



Names:

Burchfield, Ellen A.

History of
Huntsville's Utility

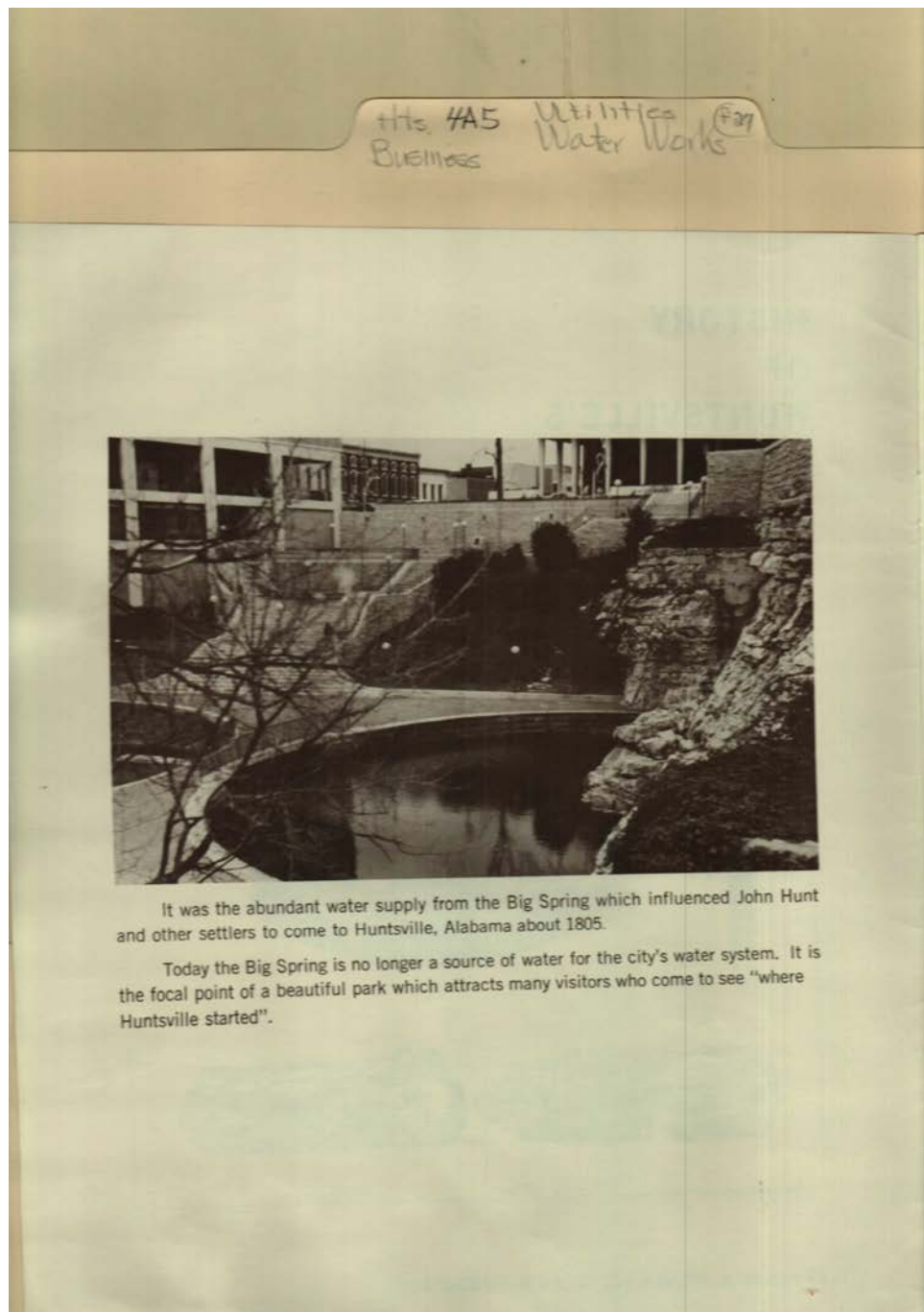
Systems
Wilson, Frank S.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

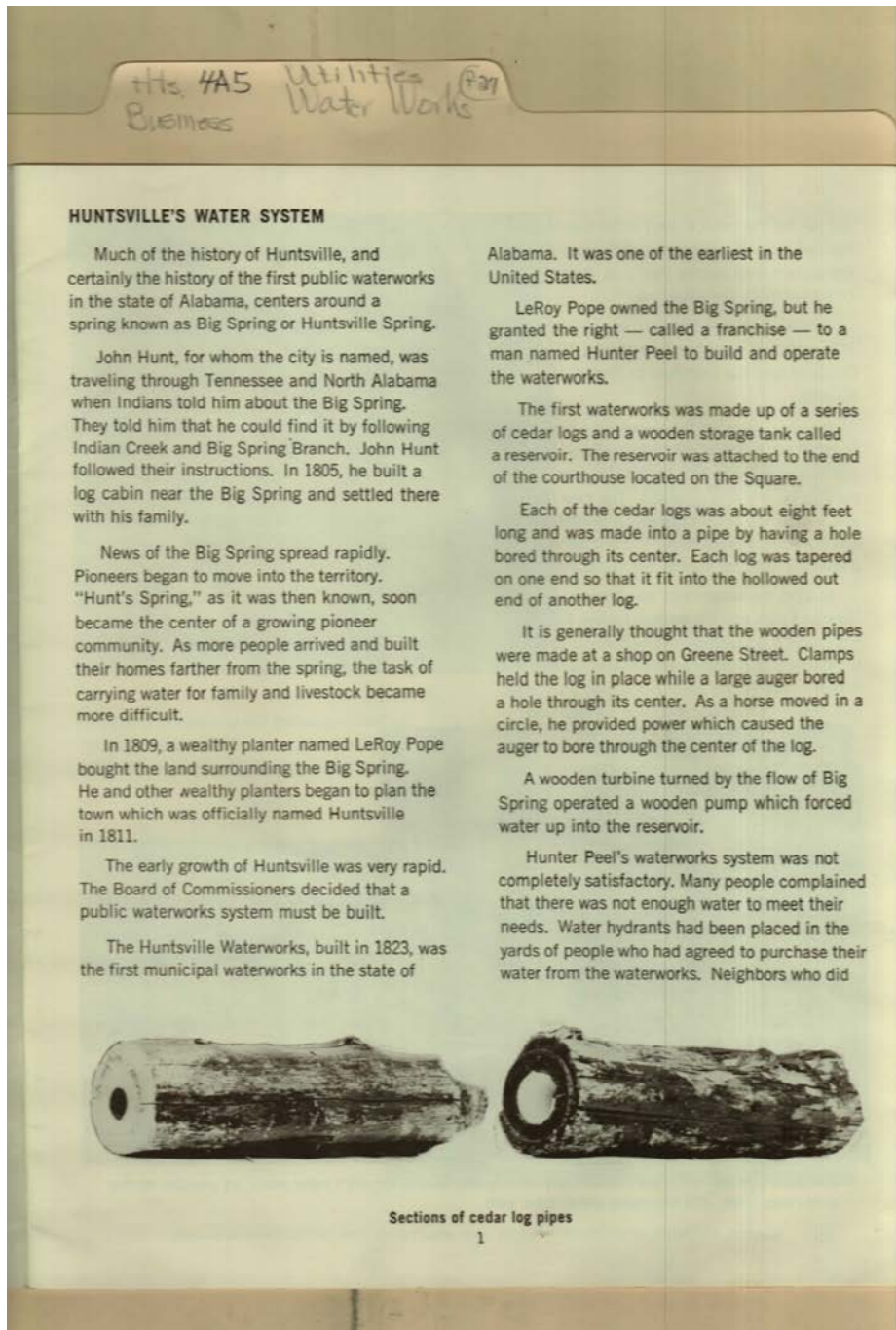
Big Spring
photograph

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Huntsville's Water System

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

hts. #A5 Utilities
Business Water Works #37

not pay for the service used water drawn from the hydrants. A greater demand was placed on the system than Hunter Peel and the city commissioners had expected.

Hunter Peel lost the right to operate the waterworks. It went to a man named Joshua Cox. Cox later sold the franchise to Thomas A. Ronalds.

Ronalds operated the waterworks from 1828 to 1836. He installed additional cedar log pipes. The new pipes were held together by iron bands. He also built a new reservoir. The new reservoir was a two-story brick building. The first story was the water storage tank. The second story was a meeting room for the city commissioners.

In 1836 the waterworks was taken over by Dr. Thomas Fearn and his brother George Fearn. Huntsville's population had continued to grow so rapidly that a larger reservoir was again needed. The Fearn's built a new one on Echols Hill, where Echols and McClung Streets now

meet. It was 96 feet above the level of Big Spring. An iron pump was installed at the spring and iron pipes were laid to the four corners of the Square.

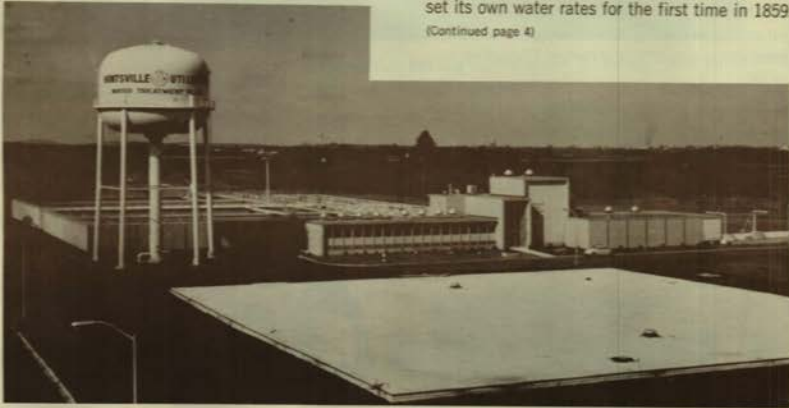
William Pope, son of LeRoy Pope, became the owner of the Big Spring. In 1843 he sold the deed to the spring to the city of Huntsville for one dollar.

The deed stated that the city must carry out the planned improvements of "beautifying the spring branch and benefitting the health of the citizens." The deed also stated that the city must "furnish free access at all times through the lands herein conveyed to said spring, and hold the same for the promenades and pleasure grounds of all such peaceable persons as may choose to visit same."

In 1856, the City Council ordered three fire plugs from Philadelphia for installation on the Square.

Dr. Fearn operated the waterworks until 1858 when he sold it to the city of Huntsville. The city set its own water rates for the first time in 1859.

(Continued page 4)



Huntsville's Water Treatment Plant. Approximately one-third of the city's water needs are provided by this purification plant. The remainder comes from wells.

SCHOOL CLASSES AND OTHER GROUPS ARE WELCOMED FOR TOURS OF THE PLANT.

2

Names:

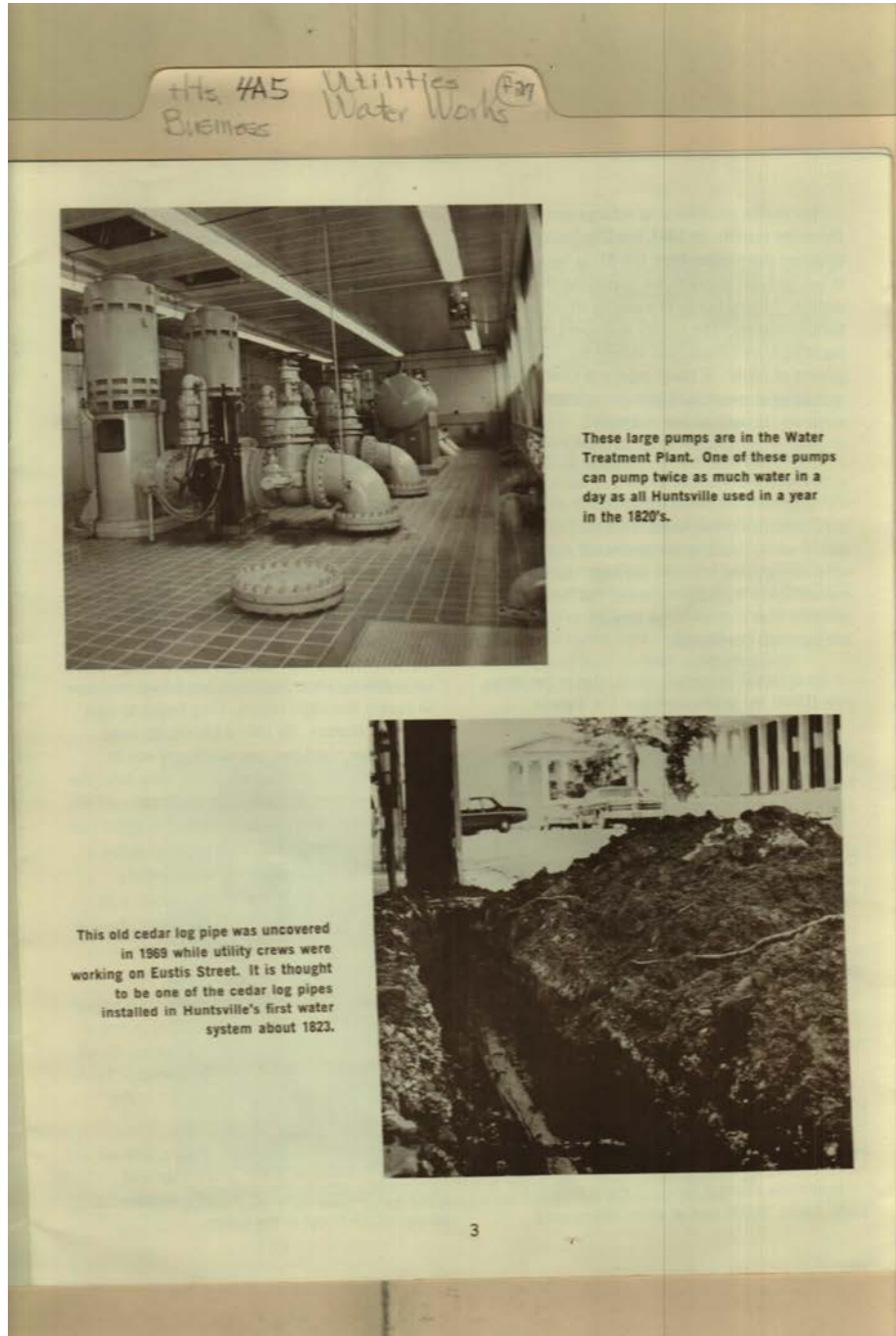
Huntsville's Water System

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Huntsville's Water
System photographs

Places:

Huntsville, AL

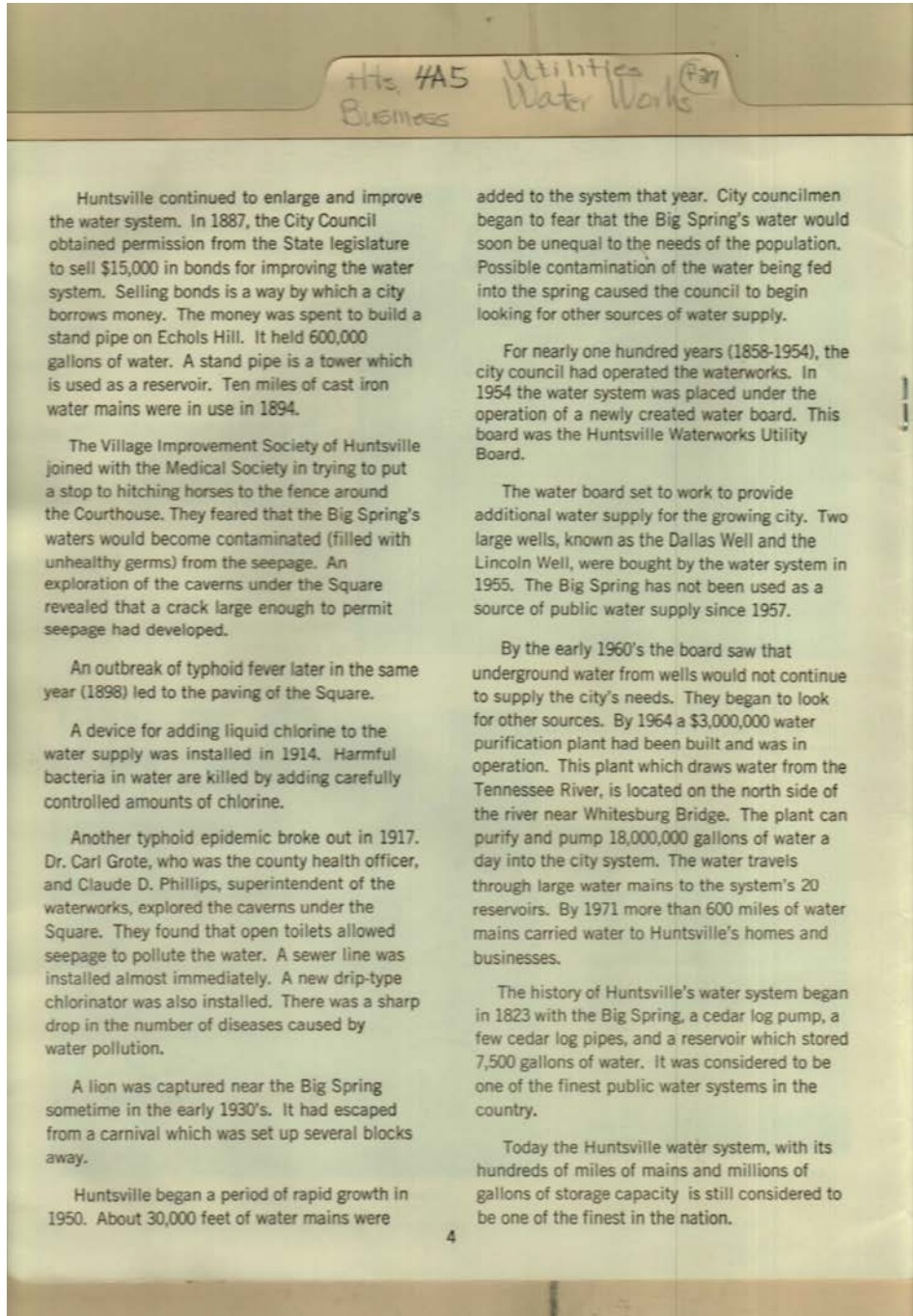
Types:

brochure

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 27

Utilities brochures - Utilities and Services

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Names:

Dallas Well
Grote, Carl, Dr.

Huntsville
Waterworks Utility
Board

Lincoln Well
Phillips, Claude D.
Tennessee River

Village Improvement
Society

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

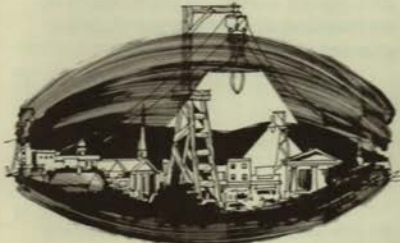
1898

1955

1964

Ms #45 Utilities Water Works #37
Business

HUNTSVILLE'S ELECTRIC SYSTEM



In 1882, Thomas Edison introduced the first practical electric lighting system. Only two years later, in 1884, E. J. O'Bierne proposed to the Huntsville Board of Aldermen a plan to light up the Square. Mr. O'Bierne's proposal called for the erection of three wooden towers 100 feet high. On each of these towers would be hung an arc light. An arc light contained two sticks of a black material called carbon. Electric current

was wired to the carbon sticks in such a manner that it could jump from one stick to the other. When this occurred, a bright flash or arc like lightning took place. The continuous arcing produced light.

After much study, the Aldermen decided not to accept Mr. O'Bierne's proposition. They thought that the gas lights already being used were more dependable.

In 1887, complaints were being made about the old type gas lamps and the Mayor appointed a committee to consider electric lighting. A group of business men went to Indianapolis to examine machinery needed to generate the electricity for lighting. A company, the Huntsville Electric Company, was organized and Huntsville was about to have its first experience with electricity. The first electric lights, around the



Huntsville's only electric maintenance crew of about 1890. They are working on an electric carbon arc lamp. In the background can be seen the Episcopal Church.

5

Names:

Huntsville's Electric Company

Huntsville's Electric System

O'Bierne, E. J.

Places:

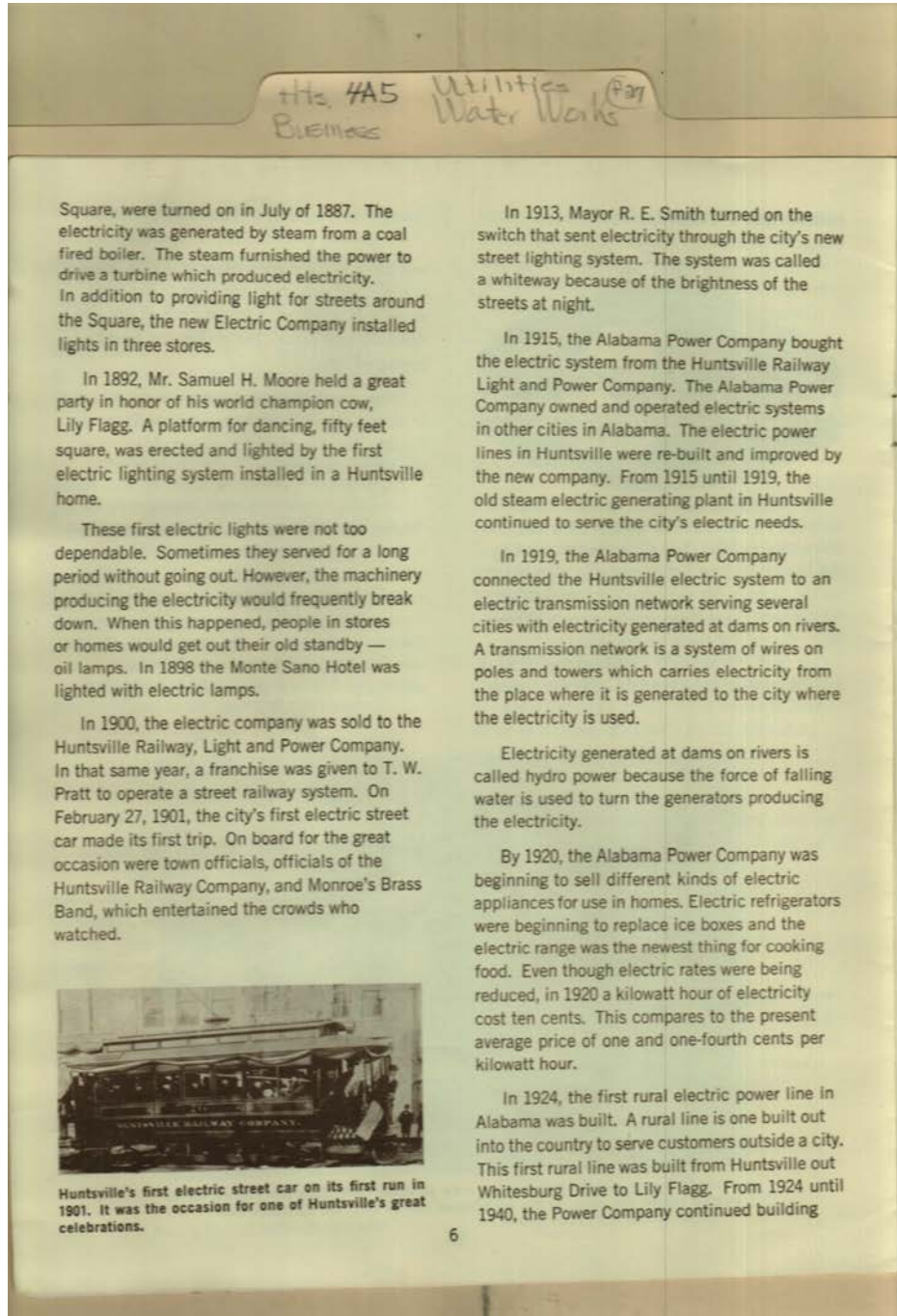
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1887



Names:

Alabama Power Co.
Huntsville Railway,
Light and Power

Co.
Lily Flagg
Monte Sano Hotel

Moore, Samuel H.
Pratt, T. W.
Smith, R. E., Mayor

Places:

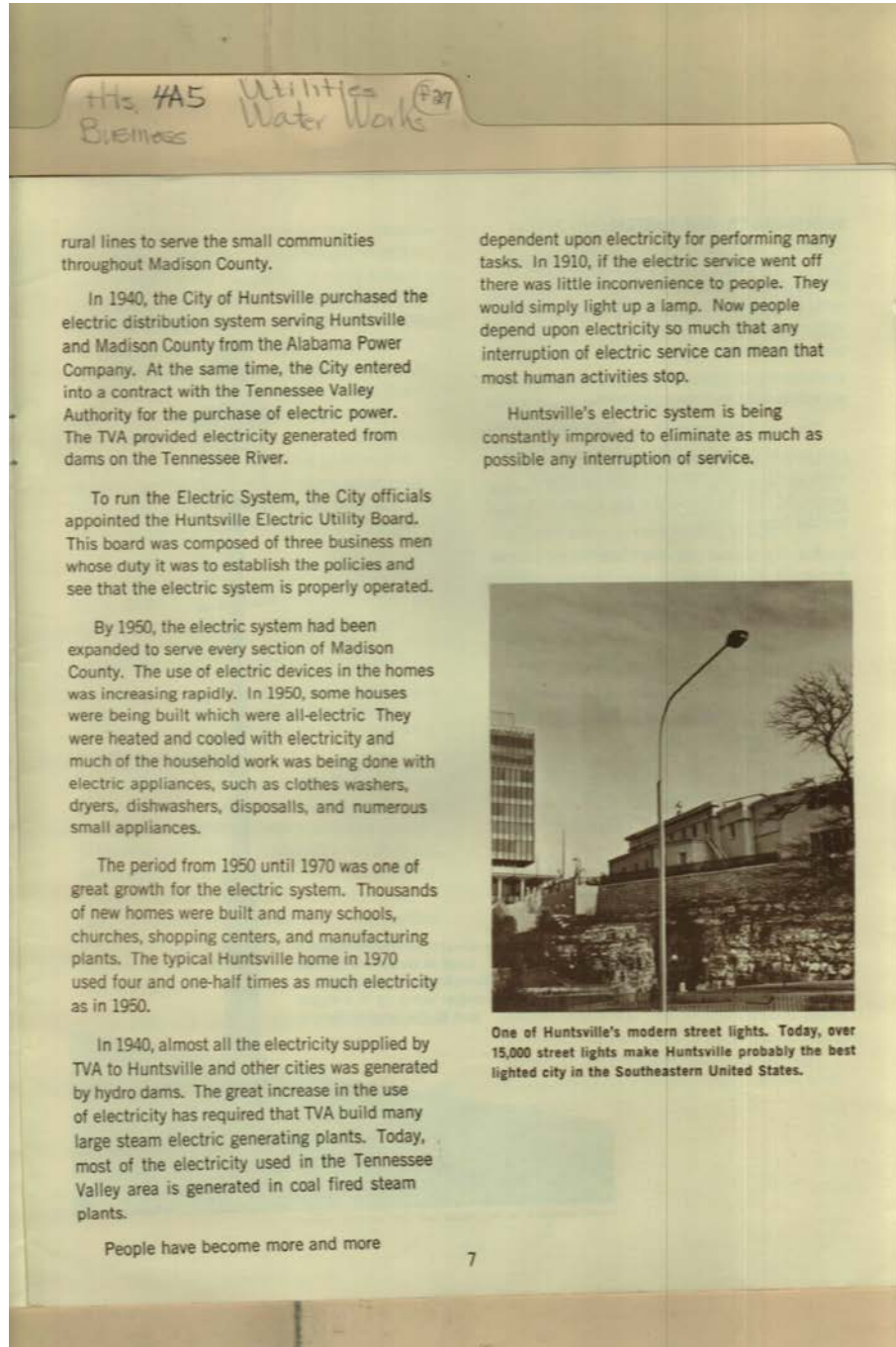
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1913



Names:

Huntsville's Electric
Utility Board

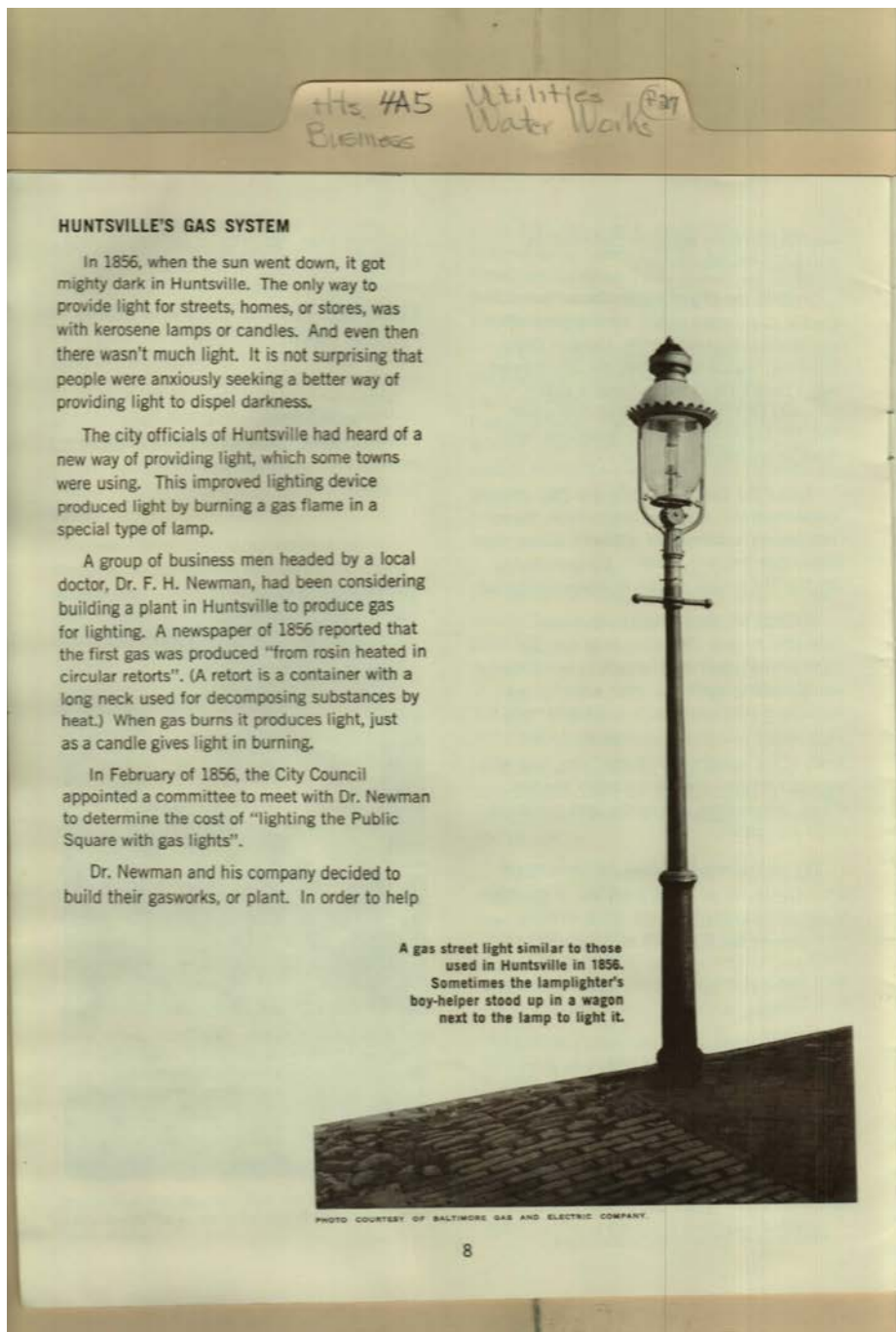
Tennessee Valley
Authority

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Huntsville's Gas System

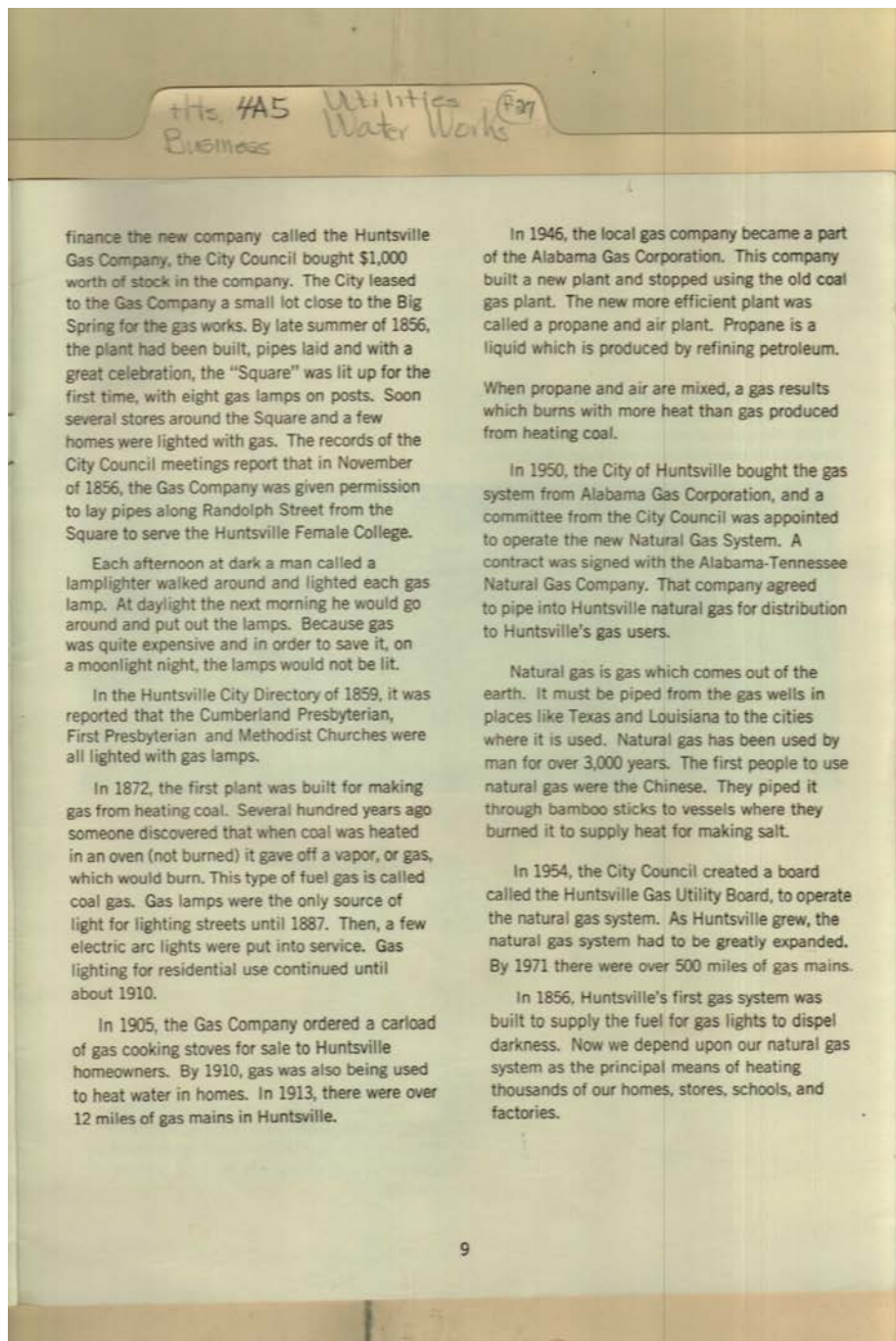
Newman, F. H., Dr.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Alabama Gas Corporation

Huntsville Female College

Huntsville Gas Company

Huntsville Gas Utility Board

Places:

Huntsville, AL

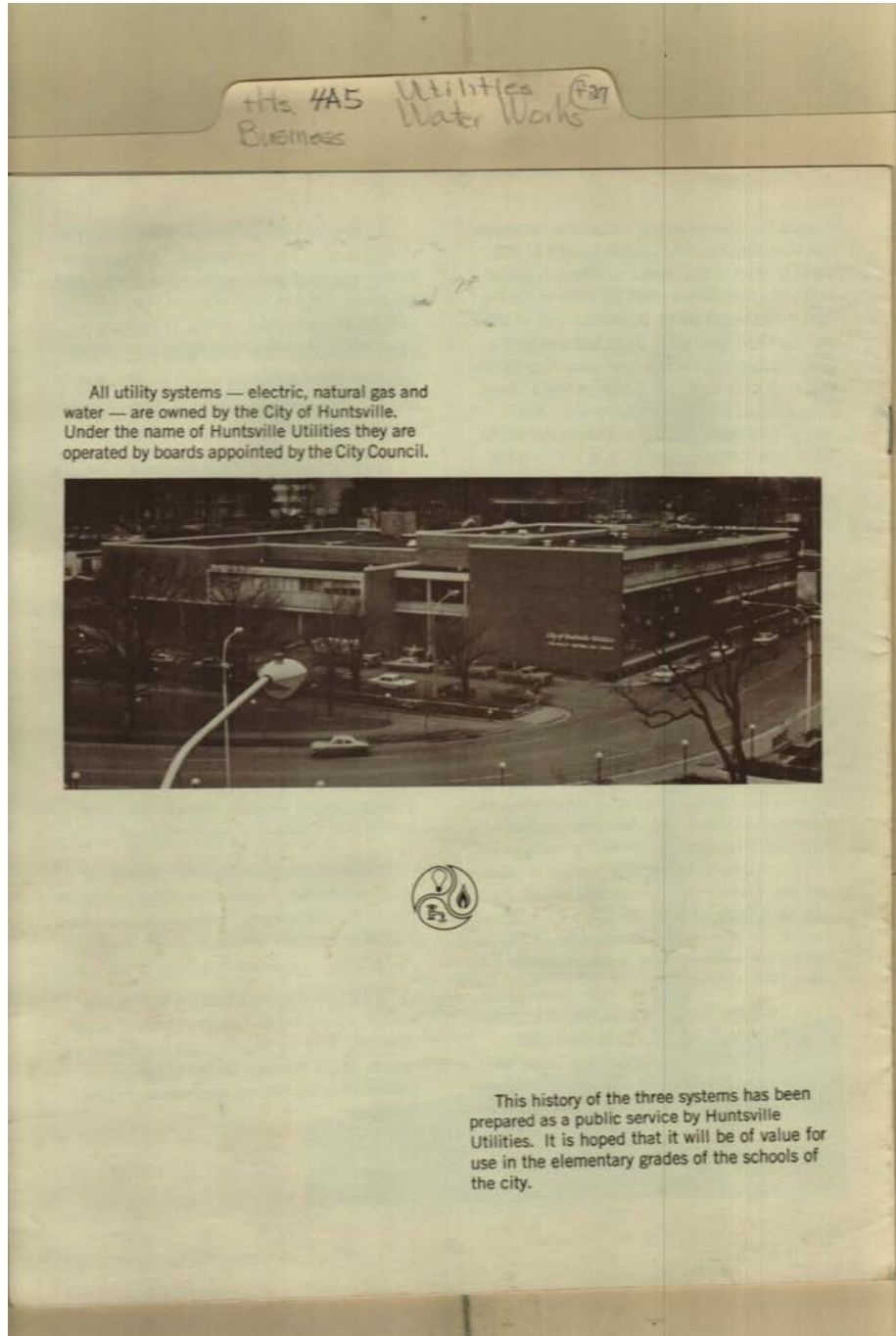
Types:

brochure

Dates:

1946

1954



Names:

Huntsville Utilities
photograph

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:


brochure

Ms #45 Utilities #37
Business Water Works

HUNTSVILLE WATER WORKS

The oldest public water system west of the Appalachians
with over 150 years of public service.

**" This is an
undertaking which will add so much to public
and individual convenience, "** THE ALABAMA REPUBLICAN
MARCH 28, 1823



REPUBLICAN.
HUNTSVILLE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1823

We are highly gratified to learn that Mr. Peef (who has been for some time devising a plan to supply the town with water) has succeeded to his utmost wishes, in constructing a dam at the spring, with a fall sufficient to propel machinery for raising any quantity of water the inhabitants of the town and its vicinity require.— He intends sinking a reservoir near the court house, which is to be kept constantly full, and having obtained a grant from the corporation to lay aqueducts through all streets and public places, there is now no obstruction to his supplying every family with water at their doors or in their yards, which we understand he will be able to effect during the ensuing summer, and upon the most moderate terms. This is an undertaking which will add so much to public and individual convenience, that we hope to see the enterprising projector liberally patronized, and handsomely remunerated by our townsmen.

Names:

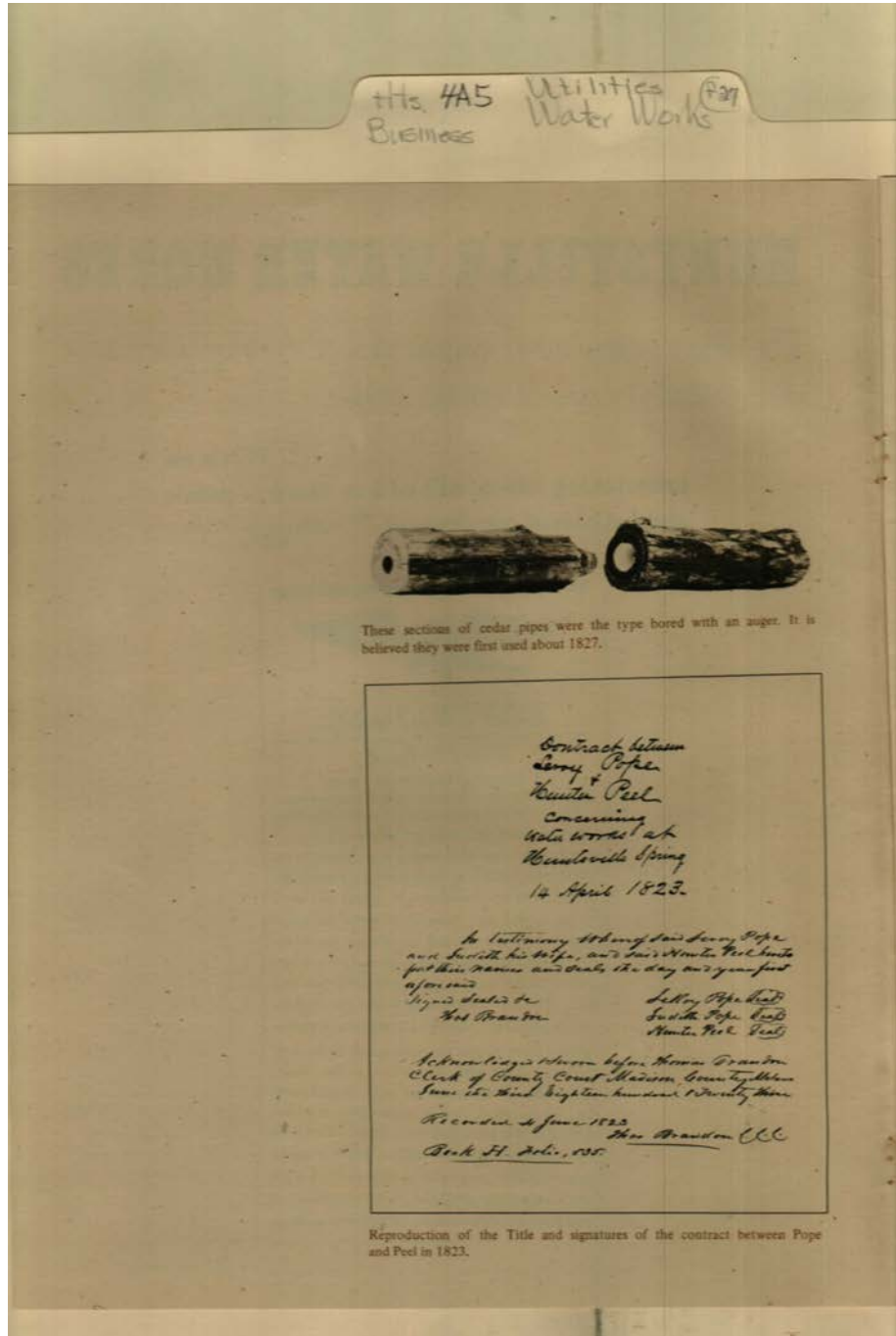
Huntsville Water
Works

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Water Works contract

Places:

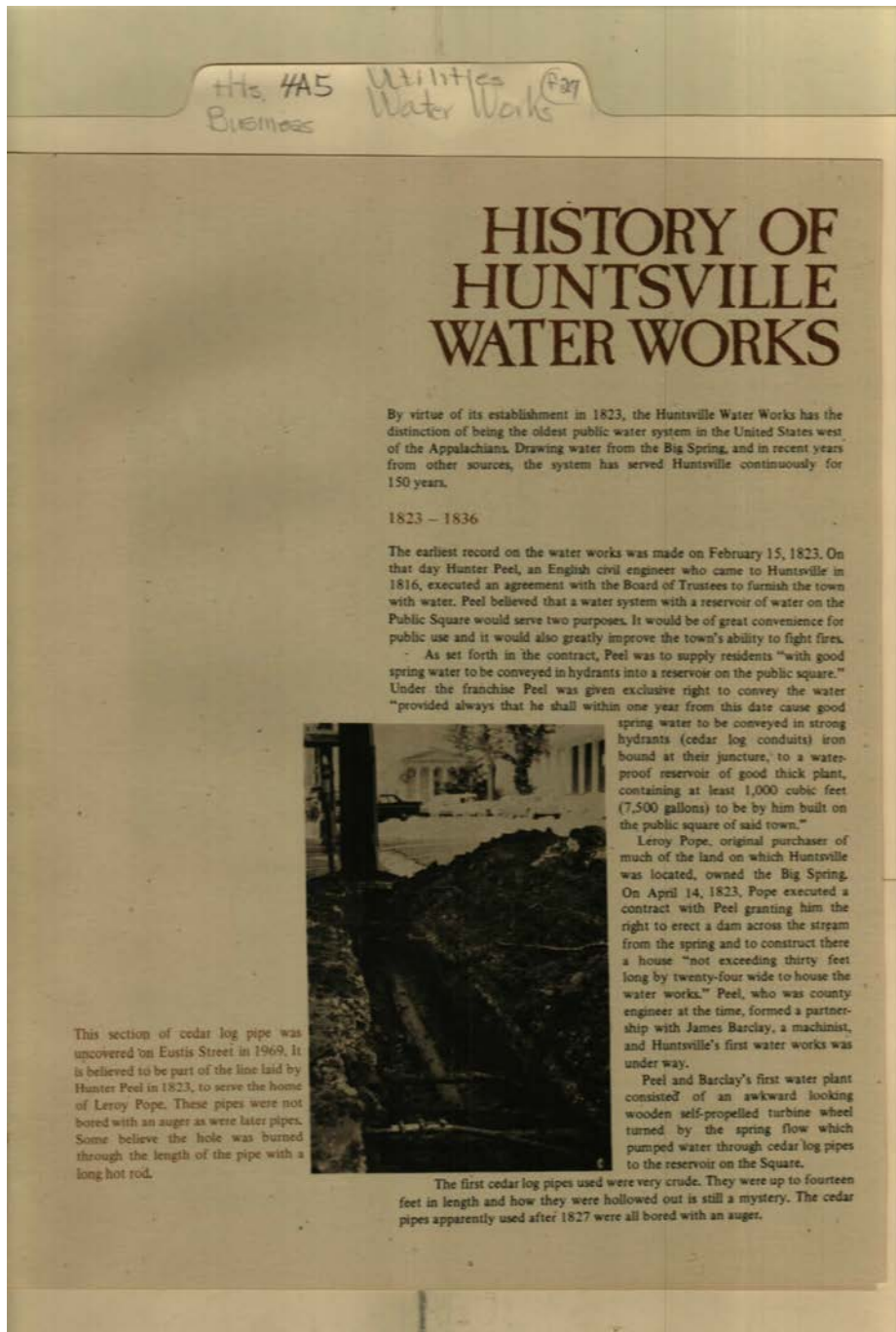
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1823



Names:

Barclay, James

History of Huntsville
Water Works

Peel, Hunter
Pope, Leroy

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Barclay, James
Cox, Joshua

Fearn, George
Fearn, Thomas, Dr.

Morgan, Sam D.
Peel, Hunter

Ronalds, Thomas A.
Steele, George


Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Hts. #A5 Utilities Water Works #27
Business



The water works building as it appeared in the 1850's.

WILLIAMS'

HUNTSVILLE DIRECTORY,

CITY GUIDE,


Business Mirror.

VOLUME 1-1859-70

HUNTSVILLE

PUBLISHED BY W. W. WILSON, No. 10 Commercial Row.

The City Directory of 1859 described Huntsville Water Works of that year.



This neat masonry building over the pumping station was built in 1860.

adequately served with water. In Dr. Fearn's Waterworks account book of 1842, were listed a total of 111 customers. In 1843, William W. Pope, son of Leroy Pope, who had acquired ownership of the Big Spring from his father, deeded it to the City for \$1. In compliance with certain terms of the gift, the City embarked upon a beautification program of the property. William Frye's painting of the Big Spring area is said to have been inspired by the improvements made at the Spring.

Dr. Fearn continued to operate the water works and in 1854, the City Council named a committee of three to inquire into the propriety of purchasing the water works from him. As a result of this study, in 1858, the City purchased the water works for the sum of \$10,000, to be paid in ten equal annual installments.

1859 - 1892

On July 1st, 1859, an ordinance was adopted by the Town Council "to establish a tax for the use of water from the Water Works of the Town of Huntsville." The rates for residential users were based on the valuation of the house. "For each dwelling valued at no more than eight thousand dollars, the water tax shall be twelve dollars and fifty cents per annum." For commercial users, specific annual rates were set forth.

In 1860, the City constructed a new building to house the water works at the Spring. This masonry building with various alterations, including a smoke stack, served until a new pumping station was built close by on Gallatin Street in 1899.

One of Huntsville's most exciting events took place in 1887, the opening of the famous Monte Sano Hotel. One of the local newspapers, "The Huntsville Independent," reported on May 26, 1887, that the work of connecting the Monte Sano Hotel with the City Water Works at the Big Spring was practically completed. A force pump was installed at the Spring and water was pumped up the mountain for the use of the hotel.

Names:

Fearn, Thomas, Dr.
Frye, William

Monte Sano Hotel
Pope, Leroy

Pope, William W.

Water Works building
photographs

Places:

Huntsville, AL

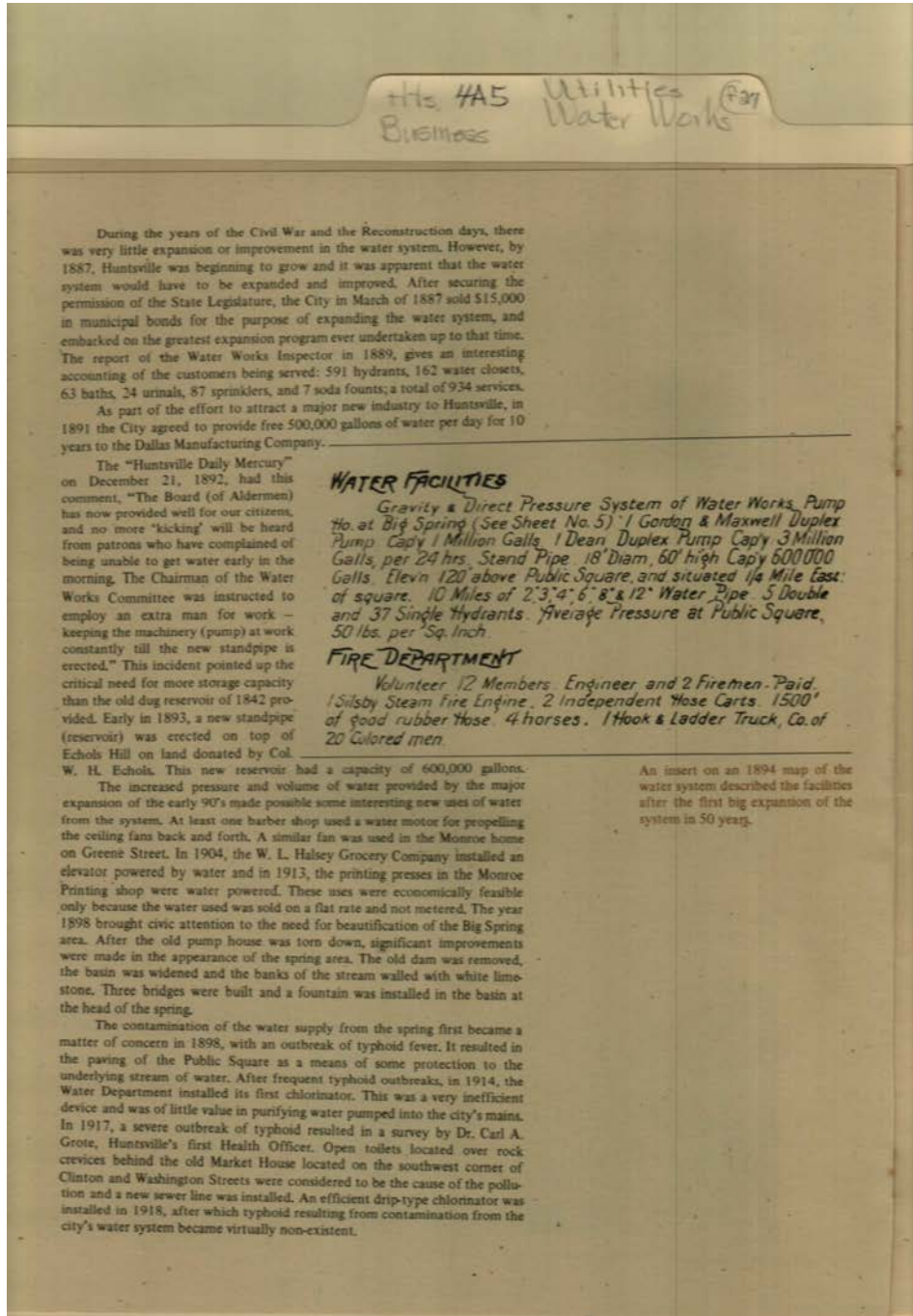
Types:

brochure

Dates:

1850 / 1860

1887



Names:

Dallas Manufacturing
Co.

Echols, W. H.
Grote, Carl A., Dr.

Halsey, W. L.
Grocery Company

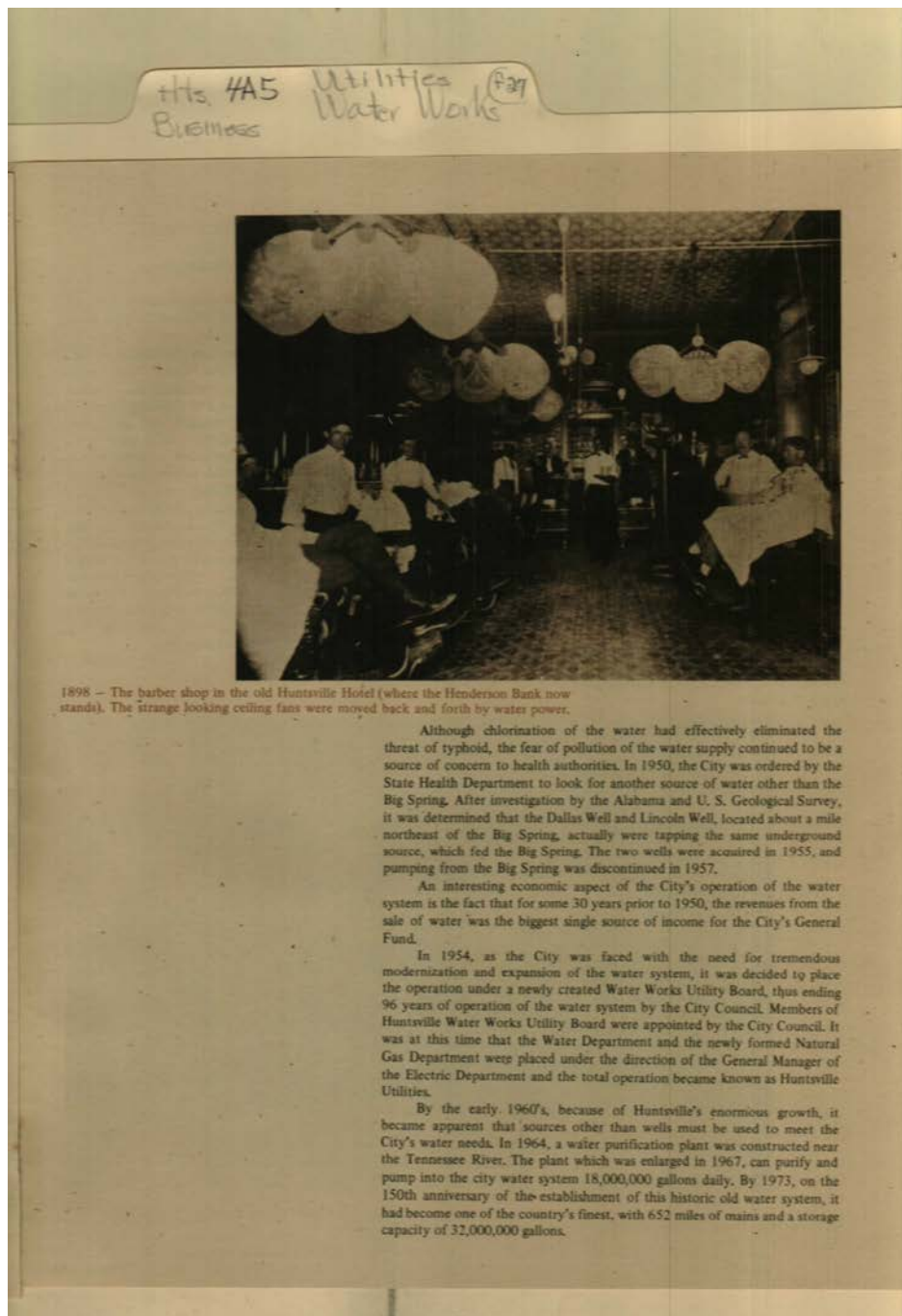
Monroe Printing

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Dallas Well
Lincoln Well

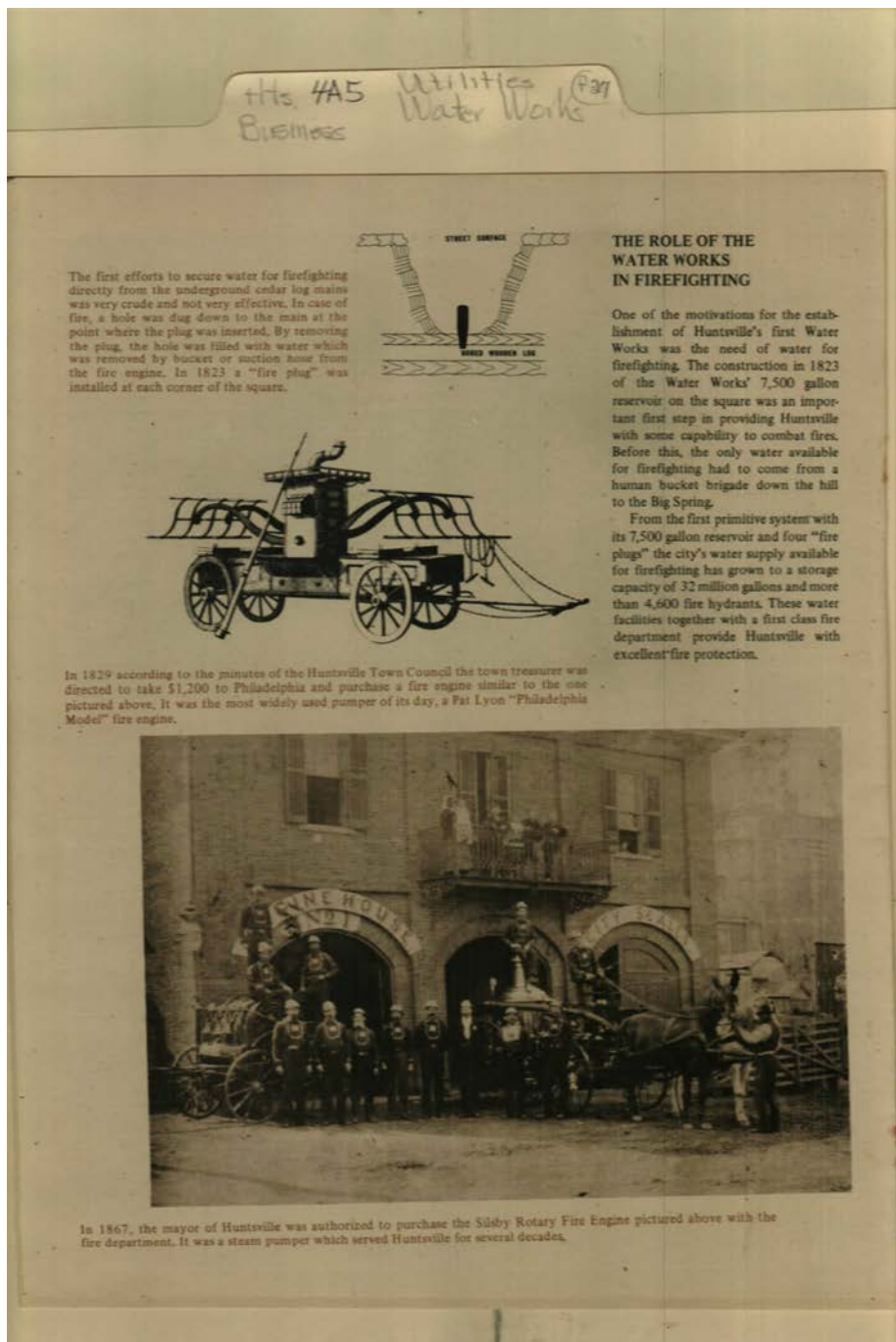
Water Works Utility
Board

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure



Names:

Role of Water Works
in Firefighting

Places:

Huntsville, AL

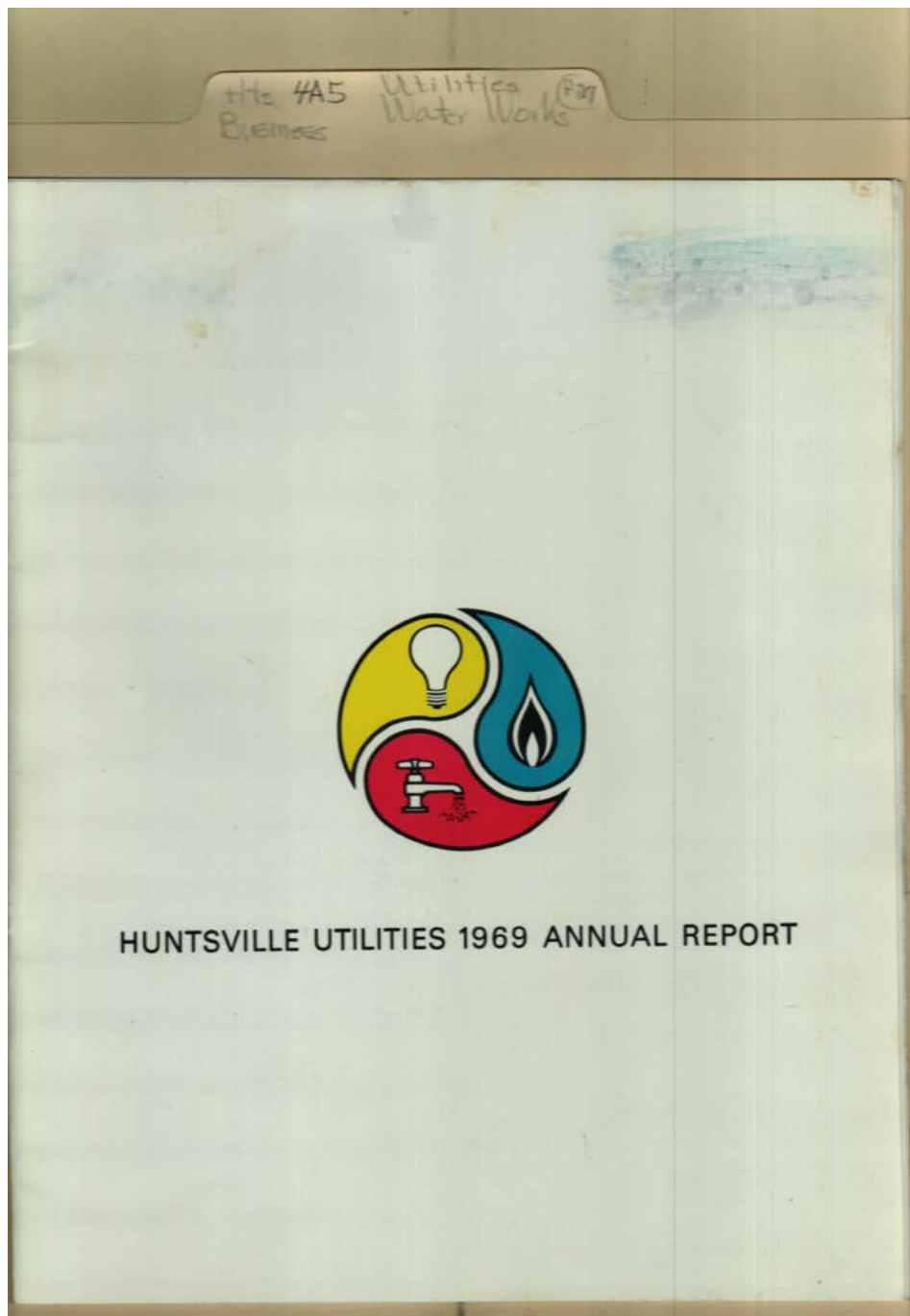
Types:

brochure

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Names:

Huntsville Utilities Report
1969 Annual

Places:

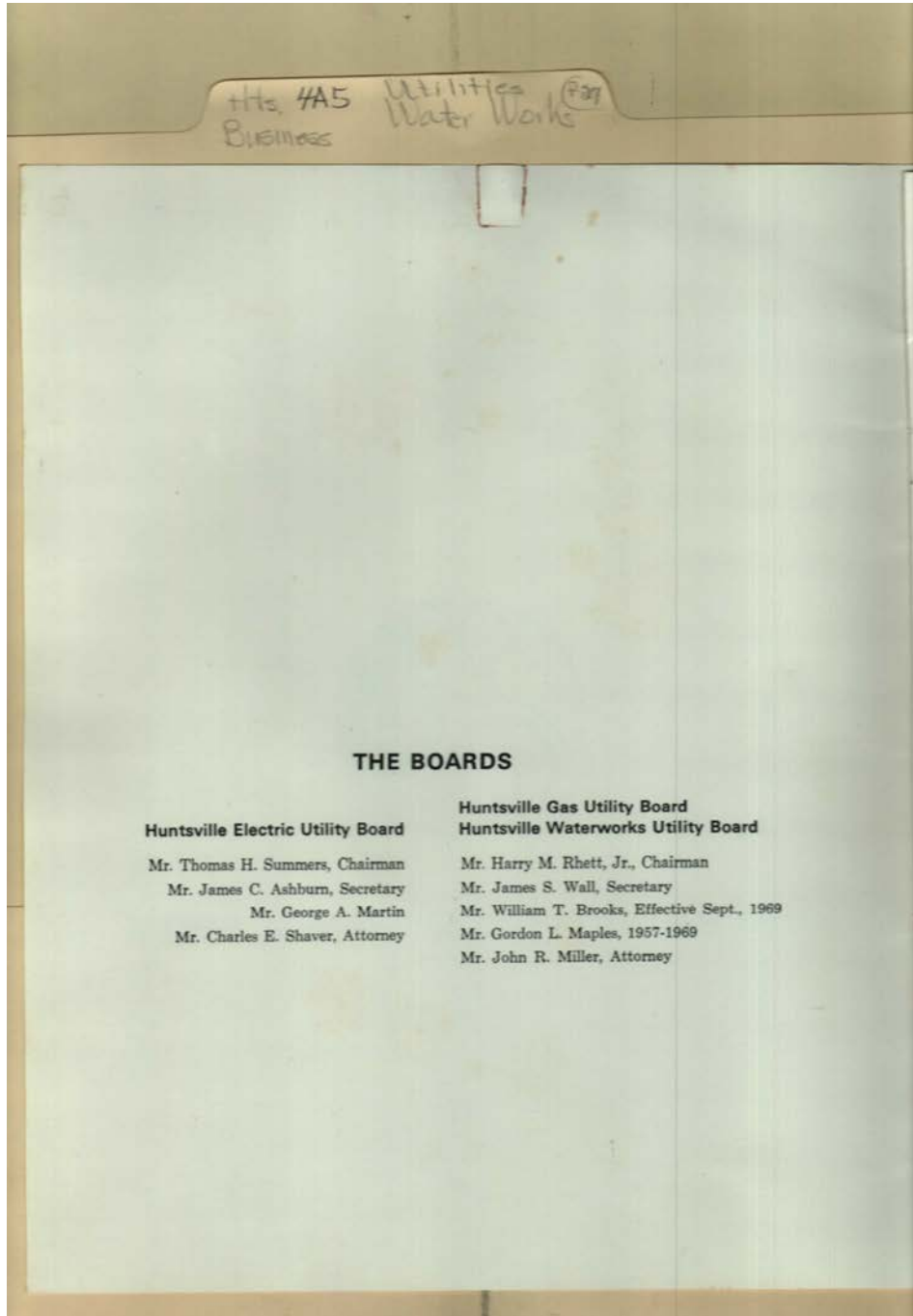
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Ashburn, James C.
Brooks, William T.
Huntsville Electric
Utility Board

Huntsville Gas Utility
Board
Huntsville
Waterworks Utility

Board
Maples, Gordon L.
Martin, George A.
Miller, John R.

Rhett, Harry M., Jr.
Shaver, Charles E.
Summers, Thomas H.
Wall, James S.

Places:

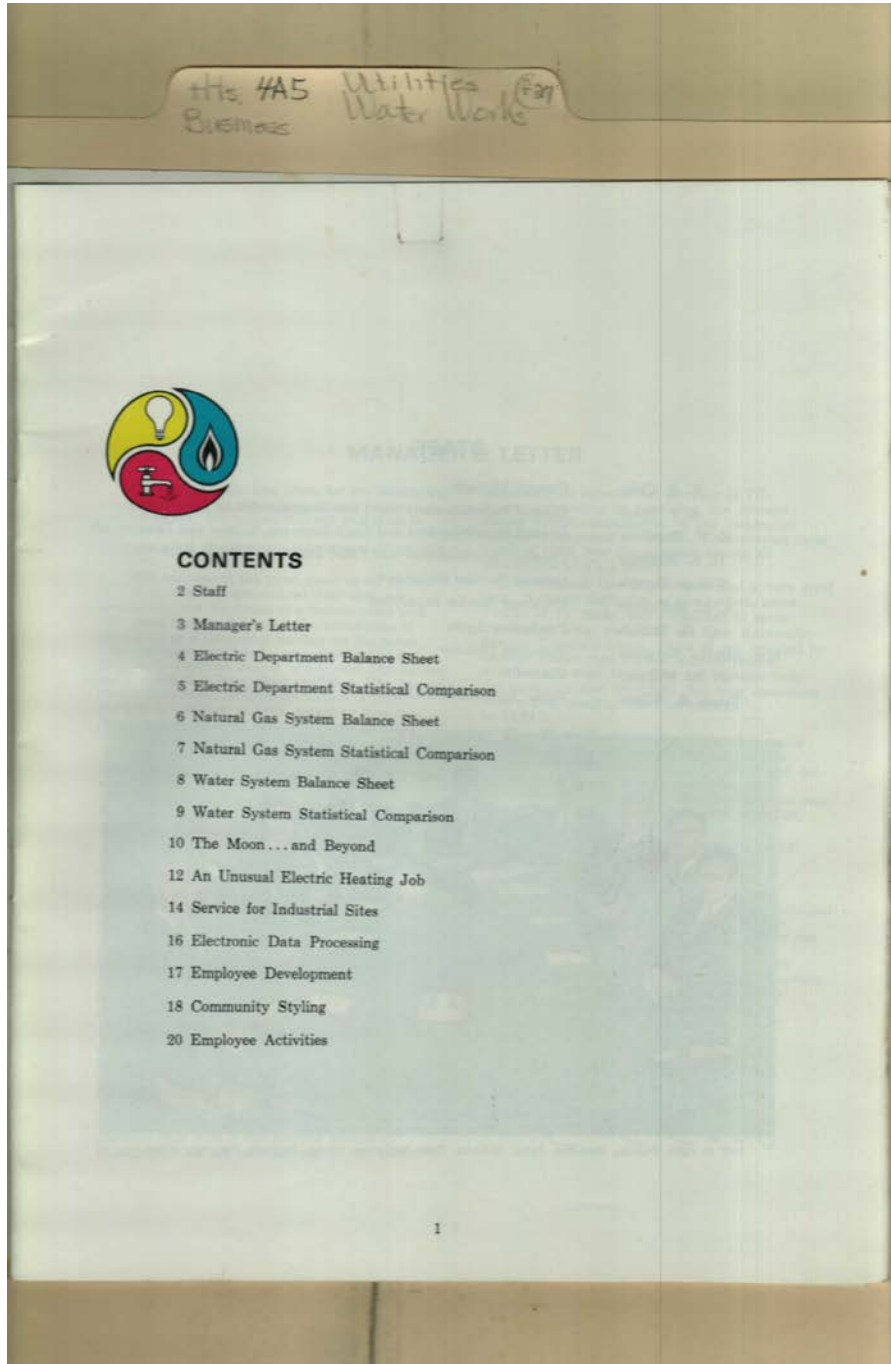
Huntsville, AL

Types:

list

Dates:

1969



Names:

Huntsville Utilities
1969 Annual

Report

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Dates:

1969



Names:

Cobb, E. E.
Foley, A. P.
Hamilton, E. H.
Hastings, H. E.

Hooper, William
Huntsville Utilities
Staff
McCollum, A. C.

Phillips, C. H.
Reynolds, Martha,
Mrs.
Williams, J. N.

Wilson, Frank B.

Places:

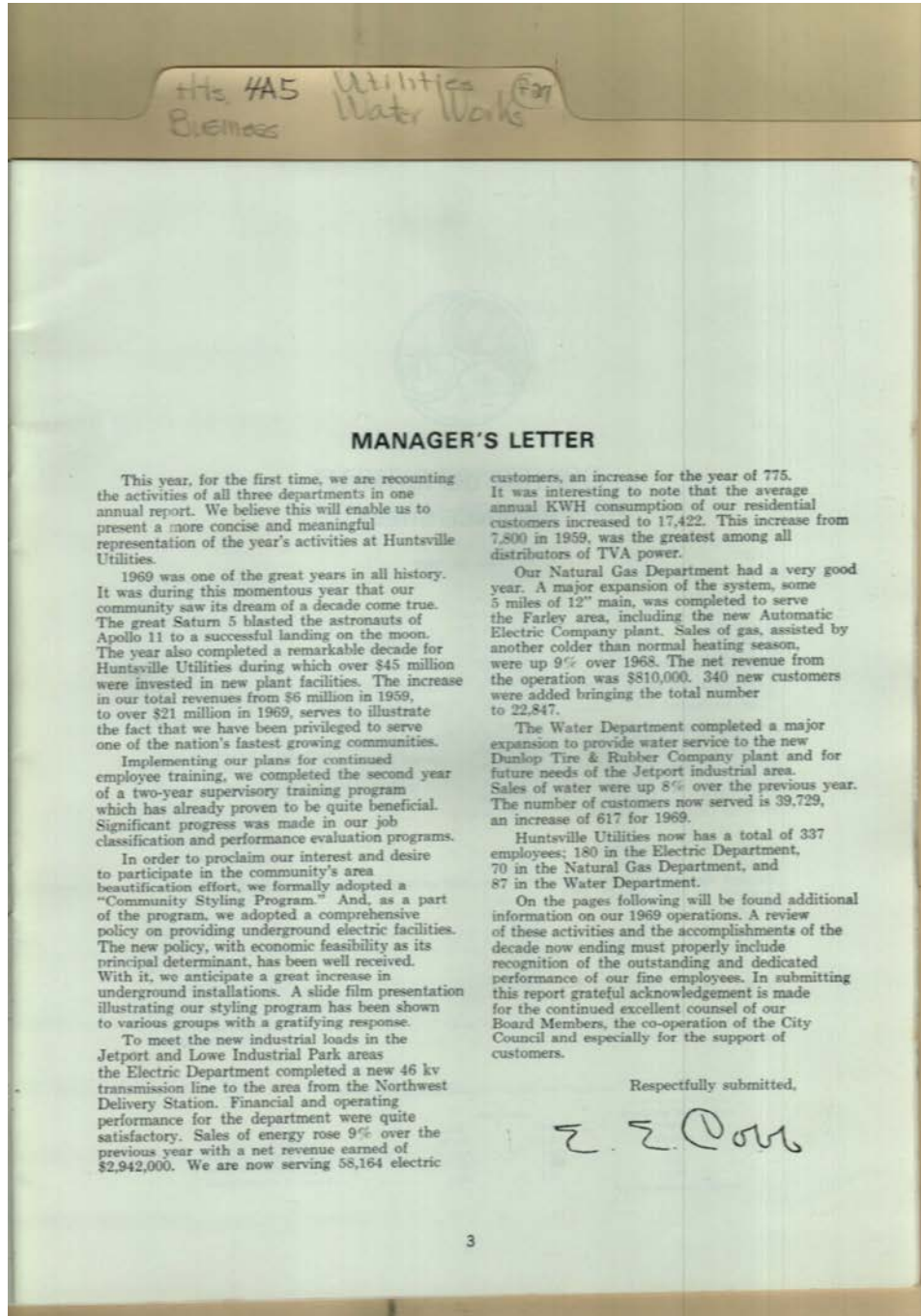
Huntsville, AL

Types:

list

Dates:

1969



Names:

Cobb, E. E.

Places:

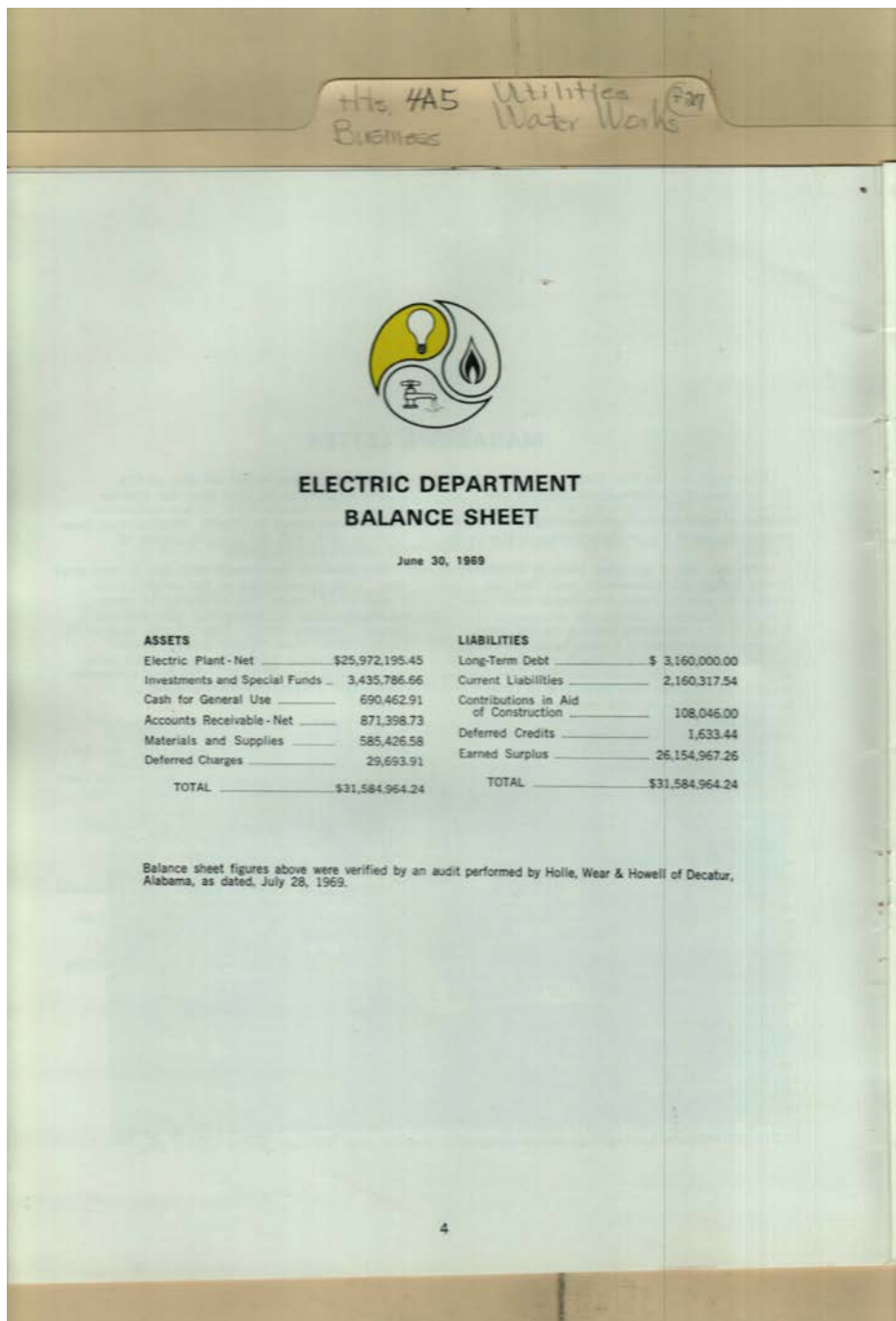
Huntsville, AL

Types:

letter

Dates:

1969



Names:

Electric Department
Balance Sheet

Places:

Huntsville, AL


Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969

Hts. #A5 Utilities Water Works #37
Business



ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT STATISTICAL COMPARISON

	1969	1968	1959
Number of Customers	58,164	57,389	32,019
POWER SALES - KWH			
Residential	904,446,000	825,326,000	214,700,000
Large Commercial & Industrial	656,830,000	576,509,000	132,500,000
Small Commercial	156,202,000	146,366,000	32,100,000
Street Lighting	18,349,000	16,687,000	3,600,000
TOTAL	1,735,827,000	1,564,888,000	402,900,000
Peak Demand - KW	393,616	381,645	108,241
REVENUES			
Residential	\$ 7,980,000	\$ 7,142,000	\$ 2,097,000
Large Commercial & Industrial	4,323,000	3,764,000	866,000
Small Commercial	1,908,000	1,757,000	637,000
Street Lighting	301,000	270,000	75,000
Other	410,000	346,000	100,000
TOTAL	\$ 14,922,000	\$ 13,279,000	\$ 3,775,000
EXPENSES			
Purchased Power	\$ 8,533,000	\$ 7,471,000	\$ 1,784,000
Operating Costs	1,284,000	1,340,000	487,000
TOTAL	\$ 9,817,000	\$ 8,811,000	\$ 2,271,000
Taxes & Tax Equivalent	960,000	901,000	280,000
Depreciation	1,094,000	1,023,800	363,000
Debt Expense	109,000	127,000	63,000
TOTAL	\$ 11,980,000	\$ 10,862,000	\$ 2,977,000
NET REVENUES			
(Reinvested in system)	\$ 2,942,000	\$ 2,417,000	\$ 798,000
FINANCIAL			
Plant in service	\$ 34,641,000	\$ 32,352,000	\$ 11,462,000
Bonds outstanding	3,160,000	3,670,000	2,240,000

	Huntsville		Average—All TVA Municipal Distributors
	1969	1968	1969*
Distribution Expenses	\$12.18	\$13.18	\$20.04
Consumer Accounting	4.38	4.83	6.58
Sales Promotion	.98	.88	2.60
Administration & General	4.28	4.47	8.94

*Latest available figures

5

Names:

Electric Department Comparison
Statistical

Places:

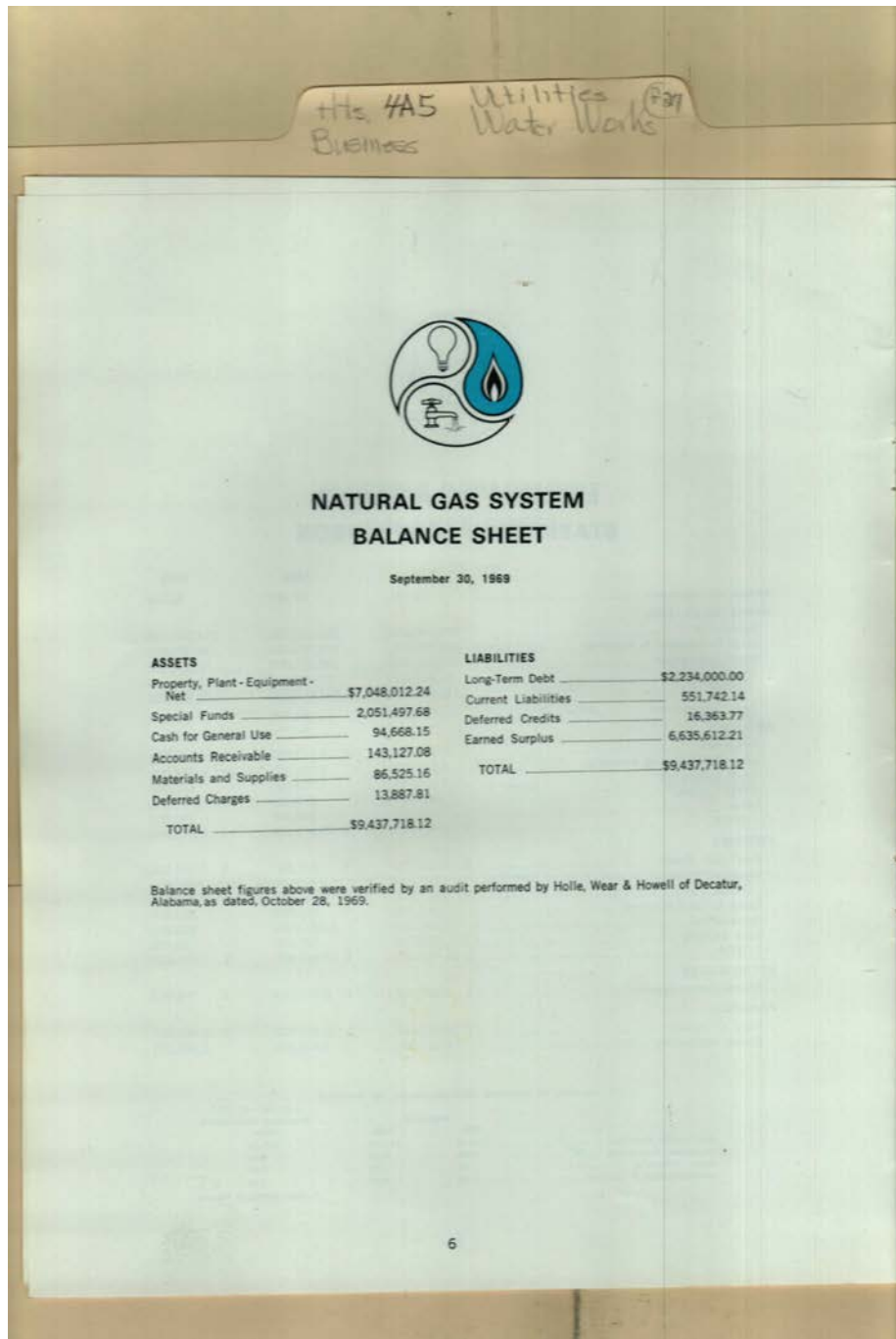
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Natural Gas System
Balance Sheet

Places:

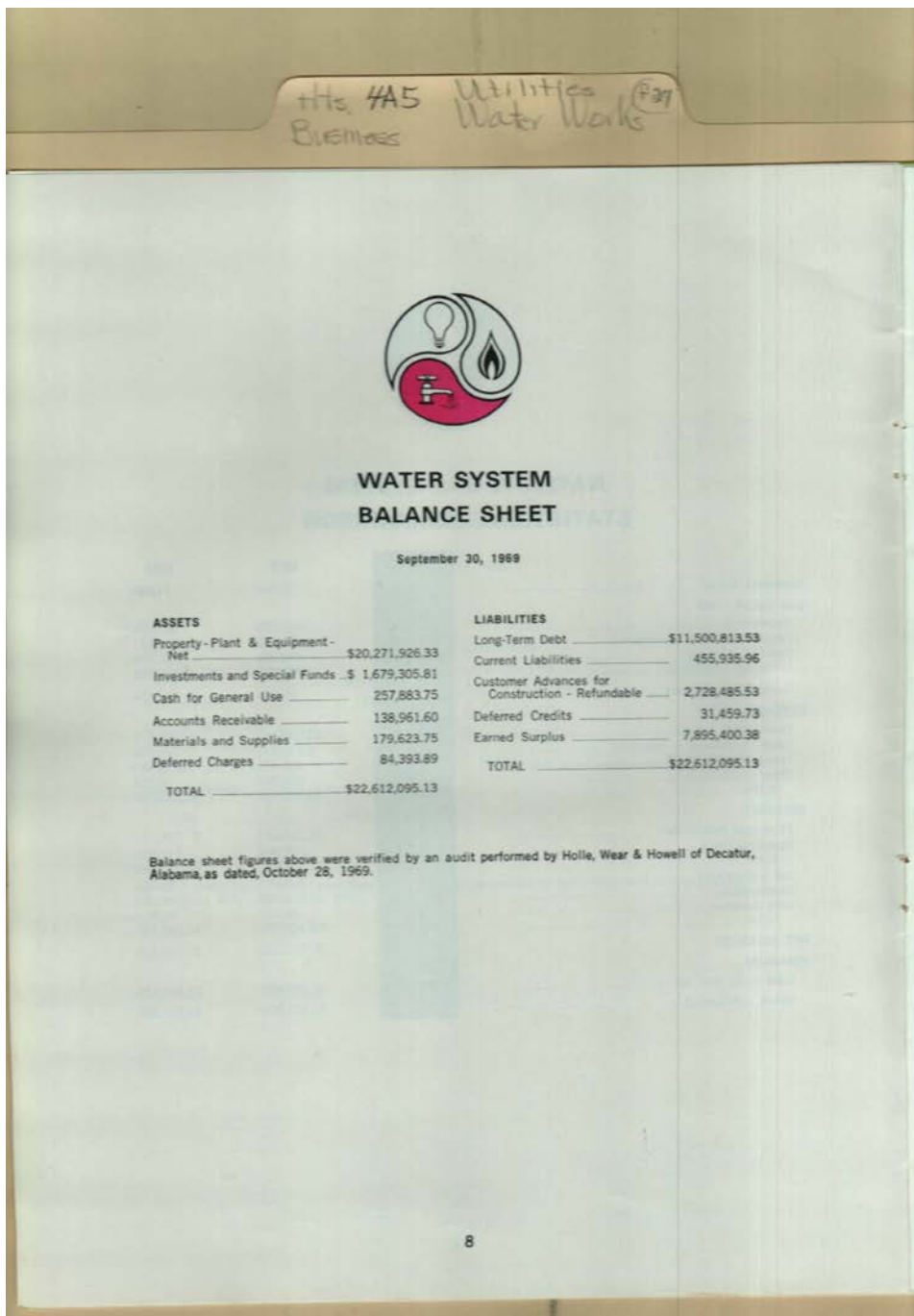
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Water System
Balance Sheet

Places:


Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



**WATER SYSTEM
STATISTICAL COMPARISON**

	1968	1968	1958
Customers Served	39,729	39,112	18,163
WATER SALES (1,000 gals)			
Residential	2,532,155	2,806,146	998,346
Large Commercial & Industrial	572,008	600,726	311,983
Small Commercial	1,945,161	1,725,987	769,559
TOTAL	5,550,324	5,132,859	2,079,888
REVENUES			
Residential	\$ 1,745,228	\$ 1,676,717	\$ 603,609
Large Commercial & Industrial	103,122	85,846	45,045
Small Commercial	599,040	563,594	252,255
Other	90,830	86,437	23,572
TOTAL	\$ 2,538,220	\$ 2,412,594	\$ 924,481
EXPENSES			
Production Cost	\$ 247,112	\$ 238,807	\$ 59,342
Operating Cost	665,052	573,108	192,059
TOTAL	\$ 912,164	\$ 811,915	\$ 251,401
Tax Equivalent	0	0	345,403
Depreciation	582,683	572,785	160,833
Debt Expense	425,308	440,270	157,319
TOTAL	\$ 1,920,155	\$ 1,824,970	\$ 914,956
NET REVENUES			
	\$ 618,074	\$ 587,624	\$ 9,525
FINANCIAL			
Plant in service - net	\$20,271,926	\$20,074,284	\$ 6,748,419
Bonds outstanding	\$11,501,000	\$11,865,000	\$ 5,340,000

9

Names:

Water System
Statistical

Comparison

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

The Moon and
Beyond

Places:

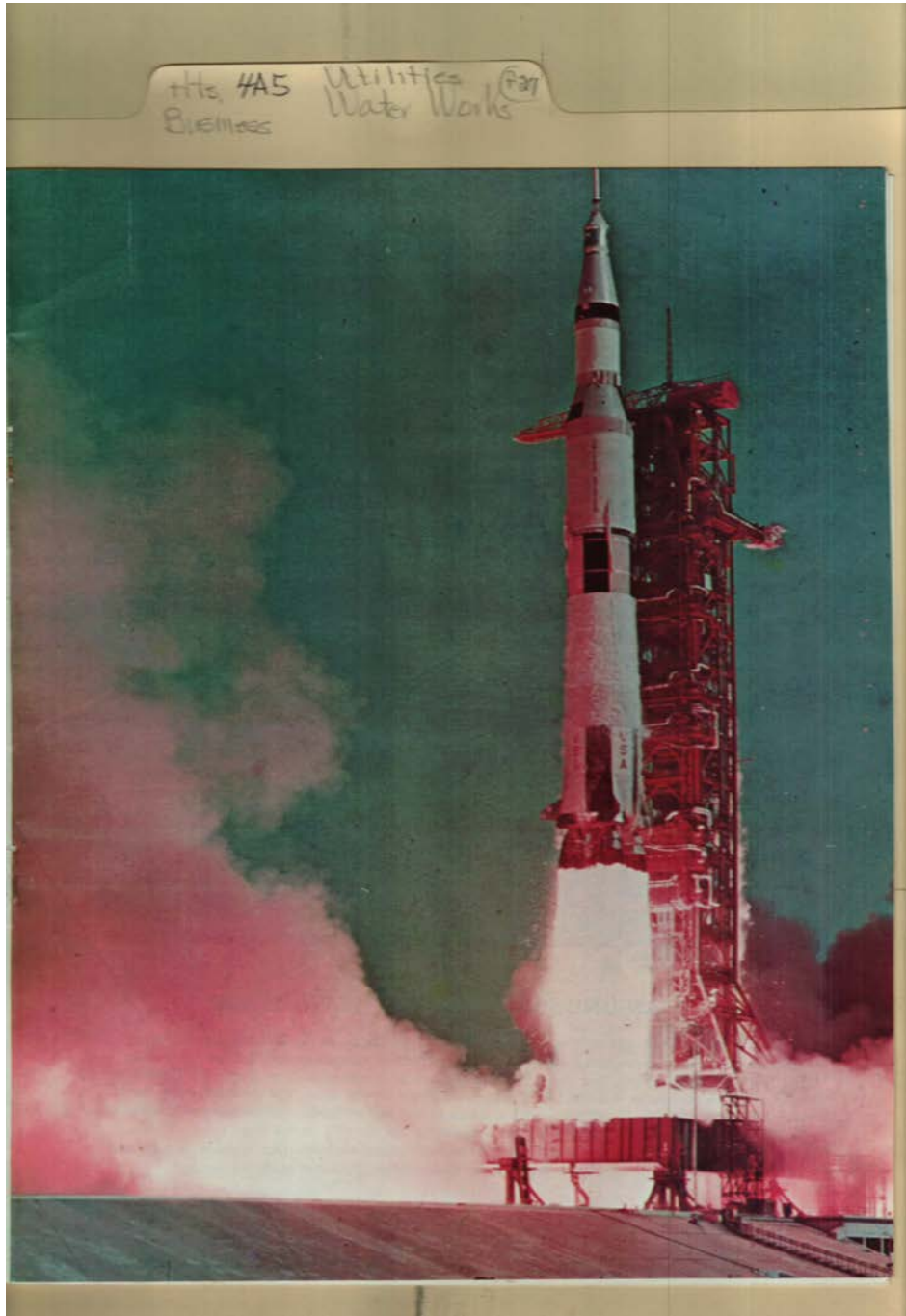
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Dates:

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Names:

Saturn V photograph

Places:

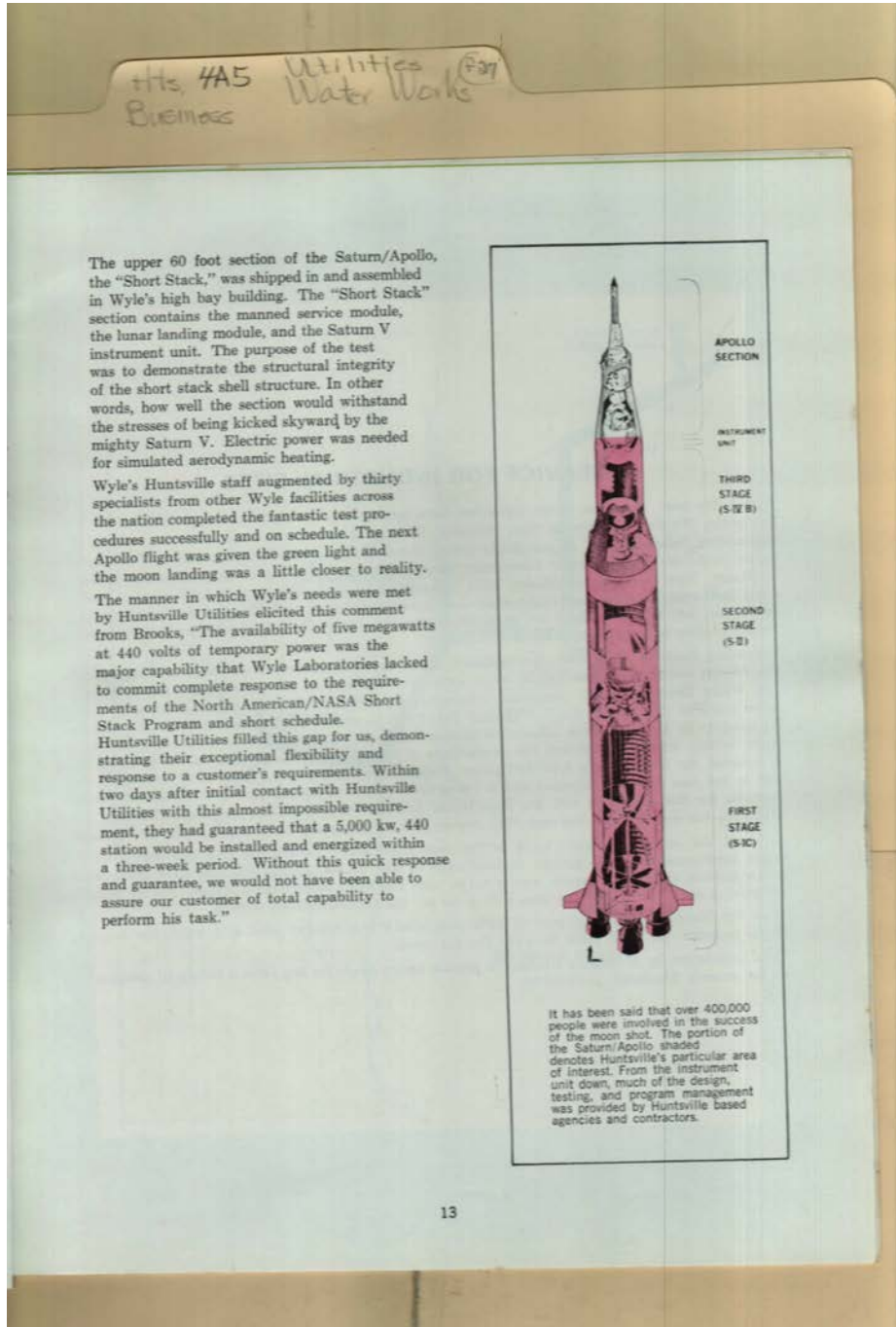
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brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Saturn/Apollo

Wyle Laboratories

Places:

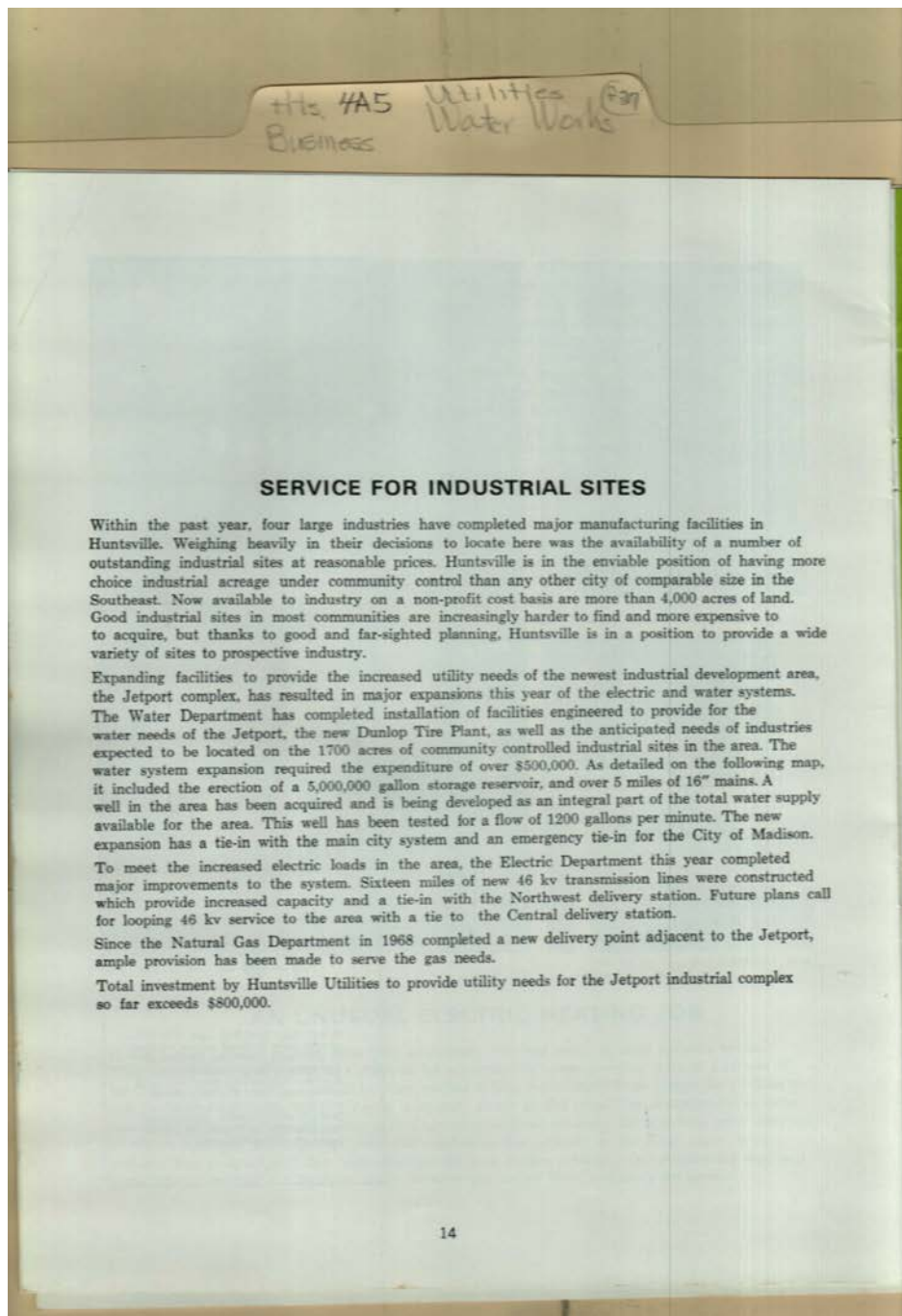
Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Dunlop Tire Plant
Jetport

Service For Industrial
Sites

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Jetport / Dunlop Tire system
- map of water

Places:

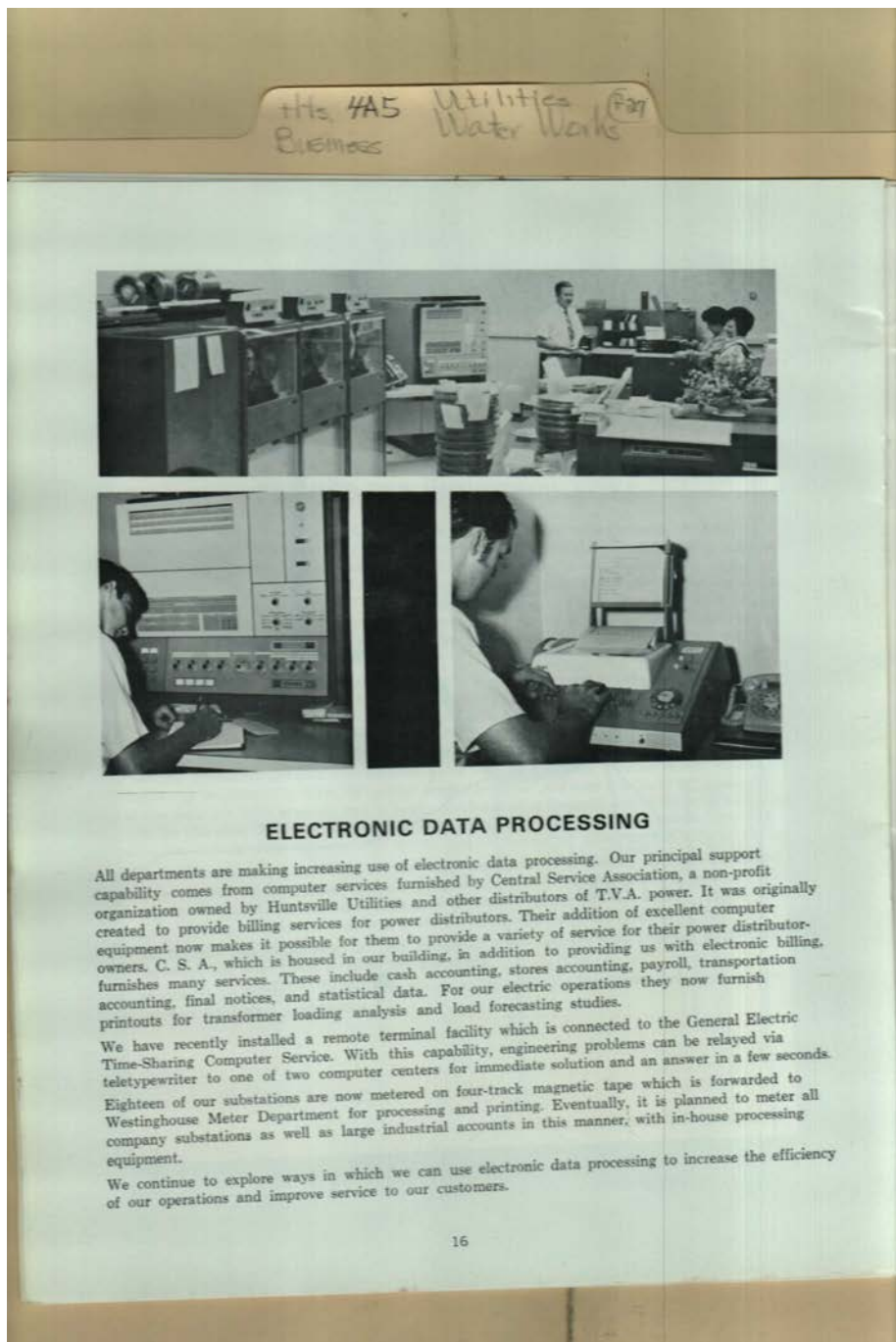
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Dates:

1969



Names:

Electronic Data
Processing

Places:

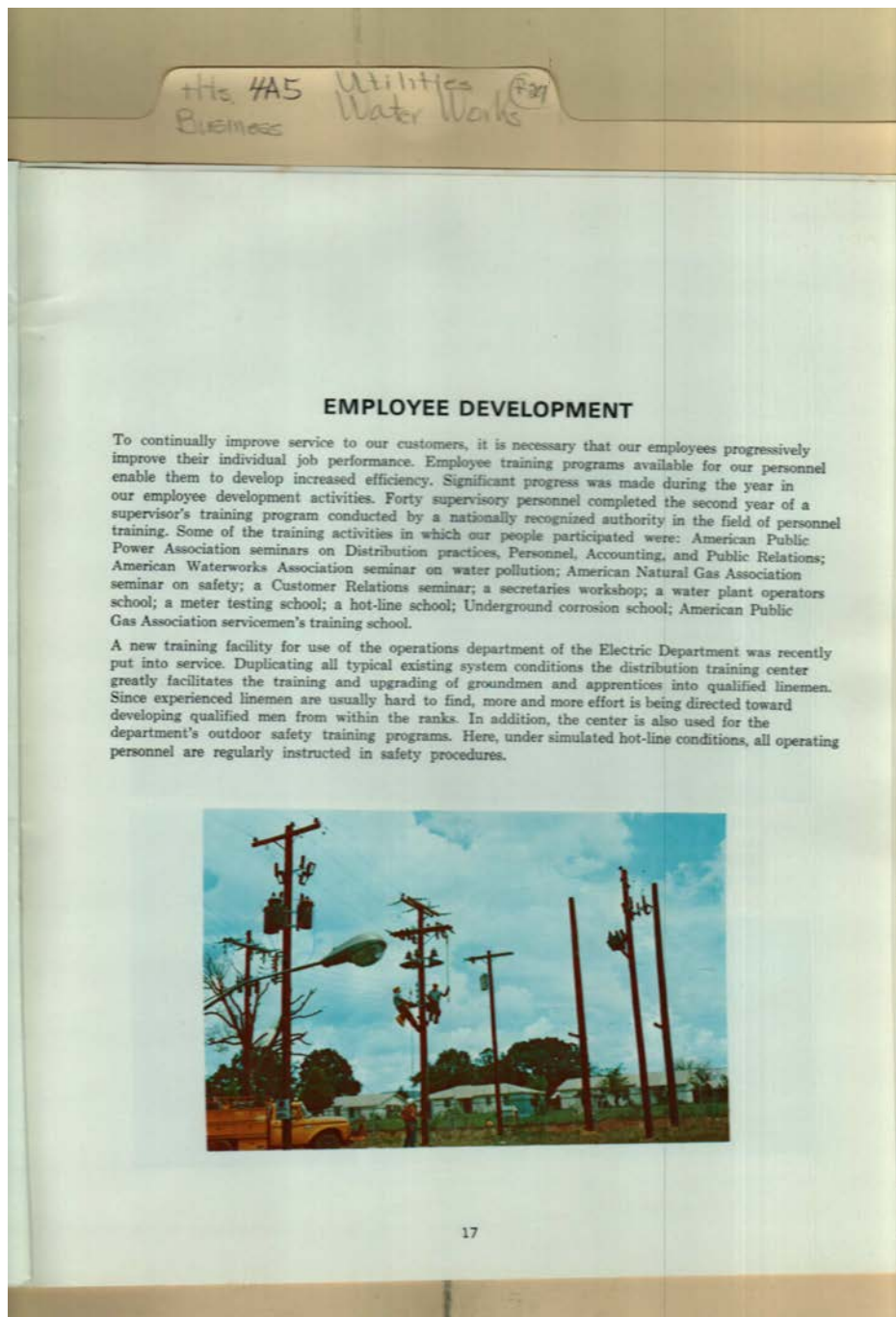
Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Dates:

1969



Names:

Employee
Development

Places:

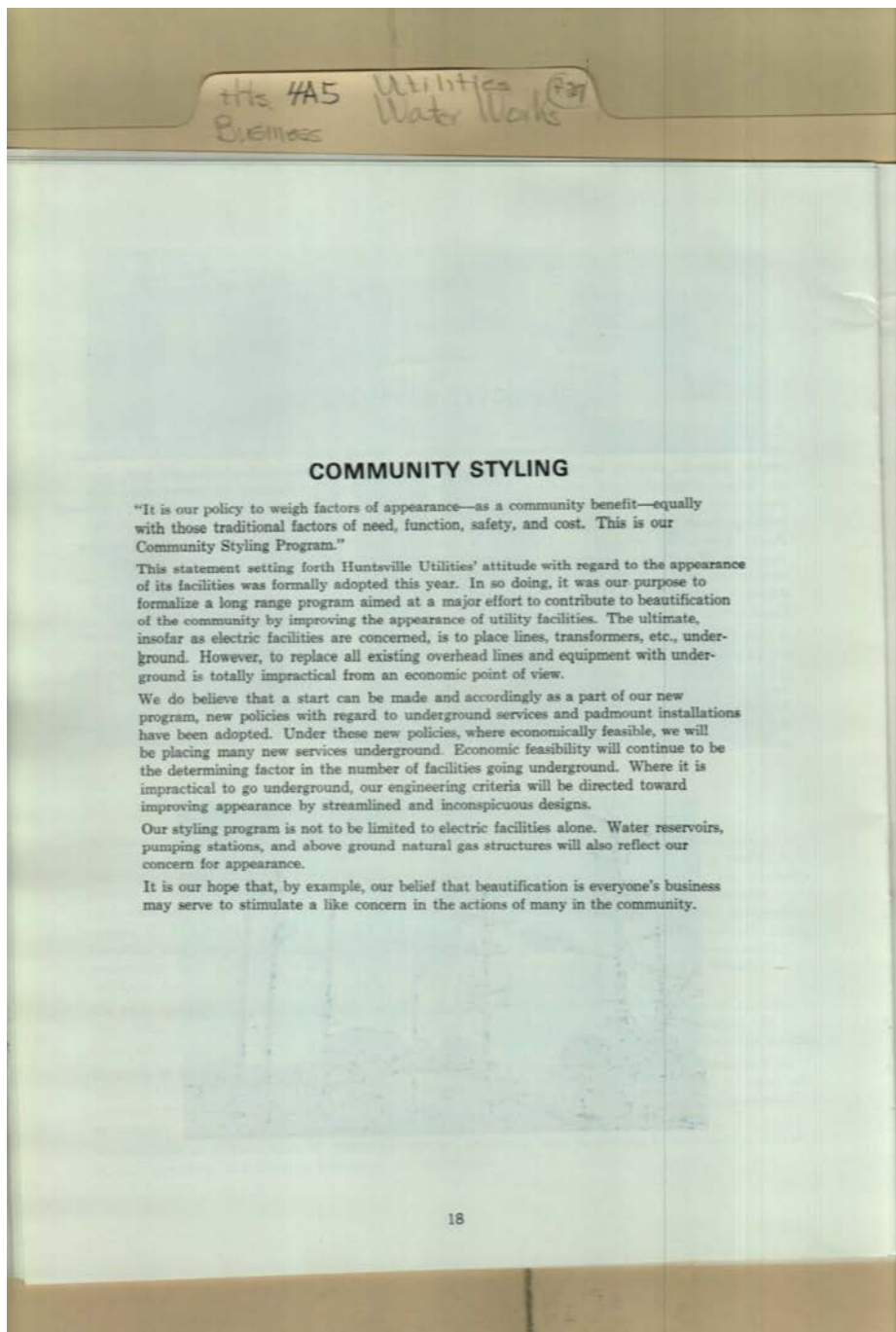
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Types:

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Dates:

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Names:

Community Styling

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Styling photographs

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

Huntsville Utilities
employee's

photographs

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

Dates:

1969



Names:

bucket truck
photograph

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

brochure

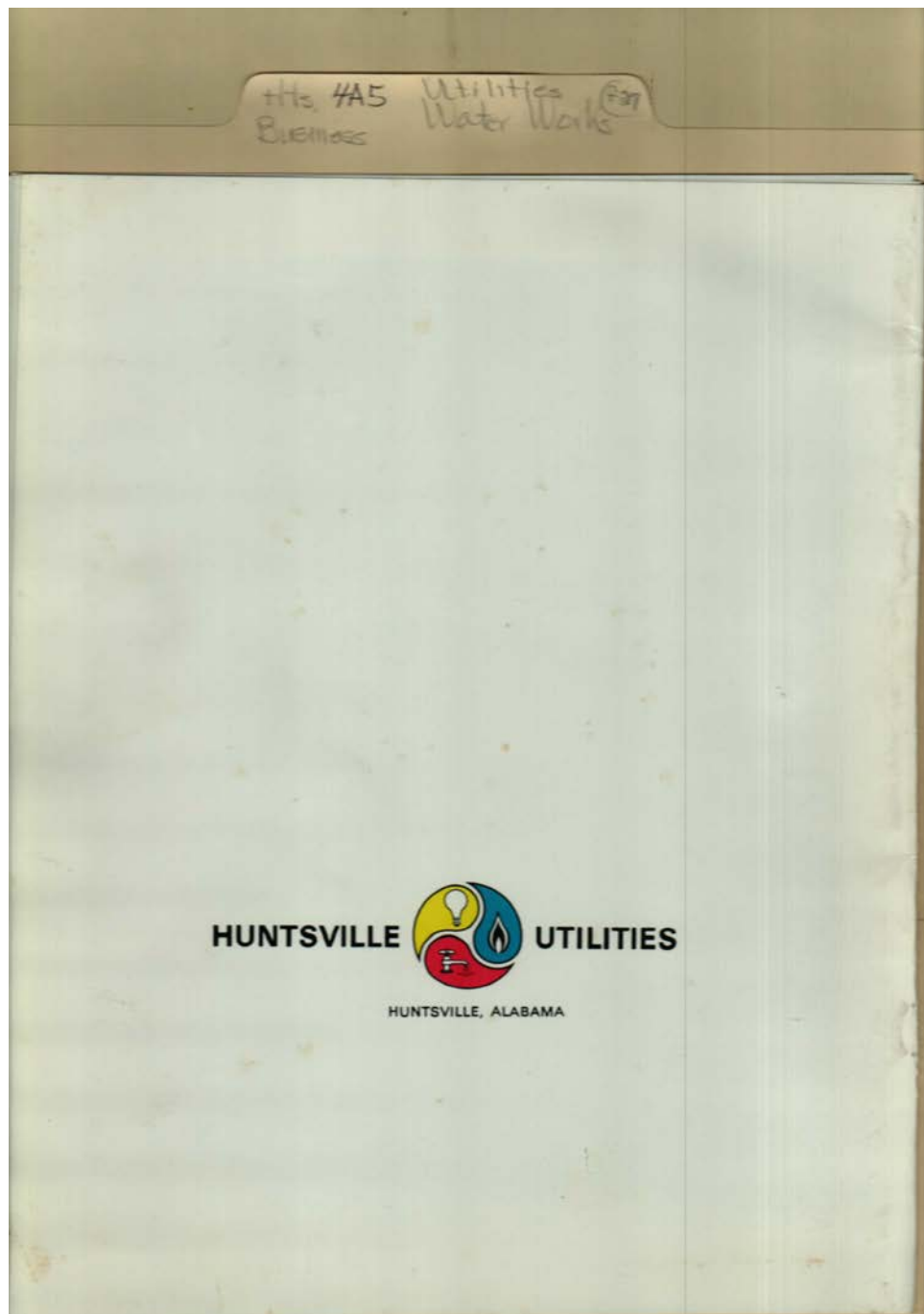
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Huntsville, AL

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brochure cover

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[Image 5](#) (r04a05-27-000-0178)
[Image 6](#) (r04a05-27-000-0179)
[Image 7](#) (r04a05-27-000-0180)
[Image 8](#) (r04a05-27-000-0181)
[Image 9](#) (r04a05-27-000-0182)
[Image 10](#) (r04a05-27-000-0183)
[Image 11](#) (r04a05-27-000-0184)
[Image 12](#) (r04a05-27-000-0185)

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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