



The night  
the lights  
went on

Rochesterians were first treated to the wonders of electric light on the night of January 29, 1879 when Hiram Maxim, the distinguished inventor, staged a public showing of this new form of illumination. Actually, the modern age of energy in Rochester had already begun some 30 years before, on December 18, 1848, the day gas first began lighting city streets and homes. And RG&E was there from the very beginning. We were called the Rochester Gas Light Company then and first turned on the gas for 80 initial private customers and 10 city street lamps from a single plant on Mumford

(now Andrews) Street. In December, 1975 the great, great-grandchild, Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation, was supplying electricity, gas and steam service to residential, commercial and industrial consumers in a 9-county area with a population of 890,000. It's a long way from gaslight to the Ginna nuclear power plant, but whatever the future holds in the field of energy, you can be sure RG&E will be there. Just as we were there when it all began, over a century ago.

