pur-pose. This holder was most unluable when gas was manu-coal but, when natural gas was introduced, the holder was too small to be practical.

In September, 1967, Indiana Gas company became the cor-porate name when the remain-ing seven water utility proper-ties of the company were sold. The company had never pro-vided water service in Colum-bus, however. Today, Indiana Gas company serves 220,000 customers in 189 communities

in north central, central and southern Indiana, including the 100,000 customers of its wholly-

100,000 customers of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Central In-diana Gas company which was acquired on Dec. 31, 1973. Today, Indiana Gas company serves 12,048 gas customers in Columbus, including 10,699 residential, 1,322 commercial and 27 industrial customers. Over 96 per cent now use gas for space heating purposes. Gas usage in 1946 was 2.7 mil-

Över 96 per cent now use gas for space heating purposes. Gas usage in 1946 was 2.7 mil-lion cubic feet. In 1975, 411.4 million cubic feet were used. Natural gas serves industry in the Columbus area in the many products, including met-al casting, auto parts, metal specialties, electrical equip-ment, plastics, engines, bakery goods, feed, flour and grain. In commercial operations and in institutions gas is used for space heating, air condi-tioning, cooking, water heating and incineration. In the new Southside junior high school, natural gas pro-vides the total energy require-ments, including all elec-tricity. A Cummins Engine company engine, operated on natural gas, generates all elec-trical requirements. The waste heat from this engine is utili-zed to provide hot water and steam which take care of heat-ing and air conditioning needs. This total energy package doed cost This total energy package does all this at a much lower cost than any other method.

Indiana Gas company ob-tains natural gas for the Co-

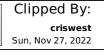
lumbus area from one of its pipeline suppliers, Texas Gas Transmission corporation, on long-term contracts. Under-ground storage of gas is an im-portant factor in meeting the heavy demands for space heat-ing in cold weather. During the warmer months, gas from the pipeline supplier is pumped into the company's under-ground storage field at Union-ville, near Bloomington. In severe cold weather, gas is withdrawn from storage to help meet the increased re-quirements. The company's commercial fiftine in Columbus heat hear he

help meet the increased re-quirements. The company's commercial office in Columbus has been lo-cated at 1405 Washington since 1972. In 1967, a modern service headquarters was constructed at 1460 Jackson. Arthur M. Shuler is com-mercial manager of the Co-lumbus district and has an of-fice at the 1405 Washington lo-cation. James A. Walsh is the district superintendent. The Columbus district of In-diana Gas company is a part of the South division which also includes the Bloomingtton, Bedford, Seymour, New Alba-ny-Jeffersonville and Madison districts. The division office headquarters is located at 70 Prex Park. P. Jack Spoonmore is division manager and Don Brex Park. P. Jack Spoonmore is division manager and Don K. Stevenson is division superintendent.

Due to the nationwide shortage of natural gas, the com-pany has not been taking on new customers whose require-ments have been in excess of 420 cubic feet an hour or add-ing new loads for present cus-tomers whose existing require-ments equal or exceed 420 cub-ic feet an hour for several

years. On May 5, 1976, because of the declining amounts of natu-ral gas available to the com-The declining amounts of natu-ral gas available to the com-pany from interstate pipeline companies, the Public Service Commission of Indiana ap-proved a new Indiana Gas company lariff rule which re-stricts the availability of new or additional gas to residential and small commercial appli-cants who will use gas only for purposes such as cooking, wa-ter heating, clothes drying and incineration and whose total connected load would not ex-ceed 420 cubic feet an hour. According to this rule, new or additional gas is no longer available for space heating, cooling, swimming pool heat-ing and lighting for existing homes and it will not be avail-able for these purposes for new home applications received af-ter July 31, 1976. Summing up for his com-pany, Shuler said, "Natural gas was first brought to Co-lumbus 36 years ago, and its applications are numerous, in home, in stitutions, com-mercial establishments and in-dustry. Under current gas sup-ply conditions, we acknowl-edge the conservation efforts of our customers large and small who make wise use of this premium form of clean energy."

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