



ELECTRICITY, GAS AND COMPETITION

What did people use to heat and light their homes before electricity was invented? A long time ago they used wood. Coal replaced wood. After coal came gas. Soon gas was used in many cities and homes. Then, Edison created the General Electric Company and cities across the nation began using electricity for heat and light in their homes.

In the 1900s people could chose between gas stoves and electric stoves. At first people liked gas stoves. This changed when more small electrical appliances were invented. Then people decided they wanted all electric homes.

The makers of gas stoves worked hard to figure out ways to get people to use gas instead of electricity. The 1932 Simplex Patent "Quick Boiling" Copper Kettle is a good example of one of their ideas. They made many changes to the kettle so that it heated water very well. It worked better than kettles made for electric stoves. It is still on the market today. It is very popular.