Memo - Rex Cole:

Saw Rex Cole at his office. Interested in telling me about the electrification of Van Hornesville. Says that Mr. Young said to him one day, he being a friend, and in the business of electrification, that he did wish that electricity could be taken into his home town, but that he wasn't willing to ask the Adirondack Power & Light Company to run their poles from Fort Plain, twelve miles, or more over the hills, Cole says, but they would be sure to do it as a favor to him.

Cole says that he went to them and without mentioning Young's name suggested that they try the extension, which after some argument they did. The question of course was whether the load possible from such an extension would pay them. When they learned that Young was interested they took great interest. This must have been in the summer of 1923. They started work at once, hoping to get it in by Thanksgiving. But there were delays. The lines had reached the top of the hills above V. H. or the home farm. As I understand it they came across the home farm. Young was very anxious to have it in for Christmas tree - light it Christmas Eve. Cole, himself, came up and worked string wires in cold and snow. Young was with him much of the time. They finally got the wires of the tree lighted. He says that when the current was turned on and the street lamps and tree all burst into flame, Mother Young came to the door and waving her big kitchen apron cried, "Whoopie."
Young was very particular about the way the town was wired. There must be no disfiguring—the changing of its character. If there were any poles necessary they must go to the back. He had conduits placed along the streets, under lawns, into the middle of the park and wires run in them. He was not willing to use any of the usual poles and lamps for the street but insisted that one be designed that would be suitable for the town—in keeping. Cole says that they went to the woods and got shapely cedar posts, left the bark on them. They had an old fashioned lantern designed. He shows me the original stretch. These were made for the town. Cole was much impressed with Young's desire to keep everything as it was. He says that he wouldn't allow his automobile to stand out in full sight. Said it didn't look right in the town. It was always placed into the garage and the doors closed.

During the time that the electrification was in progress there was a man by the name of Frank Smith, who lived in the town, Young became much attached to him and when the work was done the attached letter was written to Cole.

I am to see Frank Smith with Cole and talk over Mother Young. He, himself, liked her very much.

They lighted not only Mother Young's house but Uncle Abe's, both churches, the dairy farms, the museum and other places. Not all at once, but gradually. All of this work was done at Young's expense.

Cole says that the carrying of the poles in has been a good thing for the Power Company—that practically every house on their route has been connected. One reason that Young took in so
much to start with was that the Company would have a return which would not discourage them. Cole has concerned himself with better lighting campaigns. Now head of the Sales room, 4th Avenue & 22nd. Shows me his treasures there - a remarkable globe - electric lighted. He gave this to Young. Mrs. Young tried to find one for him which satisfied her, painted by a man by the name of Anderson.

Has wooden Indians that Bruce Barton gave him - a modernistic painting symbolic - very beautiful - done on plaster. Says the Christmas tree was so large that they had to use ladders to put on the lights.