

ical Exposition in 1887, where he became a celebrity that often figured in prose and poetry written by tourists from everywhere. He continued to be an attraction at the waterworks plant for many years, until one day word was spread that Old Joe was dead. Big Jim had lost a life-time companion, but Old Joe's hide was stuffed and placed in the waterworks building beneath the friend that had spoken to him daily in life, and which he seemed to have grown to know and understand.

Electric Lights

Electricity for lighting purposes was introduced into Jacksonville in 1883, when J. R. Campbell installed a plant to light the St. James Hotel.

In the latter part of 1884, H. Wadsworth came to Jacksonville for the purpose of installing a system of electric lights. In order to warrant him in establishing the plant, he required 50 subscribers; he soon had the required number and 10 more. Just as he was ready to proceed with the erection of the plant, he sold out to a stock company, afterward known as the Jacksonville Electric Light Company. The plant was erected under Wadsworth's supervision and lights were turned on in the stores on Bay Street, east of Ocean, January 10, 1885. In the same year (1885), Dr. J. A. Cloud, who had originally built the waterworks, started the erection of a plant for the purpose of lighting hotels and private houses by electricity. His lights were turned on January 19, 1886. He sold his plant to the Citizens Gas Light Company of Jacksonville, May 27, 1886.

The City Council watched the progress with interest for two or three years, and then proceeded to discuss the question of lighting the streets with electricity, three years more, finally coming to the conclusion in November, 1892, to enter into a contract with the Jacksonville Electric Light Company for supplying ten arc lights on Bay Street, from Bridge (Broad) to Liberty. These were soon placed and were the first street arc lights in the city.

In 1894 the city and its inhabitants were dependent for gas and electricity upon the Citizens Gas and Electric Light Company, which owned the only gas plant, and also a majority of the stock of the Jacksonville Electric Light Company, which operated the only electric light plant in the city. The Citizens Gas and Electric Light Company therefore controlled absolutely the gas and electric light business of