

companies were in the Charlotte district in 1881. A map of Charlotte township published by Butler and Spratt in 1892 showed a "smelting works" located approximately at the present intersection of Bellhaven Boulevard and Interstate 77.

From the cessation of gold mining at the St. Catherine and Rudisill mines about 1887 until 1905 there was very little, except perhaps local activity on the Rudisill lode. While gold mining continued as a significant business in the area, its total effect on the region's economy was being overshadowed by growth in other activities. "From 1890 to 1900, the manufacture of cotton assumed such proportions as to be considered the life of the community, but other manufacturing plants were being built and the manufactories were being diversified."<sup>191</sup>

By the 1890's John Wilkes' Mecklenburg Iron Works had made a specialty of gold-mining and milling machinery. "In 1890, a 60-stamp mill for the Haile gold mine was made at the Mecklenburg Iron Works in Charlotte."<sup>192</sup> "In the summer of 1895 this company erected a 5-stamp test mill at their works, connected with a complete chlorination test plant having a capacity of half a ton of raw concentrates per day."<sup>193</sup> Mining companies would send a large batch of ore to the Mecklenburg Iron Works where Wilkes would run it through his test plant. From the results of the milling tests, he was able to advise on the size and type of mill the mine owners would need to treat their ore. (Similar service is offered today by the North Carolina State University Mineral Research Laboratory located in Asheville, North Carolina.) John Wilkes also quoted the price in 1895 (f.o.b. Charlotte) for "a 10-stamp mill with concentrators, roasting furnaces, Thies chlorination plant with all

necessary power (steam boiler and engines) and expenses. . . at \$1,200 per stamp."<sup>194</sup>

In 1893, electric powered street cars were operating in Charlotte, and in 1901 the first "horseless carriage" came to town. The same year Charlotte's population was 18,091, and Thomas Edison came "to investigate gold mining in the South, and worked in the (Mint) building for several months, carrying on experiments looking to (the) extraction of gold by the use of electricity."<sup>195</sup>

With the rapid increase in the use of electricity by 1900, Dr. Gill Wylie, a physician and native of Chester, South Carolina, became extremely interested in hydro-electric power generation and organized the Catawba Power Company. Dr. Wylie's enthusiasm so impressed the North Carolina capitalist James B. Duke (who was being treated by Dr. Wylie for a sore toe), that Duke helped raise capital to expand the company.<sup>196</sup> As a result, the Southern Power Company was organized in 1905 with Dr. Wylie as president. Later the company was merged with Duke Power Company.<sup>197</sup> Dr. Wylie remained active in hydro-electric power generation for several years,<sup>198</sup> and Lake Wylie on the Catawba River southwest of Charlotte was named for him.

#### RETURN OF NORTHERN INFLUENCE

In 1905, Carson, Miller, and the heirs of Wadsworth sold the Rudisill property to the St. Catherine-Rudisill Gold Mining Company of New York City, (the company was incorporated in North Dakota).<sup>199</sup> At this time the Rudisill and St. Catherine mines were once again operated by a single company. Because there was no room for tailings at the Rudisill, it was the company's intention