

SAYING GOODBYE TO RUSSELL STATION 1948 - 2008

**A Celebration of the Plant and
the Employees Who Made It Successful**

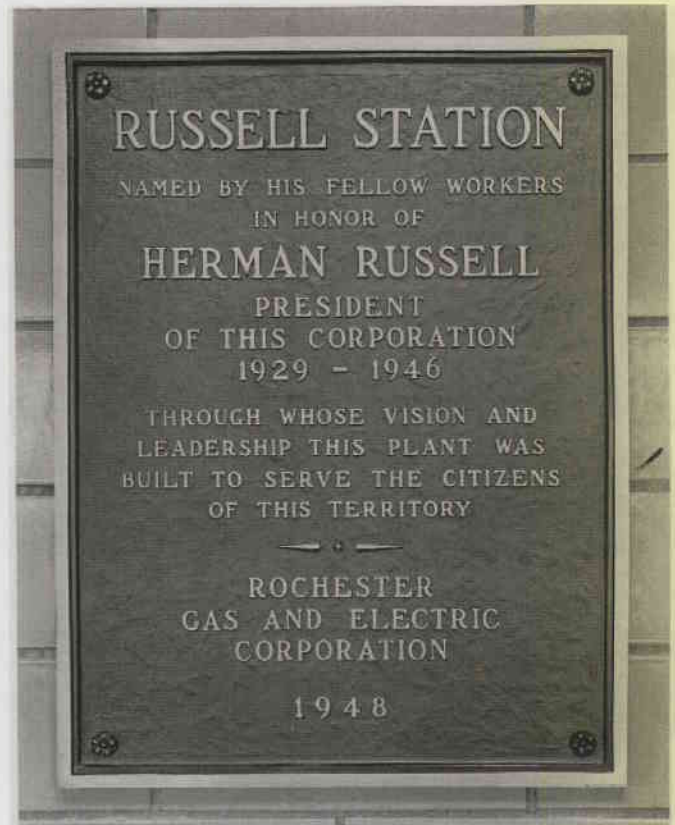


RGE
AND

▶▶ *Saying goodbye to* **Russell Station**

After nearly six decades of service providing electricity to the greater Rochester region, Russell Station has been retired. The plant's final day of operation was April 23, 2008 - six months shy of its 60th anniversary - and its doors were closed July 31, 2008.

On October 27, 1948, Herman Russell, former RG&E president and chairman of the board, turned the switch that brought the station to life. The dedicated employees who labored there over the years were carrying on Mr. Russell's legacy of serving the greater good. Here's a look back on the last of RG&E's coal-fired, electric generating plants.



>> *Bronze tablet inside Russell Station.*

Welcome to Lakeside Station



>> *Lakeside Station, August 20, 1948.*

On all the blueprints and photographs documenting the construction of the new generating facility on 124 acres in the Town of Greece are the words "Lakeside Station." It wasn't until 15 minutes before the dedication that it was revealed that this station would be called Russell Station, in honor of the man whose vision and leadership helped to make the plant a reality.

Plans for a facility were considered as early as 1926 when RG&E purchased the land. The Great Depression and World War II put those plans on hold. However, after the war it was evident the region needed more electricity than RG&E could supply from Station 3 (later Beebee Station) and other steam and hydro facilities.

Outperforms Expectations

Between 1948 and 1957, three generating units were added to the initial unit, and all units continued to outperform expectations.

Over the years, the economical power from Russell Station was a major factor in keeping electricity prices in Rochester among the lowest in New York State. Russell Station remained the company's largest power plant until the R.E. Ginna nuclear power plant went into service in 1970.

Designed to be a good neighbor

When construction of the plant began, the property was part of a rural landscape. But even then the company was attentive to aesthetics: the plant was built with a glazed tile siding and fluted aluminum panels on the north wall so as to blend into the area.

As suburbia encroached, an earthen bank was built around the lower portion of the plant to soften noise levels. Modifications were added to reduce transformer hum and sound-deadening baffles were installed around the forced draft fans. The windows were blacked out so the lights wouldn't disturb sleeping neighbors. A rear gate was added so delivery trucks wouldn't need to rumble through residential streets. The grounds were extensively landscaped. In 1956, the plant was dubbed the "world's most beautiful utility" by the American Association of Nurserymen.

A safe place for employees and the community

Community and worker safety was always a crucial component in this industrial setting. Employees maintained a solid safety record. In fact, fossil/hydro employees went without a lost-time accident from May 15, 1992 until May 15, 1995 – approximately 1.2 million work hours.

Russell Station's reputation as a good neighbor remained solid as evidenced in September 2000 when RG&E hosted a "Russell Station: A Neighbor You Can Rely On" event. More than 650 people attended, and the Town of Greece supervisor presented a proclamation recognizing the station for its

contributions, noting how wildlife had benefited from the acreage preserved around the plant.

With all that has been good over the decades, there have been two particularly sad times. The first occurred in 1966 when Leo Partyka was fatally injured when his bulldozer overturned in the coal yard. The other was when Russell Station employee and U.S. Marine Pvt. First Class Peter D. Matarazzo was killed in Vietnam on September 19, 1968.

Striving to be 'green'

Russell Station was part of an early "green" campaign, in partnership with Monroe County, when the plant burned refuse-derived fuel (RDF) made from shredded paper, plastic, wood and other lightweight wastes.

RDF was trucked from the county's resource recovery facility to a receiving building at Russell Station. The RDF was then carried across the site through a pneumatic pipe to the conical splitter building (which



>> The conical-shaped splitter building as part of the refuse-derived fuel burning project during the 1970s and 1980s.

resembled a space capsule). From there it was fed into the plant in measured amounts. The project ended in 1982. The RDF receiving building was razed in 2005 to make way for a Rochester Transmission Project substation.

As time passed, air and water regulations became more stringent, making it extremely difficult for an aging coal-fired plant to survive.

Over the years, RG&E undertook several station and environmental compliance initiatives, such as:

- > Upgrading the coal handling facilities
- > Re-tubing condensers
- > Installing low-nitrogen oxides (NO_x) burners
- > Investing in a high-tech, microprocessor-based control system and a central control room
- > Installing a new precipitator on Unit Four
- > Building an oil/water separator facility
- > Burning low-sulfur coal in an effort to reduce emissions
- > Bentonite clay liner and leachate mitigation system to impede coal residue seepage
- > Installing a continuous emission monitoring system
- > Constructing an additional dry ash collection silo
- > Adding the water treatment facility and wet-ash handling systems.

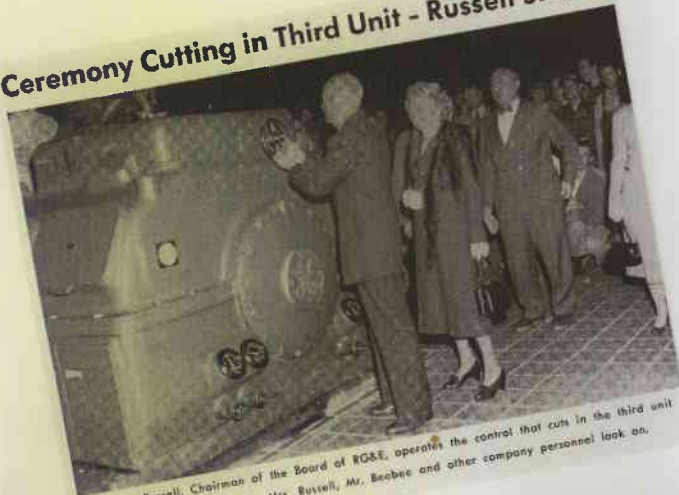
Ultimately the hard work by employees and investments by the company simply weren't enough; as a result of environmental requirements it was clear that it was no longer economical to operate the plant. RG&E made the difficult decision to build the Rochester Transmission Project and retire Russell Station.

On April 23, 2008, the plant was shutdown. In front of employees and retirees on the turbine floor, vice president – fossil hydro operations David J. Irish gave this fitting statement:

“In late 1948 Herman Russell, then chairman of the board, turned the switch that brought Russell Station to life. Today, nearly 60 years later, Russell Station will generate its last kilowatt-hour as our President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Laurito takes Unit Three off-line. All of us here today, and those who came before us, have much to be proud of given the community service and value for customers and shareholders we created with this power plant.”

What the future holds for the Russell Station site remains uncertain. But what we know for sure is that it's time to say goodbye to an old friend.

Ceremony Cutting in Third Unit - Russell Station



Herman Russell, Chairman of the Board of RG&E, operates the control that cuts in the third unit at Russell Station while Mrs. Russell, Mr. Beebe and other company personnel look on.

>> Herman Russell turns on Unit Three.
RG&E NEWS, September-October 1953.



>> Dave Irish (left), vice president - fossil/hydro operations, and Jim Laurito, president and CEO, prepare to shut down Unit Three, April 23, 2008.



ROCHESTER GAS & ELECTRIC CO. P.
TURBINE ROOM FLOOR
RUSSELL STATION
FEBRUARY 26, 1954.

>> The turbine room floor, February 26, 1954.

Who was Herman Russell?



>> Herman Russell portrait in the plant's vestibule.

Fifteen minutes before Lakeside Station was to be dedicated, Chairman of the Board Herman Russell learned that the new coal-fired plant was to bear his name. The modest Mr. Russell objected saying, "other men were more deserving."

"The giving of my name to the beautiful new Lakeside Station was an honor deeply appreciated," Russell wrote to employees in the RG&E NEWS. "It is all of us working together; from errand boy or girl to president, who are responsible, and the new station which you have seen fit to honor with my name is a symbol of your efforts. The pleasant part to me is that you, in your hearts, were so kindly disposed toward me."

Who was Herman Russell? Based on information from the *RG&E NEWS*, company histories and anecdotal material, this is what we know.

He was born September 21, 1878, in Manistee, Michigan. He attended the University of Michigan earning bachelors and masters degrees. His first jobs were with gas companies in Detroit, San Francisco, and Cincinnati. He joined the Rochester Railroad and Light Company (RG&E predecessor) in November 1905 as an engineer in the gas works. Russell quickly moved up through the ranks. He was named gas department superintendent in 1906; he became assistant general manager in 1914; general manager in 1919; a director in 1922; general manager in 1923; and then president in 1929. He became chairman in 1947 and held that post until his death. He was a nationally-recognized leader in the development of the national natural gas and electric industries.

Russell also gave of his energy to various community organizations. Equally concerned with employee welfare, Russell pioneered many of the employee benefits enjoyed today, such as the eight-hour work

day, five-day work week, vacation pay, life insurance and hospitalization. One of his last acts as president was the announcement of a 5% raise to all employees. Russell, 77, died at his Brighton home on March 14, 1956. His wife, daughter and son survived him. He rests at Mt. Hope Cemetery.



>> RG&E NEWS, March-April 1956.

Herman Russell Facts

- > September 21, 1878 – Born in Manistee, Michigan, son of Edwin Russell and Fanny L. Hopkins Russell. His British-born parents operated a grocery store and a shingle mill.
- > 1898 – Graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of science degree. (He won the first scholarship offered by the Michigan Gas Association.)
- > 1900 – Received a master of science degree, University of Michigan.
- > November 19, 1905 – Hired as an engineer in the gas works at Rochester Railway and Light Company (renamed Rochester Gas and Electric in 1919).
- > 1906 – Promoted to Gas department superintendent.
- > 1914 – Assistant general manager, Rochester Railway and Light Company.
- > 1919 – General Manager, RG&E.
- > 1922 – Vice president and general manager, RG&E.
- > 1923 – Director, RG&E.
- > Dec. 7, 1929 – Dec. 31, 1946 – President of RG&E.
- > January 1, 1947 – March 14, 1956 – Chairman of the board of directors.
- > March 14, 1956 – Died at the age of 77 at his Brighton home.
- > October 10, 1956 – Buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

During his tenure,

Russell developed the gas distribution system in the City of Rochester; planned Lakeside Station (dedicated as Russell Station); established the eight-hour work day and six-day, (then five-day) work week. Instituted vacation with pay, and the life insurance, hospitalization and surgical care and employee pension system.

Community Service:

- > Rochester Civic Improvement Association
- > Rochester Industrial Development Corporation
- > Rochester Chamber of Commerce
- > Director, Lincoln Rochester Trust Company
- > Executive committee of the board of trustees, Rochester Institute of Technology
- > Trustee, Rochester Museum
- > Member, Edison Electric Institute
- > Director, American Gas Association
- > Founder and trustee, Institute of Gas Technology



Viewing the plaque dedicating Russell Station are, left to right: Edward W. Morehouse, Herman Russell, Edward G. Miner and Alexander M. Beebe.

New Lakeside Electric Generating Plant Named Russell Station

>> RG&E NEWS, October-November-December 1948.

The front is winning national honors
while the back is still expanding

WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL UTILITY

It was with a great sense of pride that the employees of the RG&E received the news that Russell Station in Beach Vista had been selected by the American Association of Nurserymen as one of the national winners in its Industrial Landscaping Contest. The award for the "World's Most Beautiful Utility" was presented at the Eastern Regional Convention of the American Nurserymen Association at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City by J. J. Conroy, Superintendent of Electric Distribution, accepted the honor on behalf of the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

The American Landscaping Association awarded these awards three years ago in order to encourage and stimulate more interest in the landscaping and beautification of industrial and other buildings. Our Company was the only utility to win an award from this group this year. The news coverage of this award was nation wide.

and the New York Times on January 8 with the following article: "World's Most Beautiful Utility" - Electric who took victory in making her distribute electricity is just one among. The Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation is one that also plants lots of shrubbery and flowers. The award given to the company shows a fine taste. "World's Most Beautiful Utility" This was bestowed upon a spectacularly beautiful industrial structure of the American Association of Nurserymen. Landscaping of Rochester Gas and Electric's Russell generating station in the suburb of Lake Ontario was the title for it.

Incidentally, if you are ever thinking of landscaping a place about the size of the Russell Station grounds, you will be interested to know that the job requires about 100 bushes and shrubs, 150 maple trees, and over 125 evergreens, plus a lot of activity on the end of a lawn mower. That's just half of the work, please turn the page.



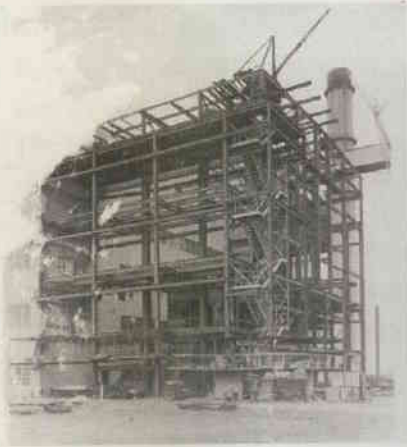
>> RG&E NEWS, January-February 1956.

RUSSELL STATION HIGHLIGHTS

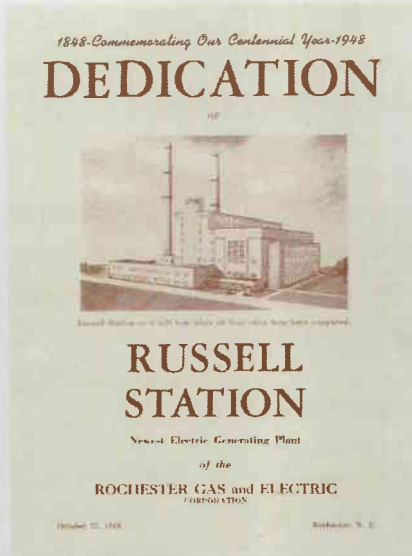
- > **1926:**
RG&E buys property for future power plant development.
- > **October 1946:**
RG&E President Herman Russell announces plans for Lakeside Station.
- > **June 1, 1948:**
George Swarthout named superintendent of Lakeside Station.
- > **October 27, 1948:**
Plant dedicated as Russell Station.
- > **December 1948:**
Unit One, 50 megawatts (mw), goes online.
- > **December 1952:**
Unit Two, 70 mw, goes online.
- > **September 1953:**
Unit Three, 70 mw, goes online.
- > **February 1957:**
Unit Four, 83.5 mw goes online; Maximum total generating capability: 275.5 mw.
- > **October 16, 1950:**
75-foot flag pole dedicated to Edgar R. Crofts. Crofts was a vice president and director of RG&E who supervised the building of Russell Station. He died in 1949.
- > **March 14, 1956:**
Herman Russell dies.
- > **September, 1956:**
Oak Hill Country Club donates a red oak tree to Russell Station in memory of Herman Russell, a long-time Oak Hill member.
- > **1956:**
Eastern Region Convention of American Nurserymen Association names Russell Station the "world's most beautiful utility." At the time the Russell Station grounds included 850 bushes and shrubs, 150 maple trees and 125 evergreens.
- > **October 1979:**
Russell Station begins test burning refuse-derived fuel (RDF), becoming the second generating plant in New York to burn RDF. Project ends 1982.
- > **January 1993:**
Coal handling facilities updated.
- > **January 1, 1994:**
Unit One placed in cold shutdown.
- > **March 1994:**
Unit Four condenser re-tubed.
- > **June 1994:**
Unit One recalled into service.
- > **November 1994:**
Low-nitrogen oxides (NO_x) burners installed.
- > **May 1995:**
Central control room placed in service with state-of-the-art equipment.
- > **September 1998:**
New precipitator installed on Unit Four.
- > **January 2002:**
Russell Station tests low-sulfur coal in an effort to reduce emissions.
- > **April 23, 2008:**
Russell Station ceases operations.



>> The plaque on the red oak tree dedicated to Herman Russell.



>> Unit Four, October 17, 1956.



>> Cover of the dedication pamphlet, October 27, 1948.



>> Future site of Russell Station, 1947.



>> The red oak tree planted in memory of Herman Russell, 1956.



>> Greetings from Russell Station... a postcard for employees.



>> Annual shareholder meeting at Russell Station, May 1957.



>> The guard house, September 1955.



>> Ralph McCumber (left) and Robert E. Ginna turn on Unit Four, February 26, 1957.

Veteran Honored

RG&E Honors Fallen Employee With Vietnam Memorial Contribution

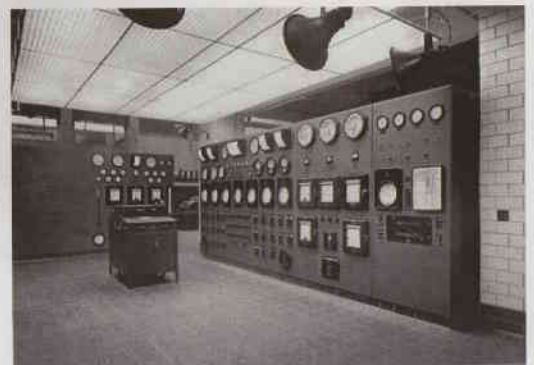
William Thomas Bennett, 40, of 1000 West 10th Street, Rochester, N.Y., has been honored by the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation for his contribution to the Vietnam Memorial. Bennett, a former employee of RG&E, has donated a plaque to the memorial in honor of his service during the Vietnam War. Bennett served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1968, and was stationed in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service. Bennett is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is currently employed by RG&E as a maintenance worker. Bennett's contribution to the memorial is a testament to his service and dedication to his country.



>> Russell Station employee Peter D. Matarazzo honored. RG&E NEWS October 1993.



>> Russell Station open house, February 1959.



>> The boiler and turbine control boards for Unit One, December 1948.