

Fires Going Out At Toledo Edison Heating Plant

Last 3 Customers To Get Own Boilers

Toledo Edison Co. will close its old Detroit Avenue heating plant next October, cutting off the plant's last three customers.

Closing of the plant will end a 64-year era in which it supplied steam for heating homes and businesses in the Old West End.

Last of the residential customers were cut off more than 20 years ago.

Still served by the plant are the Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe St.; the Plaza Hotel, 2520 Monroe, and the Pinkerton Tobacco Co., 3001 Council St. (adjacent to the plant).

All three customers plan to install their own steam boilers.

The Toledo Museum of Art is working out plans to build a steam plant on the museum grounds near the present service building.

Otto Wittmann, museum director, said the cost of the project has not been estimated since final plans are not complete.

Kenneth Brockmeier, museum superintendent, said preliminary plans call for construction of a one-story building of about 1,250 square feet.

It will house four automatic boilers and related equipment needed to keep humidity in the museum at about 50 per cent. Construction will take about three months and will start in time for completion before the October cut-off date.

Leonard Steusloff, vice presi-

dent of the Pinkerton Tobacco Co., said the company is the Edison plant's largest remaining customer, since it uses steam in processing operations.

Talks about the possible sale of the heating plant to Pinkerton were held, but the tobacco company now plans to build its own facility, Mr. Steusloff said.

Spokesmen at the Plaza said the hotel's contract with Edison for steam expires soon and the hotel has no alternative except to install necessary equipment to produce steam.

Toledo Edison spokesmen said that since the plant closing is by mutual consent, no approval by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is necessary.

One major factor leading to the closing was the need to relocate the steam line, which runs along Virginia Street from the plant, because of expressway construction, Edison officials contended.

About 900 feet of pipe would have to be relocated, according to officials in the Lucas County expressway office. About 75 feet of this is on Edison property.

Estimated cost of relocating the 900 feet of pipe is \$125,000, and the power company would pay all but about \$10,500, since the state does not pay for relocating pipe in the public right of way.

An Edison official said no decision has been made on the future of the old plant.

The plant was built in 1901 by Toledo Heating and Lighting Co., a firm organized in 1894 by Homer Yaryan.

Mr. Yaryan's first plant

was built at Jefferson Avenue and Michigan Street. The primary purpose was to supply steam heat for residents, but

electricity was generated as a by-product.

The idea of heating the large West Toledo homes without shoveling coal caught on and Mr. Yaryan built a second plant on Floyd street and finally built the Detroit Avenue plant at the foot of Virginia.

The firm supplied electricity to its steam customers as a secondary service at the rate of \$1 a month. The firm was merged with Toledo Gas, Electric & Heating Co. in 1905.

In 1907, the Toledo Gas, Electric & Heating Co. was purchased by Toledo Railroads & Light Co., direct ancestor of Toledo Edison.



—Made Photo
OLD WEST END LANDMARK
 Batters at Swayne Field
 aimed for it

Unmanned Yank Plane Shot Down, Red China Claims

TOKYO, Jan. 2 (U)—Communist China claimed today that it had shot down an unmanned American reconnaissance plane flying over central southern China, radio Peking, monitored here, said.

The broadcast gave no further details.

(In Washington, the Defense Department said it had no comment on the report.)

On Dec. 18 a Communist Chinese naval air unit downed a U.S.-made Nationalist Chinese RF-101 reconnaissance plane over East China, and Peking claimed that it captured the pilot.