



District Heating

APRIL-MAY 1973

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Story of the Campus' Expansion

▲ FIFTH LARGEST STEAM PRODUCER IN THE U. S.

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
Rochester, N. Y.

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION

FIFTH LARGEST STEAM PRODUCER IN THE UNITED STATES



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Rochester Gas and Electric, shown by statistics computed at the end of the year 1972, is the fifth largest company selling steam for industrial, commercial, and heating use, in the United States and Canada. The total steam sold to the Company's 424 customers for that year amounted to 4,093,000,000 lb, and the maximum hourly sendout was 1,198,000 lb. The steam is generated in three centrally located plants.

The distribution piping system is approximately 37 miles long, and the piping ranges in size from two to 24 in. in diameter. The transmission lines attain 650 lb of pressure, and reducing stations maintain pressure at approximately 200 lb throughout the high-pressure distribution system. The Company maintains the regulators which control the steam entering customers' premises.

The greatest demand for the Company's steam is for heating the hundreds of buildings in the downtown area of the city. However, the demand by industry is growing for air conditioning, hot water, and other miscellaneous uses, so the outlook for continued growth is very bright.

The Steam Distribution Department, a division of the newly-created "Steam Heating Systems" at RG&E is comprised of approximately 39 persons. Four groups make up the Department: Engineering, Office, Steam Fitting, and Meter Repair-Calibration. Each group consists of highly-trained personnel who have the capability to accurately administer, install, design, calibrate, and repair all equipment involved, and offer the finest possible service to the customer, whom they consider "their greatest asset."

The Engineering Group consists of the Steam Distribution Engineer, two field engineers and one inspector. These men develop and design plans for the layout of new installations; they draw and maintain, with up-to-the minute accuracy, the volume of maps that show every detail of the distribution system. They determine the proper sizing of steam mains, and maintain rigid inspection of sound engineering and safe construction procedures of contractors.

The Office Staff consists of the Superintendent, the General Foreman, the Meter Section Foreman and his assistant, the steam dispatcher, and the secretary. All business transactions, service orders, consumer records, dispatching, and directive orders to other department sections are administered from this office. The customer service records, inspection records, customer property locations, types of customer installations, and system maps are kept and filed in this office to facilitate faster service to customers when necessary.

The Meter Repair and Calibration section consists of seven highly-trained technicians who install, repair, and calibrate the delicate meters to insure customers accurate readings and proper billings. Three types of meters are used: the chart-type flowmeter; the shuntflow meter; and the condensate meter. The chart flowmeters and shuntflow meters are used primarily for industrial customers, and the condensate is used primarily for heating customers. All meters are checked either monthly, weekly, or daily by the meter men, while taking readings on their routes and by a regular preventive maintenance schedule.

The Steam Fitter section, like the Meter section, often makes direct contact with customers and their property. These men are trained to be respectful, helpful and considerate of customers' property and belongings. The fitters are available 24 hours around the clock, seven days a week, to repair, correct, and to service the system, should unforeseen problems arise. Their unit is composed of three foremen and approximately 19 skilled, and well trained men who offer the best in efficient, courteous service. Proper control of pressures and temperatures are of utmost importance to customers, and periodic checks on equipment are regularly made by these men to assure correct operation.

Let us not forget the two men who might be called the "Diplomatic Corps" of the Steam Department. These are the two Sales Engineers who, although officially a part of the Commercial and Industrial Marketing Department, are in actuality a very real and important arm of the Steam Distribution Department.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

The Department is very proud of the fact that several years before air pollution was recognized as a deadly enemy, it was already making considerable progress in eliminating this hazard and making Rochester one of the cleanest cities in the United States. By the sale of steam to many area customers, old out-dated boilers were eliminated. Many old smoke-belching stacks became dormant. Numerous fuel stock piles, that on windy days caused curtains of black dust to accumulate on the streets and buildings, vanished as if by magic (Figs. 1 and 2). In general, the Steam Distribution Department feels that it has helped to create a much cleaner and healthier atmosphere in the downtown area for the

thousands of persons who work and live there. They are looking forward to even greater improvements in this field, as many experiments are being conducted to devise means of expanding the territory economically. With a larger volume of business, the steam service territory could conceivably be extended and could even result in a reduction of cost to the consumer. Last, but not least, a further clearing of the atmosphere would be helpful to all.

Meanwhile, the Department plans to keep "Steady Steam" on the ball, and try even harder to make him a faster growing, stronger member of the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation family. Δ

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