

2012

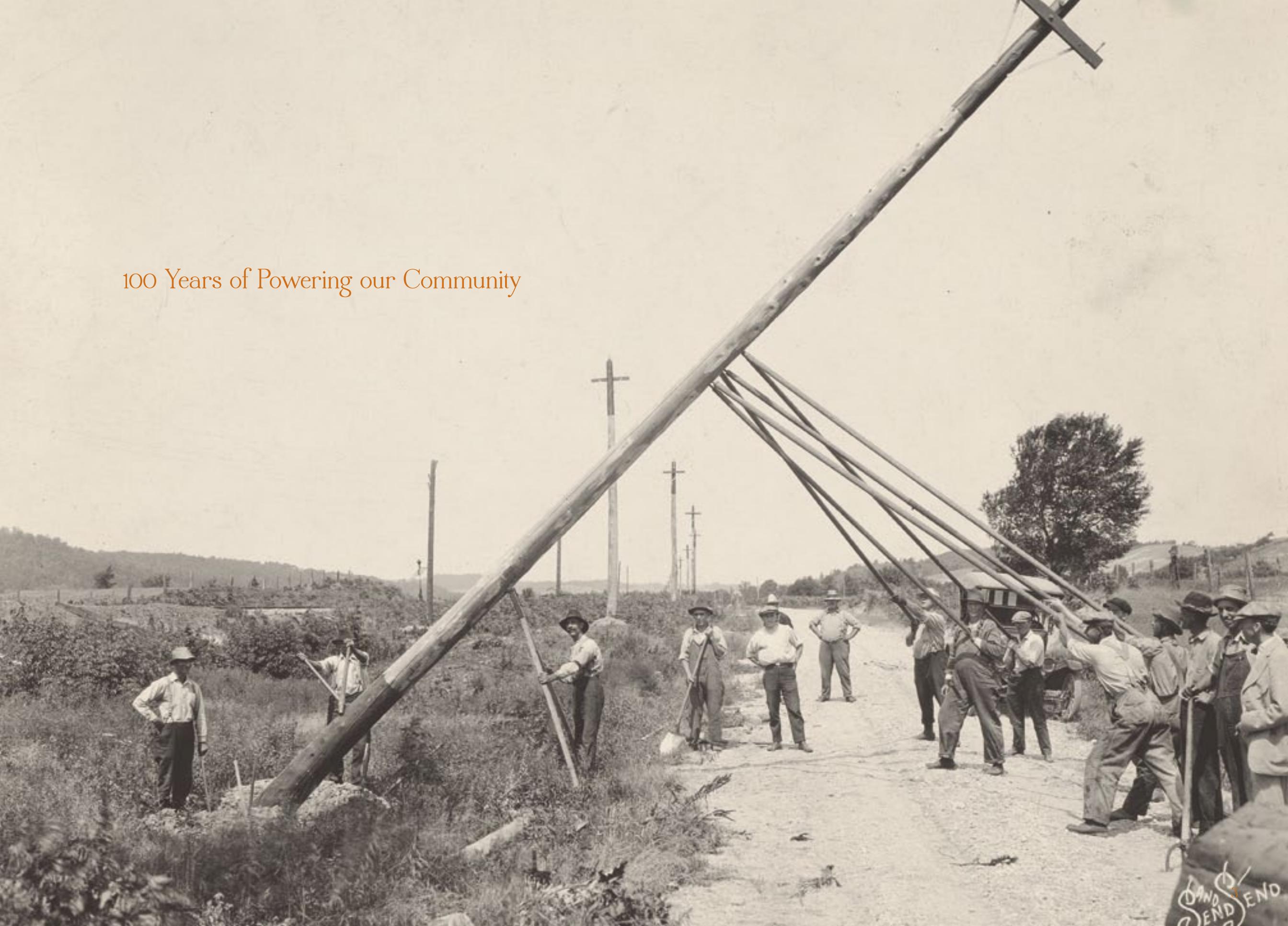


1912



TRAVERSE CITY
LIGHT & POWER

100 Years of Powering our Community



SAND
SEND
END

Traverse City has always had a special energy. From its earliest beginnings, when lumber barons and railroad entrepreneurs carved a community out of the northern wilderness, Traverse City has been a community driven by hard-working people with vision and dedication.

For 100 years, Traverse City Light & Power has been an integral part of this community. We've powered local business, enriched the lives of local people, and continually pursued brighter ideas for managing and securing our energy resources.

As we celebrate our 100th year, we take a look back. We share some stories. Some treasured memories. Some notable milestones. But we also look forward. We look to the important steps we're taking today to ensure the vitality and energy of our community now and well into the future. Enjoy this book, it was 100 years in the making.



“The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose.”

Thomas Edison

The Dark Days 1858 – 1888



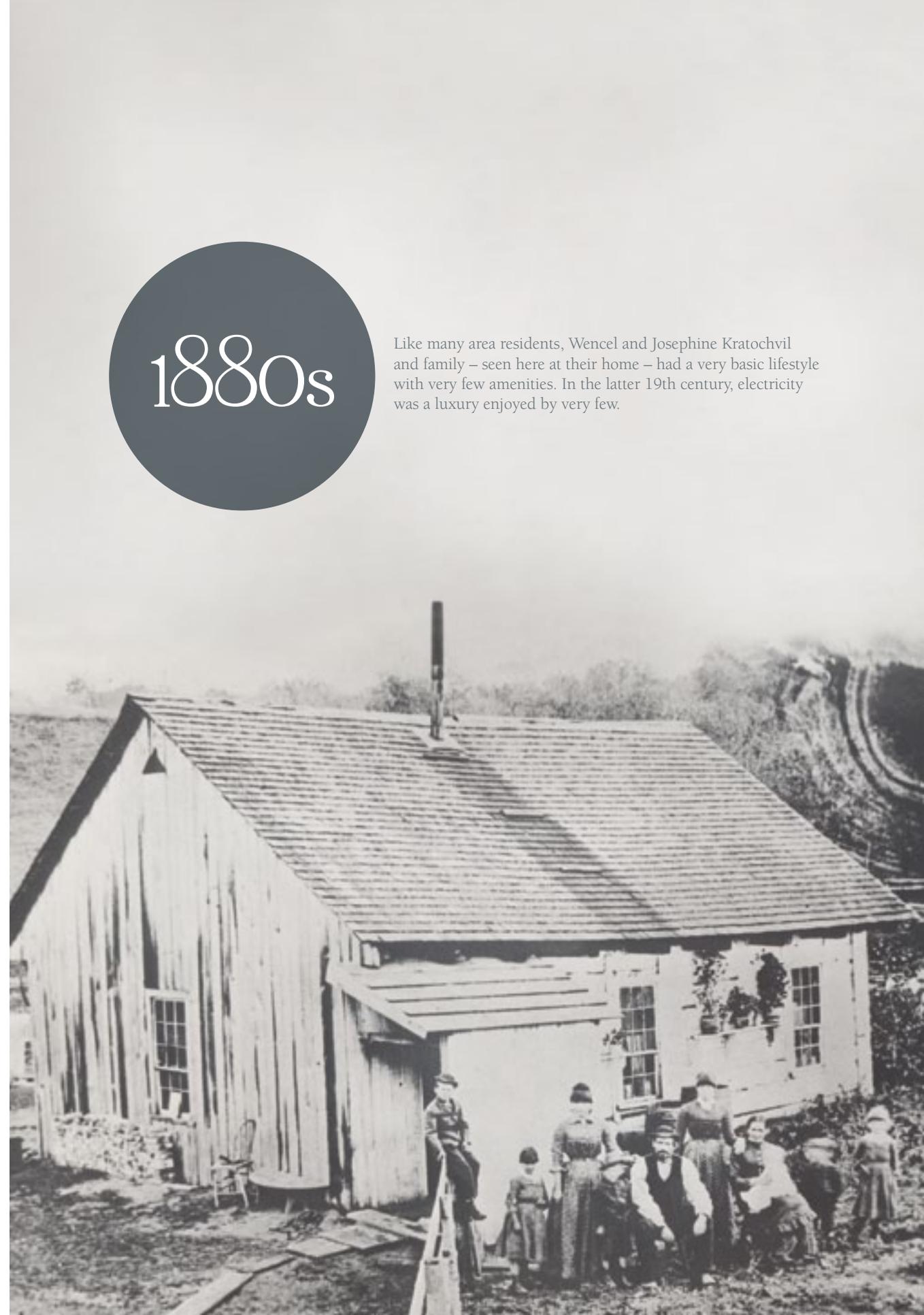
In its early days, Traverse City pretty much shut down after dark. People retired to their homes, using candles to light their way up wooden stairs and through dark, narrow hallways. In the cold months, wood fires kept families warm.

In 1859, kerosene was first distilled from a petroleum product, making way for the kerosene lamp. This made it easier for people to light their homes, but they still had to carry lanterns when walking the streets at night.

In 1879, Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb – forever changing the way we see the world. Despite this groundbreaking innovation, it would be several more years before Traverse City would throw the switch on electricity.

1880s

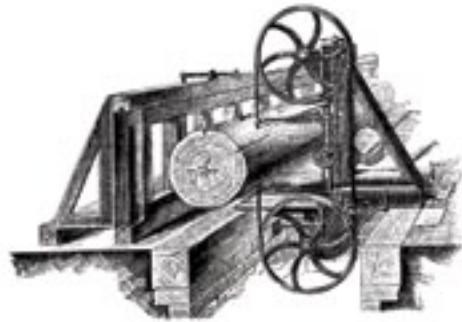
Like many area residents, Wencel and Josephine Kratochvil and family – seen here at their home – had a very basic lifestyle with very few amenities. In the latter 19th century, electricity was a luxury enjoyed by very few.





1826

Georg Ohm studies electric current conduction in metals. The ohm becomes a measurement of resistance between two points of a conductor.



1847

Captain Boardman of Naperville, Illinois purchases the land at the mouth of Kid's Creek. He and his son and their employees build a small dwelling and a sawmill, similar to the one pictured below, at the site.



1859

Kerosene is first distilled from a petroleum product, making way for the kerosene lamp. In Traverse City's early years, citizens used these as table lamps and also as hand-held portable lighting.

1852

Peter Dougherty, a Presbyterian missionary, plants the first cherry orchard on Old Mission Peninsula.



1879

Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb – demonstrating it in Menlo, New Jersey.

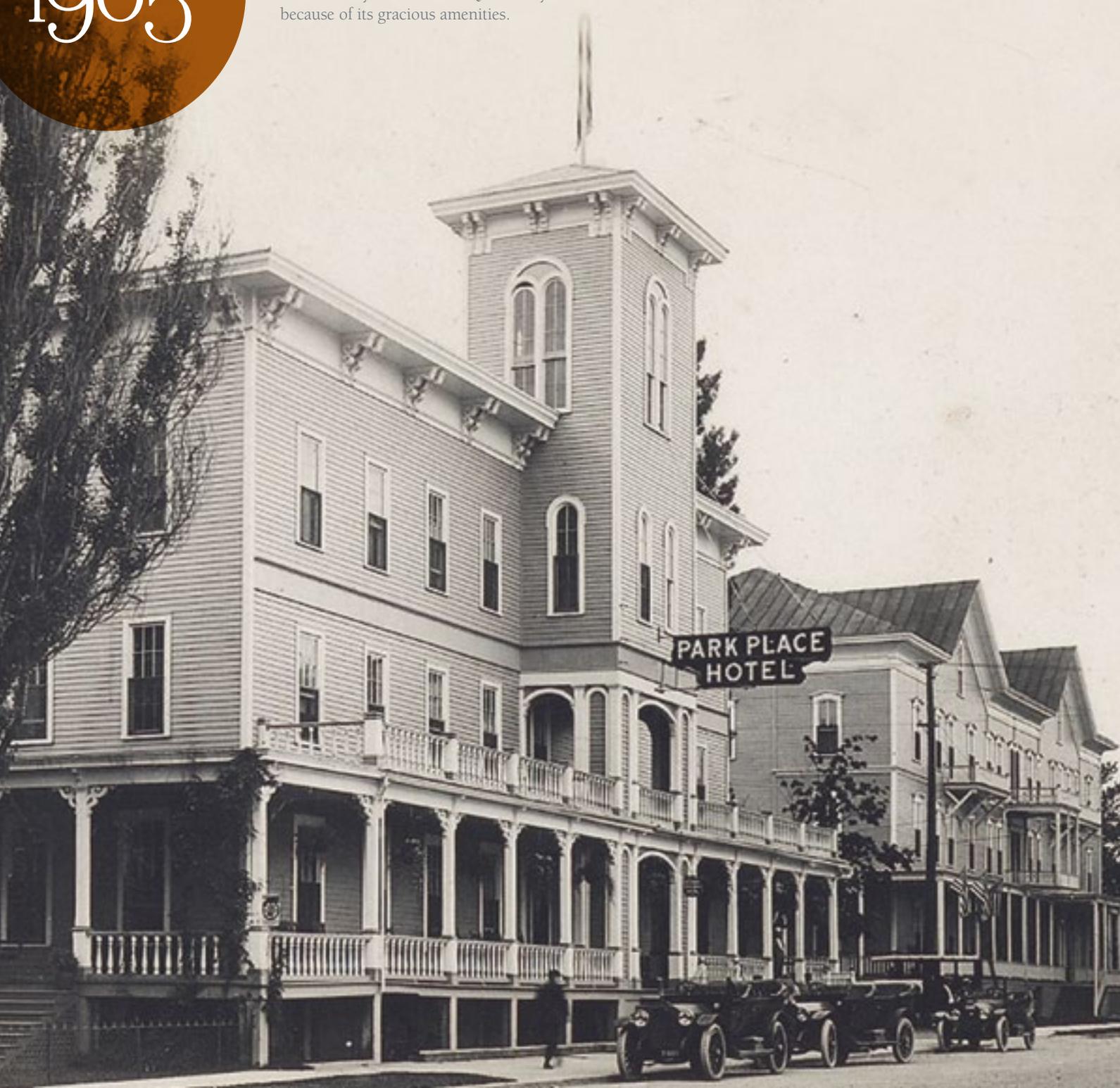


1883

Hannah, Lay General Store opens at Front and Union. A basement generator provides the first electricity in town.

1905

Queen City Light & Power Company is formed. Traverse City is known as “Queen City of the North” because of its gracious amenities.



The Lights Come On 1889 – 1911



Henry D. Campbell saw possibilities for Traverse City and was prepared to help the community realize its potential. In 1873, he built the Campbell House Hotel – today, known as the Park Place Hotel – an architectural icon of downtown Traverse City. Additionally, he saw the need for electrical power. In 1889, he and his sons built Traverse City’s first steam-powered electric plant at the site of the water works building on the shore of West Grand Traverse Bay.

The demand for electricity soon overwhelmed local supply. Fifty-seven downtown businesses subscribed to the H.D. Campbell & Sons Water and Electric Light Company. In addition, the city installed its first street lights. These were old-fashioned arc carbon lamps. When one of the clusters went out, the whole series would go dark, causing entire city blocks to lose light.

In 1892, Lorraine K. Gibbs of Mayfield, began organizing what would become the Boardman River Electric Light and Power Company. The new power company would supply electricity via a hydroelectric dam on the Boardman River. The Boardman Dam, built in 1894 and rebuilt in 1930, was the first hydroelectric dam in the area that utilized the river to produce electricity.

In 1895, Traverse City received its city charter from the state and Perry Hannah was elected the first president. About this time, due to its incredible growth in population and amenities, Traverse City became known as the “Queen City of the North.” Many companies picked up the “Queen City” name, including a new power company that was formed in 1905; Queen City Light & Power Company.

In 1897, Campbell installed an electric generating plant where the Bayside Power Plant was located until 2005. The Sabin Dam was built in 1906 and, like the Boardman, rebuilt in 1930. It too was used to produce electricity for the citizens of Traverse City.

With energy demand continuing to rise, the Queen City Light & Power Company announced plans in 1908 to construct a hydroelectric dam on the Boardman River at the Keystone settlement just south of Traverse City. This new dam became operational in 1909, providing electricity to more of Traverse City’s growing populace.



“If I should be allowed to remain here...I am certain I should still be watching Traverse City grow, and wishing to know that its people were prosperous, happy and contented.”

*Perry Hannah, Lumber Baron
Traverse City Founding Father*



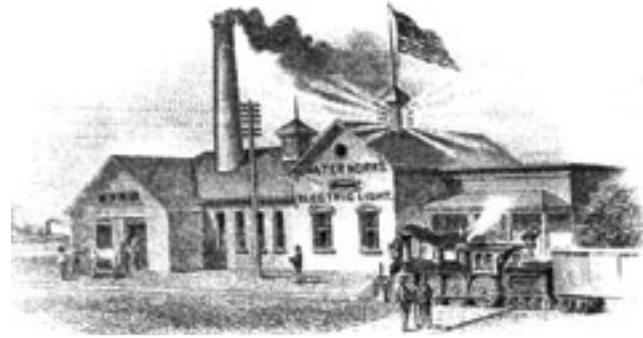
Perry Hannah, one of Traverse City's founding fathers, was elected the city's first president. He was a lumber baron by trade and enabled the construction of many of Traverse City's architecturally unique homes. In 1894 he completed the building of his 32-room masterpiece, the Hannah House. The house still stands in the historic section of Sixth Street, once known as "Silk Stocking Row."





1897

J.J. Thomson, a British physicist, identifies the electron.



1900

Henry Campbell owned and operated the H.D. Campbell & Sons Water and Electric Light Co. until 1900 when he sold the water works to Traverse City and the electric plant to the Boardman River Electric Light and Power Co.



1890

The H.D. Campbell & Sons Water and Electric Light Co. provided both water and power to Traverse City. As the city grew the steam powered generator couldn't meet the demand and others sought to harness the power of the Boardman river to generate electricity.

1906

The lower dam on the Boardman River, now known as the Sabin Dam, is completed.



1907

Many businesses and organizations adopt a new name to reflect Traverse City's image as the "Queen City of the North".

A Bright Beginning 1912 – 1937



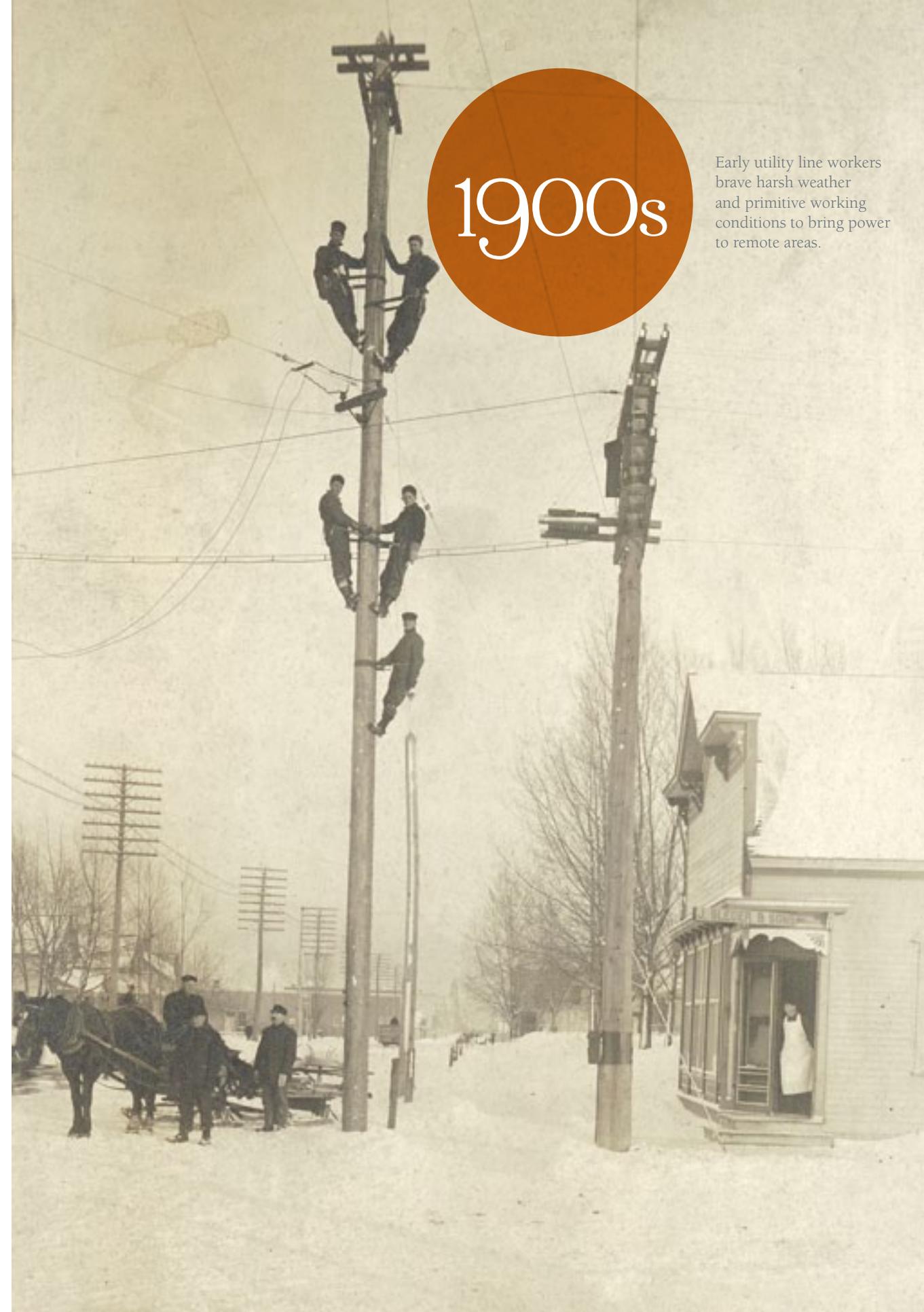
As demand for electric power grew in Traverse City, competition to meet this demand grew as well. The Queen City Light & Power Company was in operation only a few short years as a direct competitor to Boardman River Electric Light and Power Company. On September 5, 1912, the City of Traverse City purchased Queen City Light & Power Company for \$150,000. The purchase included sixty acres at the Keystone settlement and property and flowage rights seven miles upstream to and including the Brown Bridge Dam area and pond. The new power company was known as the Traverse City Municipal Light and Power Department, known today as Traverse City Light & Power (TCL&P).

In the early days of TCL&P, working conditions were challenging. Linemen camped in tents and worked with teams of horses to haul poles into place. Holes were dug by hand, using picks and shovels and linemen often worked in harsh conditions.

Attracting new commerce to the Grand Traverse area required reliable and plentiful electric power. In 1920, the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce had to pause its efforts in pursuing new businesses because of the lack of such power. Fortunately, in 1921, the construction of Brown Bridge Dam began. Once completed in 1922, the dam would produce reliable energy for TCL&P for the next 80 plus years.

In 1930, the beacon atop the Park Place Hotel was lit for the first time; an enduring welcome to visitors coming to Traverse City by land, water, or air. The beacon had 2.5 million candlepower and was said to be visible from 25 miles away on the ground.

In 1937, TCL&P celebrated 25 years of supplying electricity to Traverse City. During this time, growth had continued to drive electric demand. A second steam turbine was installed in the Bayside Power Plant with an additional capacity of 1,000 kilowatts; the largest at that time and necessary to keep Traverse City growing and thriving.



1900s

Early utility line workers brave harsh weather and primitive working conditions to bring power to remote areas.



1932

Traverse City Light & Power's baseball team in the early 1930s provided a lot of energetic fun for local families.

1935

Major League Baseball's Cincinnati Reds and Philadelphia Phillies play the first night game under electric lights. The Reds won the game 2-1.



1937

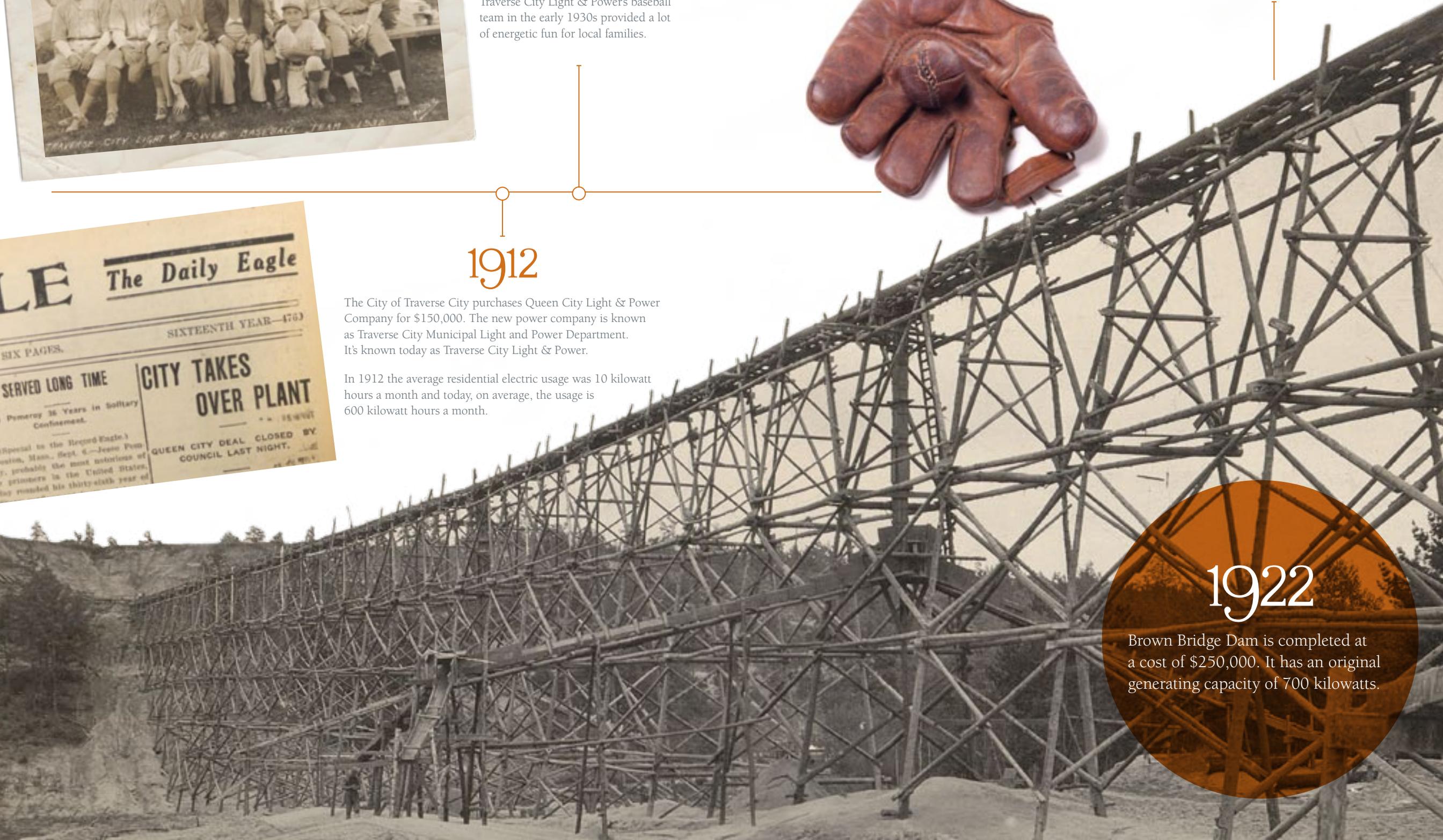
Traverse City Light & Power celebrates 25 years in business.



1912

The City of Traverse City purchases Queen City Light & Power Company for \$150,000. The new power company is known as Traverse City Municipal Light and Power Department. It's known today as Traverse City Light & Power.

In 1912 the average residential electric usage was 10 kilowatt hours a month and today, on average, the usage is 600 kilowatt hours a month.



1922

Brown Bridge Dam is completed at a cost of \$250,000. It has an original generating capacity of 700 kilowatts.

The Power Grows 1938 – 1961



In 1938, Traverse City experienced modest growth, affected largely by the Great Depression. Events happening far overseas would soon have a colossal impact on Traverse City as well as all of America. As Europe was being plunged into World War II, Traverse City had to put most of its expansion plans on hold. These plans would not be revisited again until after the war.

During World War II, it was impossible for utilities to increase their electric generation capacity. With the war over, TCL&P moved forward with its plans. In 1948, an \$850,000, five-year expansion program was approved. This new capital would allow TCL&P to purchase new equipment to increase generation capacity. Through the late 40s and 50s, Traverse City Light & Power added new and more powerful generators, opening the way for more growth and prosperity for the Traverse City area.

Other milestones and events occurred that would further impact the delivery of electricity to Traverse City residents and businesses. In 1950, Consumers Power Company purchased all assets of the Michigan Public Service Company. In 1961, the Keystone Dam was washed out due to heavy rains and extensive flooding of the Boardman River. The dam was never rebuilt.

1948

A contract is awarded for the installation of a 2,500-kilowatt steam generator for the Bayside Power Plant. Construction is delayed, however, because of World War II. Later in 1948, a proposed \$850,000, five-year expansion program for the Bayside Power Plant is approved. New equipment will allow the plant to increase capacity to meet growing demands.





The house at 202 N. Spruce Street has been owned by the Skiver family since it was built in 1881. TCL&P, or its predecessors, have supplied the home's electricity from the beginning.

Skiver photo from the 1930s.



1941

The National Cherry Festival already had a special energy all its own in the early 1940s. The festival was suspended from 1942-47 because of World War II.

1953



1961

During a heavy rainstorm, the dam at Swainston Creek in Mayfield is washed out. These floodwaters join the already swollen Boardman River, causing the Keystone Dam to be washed out too. The Keystone Dam is never rebuilt.

CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY
Electric Light and Power Dept.
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

SALESMAN F. J. H. DATE June 8 - 1953

Sold to Harry Fowler

Address 202 N. Spruce St

Lamps	
Mds.	
On Account Mds. and Jobbing	
On Account Contract	
On Acct. No. 613	
Deposit for Current <u>W.C.</u>	<u>3.00</u>
Sales Tax	

IN CASE OF ERROR RETURN THIS SLIP

A 63

A handwritten electric bill from the 1950s.

The Power of Change 1962 – 1996



In 1962, Traverse City Light & Power celebrated its 50th anniversary. For five decades, the company had grown with the community – weathering storms, adopting new technology, expanding services, and continuing to play a critical role in the thriving growth of the area.

In 1964, the city explored the possibility of expanding the Bayside Power Plant at a cost of \$3.5 million. A controversy grew over the costs involved. In 1965, voters approved the expansion by an over 2-to-1 margin and construction began. In 1967, the Bayside Power Plant expansion was completed. The peak of the new addition was almost 99 feet high; roughly the height of the top of the Park Place Hotel. The height was necessary to house the overhead coal conveyor and handling system.

By 1975, Traverse City Light & Power was providing electric service to approximately 6,500 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Traverse City and the surrounding area. At the time, Traverse City Light & Power employed many local people in power production, at the coal dock, in transmission and distribution, and in the administrative office.

During the blizzard of 1977, work crews had to brave snow depths of 18 inches and more to restore power. While major Midwest utilities had to ask customers to cut down their consumption, TCL&P had locally generated power, so customers had plenty of power for their consumption needs during that tough winter. The company hit peak production of 22,200 kilowatts on January 19, 1977.



By the late 1970s, the electric utility industry and how it operated had become more complex. In 1979, after a three-year analysis process initiated by the City Commission and involving public meetings and forums, the city residents voted to establish a separate board of directors for Traverse City Light & Power. Prior to this, the City Commission was the governing body of TCL&P.

In 1981, the DNR and TCL&P began discussing the development of a Fish Management Plan for the migratory fish, primarily salmon, that ran up the Boardman River each fall. After numerous meetings and approvals from the City Commission, the Michigan DNR, the Natural Resources Committee and the TCL&P Board, the Boardman River Trap and Transfer Harvest Facility was approved. The facility, located east of Hall Street, was completed in 1987.

In 1988, TCL&P held the first annual seedling giveaway at the Bayside Power Plant in celebration of Earth Day. Seedlings were given away to customers and local community groups. 2012 marks the 24th year TCL&P has held this popular community event.

1996 was a major milestone for TCL&P. The company – long committed to exploring renewable energy sources – pioneered the first utility grade wind turbine in Michigan. The turbine was installed on M72 and was, at the time of installation, the largest electric utility wind turbine in the United States.

Prior to the installation of the M72 turbine, TCL&P developed the Green Rate. This rate allowed customers to opt in to pay more on their monthly utility bill. The money collected went towards paying for the wind turbine, thereby supporting alternative energy. The Green Rate was the first of its kind in the country and is now used as a model nationwide.



1962

Traverse City Light & Power celebrates its 50th Anniversary.



1987

Traverse City Light & Power celebrates its 75th Anniversary.

Each fall, people flock to Traverse City's "fish ladder" to watch salmon complete their migration. The facility was completed in 1987 and was named after James P. Price; a TCL&P Board member.



1967

The Bayside Power Plant receives a 99 foot high addition. The project is the recipient of an ASIC Architectural Award of Excellence in 1969.



1996

Located on M72, TCL&P pioneers the first utility grade wind turbine in Michigan. At the time, it was the largest electric utility wind turbine in the United States.



Illuminating the Possibilities 1997 & Beyond



As the millennium approached, Traverse City Light & Power was on the cusp of significant changes and innovations. In 2002, Traverse City Light & Power, along with four other municipal electric utilities, built a natural gas-fired combustion turbine in Kalkaska. The project, in conjunction with the Michigan Public Power Agency, continues to provide reliable energy during peak electric demand times.

In 2005, the Bayside Power Plant – which had been relegated to a lesser role of peak power support – was removed. Parts of the plant were sold to a Honduran company that planned to reassemble the power-generating portion of the plant in Guatemala. In 2009, TCL&P signed a contract to purchase all generation output from five, two-megawatt wind turbines located southeast of Cadillac. In the fall of 2010, when all five turbines were running, Traverse City Light & Power had the highest percentage of wind generation to total generation of any utility in Michigan. In 2011, TCL&P met the state mandate of 10% renewable energy – four years ahead of schedule. In the same year, TCL&P's energy efficiency programs saved over 2.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity, which is equivalent to powering approximately 417 homes for an entire year.

In December of 2011, TCL&P contributed to the fun and festivities of the holidays in downtown Traverse City. The company installed over 5,500 strings of LED holiday lights on Traverse City's downtown Christmas tree and the smaller trees lining the downtown streets. The new lights are 98% more efficient than the lights used in previous years.

In 2012, Traverse City Light & Power celebrated its 100th anniversary. The company serves over 11,500 residential, commercial, and industrial customers with a peak demand of 75,000 kilowatts. TCL&P's focus remains much the same as it has over its many years of service – providing customers with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. The company is a steward of the community, responsible for driving its future, and seeking out new sources of energy.



“Securing low-cost, reliable, environmentally responsible energy is one of the great challenges of the 21st century. TCL&P is charged with meeting that challenge.”

*Mike Coco, Board Chairman, 2010-2012
Traverse City Light & Power*



1999

Electricity is first marketed on the Internet.



2005

The Bayside Power Plant, which had been relegated to peak power support, is removed, opening up more of the bay front for community recreation.



2011

TCL&P meets the state mandate of 10% renewable energy – four years ahead of schedule.

2002

TCL&P partners with four other municipal electric utilities, and the Michigan Public Power Agency, to build a natural gas-fired combustion turbine in Kalkaska.



2009

TCL&P signs a contract to purchase all generation output from five, 2-megawatt wind turbines located southeast of Cadillac.

2015

Traverse City expects to receive 14% of its total generation requirements from renewable energy, including mostly wind and landfill gas.



2012

Traverse City Light & Power celebrates its 24th year of giving away seedlings in celebration of Earth Day. In total, TCL&P has given away more than 150,000 seedlings to the community.



Conclusion:
1912 – 2012



The times have changed. Our commitment has remained constant. Traverse City Light & Power...we celebrate the power of community, now and always.



Image created by Joe Senchuk / JMP Studio Photography



“We have to take care of our substations, electric lines and our generation... we have to prepare for the next 25 to 30 years so the community can continue to grow and prosper.”

*Ed Rice, Executive Director
Traverse City Light & Power*

Thank You

It would be impossible to show our gratitude to all our employees and board members, past and present, as well as everyone who has graciously let us into their homes and businesses over the past 100 years. So we simply say thank you for letting us be...

the power to efficiently drive your business

the beacon in your window when you get home

the light that banishes monsters under the bed

the cozy warmth on a cold winter's night



It's been an incredible 100 years.
We look forward to serving you for many more.

Research
Kathy Gest

Written By
Karl Bastian
Greenlight Marketing

Book Design
Betsy Lindeman, James Howe
Greenlight Marketing

Editor and Project Coordinator
Jessica Wheaton
Traverse City Light & Power

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CELEBRATING THE POWER *of* COMMUNITY

— tclp.org —