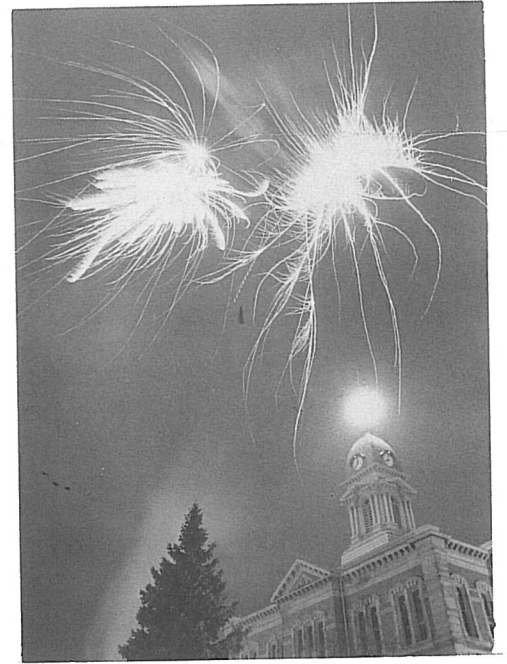


12/90



One of the key events in the history of developing electric power systems was the agreement between BRUSH ELECTRIC of Cleveland, Ohio and the Wabash City Council in February, 1880 for the whole town to be illuminated by the prototype "Brush Light". The contract was for \$100 (65 pounds sterling) and covered the mounting of four arc lamps on top of the Court House, plus wiring to the Brush dynamo, which was belt driven by an eight horsepower coal fired threshing steam engine. On March 31, 1880 at precisely eight o'clock, the lamps were lit. The next day, The Chicago Tribune wrote, "Over ten thousand witnessed the test, crowds spread over the suburbs making checks by looking at watches and reading newspapers. In short, the Brush system of electric lighting for cities is a success, and Wabash enjoys the distinction of being the first city in the whole world to be lighted by electricity." With small changes to make the installation more permanent, the generating installation ran until 1889 when the area



electricity board was established. One of the original lamps was found in 1935 in a basement, and is now permanently on display inside the Wabash Court House. During 1980, 100 years to the moment, during a civic ceremony accompanied by a large firework display, this original light was again mounted and illuminated on the top of the Wabash City Court House.

Derek E. King Houston Office