

PETOSKEY'S FIRST ELECTRIC PLANT

Petoskey's first electric light plant was located at the second dam on Bear River, south of Mitchell Street Bridge. It was known as the Edison Petoskey Light Company and was organized in 1887 by H.O. Rose as president and Myron H. Beals as secretary and general manager. It was later purchased by the city.

Describing the plant, the Independent Democrat said:

"The large and conveniently arranged buildings contain five large dynamos, four for the Edison incandescent lamp circuits and one for the arc lights.

"Besides the 60 horse power obtained from the water wheels, there is a 150-horsepower engine with boilers having a capacity of 300 horse power to provide for increasing requirements.

"The company furnishes very satisfactory service at lower rates than prevail in the average Michigan city, the rate being 50 cents for each 16 candle lamp. They also supply meters and furnish the current at meter rates and are rapidly extending their meter method of regulating prices."

A little arithmetic shows that the capacity of the early plant in kilowatts was 157. This compares with the capacity of the present hydro system which is 780 kilowatts. In addition, the city's diesel plant has a capacity of 3,000 kilowatts. In other words, the capacity of the municipal plant has been increased to 24 times that which it was originally – and engineers see the need for additional power within the near future.