

## STORIES of New Jersey

job was to investigate technical problems involving the defense of the country. His own work was dropped, and for two years he experimented and directed the research of assistants in an attempt to better the equipment of the Navy. Detection of torpedoes at the moment of firing, reducing the rolling of warships and patrolling the coast by underwater buoys were a few of the many problems on which he worked to advantage.

Edison lived to see the golden anniversary of the electric light. The world joined in that celebration. The year before Congress had anticipated the anniversary by awarding the inventor the Congressional Medal in ceremonies at the West Orange laboratory. In October 1929 the main streets of the metropolitan area were bathed in the golden light of special lamps, installed in honor of the invention. One of the earliest of nation-wide radio broadcasts brought the formal part of the anniversary proceedings to the whole country.

On the evening of October 19, 1931, at 10 o'clock the electric lights in many of the communities of the country were extinguished for two minutes to commemorate the death of Thomas Edison the day before. It was a fitting memorial to the 84-year-old inventor whose genius first caused them to glow. At Menlo Park a perpetual light, burning since 1929, can be seen at the base of a 129-foot memorial tower. The tower stands where Edison made his first electric light bulb.