



Left: The Standby Generator. Although this gizmo has no known predecessor, many lives depend on its ability to provide The Light during a blackout.

directly under the Central Utilities Building. "We are the people no one is supposed to know about," said our guide. "If something goes wrong, they know about us. We don't want anything to go wrong."

Our guide said the tunnels date back to 1964 C.E., and that the underground city is where the truly important decisions are carried out. This is where our heating and air conditioning are controlled. Operating the underground is a seven-day-a-week, 365-day-a-year job. There are 17 others like our guide.

We walked about 300 yards. We then reached the point where those who work in the underground travel by powered car. The prospects of spending one's entire life in the tunnel, wandering aimlessly, crossed my mind more than once. Suddenly, I glanced around only to realize Blakeley had fallen behind. I thought of the rats and the darkness and a chill ran up my spine. Finally, I heard his motor drive clicking away in the distance, and I breathed a sigh of relief.

From the vehicle depot onward we decided to travel by foot. Our guide said that he had once worked on the outside. He said he had spent five years working in Physical Plant Maintenance but decided underground was the place for him. He said he wanted to bring utilities a little more into the forefront of the University but was adamant about "keeping my people hidden." He went on to say that "when we're hidden, then we don't have any problems. When

you people (those of us of the outer world) see us, we've got trouble."

For most of the time we were seven to eight feet below the ground. At a couple of points the underground world is as much as 25 feet below ground. We came across various sub-stations along the way as well as the infamous Ross Basement Mechanical Room where the climates of those attending events in Ross are decreed. Our guide was quite vocal about his dedication to the University. "I like to keep the people happy. We will need their kids in 25 years."

Most mere mortals from the outerworld cannot begin to understand the language of kilowatts, cubic feet, gallons and volts. At times we felt as though we had travelled thousands of light years out of our solar system when in fact we were only eight feet under the Ross Building.

Suddenly a door opened and we found ourselves back in civilization. We had gone from the Central Utilities Building and emerged, changed forever, in the Ross Building. Blakeley was looking a bit pale, but at the same time he had a stoic look about him that had never been there before. Our guide shook our hands and before we knew it, he had vanished back into the underworld, where the everyday affairs of life are controlled. We were sure that no one would believe us.

Fortunately we had the pictures to prove it.



Below: A frightening look at the legendary Last Outpost. From this point on, it is advised that one continues the journey by powered vehicle. Right: The Secret Books of the Tunnel make reference to these cryptic dials, believed left behind by creatures of another time.

