

# Electricity comes to Tresserve

Today, it's very difficult to do without electricity, and the slightest power cut disrupts our lives. This was not the case until the early 20th century. Very few homes had access to electricity, and the rest did without!

In 1910 the town of Aix Les Bains was supplied with electricity by 2 regional companies:

- **The Forces du Fier company was founded in 1899 by banker Léon Laydernier and paper manufacturer Louis Aussedat.** In 1904, this company commissioned a hydroelectric plant in the commune of Poisy in Haute Savoie: the Brassilly power station. The pile dam is 50m wide and 4m5 high. It consists of a metal framework filled with wooden elements. It is located 21 m above a power plant and connected to it by a 1044 m long penstock. The plant comprises 5 Francis turbines, each rated at 0.5 MW. The main customer was the town of Annecy, which was connected in 1904, as well as the PLM railway company. Forces du Fier was nationalised and taken over by EDF in 1946. Between 2001 and 2003, it underwent major transformations (replacement of the 5 turbines by a single 2.9 MW Kaplan horizontal-axis turbine).



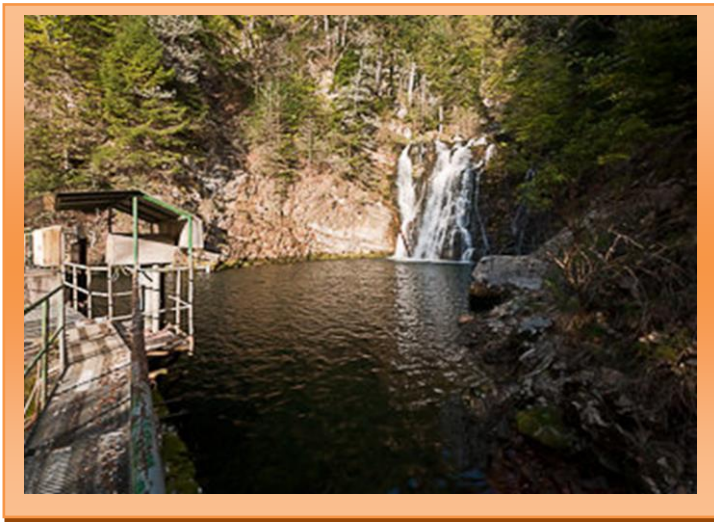
Photos J.Collaudin

Barrage sur le Fier



Centrale mise en service en 1904

- **The Haut Grésivaudan company operates a hydroelectric power station in the Cernon gorges near Chapareillan.** The history of this power station is marred by a gross error made by the designers: they had overestimated the flow of the river. In 1894, this power station had 2 generators of 140 KW each. Production was lower than expected, so the company was declared bankrupt and bought out in 1898 by the Haut Grésivaudan company. Its main customer was the town of Chambéry. It then became the property of EDF, which replaced the old turbines with a single 1.2 MW turbine.
- In 2015, one of the old turbines, although not in use, can still be seen in the power plant.



**Dam on the Cernon**

Photos J.Collaudin



**Power plant**

*"The lighting of our town will be an additional attraction for foreigners visiting our country and will also meet an urgent need for the inhabitants, who have to travel frequently at night because of their proximity to Aix Les Bains.*

These were the words of Baron Michaud, mayor of Tresserve, in the presence of his councillors Louis Bugnard, Pierre Guichon, Noël Pollet, Philibert Buffet, Jean Burdet, Marcel Bugnard and Benoit Philippe, at a Council meeting at 10am on Sunday 17 April 1910.

The Mayor has enquired about the quality of service provided by the Haut Grésivaudan company for the production of electricity. He proposed entrusting the

project to this company. The Council endorsed this choice and instructed the Mayor to "take the most *active steps to ensure that this project is carried out quickly*".

The "Savoisienne" did not yet exist. It would be created in 1920. The mayor therefore approached Société Grammont in Lyon to supply the electrical equipment, in particular the transformer.

On 14 December 1910, the prefect asked the mayor why he had not yet received the requested documents so that he could give his approval to the project.

Mayor's response:

*The Mayor of Tresserve has the honour of informing the Prefect of Savoie that the electric lighting project for the Commune of Tresserve has not been abandoned. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, things have been delayed, as the Haut Grésivaudan company has taken the place of the Aix les Bains gas company, whose shares it has acquired, and the latter company is now responsible for lighting the Commune of Tresserve on the same terms as those agreed by Haut Grésivaudan.*

*These various changes led to talks which inevitably caused a long delay. However, things are continuing and the Commune of Tresserve hopes to be able to be informed during the summer of 1911.*

*Baron Michaud mayor of Tresserve*

In fact, "things" are going to drag on a little longer.

On 29 January 1913 at 5pm, Baron Michaud proposed this concession project to the councillors present (Louis Bugnard, Antoine and Michel Coudurier, Philibert Buffet, Millet, Faramand, Philippe, Petrel and Poulin). The mayor was authorised to sign the contract with the director, Pierre Egraz, after examining the dossier in detail.

On 31 March at 6pm, the technical file prepared by the Aix les Bains lighting company was presented to the Town Council. The proposal was to supply the village from a transformer located near Le Tillet, which delivers a voltage of 5000 V as well as 125 V.

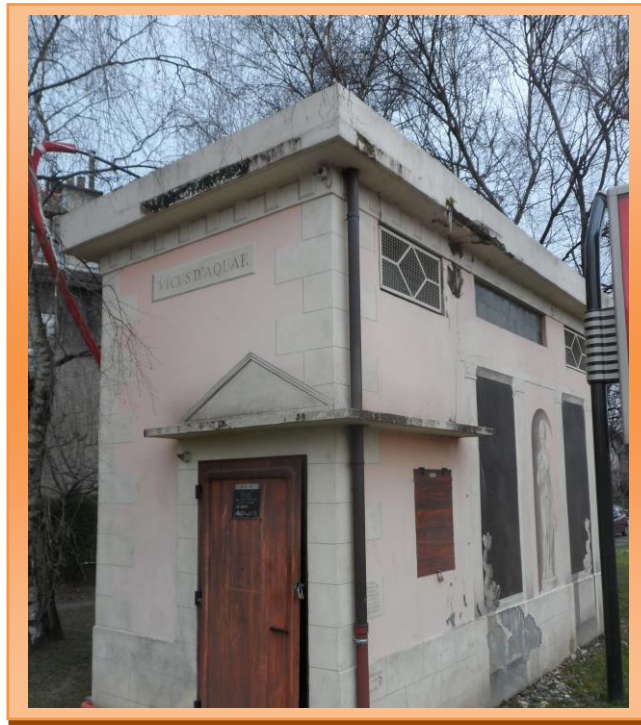


Photo J.Collaudin

**Transformer still visible at the crossroads of Boulevard Lepic and Montée de Tresserve, but with a 20,000 V input and 400 V output.**

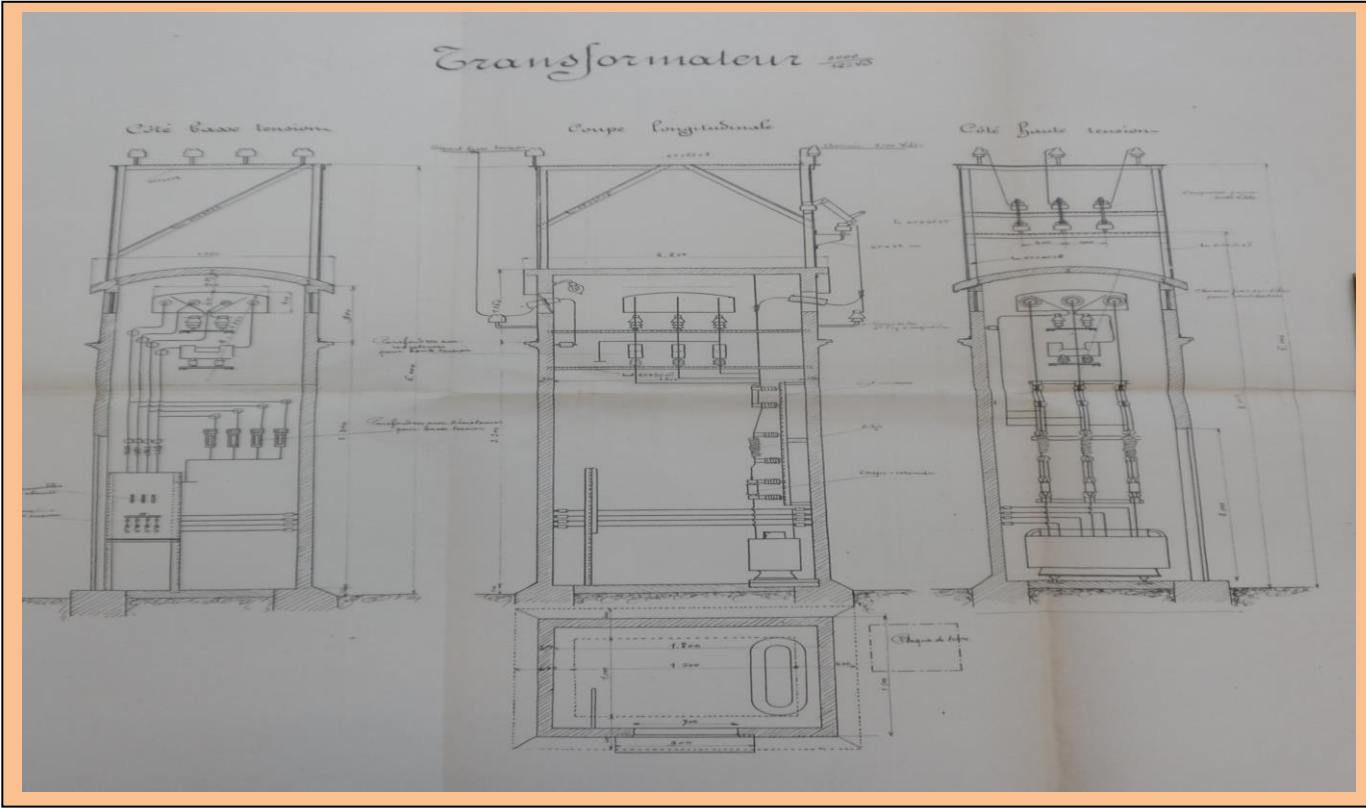
**The project involves the installation of a 5000 V line (3 phases) between this transformer station and another transformer to be built on the side of the old baker's oven (20 m after Daniel Rops' house opposite) on the Chemin Vicinal No. 50.**

Poste de transformation

Four à pain



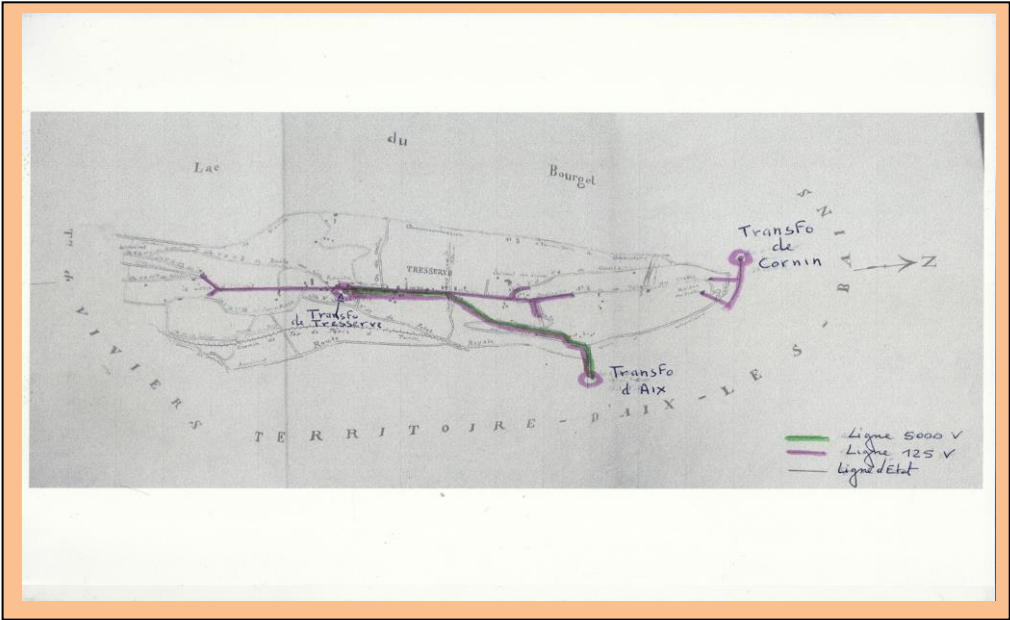
(The transformer and furnace were dismantled in the early 60s and replaced by a car park)



This transformer is installed inside a reinforced concrete tower, as shown on the plan above.

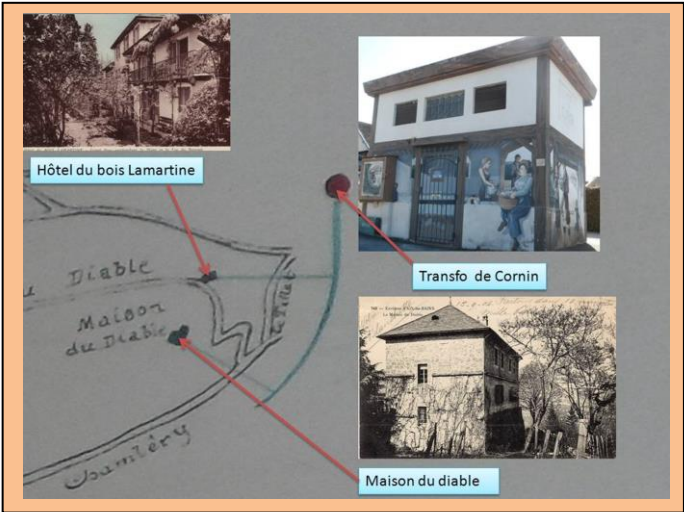
The medium-voltage line (5000 V) is connected to the transformer at the top of the 6 m high tower.

The 1.8 km 5000 V line is supported by pylons which, along part of the route, also support the 125 V line.

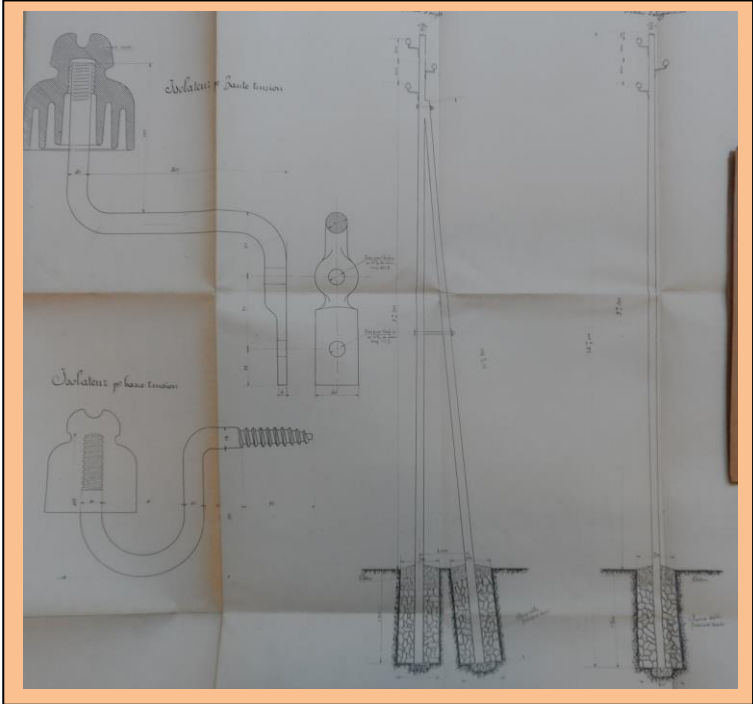


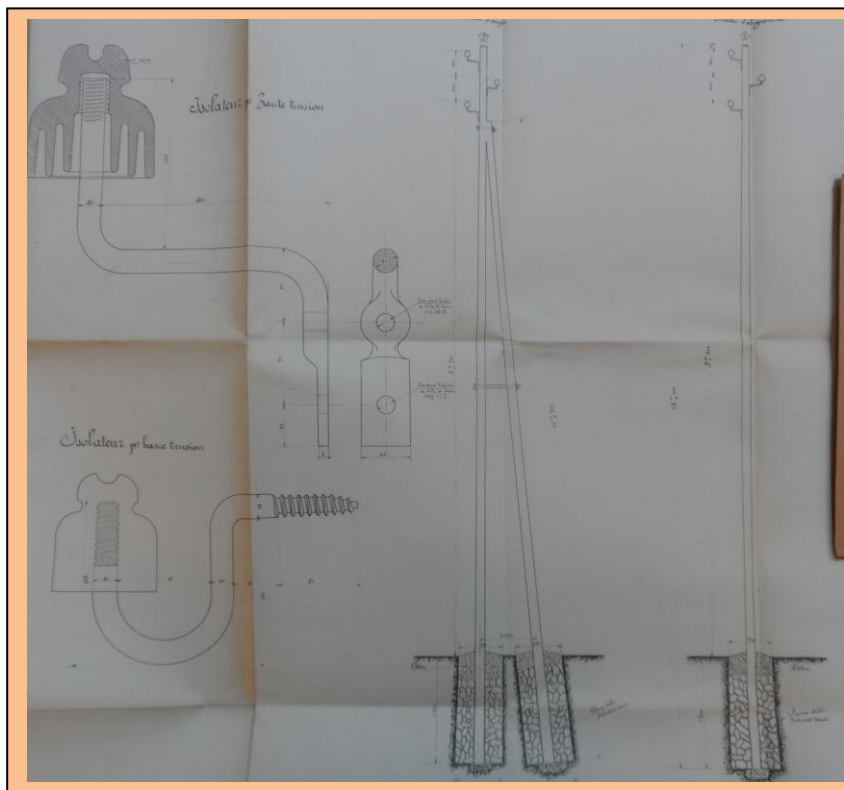
A 125 V line (3 phases + neutral) will then be installed between the Tresserve transformer and the start of the Chemin des Molières to the south and Les Lombardets to the north.

The Maison du Diable (now the Talmudic study centre) and the Hôtel du Bois Lamartine (now the retirement home) are supplied from the Cornin transformer substation (located on chemin du pêcheur and decorated in memory of the washhouse that used to be near this transformer on the bank of the Tillet). Was this link built before the municipality's project or at a later date?



The project required the agreement of the Ministry of Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs, which called for a reduction in the span between the pylons and the addition of protection at telegraph line crossings, as a safety measure.





**The prefect launched a public utility enquiry from 01 to 08 June 1913 (file available for consultation at the town hall).**

**On 9, 10 and 11 June, residents were invited to make their comments. The Prefect entrusted the Aix Les Bains Justice of the Peace with the enquiry. No complaints were received from residents, who were eagerly awaiting this installation that would change their lives!**

**On 11 July 1913, the "Electricity Distribution Control" department of the Ponts et Chaussées department issued a favourable opinion.**

**On 22 July 1913, a contract was signed with Patrouilleau of Grenoble for 2,000 fr.**

**The project was further delayed by the Great War.**

**The dossier was resubmitted to the "Electricity Distribution Control" department and on 16 April 1917 sub-engineer Martinet gave the go-ahead for the project to be carried out in the following months.**



The billing rate for electricity supplied by the Sté d'éclairage d'Aix Les Bains was the subject of an agreement between the supplier and the Commune in 1920. This tariff is not indexed to the standard of living.

In 1925 the economic conditions were no longer the same as they had been in 1920, the costs of extending the production equipment made necessary by the increase in the number of subscribers and the costs of operating and maintaining the network had doubled in 5 years. On 08/12/1925, Mr Pélissier, the Director of the Aix Les Bains Lighting Company, asked the Mayor of Tresserve for his agreement to an upward revision of the billing rates and proposed that a formula be introduced for indexing the rates using the indexes published by the Ministry of Public Works. This was recommended by the law of 27/02/25.

Baron Michaud, then mayor of Tresserve, forwarded this request to the Sce de Contrôle électrique des Ponts et Chaussées for their opinion. On 27/02/27 (i.e. more than a year after the date of receipt of the letter from the Sté d'éclairage d'Aix Les Bains!!), they informed those concerned that such a request should be **"examined by a consultative commission specially set up for this purpose to give its opinion on the new rates to be adopted"**.

You might think that a few months later an agreement had been reached! The slowness of the administration was already very much in evidence at that time, but the pace of life was not the same as it is today. So we put up with it.

### **Extension of the network to Le Viviers (1925) :**

In early 1925, the mayor of Le Viviers wrote to Baron Michaud, proposing that he pool the lighting resources at the boundary between the 2 villages. At the Council meeting on 27/02/25, Baron Michaud informed the Council of this request:

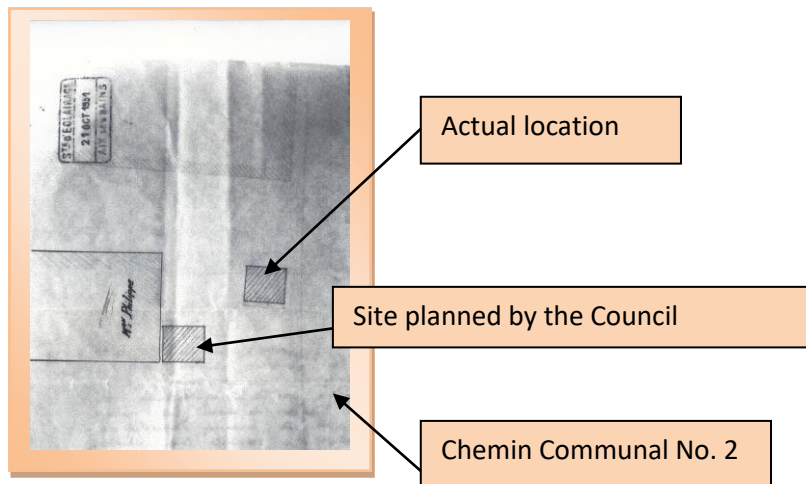
The aim is to extend the existing line between the Tresserve transformer and the start of the Chemin des Mollières (towards the Provent house), as far as Les Cochets, where there are 2 houses in Le Viviers and 3 houses in Tresserve not yet supplied with electricity. The Aix Les Bains lighting company was consulted by Le Viviers town hall. The cost of this extension is 3500 fr and the mayor of Le Viviers asks Tresserve to pay 1500 fr which is of course accepted by the Council.

### **Extension to the top of the village (1926):**

At the opposite end of the Cochets from the town hall is the area known as "Sommet du Village", which is in fact the start of the Chemin de Coëtan.

*"The lighting at the top of the village is defective because the transformer supplying the area is too far away. The Director of the Aix Les Bains electricity plant was informed and immediately offered to extend the high-voltage line passing near the church to the top of the village and to set up a transformer station on a communal plot of land, set back from communal road No. 2".*

These were the words of the mayor when he addressed the town council on 31/10/26. The latter approved the project and asked the Prefect to give his consent. On 06/12/26, approval was given by Mr Dorges, a senior engineer in the Savoie Electricity Control Department. Unfortunately, the transformer was built in the wrong place, and in 1931 the Town Hall asked the Aix-les-Bains lighting company to move it. This followed a Council meeting on 29/10/31, during which it was decided to install the transformer near the Philippe house, which is situated on the right at the very beginning of the Chemin de Coëtan.



Gérard Carron, who lives in the area, remembers:

*"There was a transformer near my father's garage. In front of this transformer there was a drinking water tank fed by a spring; it still exists and only the base of the transformer is still visible."*

### **Electrification of the lakeside (1929):**

At the beginning of the 20th century, the départementale 1201 was communication route no. 5. In 1929, the residents of this road, who did not yet have electricity, asked the mayor to take the necessary steps so that they too could benefit from lighting.

The mayor consulted the prefecture on 18/11/29 in order to examine the contractual conditions for such an extension. He considered that the work should be carried out by the Aix Les Bains lighting company, with which he had signed the first electricity distribution contract in 1920. Article 14 of the specifications dated 1913 and attached to this contract provides for this service, provided that the owners concerned pay an annual indemnity of 0.50 fr per metre of overhead line for 5 years. Unfortunately, the prefect informed him that the specifications had never been approved by his department. Article 14 could not therefore be applied to the electrification of the lakeshore.

It was therefore agreed to adhere to the new specifications in force, which provide for reviewable rates:

*"The concessionaire will be required to establish any pipeline or ancillary works for which 100% of the initial establishment costs will be paid by one or more subscribers collectively.*

*If the subscriber or subscribers so request, payment of the cost of the pipes will be replaced by payment, for a period of 5 years, of a flat-rate annual establishment fee of :*

*Per m of pipe: 5fr for overhead lines*

*25 fr for underground lines*

*These figures correspond to a situation defined by a copper price of 12 fr per kg and will vary in proportion to this price. This fee will be reduced by 10% of the electricity revenue (including the corrective term but excluding the surcharge for the benefit of the municipality) collected from subscribers served by the extension.*

This was the response of the secretary of the prefecture on 1 December 1929, when he sent the mayor of Tresserve the report by the "ordinary engineer".

### **Water supply to the lakeside pumping station (1932-1936)**

In 1932, the mayor of Tresserve was Edouard Bugnard.

"At the council meeting of 18 December, he announced the draft contract he had negotiated with the Aix Les Bains lighting company for the supply of low-voltage motive power to the lake water pumping station.

In particular, the duration of the contract was the subject of tough negotiations, as the energy supplier did not want a long-term commitment. In the end, it agreed to a 5-year contract, with the possibility of terminating it in return for payment by the town council of 1,300 francs for each year of the contract remaining.

A contract was signed on 18 December 1932 by Mr Charollais, the Director, and Edouard Bugnard. SEA was to supply the motor-driven pump sets with 208 volts three-phase and light the premises with 125 volts between phase and earth. This voltage will be supplied by a 10000/208 20 KVA transformer installed in a cabin inside a room provided by the Commune (The 10000 V power supply line for the transformer already exists on the lakeshore. It is the Chambéry-Aix line belonging to the Sté des Forces motrices du Haut Grésivaudan). The commune undertakes to bear the financial consequences of the possible disappearance of this line and the connection of the lifting station to the line supplying the upper part of the commune.

The contract will be valid for 5 years from 01/01/1933.

The rates will be as follows (Low Voltage Economic Index 392):

- Day rate: 0.875 fr per Kwh
- Night rate: 0.29 fr per Kwh
- Subscription: 40 fr per KVA per year + 15 fr annual meter rental with clock.

The Prefect gave his approval on 07 January 1933 and the SEA built a 40-metre diversion between the existing line by the lake and the Commune's premises on the other side of the main road (overhead for the road crossing and underground to the premises).

In 1935, the Sté des Forces Motrices du Haut Grésivaudan was obliged to remove the line between Terre Nue and Aix. It removed the section between Terre Nue and the water lift station, which was then supplied only from the Aix side.

In 1936, the Sites Commission asked the SEA to remove the poles supporting the line along the lake and connect the lift station to the Tresserve network.

SEA submitted a tender to the mayor for the construction of a 5000 volt replacement line (3 x 12 mm<sup>2</sup> conductors) 450 m long from the church along the chemin de la Thiébaude to the pylon near the station. The cost, deemed reasonable by the mayor, was 10,020 fr. On 22 July 1936, this offer was accepted by the Municipal Council, which gave the mayor the go-ahead to sign the contract. This was done on 12 September 1936 and approved by the Prefect on 28 September.

The line is supported by 7 12m-high reinforced concrete posts. It is located on the north side of the road. The SEA took the opportunity to install a 125 volt power supply for the residents of the street and to install the pump control line on these poles from a float contact located at the water tower near the church. SEA will also have to relocate the existing telephone line to the south side of the road.

As you can see from the photo below, this is not the case today. Everything is supported by the same posts.

On 18 November 1936, Mr Gex, Chief Engineer for Electricity Distribution, gave the go-ahead for the new line.



### **Power supply for the "Tresserve Plage" hotel (1939)**

At the Council meeting on 19 March 1939, Mayor Jean-François Bugnard informed the Council of a request from Mr Louis Garavaglia to connect his hotel, "Tresserve Plage", which was being built on the site of the former laundry, to the water pumping station. The Council decided to accept the request, but with the payment by the owner of 3,000 fr in compensation and the installation of a power limiter set at 3 KW to ensure that the station did not suffer from a lack of energy. In addition, no other user will be able to connect to the hotel's line. Of course, Mr Garavaglia will not be able to take legal action against the Town Hall in the event of a power shortage due to an incident at the pumping station. He will own the 128 volt line between the lift station and his hotel.

An agreement was signed by the 2 parties on 15 March 1939.

## Supplies for Mr Edouard Grosjean's dairy (1940)

Josephthe Vallier remembers:

"Between Chemin Sous-Bois and the hill there used to be a dairy owned by André Grosjean, the mayor of Aix les Bains. This dairy was demolished to build OPAC buildings".

In 1940 Edouard Grosjean (André's father?) had to deliver his milk very early in the morning and therefore needed to light his premises. He used paraffin lamps and had not had electricity installed because his dairy was 350 m from the Tresserve electricity network. On 13th November 1940, he asked the Prefect to ask the Commune to pay half the cost of connecting his dairy to the grid. The mayor replied in the negative, in order to remain consistent with the responses given to previous requests from the village's residents.

In 1946, the national company EDF was created (Law of 21/12/46) and took over the activities of most of the small private companies. In the early 50s, EDF took over the activities of the Aix les Bains lighting company and offered the mayor of Tresserve a concession to modernise the village network. In particular, the 5000 V network commissioned at the end of the '10s was to be gradually replaced by an overhead 10,000 V network.

At the council meeting on 6 February 1949, the weakness of the village electricity network and the lack of electricity in many farm buildings and dwellings were reported. The council decided to follow up EDF's proposal to reinforce and extend the network. At the time, the village consumed 210,587 KWh for a population of just under 800. The aim of the extension project was to add 50,000 KWh.

In a decree dated 02/03/49, the Minister for Industry and Commerce granted the village 15 KW of power supplied by the La Perrière power station on the Arly, to be used for the operation of the water pumping station on the banks of the lake. The Town Council therefore decided to activate this offer and asked the Minister to requisition this energy reserve from EDF.

An initial project to reinforce and extend the network was discussed at a council meeting on 22 February 1950.

- Reimbursement of the electricity bill would be 161,000 fr per year for 30 years, which is incompatible with the village budget. In 1950, provision was already made for 7800 additional centimes (additional tax for extraordinary expenses). This investment would lead to 1800 additional centimes (Total annual taxes added to the electricity bills of subscribers and which are paid each year by EDF to the commune in order to meet its loan repayments for modernisation and extension of the network).

- What's more, it seems that EDF has underestimated the existing network that could be recovered.

The Council did not approve the project and asked EDF to review it. A committee comprising Mr Guichon, the Mayor, Mr Gotteland, Mr Ducroz, Mr Félix and Mr Georges Petrel was set up to study future projects.

A new offer was presented by EDF and approved by the Town Council at its meeting on 21/04/50. The mayor insisted on the facilities offered by the state to rural communes: assistance from the rural engineering department, a loan from the Caisse Nationale du Crédit Agricole at an attractive rate and help from the "F.A.D.C.E.".

The Council decided to entrust the study to the Rural Engineering Department.

The transformer that had been installed in the lakeside pumping station is being replaced by a new 10000/220/127 40 KVA transformer marked P5 on the plan below.

The 2 5000/125 V substations that supplied the village at the time were taken out of service.

4 new 2m x 2m x 6.7m high masonry posts have been installed at the following points:

- P1, a 40 KVA transformer at the top of chemin de la Laitière. The transformer will be replaced by a 20000/380/220 transformer in accordance with the law of 21/12/60, which standardised network voltages at 380/220 V for low voltage.

- Suzanne and Georges Caminaz live near the cross. Suzanne remembers:

*"My parents bought the family house (535) in 1953. At the time, there was a large concrete transformer next to the cross. We got married in 1957 and a few years later, on a stormy day, lightning struck the top of the transformer and followed the line downhill to La Laitière. It was very impressive and our children were very scared.*

- P2, on the south side of the school, a 63 KVA transformer.

Albert Drivet, the former Tresserve sidecar champion and neighbour of the school remembers:

*"A tower transformer was installed to the right of the old school. When the current school was built in 1984, it was destroyed and replaced by a 20,000 V transformer installed at the north entrance to the current building.*

- P3, opposite montée des Lombardets, P4, next to the observatory tower, 2 x 40 KVA transformers.





The line on chemin de la Thiébaude is upgraded to 10000 V.

The supply lines to the transformers taken out of service are removed.

A 1.4 km medium-voltage 10,000 V line was added from Aix to the transformers. Overhead circuit breakers and switches were added to the poles, making the landscape a little busy!

Construction of a 1.72 km low-voltage 220/125 line and reinforcement of the existing 6.86 km line.

For some years now, there has been a private transformer on chemin de Coëtan.

Jean Bollon remembers:

*"My father had a 10000/220-125V tower transformer installed in 1945, around which he built his tyre retreading workshop. It was powered by a line that he had financed himself. In 1963, when I took over the family business, this transformer was still in operation and was decommissioned in 1967."*

A file on this project was sent to the Prefect for approval on 02/08/50.

The description can be consulted at the town hall from 21 to 28 August 1950.

Then on 29, 30 and 31/08, an investigating commissioner met with Tresserviens who wanted further information. Jean Novet, the schoolteacher, was appointed to carry out the enquiry.



2 tresserviens made comments: Mr Louis Vincent, the owner of the Hôtel Lamartine and also of the farm at the north end of the Chemin de Coëtan, asked that the farm be able to receive electricity.

Roger Langain remembers:

*"At the request of the farm's owner, Louis Vincent, the town council had a pole installed at the entrance to the farm and a line drawn to the P4 transformer. But the farmer, François Escoffier, whom everyone familiarly called "Father François", never wanted to use this facility!"*

- Sophie Roux asked that the P3 transformer be installed on council land and not in her garden! In the end, after negotiations, she agreed to sell plot 918, measuring 6.25 m<sup>2</sup>, to the Mairie.

The mayor, Mr Casimir Bugnard, gave a favourable opinion on 31/08/50, subject to the 2 previous requests being taken into account. The Council approved the project on 11/10/50.

On 02/11/50, the rural engineering department of the Ministry of Agriculture, through its engineers Mr Charvin and Mr Druart, informed the Prefect of its favourable opinion.

On 09/11/50, the Prefect gave the go-ahead for EDF to operate the village's electricity network under a concession.

The estimated cost of this project is 10 million francs, which is very high for a small commune. The council decided to take out loans. The law of 2 August 1923 allowed rural communes to take out loans at a reduced rate of 2.90% from the Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole for 180/280ths of the cost of the project, with repayments spread over 30 years. The remaining 100/280ths must be financed by the municipality (wood harvesting, loans from private individuals, etc.) or borrowed from Crédit Foncier de France at a rate of 6%.

Mayor Bugnard proposes :

- 180/280 or 6.4 Mfr by the CNCA granted on 11 May 1951 and signed on 8 and 12 October.
- 100/280 or 3.6 Mfr granted by the CFDF.

70% of the costs incurred by the municipality in carrying out this project will be covered by the F.A.D.C.E.

The Council approved the financing plan at its meeting on 05/09/1950.

The annual repayment of the CNCA loan is 326,000 fr. The Council voted to impose an additional tax of 3,568 additional municipal centimes on the direct contributions of Tresserviens who use electricity.

- 1fr per KWh for lighting and the first "family lighting and household use" tranche
- 0.8 fr per KWh for the second "lighting and household use" tranche and for motive power.

- 0.5 fr per KWh for the 3<sup>ème</sup> "family lighting and household use" band and for off-peak hours.

The additional centimes will be paid to the Town Hall each year by EDF, less 5% for administration costs.

The annual repayment of the CFDF loan is 261,537 fr. The Board voted an additional tax of 2863 centimes from 1952.

At that time no yellow waistcoats to contest these new taxes!!!! The residents are very happy to have electricity.

In 1950, the price of a KWh for 127 V lighting was 16.156 fr. The price of 220 V "power" decreased according to use: 1.02 fr for annual use of 0 to 200 h to 0.42 fr for use of more than 1000 h.

On 28 April 1951, the Roads and Bridges Department gave a favourable opinion on the project. On 16 May, the Prefect sent the municipality's file to the "F.A.D.C.E.". It was approved on 25 May.

A call for tenders was issued and on 18 June the mayor convened a meeting of the works committee in the presence of representatives from l'Equipement and EDF to choose the company to carry out the work. Mithieux of Drumettaz was selected.



It is proposing a bid of just under 12 Mfr. To this must be added FRF 1 million in follow-up costs and a provision for budget overruns, for a total of FRF 13 million. This leaves a shortfall of 3 million francs, which will have to be borrowed from private individuals.

On 25 June 1951, the mayor signed a private contract with the Mithieux company. Completion of the work was scheduled for 01 November 1951. The work was supervised by Messrs Fivel and Imbert.

This project requires the authorisation of the owners of the land crossed by the overhead lines in the form of easements. All the owners have given their consent, and the work can now go ahead.

In April 1952, the budget was overspent by FRF 4 million because certain components of the old network had not been reused, as they were considered too obsolete. In addition, the loan from private individuals had not been as successful as had been hoped. A supplementary loan of 8 Mfr must therefore be launched with the 2 financiers of the project. This will, of course, lead to an additional tax of 2,510 centimes (the value of the municipal centime being 91.46 fr).

An additional contract for 2 million francs was signed with Mithieux on 04/09/52.

The mayor asked the Conseil Général (Mr Mollex was the general councillor for Aix) for an advance of 3 million francs because the CNCA could not release the additional funds before 1953 and the mayor did not want the work to stop. On 24 September 1952, the departmental committee accepted this advance for 2 years.

Work is therefore resuming.

Provisional acceptance was finally given on 13 April 1953, 17 months late.



On 31/05/53, in order to cover the balance of the work, a second supplementary contract for 3,475,156 fr had to be signed with the company.

The 15KW power allocated to the municipality in 1949 by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for the proper operation of the water pumping station was becoming insufficient. As the population increased, the motor-driven pumps were replaced by more powerful units. On 06/12/53, the mayor applied to the Savoie prefect for an increase to 30 KW.

On 03/05/54, final acceptance was given to the project to extend and modernise the Tresserve electricity network.

A final statement of expenditure was drawn up on 28 May 1954.



On 02/10/1954, the Mayor, Mr Misset, informed the Council of a new project proposed by EDF: the electrification of the banks of the lake between the pumping station and the Cornin district and in particular the Desmarais service station. (now a restaurant)

The estimated cost of the project was 1,780,000 fr. A request was made to the "F.A.D.C.E." which gave its agreement to the Prefect of Savoie on 29/06/1955 to cover 1,684,000 fr.

It undertakes to pay an annual instalment of 53,326 fr from 1956 to 1957, then 50,520 fr from 1958 to 1985 to cover the loans taken out by the commune.

The project includes a 10,000 V line between the chemin de Coëtan and the lakeshore, a 10,000/220-127 V 25 KVA transformer station in a 2 m x 2 m m masonry cubicle, a

mechanically operated overhead switch and a 220-127 V line along the lakeshore supported by 10 to 11 m high concrete poles.

The Council entrusted the mayor with negotiating and signing a contract with EDF.









Mr Misset signed the contract to extend the network on 26/02/1955.

As an amicable agreement could not be reached with the Town Hall, EDF is asking the Prefect to initiate a procedure to compel the owners concerned to allow access and to carry out pruning.







On 09 March 1955 M. Michaud, chief engineer of the Ponts et Chaussées and Mr Druard, chief engineer of the Génie Rural examined the file provided by EDF and gave their agreement to the construction of this line between the chemin de l'Observatoire and the banks of the lake. On 12 March, they asked the Prefect to forward the file to the FADCE.

Installation of the transformer required the Commune to acquire a 9 m<sup>2</sup> plot of land belonging to the Parisian company Desmarais Frères for a price of 5,000 fr. The company, which owned a building on the lakeside, offered to contribute 1,080,000 fr to the electrification, which was immediately accepted by the Council at its meeting on 07/05/55.

The owners affected by the route of the line raised no objections, and it was approved on 20/05/55 by the chief engineer of the Ponts et Chaussées department.

On 26/05/55, the Prefect forwarded the file to the "F.A.D.C.E.". It was accepted on 29/06/55 but with a reduction of 96,000 fr because the prices were considered abnormally high! The amount retained was therefore 1,684,000 fr.

**The work was completed and handed over on 29/12/1955. Total cost of works: 1,779,403 fr.**



In 1956 the mayor, Mr Misset, received a new request for electrification for buildings on the chemin de Coëtan, one belonging to Mr Gaston Monnerville, the illustrious president of the Senate, and the other to the Streicht estate. EDF estimated the cost of the work at 420,000 fr, a file examined by Messrs Michaud and Druart on 04/10/1956. Without any comment on their part, the Prefect made the request to the "F.A.D.C.E.", which gave its agreement on 09/11/1956.

**The network was extended to 2 properties, Monnerville and Streicht, and acceptance was declared on 29/12/1958 at a cost of 405,054 fr.**



**The "F.A.D.C.E." has undertaken to pay 20,599 fr per year from 1959 to 1988 to cover the repayment of the loans.**

**In 1956, EDF decided to establish a single distribution voltage of 220 volts and implemented this change for all new projects in the municipality.**

At the council meeting of 06/11/1959, a reinforcement of the network was envisaged in the Bourres district (south of Clos des Mésanges) at a cost of 1,400,000 fr.

On 10/11/1959, Mr Misset signed a contract with EDF for :

- replacing the 40 KVA 10,000/220-127 volt transformer with a new 100 KVA 10,000/380-220 volt transformer.
- adapting equipment to the new voltage (few subscribers actually make this change)

The Town Hall does not seek external funding.

### **Strengthening the lakeside network**

**At the council meeting of 13/02/1961, the mayor, Mr Misset, proposed reinforcing the network by the lake:**

- conversion of the pumping station substation
- installation of a 10 KV underground cable 1,040 m long
- installation of 2 medium-voltage cells in the substation.

These works were budgeted at 56,000 NF (new francs) of which 38,000 NF were paid for by the State. The Town Hall had to take out a loan of NF18,000, signed on 30/12/1963.

The Ponts et Chaussées department gave its approval on 21/01/1964.

The work is on schedule.

**1969: studies to reinforce the network**

This project concerns the La Croix (top of chemin de la laitière) and La Chouta (montée de Tresserve) transformers: replacement of the 160 KVA transformer at La Chouta with a new 250 KVA transformer, construction of 645 m of low-voltage lines, including 180 m underground, and voltage changes for 35 subscribers, for a total estimated cost of Fr. 55,831.98.

The Town Hall decided to entrust the studies to the Savoie Department of Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry. Their project was accepted on 08/10/1969 and the Prefect gave his approval on 13 November.

Tenders for the works were opened at a public meeting on 30/10/1969.

The Polaud company of Saint-Genix-sur-Guiers was selected on 30/10/1969 with a price of 50,590.76 F. The voltage changes were carried out by Société Alpine de Travaux.

The provisional acceptance report was signed on 16/07/70.

At the council meeting of 12 October 1970, the mayor informed councillors of the need to carry out additional work on the Chouta substation. EDF had noted a voltage drop of 27% in the line up to its current terminal point. In addition, it will be necessary to supply the future Folliet housing estate located beyond this terminal point. As a

result, the cost of the work was increased from 55,831.98 fr to 91,209.69 fr. The additional cost would be financed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Council agreed to this and a supplementary agreement was signed with the Polaud company on 10/11/70. The additional work was completed and final acceptance signed on 05/08/71.

**Many new housing estates will then be created, requiring new transformers.**

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**Association for the Safeguarding of the Tresserve Heritage**

