

Gas Company is City's Newest Public Utility

The Merrill Gas company, Merrill's newest and fastest-growing utility, first opened its mains on Thanksgiving Day in 1929.

The first year's consumption of gas was 100,000 cubic feet. Only a few mains were laid, and the company's plant valuation was \$100,000.

This year the gas consumption will be around 3,000,000 feet and there are 350 users who are served by seventeen miles of mains, and the plant's valuation has increased to \$150,000.

That is the brief and successful story of the growth of the new local industry. In 1931, less than two years after its first construction, the company built a 50,000 cubic foot gas container to provide for extra gas consumption. At the same time a newer, more efficient gas purifier was added.

Under the present installation gas is manufactured every two or three days at the plant at the foot of West Third street. An upright retort is filled half with coal, half with checker-brick. The coal is heated to 1350 degrees Fahrenheit, and a stream of air passing through it up to the brick heats the brick. When thoroughly heated, the air is shut off and live steam is turned onto the coal, while oil is sprayed onto the brick. The oil decomposes under the terrific heat, and carbon from the oil combines with hydrogen from the steam to form water-gas, the commercial product.

As the gas is led off from the generating retort it runs through a water-scrubber, in which it flows upward over a series of steps through water tumbling downward over the steps. This removes much of the tar. After cooling, it is led through a shoving scrubber, where wood shavings remove some impurities, and an iron oxide scrubber, where other petroleum products are chemically removed.

The gas is then conveyed to the storage tanks, of which there are four, one large and three small. Before being distributed into the mains it is conveyed once more into the main building and passed through two regulators. One drops the pressure to 15 pounds and the second to three and one-half pounds, the pressure maintained in the city mains. Three gauges in the main building keep track of the pressure in the storage tanks and the mains.

At present the company stands ready to run lines into any house or building where gas is desired without charge to the owner. The system of mains is being extended through the city as it is needed, and in time it is expected that every building in the city will have gas service installed. New modern buildings are being gas-equipped as a matter of course.

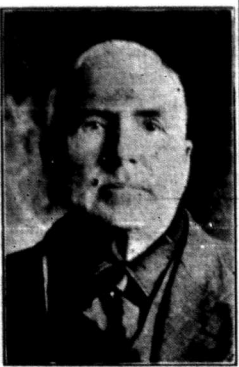
As building picks up and people begin buying more gas-consuming devices, there is no doubt that the Merrill Gas company will grow to be an important part of the vital services of the city as it is in larger places where gas service has been longer in use.

The local office on First street near Western Union displays a complete line of labor-saving devices for home, office, and industrial use. Its stock includes gas refrigerators, stoves, water-heaters, space-heaters, laundry stoves, and many types of industrial equipment. The household goods are beautifully designed and finished to be a credit to the smartest of homes, while at the same time improvements in construction make them as economical and practical as any on the market.

Creger Manages Badger Studio Here 12 Years

Lawrence Creger, proprietor and operator of the "Badger Studio" at 610 West Main street, served his apprenticeship in photography in the city of Green Bay, following which he managed a studio for one O. Smithers, at Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

During the year 1922, while so engaged, he embraced the opportunity to purchase the studio in this city, since which time the Badger Studio has gained recogni-



HENRY DUDLEY, whose pioneer experiences are in part chronicled elsewhere in this Souvenir Edition of the Daily Herald, possesses a fund of first-hand information from actual contact with the early history of the once so-called "North Woods."

tion for faultless reproduction and vivid delineation of his subjects in whatever mode desired.

The photos of Merrill homes and the present-day street scenes made especially for this edition were taken by Mr. Creger.

Through close association with his fellow craftsmen and the adoption of modern methods, Mr. Creger has developed a student nature that has made for advanced photography, a fact well demonstrated through studio display and increased patronage.

"Efficiency" having been adopted as the slogan of the Badger Studio, Mr. Creger executes all his orders at his home studio, no matter how technical, such as photo coloring, hand-painted scenes, also portraits; enlargements and copying of faded photos; enlargements of photos or snapshots; copying legibly of old letters, legal documents, etc., restoring their value.

"I make photographs at night, or any other time, at any place desired, and under any and all possible circumstances or conditions," said Mr. Creger, "and I don't care how difficult the subject may be."

A magnanimous nature is Mr. Creger's, for he is most considerate of the amateur photographer, and freely draws on his knowledge and experience in aiding them to solve their problems, which he cordially invites them to do.

The Badger Studio has just been thoroughly reconditioned and newly decorated, in harmony with the artistic atmosphere which pervades the surroundings, and which Mr. Creger endeavors to impress upon every bit of work turned out at his studio.

LARGE PINE TREE

Some magnificent pine grew in this country and along the Wisconsin River, boards 40 inches wide were common, and strange as it may seem woodmen who know say that the monarch of all the pines still stands in the Brokaw timber not far from Hans Johnson's resort on the Prairie River.



E. F. HANF, for many years a member of the widely known pioneer hardware firm of H. R. Fehland & Company, some years since retired, and resting on the business laurels won, with his family at 1304 Sixth street.

Waterworks Was Second Utility Here; Began '87

The City Water Works company has served the city of Merrill continuously for 47 years. Inaugurated in 1887, the plant has always been operated under private ownership. At present it is under Superintendent H. J. Evers.

The plant, now owned by the American Waterworks and Electric company, was for a time owned by the American Waterworks

and Guarantee company. This service was the second utility made available for Merrill, the telephone company having opened its first exchange in 1881.

It has been the constant endeavor of the company to provide an adequate quantity of pure, wholesome water under pressure throughout the city. To this end careful attention is given to the operation and control of the most modern purification methods.

The water that Merrill people now use goes through seven purification processes before it reaches the household. Merrill was among the first 1,000 cities in the United States to provide purified water for drinking purposes.

The site of the plant has always remained the same, on Third

street where it crosses the Prairie river.

During the past few summers of severe drouth, other cities in this region have been compelled to curtail the use of water. Merrill, however, has always enjoyed an ample supply. Furthermore, there has not been a case of typhoid in Merrill for several years.

Daily bacteria tests are made at the water works, and once a month the state inspects the quality of the water. Thus the Merrill company fulfills the three requisites of good service, which are: water good in quality, in adequate quantity, with dependability of service.

As better methods of improving water service are devised, they are brought to Merrill.

MERRILL GAS CO.

Merrill, Wis.

MERRILL DAILY HERALD—

GENTLEMEN:

It has come to our attention that this is the event of your 25th anniversary.

The average life of a business is much shorter than the record that you hold. It is our pleasure to extend to you our sincere congratulations on this event and wish for you many more years in this field of service that you have chosen for your own.

Yours very truly,

MERRILL GAS COMPANY

GAS

THE IDEAL MODERN FUEL

Congratulations . . .

To the Merrill Daily Herald on this anniversary of service they have rendered to this community. Adequate service, given promptly and with courtesy is the asperation of any institution worthy of public respect. As the Merrill Daily Herald gives its service promptly and with courtesy so we endeavor to give the people of this city the use of pure, wholesome running water. We are happy to be of service to you and shall do our best to please you in any way that we can.

CITY WATER WORKS