

Hooper Telephone Company

Expanded illustrated source packet

From the first central office to North Elm Street and the WesTel era

Celebrate Hooper | Updated October 20, 2026



A crew lays cable for Hooper Telephone Company. The Nebraska State Historical Society identifies the company and town but does not supply an exact date or the men's names.

Nebraska State Historical Society, RG3347.PH000003-000004. Photographer unknown.

A documented history with photographs, address evidence, newspaper excerpts and links to the original records. This edition brings the earlier source packet together with additional company images, the 101 North Elm evidence and a contemporary explanation of the WesTel name change.

Prepared by Lexis Jindra | Celebrate Hooper | JindraWebDev
402-450-6563 | hello@jindrawebdev.com | jindrawebdev.com

What this edition establishes

101 North Elm Street

A December 1996 staffing advertisement and an official directory dated October 12, 1999 give this exact address. County parcel 270136061 identifies the company's North Elm property and records a 1963 office and a separate 1978 shop. Google Maps places the address at the same signed brick office.

Three dated exterior views

Links lead to Google Street View imagery from July 2012, September 2021 and July 2024. A separate exterior photograph from Hooper's 2026 history book is reproduced here. County photographs of the office, shop and Uehling property are linked to their original records.

The WesTel change was a shared name

A July 19, 2001 newspaper announcement gives August 1 as the effective date for West Iowa Telephone and MidlandsNet to use the WesTel name. It explicitly preserves their ownership and legal structure. Hooper's inclusion in the common brand is documented separately by the company history and its own tariff.

The Hooper office closed in 1999

Former office manager David (Dave) Nilles confirmed the year in an October 20, 2026 email to Melissa Lanzourakis, forwarded to Celebrate Hooper the same day. His statement is direct written recollection; a December 1999 newspaper separately documents his transfer to Remsen. The company and local telephone service continued after the office closed.

Sources: [Bookkeeper/Customer Service Representative recruitment advertisement](#); [Hearing on Department of Defense's Contract Bundling Policy - company agreement directory appendix](#); [Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company North Elm Street parcel](#); [Google Maps place record and Street View: 101 N Elm St, Hooper](#); [Company changes name - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1](#); [Nebraska Independent Telephone Association Access Service Catalog - Rate List for Hooper Telephone Company, d/b/a WesTel Systems](#); [David \(Dave\) Nilles, email to Melissa Lanzourakis, October 20, 2026](#); forwarded to Celebrate Hooper the same day; [Nilles transfers to Remsen office of West Iowa Telephone Company](#).

Reading order

1. Cited timeline • 2. Buildings and addresses • 3. People and historical photographs • 4. West Iowa and WesTel • 5. Newspaper evidence • 6. Source register • Appendix A: the original 23-page source packet.

Photographs are labeled by place and date when established. Iowa company photographs are identified as Iowa context. Undated images remain undated. Source titles are clickable; Newspapers.com may require a subscription. This is a research reference, not a blanket license to republish every photograph.

Timeline | 1901-1914

1901 | Company organized; central service connected

Hooper residents organized the Hooper Telephone Company in 1901. The February 28 newspaper reported adoption of the company's articles and bylaws and election of officers. The July 18 issue reported central connections completed the preceding Saturday, July 13. The articles set March 1 as the beginning of legal existence; the state recorded their filing April 19.

Organization and the start of central service were separate milestones.

Sources: *The Hooper Sentinel*, February 28, 1901, p. 5; *The Hooper Sentinel*, July 18, 1901, p. 8; *Nebraska Secretary of State, biennial report*, 1902, printed p. 35.

1902 | The exchange moves from Hoffman's restaurant

The October 30 newspaper reported growth from about 50 to 130 telephones and announced a move that week to a room formerly occupied by Hecker & Son as a restaurant. M. E. Shipley would take charge of the central office.

The later centennial history describes the office as behind Hecker Grocery. The early buildings and map evidence are discussed later in this packet.

Sources: *The Hooper Sentinel*, October 30, 1902, p. 5; *Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976*, p. 41.

1914 | Uehling exchange acquired

According to Hooper's 1976 centennial history, the company purchased the Uehling exchange from Nebraska Telephone Company in 1914. A state commission order dated January 28, 1915 independently confirms Hooper Telephone was operating both the Hooper and Uehling exchanges.

The 1914 purchase year comes from the retrospective history. The exact purchase day and price have not been established.

Sources: *Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976*, p. 41; *Nebraska State Railway Commission, Eighth Annual Report (1915)*, pp. 245-246.

Timeline | 1930s-1947

1930s-early 1940s | Depression and wartime pressures

Depression-era hardship reduced telephone service, followed by wartime labor and material shortages. The centennial history dates the business decline to 1932-1939 and recalls employees being drafted. The 1943 state record also describes skilled workers leaving for better-paid war work and industry.

The sources do not establish 1932-1942 as the precise period or the draft as the only staffing problem.

Sources: [Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, p. 41](#); [Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report \(1943\), p. 315](#).

1943 | Controlling ownership changes

W. H. Daubendiek acquired controlling shares in Hooper Telephone Company, establishing the West Iowa connection. The business continued under the Hooper Telephone name. Later company histories summarize this as West Iowa's purchase of Hooper Telephone.

The contemporary state record identifies a majority-stock transfer to Daubendiek personally, rather than establishing purchase of every share or all assets by West Iowa.

Sources: [Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report \(1943\), pp. 312-321, especially p. 315](#); [WesTel Systems, About Us, company timeline](#).

1944 | Flood damages the telephone system

The June 1944 flood damaged the company's Hooper-Uehling network and Hooper switching equipment. The local newspaper reported that operators stayed until floodwater forced their evacuation by boat, followed by emergency repairs and the arrival of replacement switchboard parts.

The contemporary newspaper supports the damage and evacuation. An exact outage duration has not been established here.

Sources: [The Hooper Sentinel, June 22, 1944, p. 1, "Aftermath - A Flood Resume"](#); [Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, pp. 41-42](#).

By 1947 | Rebuilding and modernization

According to the centennial history, rebuilding and modernization of the Hooper and Uehling exchanges had replaced more than 800 miles of line wire and many carloads of poles by 1947. Improvements continued after the immediate flood damage had been repaired.

This is wire length, not 800 miles of new routes. The source does not say all of that wire was destroyed by the 1944 flood.

Sources: [Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, p. 42](#).

Timeline | 1962-1976

1962-1963 | Local manual-to-dial conversion

A March 29, 1962 announcement estimated approximately **\$145,000** for the dial-conversion project, including a new building, rebuilt lines and additional cable. The conversion proceeded in stages in 1963. The November 21 newspaper reported the whole Hooper exchange on dial service beginning November 20.

The \$145,000 figure is an announced estimate, not a final cost. The later book gives a general estimate over \$100,000 and dates activation November 19, one day earlier than the newspaper. Both support 1963 as the conversion year.

Sources: [The Hooper Sentinel, March 29, 1962, p. 1, "\\$145,000 Dial System Planned"](#); [The Hooper Sentinel, November 21, 1963, p. 1](#); [Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, p. 43](#).

1965 | Direct long-distance dialing announced

Direct Distance Dialing was announced for December 5, 1965, allowing Hooper customers to dial station-to-station long-distance calls themselves. This was a separate improvement from the 1963 local dial conversion.

The December 2 newspaper announces the planned start; it is not a later confirmation of the exact activation day.

Sources: [The Hooper Sentinel, December 2, 1965, p. 1](#).

December 1967 | More than 1,000 telephones

The centennial history reports that, at the December 1967 directors' meeting, management announced more than 1,000 telephones in service for the first time in the company's history.

The source says more than 1,000 telephones, not exactly 1,000 individual subscribers or households.

Sources: [Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, p. 43](#).

By 1976 | Rural underground private-line project

Planning for an underground, private-line rural telephone system began in 1967. The centennial history, written in 1976, described the project as nearing completion.

The account does not establish that every aerial line had been removed or that the entire project was already finished. Its praise for the company's modernity is an author's assessment, not a verified national ranking.

Sources: [Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, p. 43](#).

Timeline | 1995-2001

1995 | Cable television in the company history

WesTel's retrospective company timeline dates the addition of cable television to its offerings to 1995.

This is a company-wide milestone. The source alone does not establish 1995 as the first cable television service in Hooper specifically.

Sources: [WesTel Systems, About Us, company timeline](#).

1995-1996 | Internet service in Hooper's territory

A January 12, 1999 newspaper report states that Hooper Telephone began offering internet service within its own customer territory in **1995**. It places formation of MidlandsNet through a partnership with Community Connections of Lincoln two years later, and reports expansion into Fremont in January 1999.

WesTel's retrospective company timeline instead gives 1996. The difference is unresolved; neither source explains it. The newspaper is specific to Hooper's customer territory. This is an internet-service date, not a fiber-installation date.

Sources: [Kurt Johnson, "MidlandsNet creates local web link," Fremont Tribune, January 12, 1999, p. B3 \(viewer p. 11\); WesTel Systems, About Us, company timeline](#).

1996-1999 | North Elm office and its closing

A December 1996 staffing advertisement gave Hooper Telephone's address as **101 N. Elm Street**. Ron Henrich moved to the Remsen office in April 1997. Dave Nilles was still identified as Hooper office manager in January 1999; a December 16 report described his recent transfer to Remsen after 21 years in Hooper. An October 12, 1999 federal directory also lists 101 North Elm and names Nilles as contact. In an October 20, 2026 email to Melissa Lanzourakis, forwarded to Celebrate Hooper that day, Nilles confirmed: **"The Hooper office was closed in 1999."**

The closure year comes from the former office manager's retrospective firsthand account. The 1999 newspaper independently documents his transfer. Neither gives the exact closing day; closing the office did not dissolve the company or end local telephone service.

Sources: [Fremont Tribune, December 24, 1996, Tribune Marketplace p. 5 \(viewer p. 26\); Remsen Bell-Enterprise, July 24, 1997, p. 1; Fremont Tribune, January 12, 1999, p. B3; Remsen Bell-Enterprise, December 16, 1999, p. 1; Federal directory, October 12, 1999, printed p. 132 / PDF p. 136; David Nilles, email to Melissa Lanzourakis, October 20, 2026; forwarded the same day; Hooper Telephone Company d/b/a WesTel Systems, rate sheet issued December 20, 2001](#).

2001 | Shared WesTel Systems brand

West Iowa Telephone, Hooper Telephone and MidlandsNet adopted the shared WesTel Systems brand in 2001. An official rate sheet issued December 20, 2001, effective January 1, 2002, still uses the name Hooper Telephone Company, d/b/a WesTel Systems. The July 19 announcement set August 1 as the effective date for West Iowa and MidlandsNet and expressly preserved their ownership and legal structure.

A shared brand does not mean the underlying legal companies ceased to exist or that Hooper Telephone and West Iowa became identical legal names.

Sources: [WesTel Systems, About Us, company timeline; Nebraska PSC tariff collection, Hooper rate sheet, 1st Revised Page 17-21 \(PDF p. 21\); Remsen Bell-Enterprise, July 19, 2001, p. 1](#).

Timeline | 2011-2021

2011 | Fiber-to-the-home in the company history

WesTel's retrospective company history marks 2011 as the start of fiber-to-the-home services.

This company milestone does not give installation or activation dates for individual Hooper addresses.

Sources: [WesTel Systems](#), [About Us](#), [company timeline](#).

2019 | Local buried-fiber agreements

On May 22, Dodge County's board received and filed WesTel buried-fiber installation agreements for parts of Hooper, Logan, Everett, Maple and Nickerson townships.

The records document planned work and its agreements; they do not establish completion or household service dates.

Sources: [Dodge County Board of Supervisors](#), [May 22, 2019 proceedings](#), pp. 1-2.

2021 | Public-payphone requirement waived

On March 2, the Nebraska Public Service Commission granted WesTel Communications, doing business as Hooper Telephone Company, a waiver of the public-pay-station requirement. The company reported three stations with no in-box coin collections during the preceding six years and high maintenance costs.

The order permitted the company to stop maintaining the stations. It does not identify their street addresses or actual removal dates; no coin collections does not establish that no calls occurred.

Sources: [Nebraska Public Service Commission](#), [C-5203](#), [March 2, 2021](#), pp. 1-2.

The documented 1901 founding supports 125 years in 2026.

101 North Elm Street | the office



The signed Hooper Telephone building in the 2026 community history. The photograph is undated. Its appearance matches the company property and Google's 101 North Elm location. The source image is small and is reproduced at modest size.

Hooper, Nebraska, 1976-2026: The Last 50 Years (2026), p.26.
Photographer uncredited.

How the address is established

The December 24, 1996 Fremont Tribune recruitment advertisement gives the street address directly. The federal directory independently records the same address. Google Maps labels the matching signed office 101 N Elm St. The county identifies the property as Hooper Telephone Company's North Elm parcel, but its address field omits the house number; the number is supported by the other sources.

Sources: Bookkeeper/Customer Service Representative recruitment advertisement; Hearing on Department of Defense's Contract Bundling Policy - company agreement directory appendix; Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company North Elm Street parcel; Google Maps place record and Street View: 101 N Elm St, Hooper.

The county records a one-story, 1,519-square-foot office built in 1963. This agrees with the timing of the documented 1962-1963 dial-conversion project. A property-card construction year is not a building permit or an exact opening date.

Sources: Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company North Elm Street parcel; The Hooper Sentinel, March 29, 1962, p. 1; The Hooper Sentinel, November 21, 1963, p. 1.

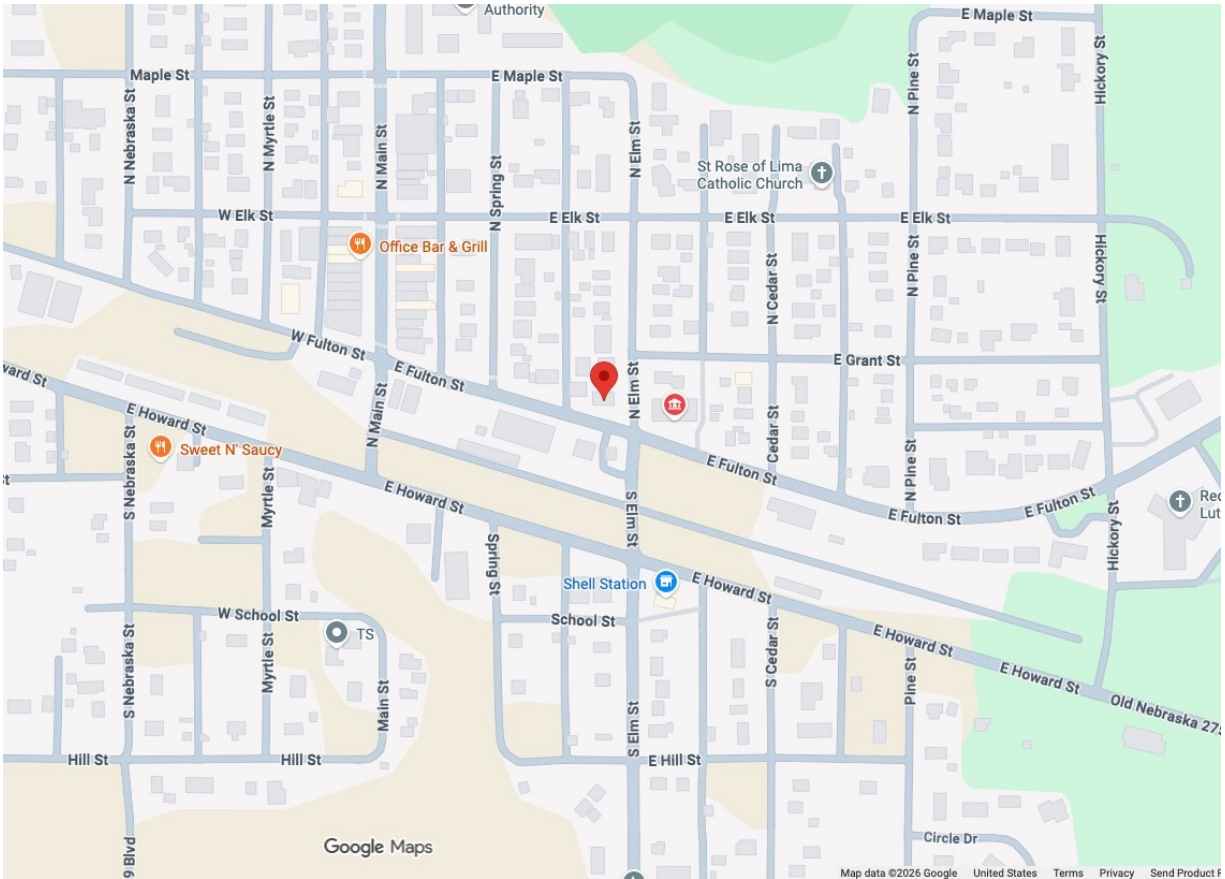
The 1996 federal agreement date printed in the directory is a contract date, not the date this office opened. The two directory reproductions are duplicate evidence, not two independent sources.

ADDRESSES OF COMPANIES WITH BASIC AGREEMENTS (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY BY SYMBOL)		
CONTRACT CODE	COMPANY ADDRESS	AGREEMENT NUMBER
1	HOOPER TELEPHONE COMPANY ATTN: DAVE NILLES 101 NORTH ELM STREET POST OFFICE BOX 47 HOOPER NE 68031-0047	DCA200-96-H-0109
1	HOOPER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC	DCA200-96-H-0112

The federal directory dated October 12, 1999 names Dave Nilles and gives 101 North Elm Street, P.O. Box 47, Hooper. This excerpt is from printed p. 132 / PDF p. 136. The identical directory page is repeated at printed p. 196 / PDF p. 200.

U.S. Government Printing Office, House hearing Serial 106-41,
printed p. 132 / PDF p. 136.

101 North Elm Street | location and views



Google Maps marks 101 North Elm Street on the west side of North Elm Street, just north of East Fulton Street. Map captured October 15, 2026.

Google Maps. Map data ©2026 Google; original logo and attribution retained in image.

Open the dated exterior photographs

July 2012 - Google Street View - a telephone booth is visible beside the front steps.

September 2021 - Google Street View

July 2024 - Google Street View

These are image-capture dates shown by Google, not evidence of staffed office hours. Street View is linked rather than reproduced because Google restricts its use in print and offline documents. The map above retains its provider attribution.

Sources: Google Maps place record and Street View: 101 N Elm St, Hooper; Google Geo Guidelines: Maps and Street View reuse.

Company property | Hooper and Uehling

North Elm office and shop

County parcel 270136061 comprises lots 9-10, block 13, Hooper First Addition. Its property card shows two separate buildings: the 1963 office, 1,519 square feet, and a 1978 shop, 2,000 square feet. Two photographs dated October 25, 2022 show the brick office and metal shop. The shop is not the original office.

Sources: [Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company North Elm Street parcel](#); [Dodge County parcel map: 270136061](#).

214 Fifth Street, Uehling

County parcel 270135948 identifies Hooper Telephone Company at 214 Fifth Street, Uehling. Its photograph is dated March 31, 2010. This is useful visual evidence of a company property in the second exchange town; it is not a picture of the North Elm office.

Sources: [Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company, 214 Fifth Street, Uehling](#).

WesTel tower improvements

County parcel 270138692 associates WesTel Systems with communications-tower improvements on City of Hooper property. The record's photograph is stamped October 3, 2019. A street address has not been established; it is not labeled as 101 North Elm.

Sources: [Dodge County assessor: WesTel Systems tower improvements on city property](#).

The source links open the county records and photographs. The provider's terms do not establish redistribution permission for those photographs, so the research packet preserves their location, dates and citations without embedding them.

The office closure and the buildings are separate records

Nilles's written recollection establishes 1999 as the office-closing year. Company signs, communications equipment and county ownership document the property's continuing association with the company; they do not demonstrate that a staffed customer office remained open. The email does not provide an exact closing day or the dates when individual employees last worked at the site.

Sources: David (Dave) Nilles, email to Melissa Lanzourakis, October 20, 2026; forwarded to Celebrate Hooper the same day; [Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company North Elm Street parcel](#).

The first offices | Main and Fulton

1901: C. Hoffman's restaurant and bakery

The April 18, 1901 Sentinel directly identifies C. Hoffman's restaurant as the central office. His 1899 construction reports, a January 1901 business profile and the 1899/1904 Sanborn comparison point to original block 1, lot 12, now 106 North Main Street. The modern address comes from the parcel record. The exact room or floor remains unknown. See Appendix A, pp. 3-6 and 12-13.



Main Street in Hooper, documented by Janet Jeffries Spencer for the 1980 National Register nomination.

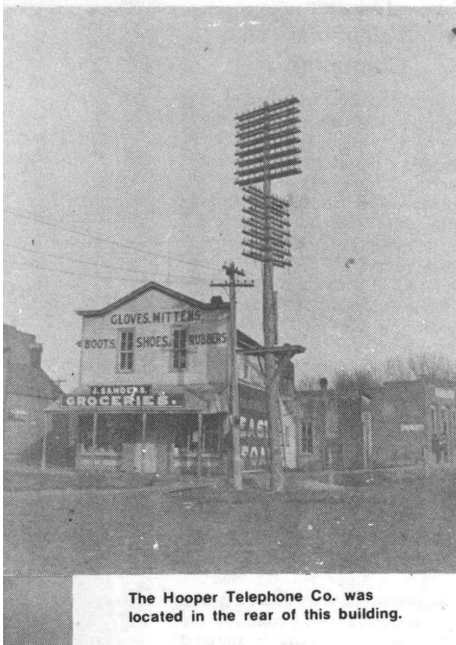
Janet Jeffries Spencer, *Hooper Historic District National Register photograph 9, reverse dated February 29, 1980.*

This 1980 streetscape relates the surviving commercial block to the map evidence. It does not, by itself, prove Hoffman's occupancy. The historic survey identifies the double storefront and the First National Bank building.

1902: the room formerly used by Hecker & Son

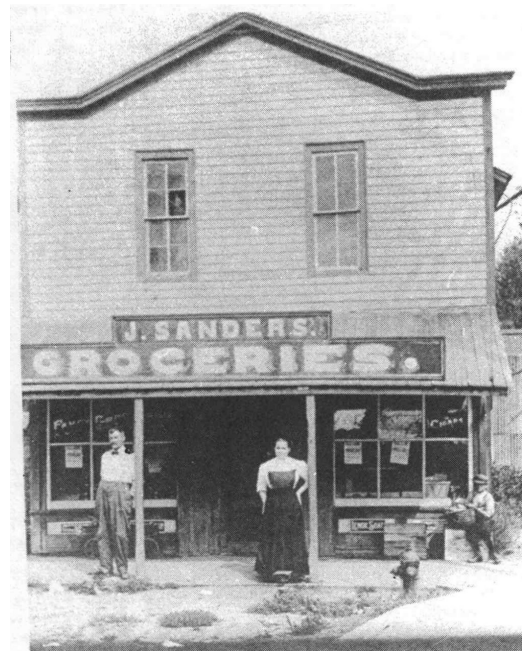
The October 30, 1902 Sentinel reported that Hoffman wanted to give up the central-office contract because the work had outgrown his room and time. M. E. Shipley would take charge in a room formerly used by Hecker & Son as a restaurant. The paper reported growth from about 50 to 130 telephones. See Appendix A, p. 5.

The grocery and the bank | different buildings



The centennial history identifies the rear of this frame grocery as a Hooper Telephone Company office. The photograph is undated.

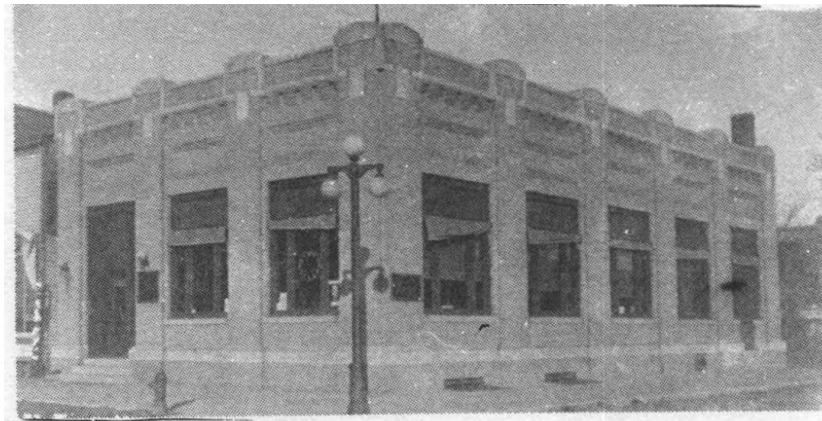
Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976 (1976), p.42. Photographer uncredited.



J. Sanders Groceries in a photograph the centennial history dates to 1912. Its façade corresponds to the frame grocery pictured on the telephone-company page; that match is a visual comparison.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976 (1976), p.56. Photographer uncredited.

The 1976 history identifies a telephone office at the rear of the frame grocery. Its separate Sanders photograph is captioned 1912. The matching façade supports a visual comparison; the source does not explicitly cross-reference the two photographs.



First National Bank of Hooper's new building, pictured in 1914 according to the centennial history. The book separately records purchase of the corner lot from the W. C. Hecker estate.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976 (1976), pp.69-70. Photographer uncredited.

The book records the bank's planned corner building on a lot purchased from the W. C. Hecker estate, with an open house May 27, 1914. The 1916 Sanborn map explicitly places a telephone exchange immediately east of the bank, facing Fulton. This does not show that the exchange occupied the bank itself. The fate of the wooden grocery remains unverified. See Appendix A, pp. 7-9.

The company at work



Hooper Telephone Company switchboard operators Twila Linstadt and Alta Miller in 1955, as identified by the centennial history.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976 (1976), p.42. Photographer uncredited.

This photograph identifies Twila Linstadt and Alta Miller at the switchboard in 1955. It must not be used as a photograph of the 1944 flood operators or the 1963 dial conversion.

An earlier cable crew

The Nebraska State Historical Society's cable-laying image on the cover explicitly identifies Hooper Telephone Company, but does not name the men or give an exact date. The 1976 history reproduces a different exposure of the same scene; that companion appears in Appendix A, p. 18. Neither photograph has been tied to a specific construction year.

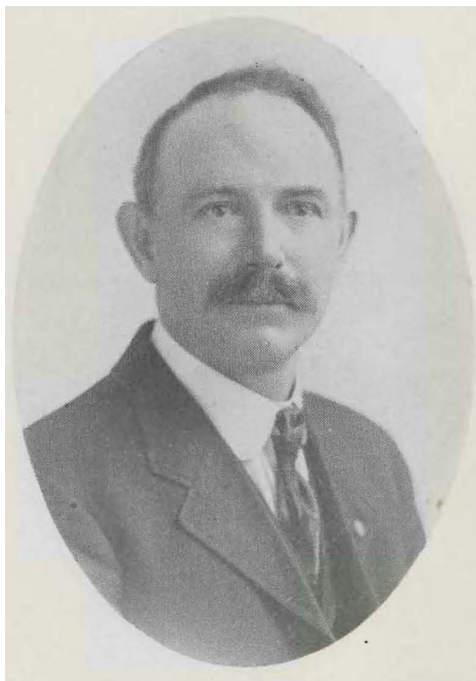
Sources: Men laying cable for Hooper Telephone Co.; Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976.

A precise lead for additional construction photographs

The 1943 state commission report, Application 15650, printed p. 320, refers to reconstruction photographs in the underlying case evidence. Those images are not reproduced in the published report and have not been obtained. The reference gives a specific record to seek, rather than an assumption that no photographs exist.

Sources: Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report (1943), printed p.320.

People | M. E. Shipley



Marion Eugene Shipley in the 1915 Nebraska Blue Book, which identified him as manager and director of Hooper Telephone Company. The photograph itself is undated.

Nebraska Blue Book (1915), p.454; scan hosted by Nebraska government documents collection. Photographer uncredited.

The 1915 Nebraska Blue Book identifies Marion Eugene Shipley as manager and director of Hooper Telephone Company. The 1921 county history also describes his telephone-company management. Publication years place the photographs no later than those publications; neither source gives the exposure date.



Marion E. Shipley in the 1921 county history, which describes his work managing Hooper Telephone Company.

William H. Buss and Thomas T. Osterman, History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska (1921), vol.II, portrait plate between pp.692-693; biography pp.693-694.

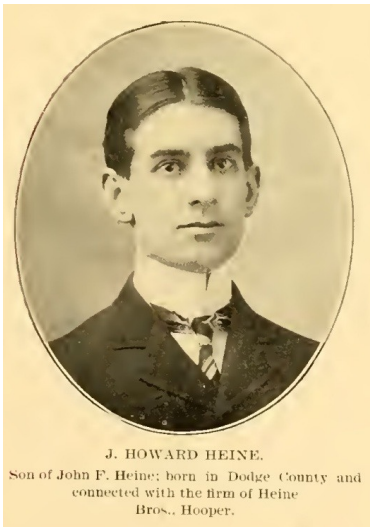


M. E. Shipley, undated portrait reproduced in Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, p.42.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, printed p.42. Photographer uncredited.

The undated portrait reproduced in 1976 is a third image. Its date relative to the other photographs has not been established.

People | founders and early business connections



J. Howard Heine, pictured in Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.122. The photograph's exposure date is not stated.

Daniel M. Carr, ed., Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.122; Internet Archive scan. Photographer uncredited.



Bernard Monnich, pictured in Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.60. The photograph's exposure date is not stated.

Daniel M. Carr, ed., Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.60; Internet Archive scan. Photographer uncredited.



Jeremiah Denslow, pictured in Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.58. The photograph's exposure date is not stated.

Daniel M. Carr, ed., Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.58; Internet Archive scan. Photographer uncredited.



A. M. Tillman, pictured in Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.127. The photograph's exposure date is not stated.

Daniel M. Carr, ed., Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition (1902), p.127; Internet Archive scan. Photographer uncredited.

These portraits were published in Daniel M. Carr's 1902 Dodge County volume. The 1901 organization report names Heine, Monnich and Denslow among the company's early leadership; the 1899 construction notices connect Tillman's adjacent project with Hoffman's building. These are documented business connections, not photographs of employees at work.

The contemporary February 1901 report identifies T. W. Lyman as president. A later centennial account names E. O. Spielberg; the contemporary organization report takes precedence for the initial election. No verified portrait of this T. W. Lyman was added. See Appendix A, p. 2.

People | Hecker and the Daubendieks



William C. Hecker, pictured in *Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition* (1902), p.122. The photograph's exposure date is not stated.

Daniel M. Carr, ed., *Progressive Men of Nebraska: Dodge County Edition* (1902), p.122; Internet Archive scan. Photographer uncredited.

William C. Hecker

Hecker's portrait supplies context for the grocery and property associated with the second office. It is not evidence that he was a telephone-company employee. The newspaper, maps and later property history must be read together; the exact Hecker-to-Sanders business-sale year remains disputed between the later accounts. See Appendix A, pp. 5, 7-9.

W. H. and Frederick W. were different people

The portrait at right is W. H. Daubendiek, whose controlling-share acquisition is documented in the 1943 commission record. Frederick W. Daubendiek was his nephew. A 1991 obituary reports that Frederick became West Iowa secretary-treasurer in 1942 and general manager of both West Iowa and Hooper Telephone in 1947; it reports his resignation as West Iowa general manager in 1973. The centennial history instead places his appointment after W. H.'s death in 1948. That 1947/1948 disagreement remains unresolved. No verified photograph of Frederick accompanies the obituary.

Sources: *Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report* (1943), pp. 312-321; *Rites* Sept. 12 for F. W. Daubendiek - *Remsen Bell-Enterprise*, p. 1.

The old portrait caption in Appendix A appears to associate W. H. with Hooper Telephone in 1899. That date is not adopted here: the contemporary company-organization records establish 1901.



W. H. Daubendiek portrait, reproduced in *Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976*, printed p.42. Photograph undated.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, printed p.42. Photographer uncredited.

Hooper streets | the commercial setting



Elevated Main Street view, Hooper, Nebraska. Undated postcard in the Nebraska State Historical Society collection.

Nebraska State Historical Society, RG3347.PH000003-000017. Photo by Johnson, as written on print.



Main Street with rows of utility poles, Hooper, Nebraska. Undated postcard in the Nebraska State Historical Society collection.

Nebraska State Historical Society, RG3347.PH000003-000040. Photographer uncredited.

These are contextual town photographs. The archive identifies Hooper, but the date and ownership of individual poles or wires are not established. They do not identify a telephone office without additional map or building evidence.

Hooper streets | Main Street views



Main Street, postcard No. A, Hooper, Nebraska. Undated postcard in the Nebraska State Historical Society collection.

Nebraska State Historical Society, RG3347.PH000003-000015. Photographer uncredited.



West side of Main Street, postcard No. C, Hooper, Nebraska. Undated postcard in the Nebraska State Historical Society collection.

Nebraska State Historical Society, RG3347.PH000003-000018. Photographer uncredited.

These are contextual town photographs. The archive identifies Hooper, but the date and ownership of individual poles or wires are not established. They do not identify a telephone office without additional map or building evidence.

Hooper streets | west-side detail



West-side street scene, postcard No. 58, Hooper, Nebraska. Undated postcard in the Nebraska State Historical Society collection.

Nebraska State Historical Society, RG3347.PH000003-000021. Photographer uncredited.

This fifth archival street view is retained because it provides another angle on the town's business district. It is not counted as a directly identified telephone-company scene.

Locating the earlier exchange on maps

The 1904 Sanborn label at the rear of the grocery literally reads "Telegraph Exc." The 1916 map explicitly reads "Telephone Exchange" east of the bank. The original wording and the historical map numbers are preserved in Appendix A, p. 7. Historic map numbers should not be treated as present street addresses.

Sources: [Library of Congress](#), [Sanborn maps of Hooper, Nebraska](#).

West Iowa, Hooper and WesTel | the relationship

1943: controlling interest

The commission record says Hooper's shareholders agreed to sell a majority of outstanding shares to W. H. Daubendiek and that he held that majority. Later West Iowa histories describe the Hooper purchase. This supports the ownership connection; it does not establish a transfer of every share or a merger of the legal companies. The \$20,000 reconstruction fund mentioned in the proceeding was company money and securities, not a stated purchase price.

Sources: Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report (1943), pp. 312-321; Peter Eulberg, The History of the Telephone Co. of Remsen - Bell-Enterprise, p. 4.

1997-1999: staff move to Remsen

A July 24, 1997 report says Ron Henrich moved to Remsen in April after more than 35 years in Hooper. A December 16, 1999 report says Dave Nilles had recently transferred after 21 years in Hooper. It describes his earlier work as bookkeeper and then office manager. Nilles separately confirmed in his October 20, 2026 email that the Hooper office closed in 1999. Melissa Lanzourakis forwarded his original message to Celebrate Hooper that day.

Sources: West Iowa hires new plant manager - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1; Nilles transfers to Remsen office of West Iowa Telephone Company - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1; David (Dave) Nilles, email to Melissa Lanzourakis, October 20, 2026; forwarded to Celebrate Hooper the same day.

2001: a common brand

The July 19 announcement names West Iowa Telephone and MidlandsNet and gives August 1 as the name-change date. It expressly preserves each business's ownership and legal structure. WesTel's company history includes Hooper in the common 2001 brand, and Hooper's own rate sheet uses "d/b/a WesTel Systems." The strongest description is shared branding, not a 2001 legal merger.

Sources: Company changes name - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1; About WesTel Systems; Nebraska Independent Telephone Association Access Service Catalog - Rate List for Hooper Telephone Company, d/b/a WesTel Systems.

WesTel photographs | Remsen staff, 2023



WesTel employees at a Remsen Chamber Coffee, June 2, 2023.

Contributed photograph, Remsen Bell-Enterprise, June 8, 2023, p. 10

This photograph documents WesTel staff at a Remsen Chamber Coffee on June 2, 2023, reported June 8. It is company context from Iowa, not a staff photograph taken in Hooper.

The source caption identifies Mike Nelson, Derek Gengler, Dan Block, Scott Goeken, Chris Sonnichsen, Pam Ades, Mollie Klein, Robin Jenness, Scott Lewis and Kristine Mohning.

The article concerns Remsen's Smart Rural Community recognition and investment there. Its local investment figures should not be reassigned to Hooper. The newspaper's original caption preserves the staff names for further identification.

Sources: WesTel Systems: City of Remsen receives SRC plaque - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 10.

Management in 2024

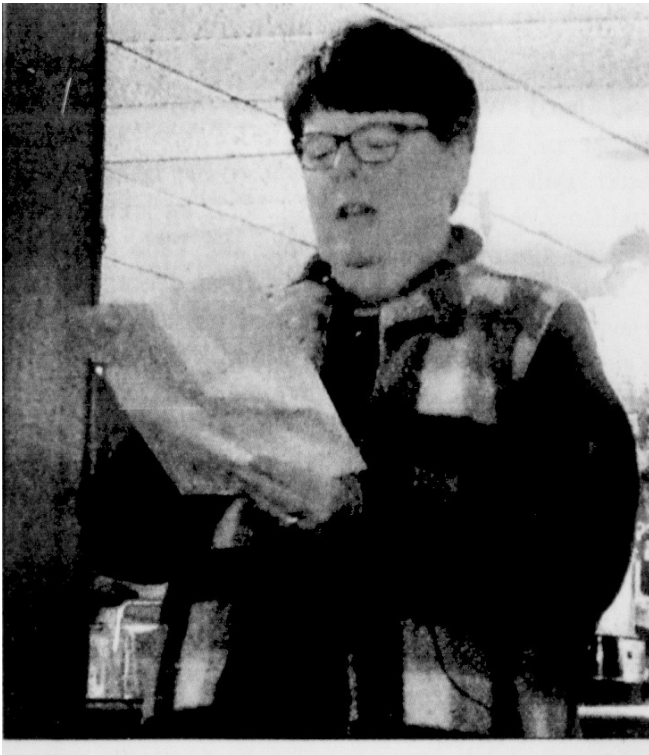


Kristine Mohning, pictured with the 2024 announcement of her appointment as WesTel general manager, effective August 5.

Remsen Bell-Enterprise, June 6, 2024, p. 3; photographer uncredited

The June 6, 2024 announcement gives August 5, 2024 as the effective date for Kristine Mohning's appointment as general manager. The publication date and appointment date are different.

WesTel photographs | community recognition



WesTel operations manager Robin Jenness reads the company's nomination at Remsen's January 2022 awards dinner.

Megan Sabin / Remsen Bell-Enterprise, January 20, 2022, p. 10

The January 2022 Remsen event honored WesTel as the 2021 Business of the Year. Robin Jenness read the nomination and Mike Nelson spoke after the award. KLEM's January 11 report places the banquet on the previous evening, January 10, at the Golden Pheasant in Remsen.

Sources: Chamber Dinner: Winners include Ken and Michelle Wurth, WesTel Systems - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 10; KLEM, Wurth's Awarded Remsen's Citizens Of The Year Honor.

Additional photo lead

KLEM's report captions a WesTel employee group and award photographs. Its linked image files were unavailable when checked on October 15, 2026. The newspaper photographs above are the verified images retained in this packet.



Chief financial officer Mike Nelson speaks after WesTel received Remsen's Business of the Year honor in January 2022.

Megan Sabin / Remsen Bell-Enterprise, January 20, 2022, p. 10

WesTel's continuing Hooper connection

Local service notices

WesTel issued television-service notices explicitly titled for Hooper and Uehling rural customers, effective January 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. They document local IPTV offerings at those dates. They do not establish when cable television or IPTV first arrived in Hooper. Obsolete package prices are not carried into this history.

Sources: [WesTel IPTV Customer Formal Notice - Hooper & Uehling Rural 2024](#); [WesTel IPTV Customer Formal Notice - Hooper & Uehling Rural 2025](#).

Community involvement

The company's public community list names Hooper's Fourth of July celebration, Area Community Foundation, Car Show, Fire Department and Fun Run, as well as Logan View school organizations and Uehling groups. It demonstrates a stated community connection but supplies no donation amounts or dates for those entries.

Sources: [WesTel Systems, Community Involvement](#).

Company-wide milestones need local confirmation

WesTel's retrospective history dates cable television to 1995, internet to 1996 and its fiber-to-the-home transition to 2011. Those milestones cannot automatically be treated as Hooper's local launch dates. The 1999 Fremont Tribune instead dates internet within Hooper's customer territory to 1995. The discrepancy is preserved in the timeline.

Sources: [About WesTel Systems](#); [MidlandsNet creates local web link](#).

Iowa origins: a date to keep qualified

Company officer Peter Eulberg's 1959 retrospective dates the West Iowa name to January 1, 1928. The current corporate timeline includes the name in its 1926 milestone. The sources have not been reconciled. Neither date changes Hooper Telephone's independently documented 1901 organization.

Sources: [Peter Eulberg, The History of the Telephone Co. of Remsen - Bell-Enterprise, p. 4](#); [About WesTel Systems](#); [The Hooper Sentinel, February 28, 1901, p. 5](#).

Company changes name

that effective August 1, 2001,
they will be operating under
one new name “WesTel ”

A July 19, 2001 company announcement set August 1 as the effective date for West Iowa and MidlandsNet to use the common WesTel name. The full report says ownership and legal structures would not change.

Sources: [Company changes name - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1.](#)

Nilles transfers to Remsen office of West Iowa Telephone Company

The December 16, 1999 report documents Dave Nilles's transfer to Remsen after twenty-one years in Hooper. It does not itself announce the office closing. Nilles separately confirmed the 1999 closure in his October 20, 2026 email, cited in the timeline.

Sources: [Nilles transfers to Remsen office of West Iowa Telephone Company - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1.](#)

Brief original excerpts are shown for readability. Use the linked newspaper page to read the complete report in context.

Newspaper evidence | dial service and internet

\$145,000 Dial System Planned

The March 29, 1962 report announced a dial-system project with an estimated \$145,000 additional investment. That figure is a contemporary estimate, not a verified final cost.

Sources: [The Hooper Sentinel](#), March 29, 1962, p. 1.

MidlandsNet creates local web link

The Hooper company began offering Internet service within its own customer territory in 1995. Two years later,

Kurt Johnson's January 12, 1999 business report dates Internet service within Hooper Telephone's own customer territory to 1995. This local statement is more specific than the later corporate timeline's 1996 milestone.

Sources: [MidlandsNet creates local web link](#).

Brief original excerpts are shown for readability. Use the linked newspaper page to read the complete report in context.

Newspaper evidence | Frederick W. Daubendiek

Rites Sept. 12 for F. W. Daubendiek

Frederick W. Daubendiek's obituary appeared September 19, 1991. The headline's September 12 refers to funeral services; the article reports his death on September 7. It distinguishes him from his uncle W. H. Daubendiek.

Sources: [Rites Sept. 12 for F. W. Daubendiek - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1.](#)

What the obituary adds

The obituary identifies Frederick as W. H. Daubendiek's nephew. It reports his move to Remsen as West Iowa secretary-treasurer in 1942 and his election as general manager of both West Iowa and Hooper Telephone in 1947. It reports his resignation as West Iowa general manager in 1973 and continued election as vice president. The centennial account instead places his appointment after W. H.'s death in 1948; the difference has not been resolved. This is a retrospective biographical account, not an image of the 1943 ownership transfer.

Brief original excerpts are shown for readability. Use the linked newspaper page to read the complete report in context.

What remains to be confirmed

Records of the 1999 office transition

Former office manager Dave Nilles has confirmed the closing year. Contemporary company records could add the precise closing date, how customer-service arrangements changed and which functions remained at the North Elm property. Those details are not supplied by his brief email.

The early buildings

Hoffman's precise telephone room is not established. The fate of the frame grocery is unknown. The bank and the rear exchange are distinct structures on the 1916 map. The 1900/1902 Sanders purchase discrepancy should remain qualified.

Missing photographs

The underlying 1943 commission proceeding is a specific lead for reconstruction photographs. Dated interior views of the Elm office, the 1963 cutover and identified Hooper crews would add evidence beyond the existing exterior views. No same-name portrait has been treated as the operator Alta Miller without identity confirmation.

Local technology dates

The start of local cable television, the 1995/1996 internet discrepancy and the date of fiber installation in Hooper still need company records or contemporary local reporting.

Sources: David (Dave) Nilles, email to Melissa Lanzourakis, October 20, 2026; forwarded to Celebrate Hooper the same day.

Additional names, dates, photographs or corrections can be sent to Lexis Jindra at hello@jindrawebdev.com for the Hooper History Database. Please retain the original source and identify whether a date is an exposure date, publication date or later recollection.

Photograph and source notes

This packet combines newly located material with images found in earlier research but missing from the original source packet. It does not describe every image as a new discovery. The original 23-page packet is retained as Appendix A so its early newspaper clippings, maps, centennial pages and commission records remain available.

Image handling

Images are reproduced from original scans or extracted source photographs. The report uses proportionate sizing and normal document compression. It does not reconstruct faces, invent lettering, colorize historical scenes or create synthetic historical photographs. Newspaper excerpts retain their original printed appearance.

Credits and reuse

Historical Society images retain collection identifiers. User-provided history books are cited by title and page; the full 2026 history book is not included. Current county photographs and Street View panoramas remain linked where provider terms restrict redistribution. Modern newspaper photographs carry their original publication/photographer credit. Inclusion in this research compilation does not establish a general license for a public website, promotional video or other republication.

Register and original records

The following register lists the sources cited in the expanded section. Appendix A carries its own citations. Printed and PDF-viewer page numbers are distinguished where they differ. Public archive access and Newspapers.com are alternative ways of locating newspaper issues; subscription access is not required for the public Remsen archive.

Source register

About WesTel Systems

Undated company history; checked October 13, 2026

Bookkeeper/Customer Service Representative recruitment advertisement

1996-12-24

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976

Hooper Mrs. Jaycees / Hooper Centennial-Bicentennial Committee, May 1976. Selected excerpts in Appendix A.

Chamber Dinner: Winners include Ken and Michelle Wurth, WesTel Systems - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 10

January 20, 2022

Company changes name - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1

July 19, 2001

Daniel M. Carr, ed., Progressive Men of Nebraska: A Book of Portraits, Dodge County Edition

David (Dave) Nilles, email to Melissa Lanzourakis, October 20, 2026; forwarded to Celebrate Hooper the same day

2026-10-20

Former Hooper office manager David Nilles wrote: "The Hooper office was closed in 1999." Original forwarded message reviewed October 20, 2026. This retrospective firsthand account establishes the year; it does not supply a month or day. Correspondence retained in the research file; private contact details are not reproduced.

Department of Defense's Contract Bundling Policy - House Committee on Small Business, Serial 106-41, printed p. 196 (PDF p. 200)

Hearing November 4, 1999; GPO publication 2000; incorporated directory dated October 12, 1999

Directory page A-033 appears twice: printed pp. 132 and 196; PDF pp. 136 and 200.

Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company North Elm Street parcel

Dodge County assessor: Hooper Telephone Company, 214 Fifth Street, Uehling

Dodge County assessor: WesTel Systems tower improvements on city property

Dodge County Board of Supervisors, May 22, 2019 proceedings, pp. 1-2

Dodge County parcel map: 270136061

Elevated Main Street view

Google Geo Guidelines: Maps and Street View reuse

Google Maps place record and Street View: 101 N Elm St, Hooper

Hearing on Department of Defense's Contract Bundling Policy - company agreement directory appendix

1999-10-12

History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska (1921), vol.II

Hooper Historic District, National Register photographs

Hooper, Nebraska, 1976-2026: The Last 50 Years

User-provided community history, p. 26. Full book kept private.

KLEM, Wurth's Awarded Remsen's Citizens Of The Year Honor

January 11, 2022; banquet previous evening, January 10

Kristine Mohning promoted to General Manager of WesTel Systems - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 3

June 6, 2024; announced promotion effective August 5, 2024

Library of Congress, Sanborn maps of Hooper, Nebraska

Main Street with rows of utility poles

Main Street, postcard No. A

Men laying cable for Hooper Telephone Co.

MidlandsNet creates local web link

1999-01-12

Nebraska Blue Book (1915), p.454

Nebraska Independent Telephone Association Access Service Catalog - Rate List for Hooper Telephone Company, d/b/a WesTel Systems

2001-12-20

Nebraska Public Service Commission, C-5203, March 2, 2021

Nebraska Secretary of State, biennial report, 1902

Nebraska State Railway Commission, Eighth Annual Report (1915), pp. 245-246

Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report (1943), pp. 312-321

Nebraska State Railway Commission, Thirty-Sixth Annual Report (1943), printed p.320

Nilles transfers to Remsen office of West Iowa Telephone Company

1999-12-16

Peter Eulberg, The History of the Telephone Co. of Remsen - Bell-Enterprise, p. 4

February 26, 1959

Rites Sept. 12 for F. W. Daubendiek - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 1

September 19, 1991

The Hooper Sentinel, December 2, 1965, p. 1

The Hooper Sentinel, February 28, 1901, p. 5

The Hooper Sentinel, July 18, 1901, p. 8

The Hooper Sentinel, June 22, 1944, p. 1

The Hooper Sentinel, March 29, 1962, p. 1

The Hooper Sentinel, November 21, 1963, p. 1

The Hooper Sentinel, October 30, 1902, p. 5

West Iowa hires new plant manager

1997-07-24

West side of Main Street, postcard No. C

West-side street scene, postcard No. 58

WesTel IPTV Customer Formal Notice - Hooper & Uehling Rural 2024

Effective January 1, 2024

WesTel IPTV Customer Formal Notice - Hooper & Uehling Rural 2025

Effective January 1, 2025

WesTel Systems, Community Involvement

Undated; checked October 15, 2026

WesTel Systems: City of Remsen receives SRC plaque - Remsen Bell-Enterprise, p. 10

June 8, 2023; Chamber Coffee held June 2, 2023

Appendix A | the original source packet

The next 23 pages preserve the original October 13, 2026 compilation. Its page numbers restart at 01. Use those appendix numbers when following references from this expanded section.

Appendix pp. 1: Original guide

Appendix pp. 2-5: Organization, Hoffman business profile, construction and 1902 move

Appendix pp. 6-7: Sanborn map comparisons for the first and second offices

Appendix pp. 8-9: Grocery photographs, Hecker property and bank history

Appendix pp. 10: National Register streetscape photograph

Appendix pp. 11-12: Archival inventory and modern 106 North Main parcel record

Appendix pp. 13-16: Operator bids, incorporation, construction and July 1901 connection

Appendix pp. 17: Federal operator record and source-reading notes

Appendix pp. 18-20: Centennial history, printed pages 41-43

Appendix pp. 21-23: Commission interconnection order and historical statistics

The updated timeline and building findings earlier in this edition supply later research. Dates appearing in the original book reproductions are historical source claims; where the contemporary evidence differs, the expanded timeline explains the distinction.

Hooper Telephone Company

Founding, early offices, and the company through the centennial year

What the contemporary newspaper establishes

The February 28, 1901 issue describes organization meetings and articles specifying March 1 as the start of the corporation's legal existence. April 18 confirms the central office would be in C. Hoffman's restaurant. The October 30, 1902 issue identifies Mr. Hoffman's central-office contract and announces the move to a room formerly occupied by Hecker & Son as a restaurant.

Where the early buildings were

Hoffman's 1899 construction reports and January 1901 profile closely match the map change at original block 1, lot 12. A county property record identifies that parcel today as 106 N Main Street, the David Hargens VFW Post #10535 property. This is a strongly supported identification by combining records; the maps do not name Hoffman. His exact telephone room or floor is not established.

How to read the Hecker evidence

Maps locate the grocery at the northeast corner of Main and Fulton, with an exchange at its rear. A 1916 map explicitly labels the telephone exchange east of the bank. Retrospective accounts connect the corner property with Hecker and the bank built in 1914. The original wooden storefront and the later bank are different buildings.

What remains open

Historic 305 Main and current 106 N Main use different numbering. The current address is verified through the parcel record, not by carrying forward a Sanborn number. The disposition of the wooden grocery building is not established. A 1900/1902 discrepancy in accounts of Sanders buying Hecker & Son remains unresolved. An archival inventory identifies reports to request; the reports themselves have not yet been read.

Packet contents: pp. 2-5 contemporary newspaper excerpts; pp. 6-7 Sanborn map comparisons; pp. 8-9 retrospective book evidence; p. 10 historic streetscape; p. 11 archival leads; p. 12 current parcel/address record; pp. 13-16 more 1901 newspaper evidence, including the July connection; p. 17 federal operator record and reading notes; pp. 18-20 full centennial pages 41-43; pp. 21-23 contemporary commission order and statistics. Source images are reproduced or cropped from the saved originals; newspaper search highlighting remains as captured.

Organization reported in February 1901

Higher-magnification captures assembled into one clipping, shown below in reading order with a small overlap.

Telephone Meeting.

The subscribers to the new telephone line held a meeting at the Dodge County Bank parlors last Friday night. Articles of incorporation were presented, discussed and adopted and the project finally put on its feet, although there are several minor matters to attend to before the work of issuing stock will begin. Another meeting was held Tuesday night at the same place when the articles of incorporation were slightly amended in accordance with legal advice and the amended articles finally adopted. The By-laws were read and discussed, such changes as were thought necessary made and then adopted as a whole, after which the following were elected directors for the first

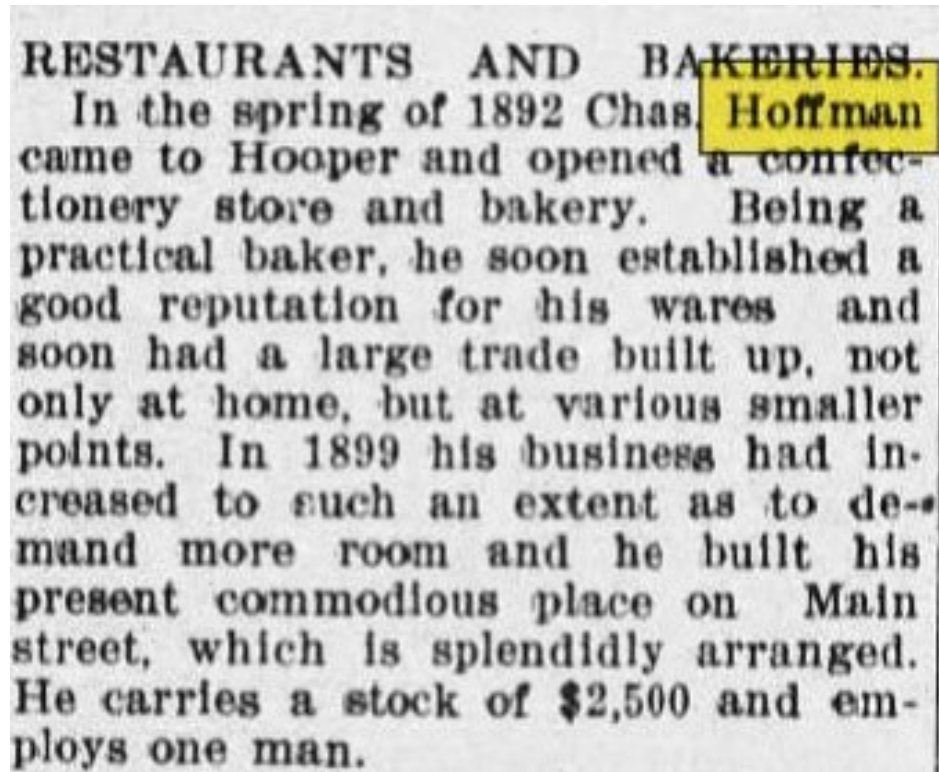
were elected directors for the first year or until the annual meeting in January 1902: T. W. Lyman, Jerry Denslow, M. E. Shipley, E. O. Spielberg, J. Howard Heine, B. Monnich and A. M. Tillman. The articles of incorporation provide that the legal existence of the corporation shall commence March 1st. After the stockholders' meeting closed the directors met and elected the following officers: President, T. W. Lyman; Vice President, B. Monnich; Secretary, J. Howard Heine; Treasurer, Jerry Denslow; Gen. Manager, M. E. Shipley. The directors' meeting then adjourned to meet at the call of the president.

Source: The Hooper Sentinel, February 28, 1901, p. 5, "Telephone Meeting." The report describes adoption and amendment of articles, director/officer elections, and a March 1 commencement provision. It is more precise than treating organization and filing as one undifferentiated date.

[Open the complete newspaper page](#)

Charlie Hoffman's business profile

The account was published before the telephone company's organization.



What it establishes

Charles ("Chas.") Hoffman came to Hooper in spring 1892 and opened a confectionery and bakery. The profile says he built his larger Main Street premises in 1899.

This provides a contemporary bridge from the named business to the 1899 construction notices. It does not identify the later telephone office's exact room or floor.

Source: The Hooper Sentinel, January 3, 1901, p. 9, "Restaurants and Bakeries." Excerpt includes the complete Hoffman paragraph. The bakery's initial 1892 location is not established by this passage.

[Open the complete newspaper page](#)

The Hoffman-Tillman construction

Named construction reports tie Hoffman to a new two-story brick building in 1899.

Hooper and the country tributary to it is enjoying in full measure its share of the prosperity which is visible all around us, and for that reason Hooper is going to whoop her up in the line of buildings this fall. We mentioned in our last issue that Charlie Hoffman had commenced the excavation of the basement for a large two story brick, and now we are informed that A. M. Tillman has decided to move his frame building off from his lot and together with Hoffmen build a brick. It is not yet definitely understood whether he will build a one or two story. If he decides to put up a two story, the second floor over the two store buildings will be arranged for an opera house. The Dodge County Bank has

Louis Stroh commenced laying brick for the foundation of the Hoffman-Tillman building.

July 13 reports excavation for Hoffman's two-story brick building and Tillman's plan to replace his adjoining frame building. July 27 names Louis Stroh laying the foundation of the Hoffman-Tillman building.

Sources: The Hooper Sentinel, July 13, 1899, p. 5 (left; excerpt); July 27, 1899, p. 5 (right; complete construction notice). Together with the maps, these strongly support the lot 12/13 building identification. The newspaper excerpts do not themselves print a lot number.

[July 13, 1899 newspaper page](#)

[July 27, 1899 newspaper page](#)

Why the central office moved in 1902

This account identifies the old operator arrangement and the new premises directly.

In a New Home.
When the Hooper Telephone Company was organized less than two years ago about fifty phones were installed. Since that time eighty more have been put in making a total of one hundred and thirty. This increase in the number of phones has made a corresponding increase in the work at the central office and Mr. Hoffmann, finding his room and time over taxed by the necessities of the system, signified his desire to give up the contract which the board of directors agreed to and hired as a general manager M. E. Shipley, who in addition to his former duties of looking after the construction work, will have charge of the central office which this week will be moved to the room formerly occupied by Hecker & Son as a restaurant. This change will necessitate a cessation of service for a couple of days but everything will be in working order in a few days.

The report states:

The number of telephones had increased from about 50 to 130. Mr. Hoffman wanted to give up his central-office contract as it exceeded his available room and time. General manager M. E. Shipley would take charge.

The destination was a room formerly occupied by Hecker & Son as a restaurant. The paper announced that the move would occur that week, with a brief interruption in service.

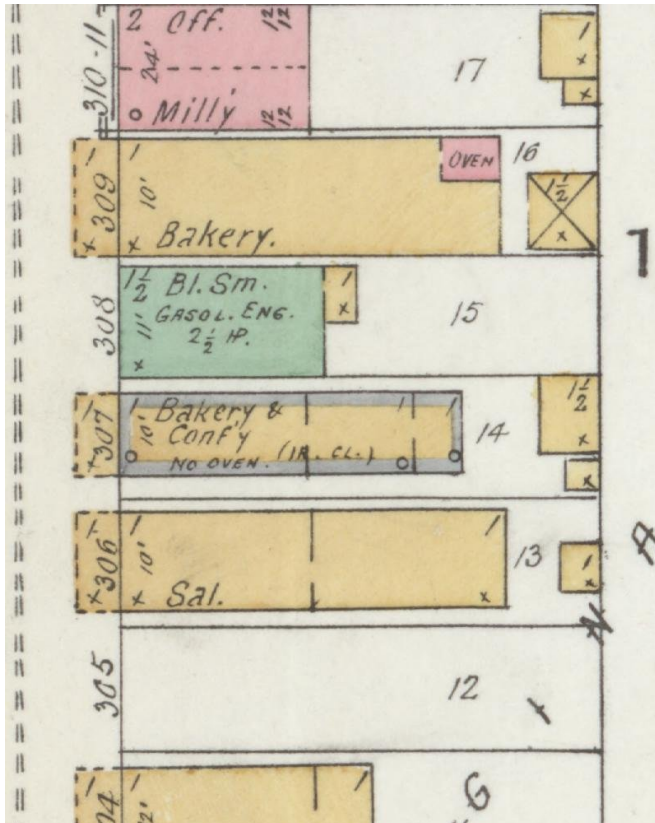
That wording is more exact than saying simply "behind Hecker Grocery."

Source: The Hooper Sentinel, October 30, 1902, p. 5, "In a New Home." Complete article excerpt.

[Open the complete newspaper page](#)

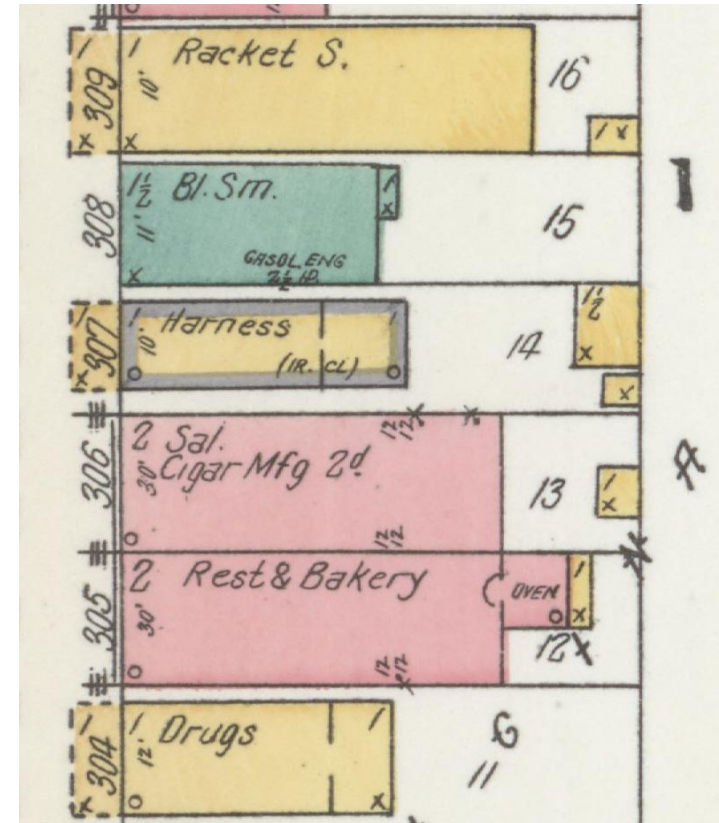
Hoffman premises: the map comparison

Original town block 1, lots 12 and 13, on the east side of Main between Fulton and Elk.



May 1899, sheet 1: Lot 12 is empty; the adjoining lot 13 has a one-story frame saloon. Other bakeries appear elsewhere on this map, so it does not identify Hoffman's original 1892 premises.

[Library of Congress - May 1899 Sanborn map](#)

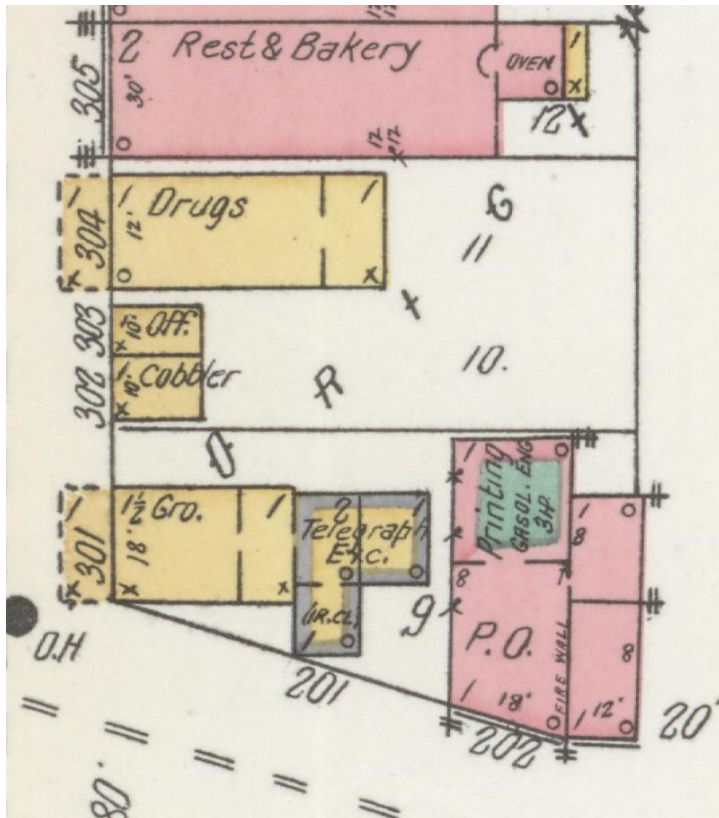


June 1904, sheet 1: A two-story brick restaurant/bakery is at historic map number 305 Main, lot 12; a saloon occupies lot 13. This matches the 1899 construction sequence and 1901 business profile. Owner names are absent.

[Library of Congress - June 1904 Sanborn map](#)

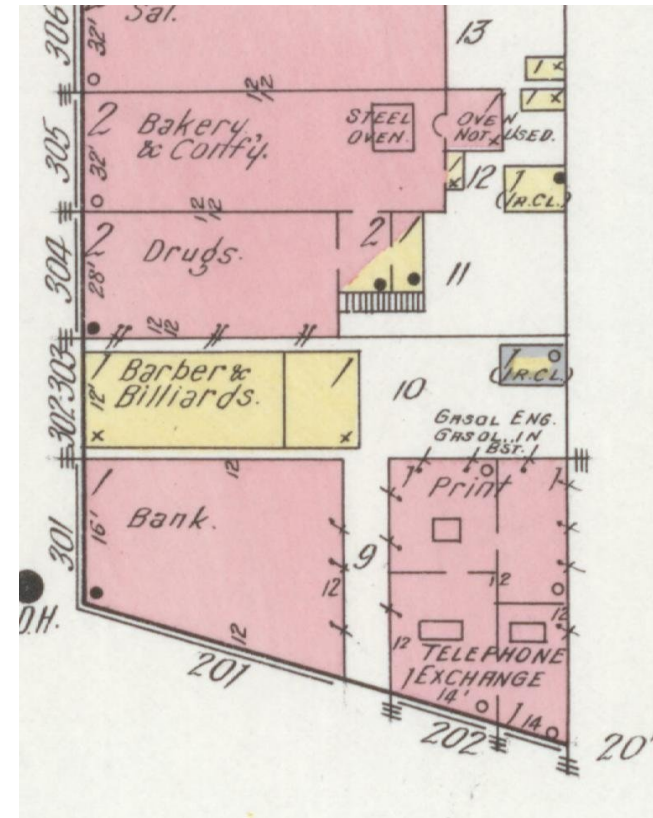
The Hecker site and the later exchange

Northeast corner of Main and Fulton; original block 1, lot 9. Map numbers are historical.



June 1904, sheet 1: The corner grocery is at historic 301 Main. At the rear, the map label reads "Telegraph Exc." That wording is reproduced as printed, without silently changing it to "telephone."

[Library of Congress - June 1904 Sanborn map](#)

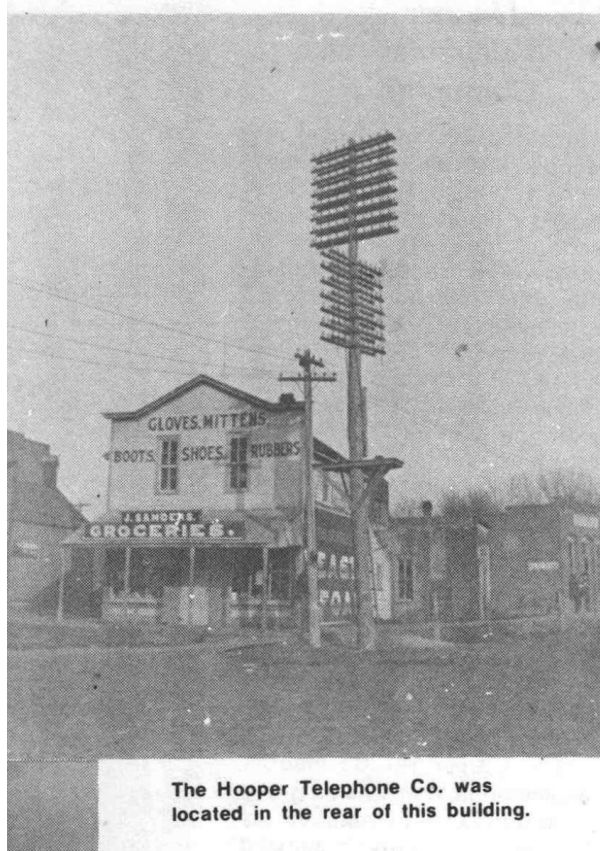


January 1916, sheet 2: The bank occupies the corner; "Telephone Exchange" is explicitly shown immediately east, facing Fulton, at historic 202 Fulton. This confirms the 1916 exchange location.

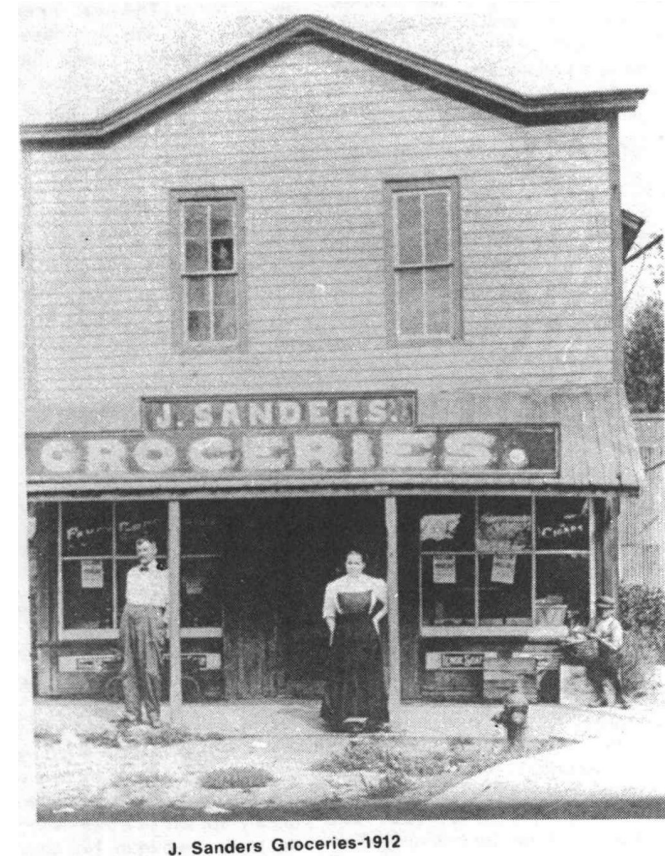
[Library of Congress - January 1916 Sanborn map](#)

Two views of the wooden grocery

Photographs reproduced in the 1976 centennial history; source captions provide different details.



Printed p. 42: The caption identifies the telephone company's office in the rear. It gives no photograph date or street address. The company occupied a room; this does not establish ownership of the whole building.



Printed p. 56: Captioned "J. Sanders Groceries-1912." The distinctive facade visually matches the p. 42 photograph. That comparison is an identification by visual evidence, not an explicit cross-reference in the book.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, Hooper Mrs. Jaycees / Hooper Centennial-Bicentennial Committee, May 1976. User-supplied scans; no public online edition linked.

The Hecker property and the bank

These later accounts help connect the map site to the Hecker name.



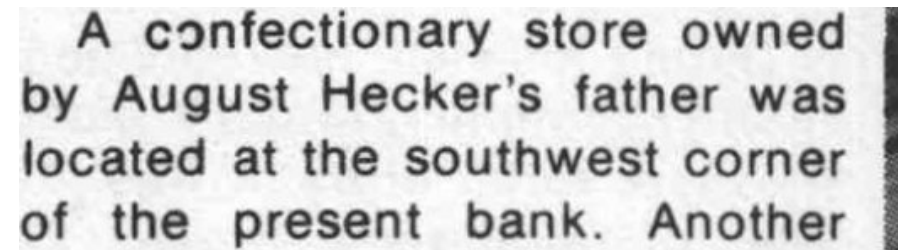
On May 1, 1913 the First National Bank made plans to erect a modern one story building on the corner lot which was purchased from the W. C. Hecker estate.

May 27, 1914

Open house was keep during the afternoon and evening to all who accepted their invitation. Several hundred cards were sent out to people in the community.

W. C. Hecker, Pres

Printed p. 70: Plans on May 1, 1913 for a new one-story First National Bank building on the corner lot purchased from the W. C. Hecker estate; an open house on May 27, 1914.



A confectionary store owned by August Hecker's father was located at the southwest corner of the present bank. Another

Printed p. 168: Laura McGran recalls a confectionery owned by August Hecker's father at the southwest corner of the then-present bank. This is a retrospective recollection, not a deed.

Limits: The records support the Hecker property at the later bank site. They do not establish whether the original wooden grocery was demolished or moved. The book's p. 60 dates Sanders' purchase of the business to 1902; his 1921 biography gives 1900. Neither date should be represented as settled.

Centennial History of Hooper, 1876-1976, Hooper Mrs. Jaycees / Hooper Centennial-Bicentennial Committee, May 1976. User-supplied scans; no public online edition linked.

[Compare Jacob Sanders biography, 1921, volume II, p. 698](#)

Main Street buildings in the historic survey

A streetscape reference for relating the map evidence to the surviving commercial block at the survey date.



Source: Hooper Historic District National Register nomination, photograph 9, Janet Jeffries Spencer, Nebraska State Historical Society. Caption reverse stamped February 29, 1980. The view includes survey property DD06-64 (the double storefront) and DD06-37 (First National Bank at right). The photograph alone does not identify Hoffman's occupancy.

[National Park Service - photographs, image and caption on PDF pp. 17-18](#)

Specific records to request next

The inventory has been examined. The underlying company reports have not yet been read.

Box 714, printed p. 61: Hooper Telephone Company annual reports, 1908-1983. **Box 751, printed p. 76:** Uehling reports, 1910-1912, under Nebraska Telephone ownership; a 1915 Uehling exchange report under Hooper Telephone. This supports ownership by 1915, but does not establish the exact purchase date, price or assets.

B.714 Home Tel. Co. (Inavale), 1918-1935, 1937-1959
 Home Tel. Co. (Lynch), 1944-1956
 Home Tel. Co. (Papillion), 1908-1911
 Homestead Tel. Co. (Geneva), 1908, 1910
 Hooper Tel. Co., 1908-1983
 Horton Tel. Co., 1912

Uehling Tel Exchange, Uehling, NE, 1910-1912
(owned by Nebraska Tel Co, Omaha, and leased
to Lewis P Hanson, Uehling)

Uehling Exchange of the Hooper Tel Co, Hooper,
NE, 1915

Source: Nebraska State Historical Society, RG0009 Public Service Commission, Subgroup Six, Series 3, Annual Reports. The centennial book's 1914 date remains a separate retrospective claim.

[Open the complete RG0009 inventory](#)

The current address: 106 N Main Street

Original town block 1, lot 12; parcel 270071764. Historic Sanborn number: 305 Main.

PDF+PIN: 046+270071764				Dodge County, NE				Sun, 5/31/2026, 8:10 PM				Page 1				
106 N MAIN ST, HOOPER				Deed: DAVID HARGENS VFW POST#10535				Map Area: HOOPER COMM				Checks/Tags:				
				Contract:				Route: 000-000-000				Lister/Date:				
				CID#: 2103-17-4-05010-001-0009				Tax Dist: 5-HOOPER-HOOPER TOWN				Review/Date:				
				DBA:				Plat Page:				Entry Status:				
				MLS: 9000				Subdiv: HOOPER								
Legal:Section: ; Twp: ; Rng: ; Block: 1; Lot: 12; Deeded Acres: 0.000																
LOT 12 BLK 1 HOOPER (MEETINGS)																
Dist TIF Fund: NONE				Neighborhood:				Status: 01 - Improved				Location: 01 - Urban				
School Base: 27-0594				Greenbelt Acres:				Use: 11 - Exempt				City Size: 06 - 800 - 2,500				
Affiliated Code: [EMPTY]				Greenbelt Loss:				Zoning: 03 - Commercial				Lot Size: 00 - None				
Land																
Land Basis	Front	Rear	Side 1	Side 2	R. Lot	SF	Acres	Depth/Unit	EFF/Type	Qual./Land						
Tiered SF																
Tier 1						2,500.00	0.060									
Subtotal						2,500.00	0.060									
Grand Total						2,500.00	0.060									
Street Utilities Zoning Land Use																
Tiered SF None Not Applicable Not Applicable																

Verified parcel identification: Dodge County lists 106 N Main Street, Hooper, as lot 12, block 1, with David Hargens VFW Post #10535 as the named owner. This connects the historic lot to a modern address. The address identification is separate from the inference that Hoffman occupied the bakery shown on the 1904 map.

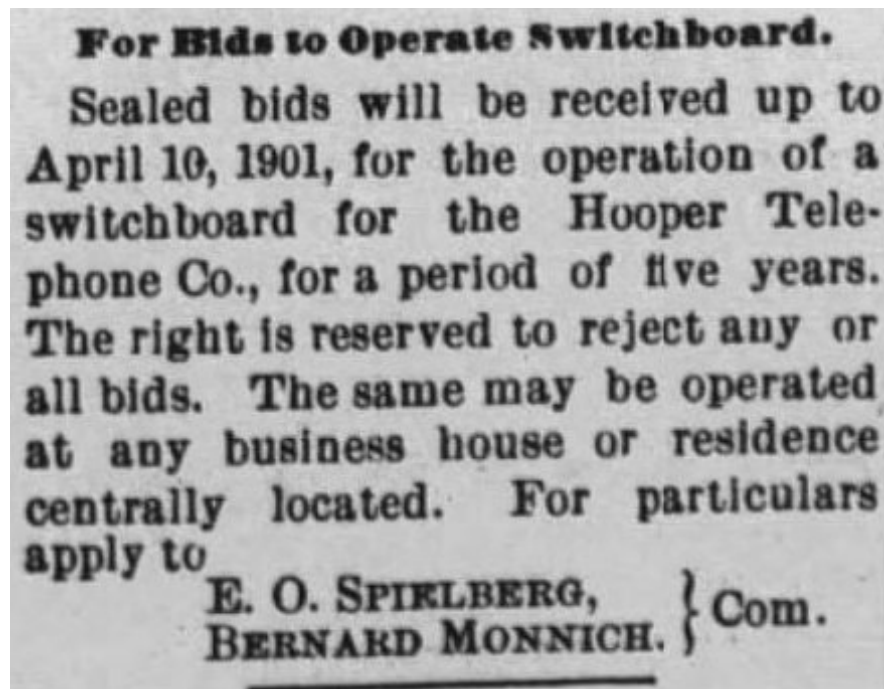
Date caution: The assessor card lists 1910 as the building year. Contemporary newspaper construction accounts and the historic-district survey support 1899. This packet uses the assessor record for parcel and address identification, not to establish the construction year.

Source: Dodge County, Nebraska, property record PDF+PIN 046+270071764, generated May 31, 2026, p. 1; construction-year field on p. 2.

[Open the county property report](#)

Selecting the first central office

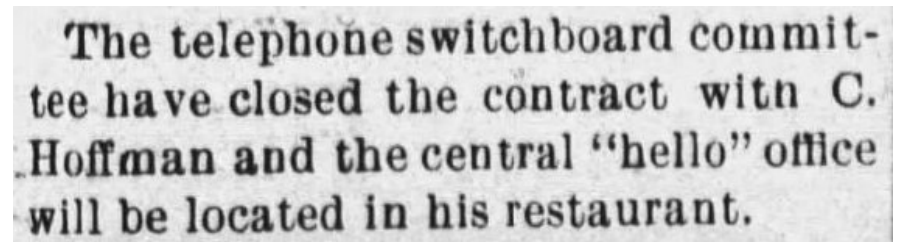
The April notices document the search for an operator and the contract with C. Hoffman.



April 4: Bids were invited through April 10 for five years of switchboard operation, at a centrally located business or residence. The committee named E. O. Spielberg and Bernard Monnich.

Sources: The Hooper Sentinel, April 4, 1901, p. 5, "For Bids to Operate Switchboard" (complete notice); April 18, 1901, p. 5 (complete local-news paragraph).

[April 4, 1901 newspaper page](#)



April 18: The committee had contracted with C. Hoffman. The newspaper explicitly says the central "hello" office would be in his restaurant. This is direct contemporary evidence of the first office location.

[April 18, 1901 newspaper page](#)

What the corporation was authorized to do

Selected excerpts from the published articles; this is not a reproduction of the complete legal notice.

**Articles of Incorporation of the
Hooper Telephone Company.**

Be it known, that we the undersigned, T. W. Lyman, Bernard Monnich, J. Howard Heine, Jerry Denslow, E. O. Spielberg, A. M. Tillman, and M. E. Shipley hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of becoming a body corporate, under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and have made and subscribed the following articles of incorporation:

ARTICLE 1. This corporation shall be known as the "Hooper Telephone Company."

ART. 2. The principal place of transacting the business of this corporation shall be in the village of Hooper, in the County of Dodge and State of Nebraska.

ART. 3. The general nature of the business to be transacted by this corporation shall be the erection of telephone poles, wires, switchboards, instruments and all materials usually employed in connection therewith; in the village of Hooper and the surrounding country and towns; to operate said system and to rent said instruments and the privilege of using the same, to collect

instruments and all materials usually employed in connection therewith; in the village of Hooper and the surrounding country and towns; to operate said system and to rent said instruments and the privilege of using the same, to collect toll therefor, and to acquire and hold by purchase, gift and otherwise all such real-estate and personal property, franchises, and privileges, as may be necessary and desirable to operate such system, and to do generally each and everything usually done by a telephone company.

ART. 4. The authorized capital stock of this corporation shall be \$50,000, divided into shares of \$25. each. At least \$1,000 therefor shall be subscribed, and 50 per cent of which subscription shall be fully paid up on or before March 1st, 1901, the balance to be paid at such time as the board of directors may designate by giving ten days notice to each stockholder.

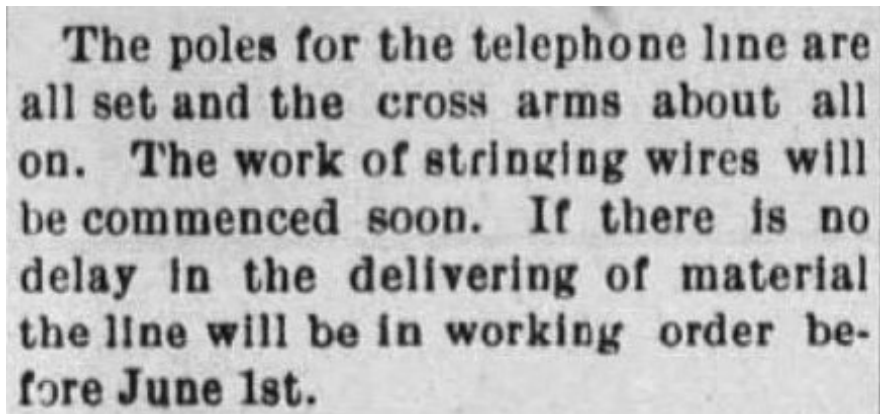
ART. 5. This corporation shall commence business on the first day of March, 1901, and shall continue for a period of fifty years, unless sooner dissolved in the manner provided by law.

Source: The Hooper Sentinel, April 11, 1901, p. 1, "Articles of Incorporation of the Hooper Telephone Company." These excerpts identify the incorporators, principal place of business, powers to build and operate the system, and \$50,000 of authorized capital in \$25 shares. Authorized capital is not the amount actually raised or spent.

[Open the complete newspaper page](#)

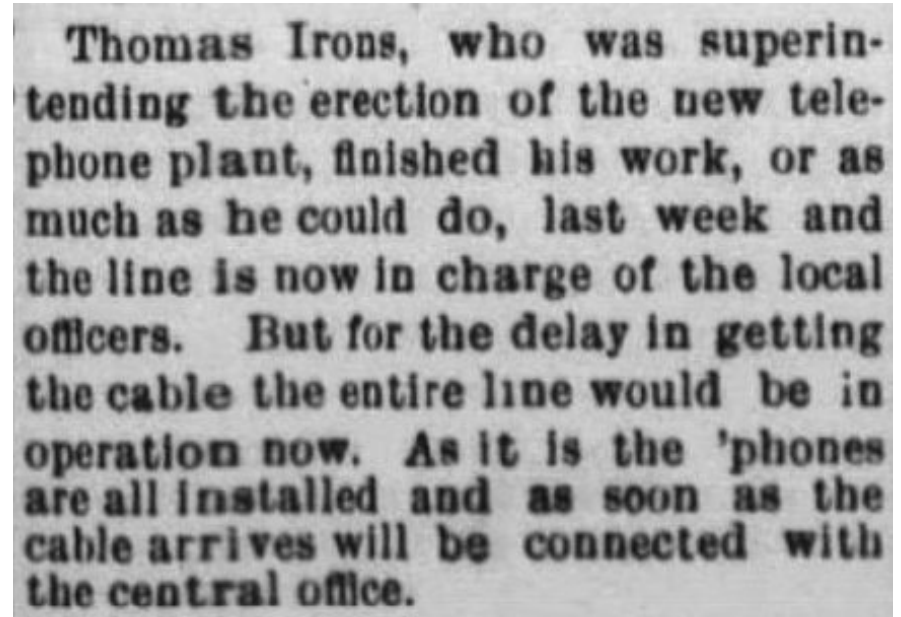
Construction was not an opening date

The system was still being assembled after the corporation had been organized.



The poles for the telephone line are all set and the cross arms about all on. The work of stringing wires will be commenced soon. If there is no delay in the delivering of material the line will be in working order before June 1st.

May 9: Poles were set, crossarms nearly in place, and wire work was expected next. Service before June 1 was a hope, conditional on material arriving. It was not an announcement of a completed opening.



Thomas Irons, who was superintending the erection of the new telephone plant, finished his work, or as much as he could do, last week and the line is now in charge of the local officers. But for the delay in getting the cable the entire line would be in operation now. As it is the 'phones are all installed and as soon as the cable arrives will be connected with the central office.

June 13: Telephones had been installed but the needed cable had not arrived; they were not yet connected to the central office. This is direct evidence that the March 1 corporate start did not mean immediate telephone service.

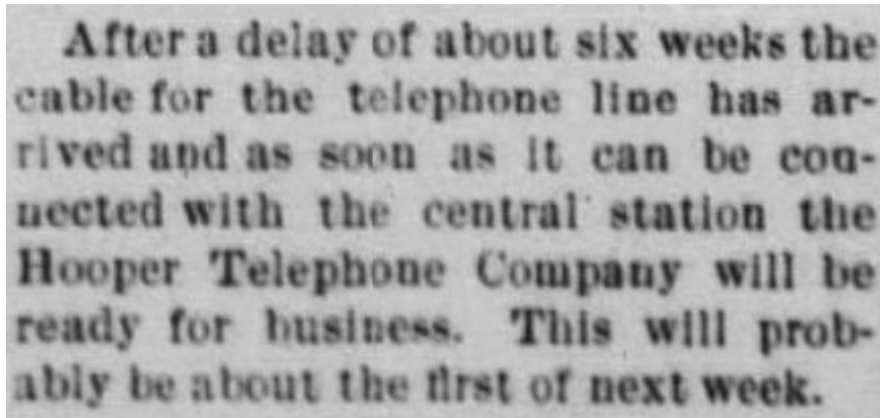
Sources: The Hooper Sentinel, May 9, 1901, p. 5; June 13, 1901, p. 5. Complete local-news paragraphs, cropped from the saved newspaper captures.

[May 9, 1901 newspaper page](#)

[June 13, 1901 newspaper page](#)

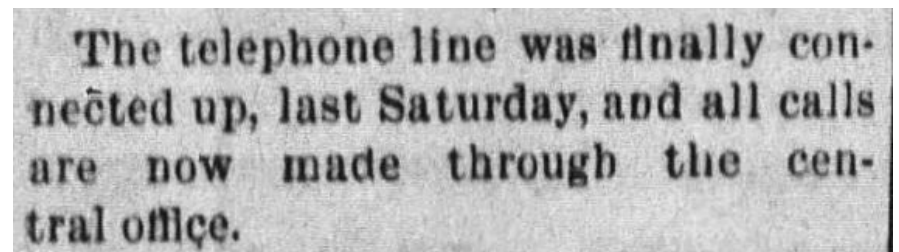
Connected through central: July 13, 1901

The July 18 report identifies the preceding Saturday as the date the line was connected.



After a delay of about six weeks the cable for the telephone line has arrived and as soon as it can be connected with the central station the Hooper Telephone Company will be ready for business. This will probably be about the first of next week.

July 4: After a six-week delay, the cable had arrived. The report expected connection work the following week. This was a progress forecast, not confirmation that central service had begun.



The telephone line was finally connected up, last Saturday, and all calls are now made through the central office.

July 18: The paper reported that the line was finally connected the preceding Saturday and that calls were now made through the central office. That Saturday was **July 13, 1901**. The report does not identify the first caller.

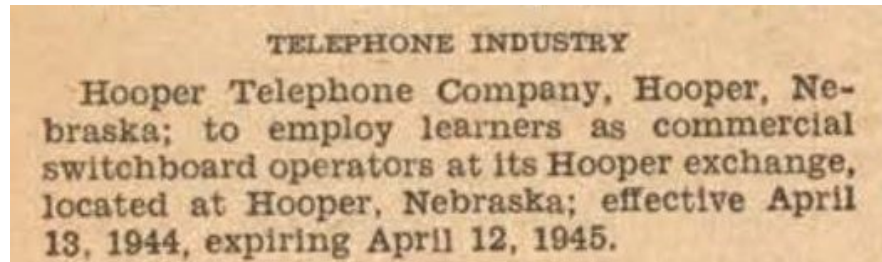
Sources: The Hooper Sentinel, July 4, 1901, p. 8; July 18, 1901, p. 8. Complete local-news paragraphs. The precise July 13 date is a calendar calculation from the contemporary report, not a date printed numerically in the paragraph.

[July 4, 1901 newspaper page](#)

[July 18, 1901 newspaper page](#)

Operators and the later company record

The following three pages reproduce the complete centennial book pages 41-43.



Federal Register, April 18, 1944, pp. 4111-4112: Hooper Telephone received a certificate for learner commercial switchboard operators at its Hooper exchange, effective April 13, 1944-April 12, 1945. The general notice on p. 4111 explains the rules allowed learner wages below the normal statutory minimum. It names no individual trainees or actual wages.

[Official Federal Register issue \(PDF p. 50 is printed p. 4112\)](#)

How to read the centennial pages

The 1976 account records the 1920 common-battery switchboard, later managers, wartime rebuilding, the 1944 flood, Uehling dial conversion in 1949 and Hooper dial conversion on **November 19, 1963**. The operators pictured on p. 42 are **Twila Linstadt and Alta Miller in 1955**; they are not identified as the 1944 flood operators.

Important differences: The February 1901 newspaper names T. W. Lyman as elected president, whereas the book names E. O. Spielberg. The book dates the 1944 flood June 9; contemporary reports establish Sunday, June 11. Its fourteen-day service interruption also differs from the newspapers' restoration reports. The p. 42 portrait's 1899 Hooper manager caption should not be used to move the company's founding before 1901. These are original historical pages, not silently corrected transcriptions.

Further limits: The book distinguishes Hooper dial service in 1963 from a further "direct dialing" change in 1965, without specifying long-distance service. Its rural underground/private-line project is described as nearing completion in 1976, not already complete.

[June 15, 1944 contemporary flood report](#)

[June 22, 1944 service-restoration report](#)

Hooper Telephone Company

At the annual meeting of the Hooper Telephone Company held in 1910 at Tilson's Opera House a report by the secretary showed the company was in prosperous condition. There was considerable discussion over the question as to the rate that should be charged in the future for farm and residence phones in town. The Board had fixed the price at \$1.25 for the farm lines and \$1.00 for the city, but the farmers thought they should not be charged more. It was finally decided to let the directors check and see what arrangements had been made in other localities. The board elected for the coming year was M. E. Shipley, W. C. Hartung, David Brown, M. A. Uehling, Herman Meyer and Frank Liston.

The Hooper Tel. Co. had its beginning in 1901 when a group of progressive citizens in the Hooper community organized and founded the Hooper Tel. Co. The newly formed company was incorporated in February 1901 with the following officers and directors in charge. E. O. Spielberg, Pres. Bernard Monnich, Vice Pres. J. Howard Heine, Secretary. Jerry Denslow Treas. T.W. Lyman and A. M. Tillman, directors. M. E. Shipley Manager. Treas. Jerry Denslow received a salary of \$1.00 per year.

The original phase of business was a small office in the Charlie Hoffman restaurant and bakery. In Oct., 1902 a 100 line switch board was purchased and installed in a room back of the Hecker Grocery Store.

A 100 line switchboard was purchased and installed. The location is now the First National Bank building. The company also purchased 50 telephones which were installed in the town of Hooper. Later some farmers lines were added to the system, but as more and more money was needed for the extension of the lines, the company made a ruling that anyone who subscribed for telephone service had to purchase 3 shares of stock in the company. In addition the company had to make a loan of \$800.00 for the purchase of material and equipment.

In 1902 the company voted to connect with the Farmers Tel. Co. and the Fremont Tel. Co. The managers salary was \$65.00 per month and the secretary received \$75.00 per month.



Laying Telephone cable in early 1900's

In 1904 the stockholders meeting was held in the Tilson's Opera House with 90 stockholders present. The following were the officers and directors. E. O. Spielberg, Pres. H. Meyer, Vice Pres. J. H. Heine, Sec'y. T. W. Lyman, Treas. M. E. Shipley, M. A. Uehling, Bernard Monnich, directors. M.E. Shipley was also manager. A toll line was also connected with the Arlington Co. during 1904.

In 1905 the managers salary was \$85.00 per month. The secretary received \$100.00 per month and the rental was \$1.25 per month, per phone.

In 1906 David Brown became president of the company, H. Meyer was Vice Pres. J. H. Heine Sec'y. and M. E. Shipley was manager. The telephone company continued to grow during the years of 1907 to 1914, when 200 members were present at the stockholders meeting and M.A. Uehling became Pres. J.H. Windhusen, Vice Pres. Wm. Meyer, Sec'y. W. C. Hartung, Treas. M.E. Shipley continued as Mgr. for the company. In 1914 the Hooper Tel. Co. also purchased the Uehling Tel. Exchange from the Nebraska Tel. Co.

In 1919 a business phone was \$2.75 residence phone \$2.25 and a rental of \$2.00 was charged for a rural telephone. In 1922 the total assets of the company were \$89,645.10. A new switchboard had been purchased in 1920 in order to convert the Hooper exchange to common battery service. The officers at that time were; Wm. J. Dau, Pres. C. D. Phillips Vice Pres. N. E. Shaffer, Sec'y. J. H. Windhusen, Treas. M.E. Shipley was manager of the company. The company continued to grow and expand until 1932 when the country became involved in a great depression. There was also a severe sleet storm in the Hooper area which caused considerable expense for the company.

The general business level began to recede from 1932 to 1939. Many of the company subscribers were unable to pay for the service, the company lost over 160 phones which were taken out of service during a 4 year period. As a consequence, the revenue had declined to a point where the wages of the employees had to be reduced also. The linemans wages were

reduced to \$90.00 per month and the operators wages to \$35.00 per month.

In October 1940 Mr. Shipley resigned as manager of the Company because of ill health. Mr. Harold Maxon was hired to continue as manager. In December 1940 the Hooper area was again hit by a severe sleet storm, which put an additional financial strain upon the company.

In 1942 Mr. Maxon resigned as manager and Mr. Wyman Wilde was hired as manager. As the United States became involved in World War II Material and Man Power shortage became very acute, trained personnel was not available as many of the experienced men had been drafted into the armed forces. The Board of Directors decided to sell the Hooper and Uehling exchange to the West Iowa Telephone Co. in Remsen, Iowa.

The West Iowa Tel. Co. went immediately to work by sending several crews to Hooper to place new cable in town and north of town, also a new cable was laid to Winslow. Miles of new wire were added to the plant and new poles set. New telephones were added to the system.

On June 9, 1944 a devastating flood hit Hooper and Uehling community which also resulted in a great setback for the telephone company in rehabilitating the Hooper and Uehling exchanges. Flood waters had ruined much of the central office equipment, regular service had to be suspended for 14 days. An emergency phone station was set up on the hill south of Hooper to re-establish communication with long distance and neighboring towns. New equipment for the switchboard had to be flown from Rochester, New York, to Omaha and there it was picked up by car to be brought to Hooper and installed. A carload of poles was lost in the flood and had to be replaced. Additional crews were sent to Hooper from Iowa to help in the rebuilding of the outside plant. The local personnel including the office workers and the operators almost worked around the clock to assist in cleaning up after the flood waters receded. It would be neglectful here not to mention the fact that the operators on duty during the period when the flood waters raced into Hooper and entered the telephone office, stayed on the job to spread the alarm, until they were carried out of the tel. office. The

operator on duty at that time was: Anna Wagner.

The company's lineman, Joe Tillman, who retired in 1957, was one of the most faithful and conscientious employees of the company. He too worked practically around the clock to help restore service after the flood went through the town.

In 1944 the telephone company lost one of its valued members and director, Norman E. Shaffer. He carried the financial burden of the company for many years.

At the directors meeting in December 1944, Bertha Monnich, was appointed director, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Norman E. Shaffer.

After the flood damage had been repaired, the rebuilding of the Hooper and Uehling exchanges continued. Additional equipment was installed at Hooper in the central office for future growth and for more private line service. By 1947 over 800 miles of line wire and many carloads of poles had been replaced. Miles of additional cable had also been installed.

In 1948 another pioneer in the telephone business passed away. He was W. H. Daubendiek, secretary of the company and who was also the founder of the West Iowa Telephone Co.

F. W. Daubendiek, of Remsen, Iowa, who had been with W. H. Daubendiek in the telephone business since 1923, was named Secretary-Treasurer and General Mgr. of the Hooper Tel. Co. Bertha Monnich was elected Assist. Sec'y-Treas. and J. H. Windhusen was the President.

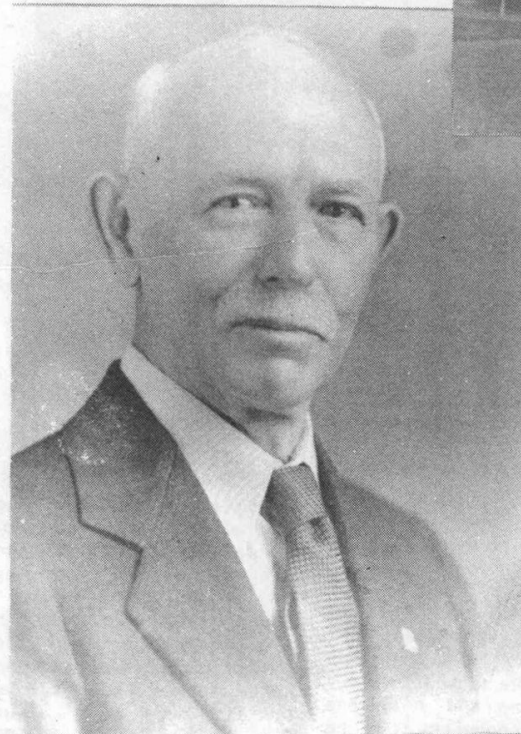
In 1949 the Uehling exchange was converted from the manual to dial service. During the same year the Hooper and Uehling communities were hit by another sleet storm. The company had to borrow more money to pay for some large expenditures on account of street paving where the telephone cables had to be moved. Lines had to be moved for highway widening projects and cable had to be installed between the airbase and the coaxial cable of the Bell Telephone Co.

At the stockholders meeting in 1950 the following officers were elected: J. H. Windhusen, Pres. Bertha Monnich, Vice Pres. F. W. Daubendiek Secretary-Treasurer. Bertha Monnich, Assistant Sec'y-Treas.

At the stockholders meeting in April 1950 the company lost one of its valued and esteemed directors Mr. John Havekost passed away. He was one of the



1955 Switchboard operators of Hooper Telephone Co. Twila Linstadt and Alta Miller



M.E. Shipley

Manager of Hooper Telephone Co.

members of the board who promoted the rehabilitation of the company in 1943.

In the spring of 1960 the Hooper community had to battle flood waters once again, however, the damage was light as compared with the big flood of 1944. During 1960 the officers, directors and personnel were sadden once again when in August of that year the company lost its president, J. H. Windhusen. Mr. Windhusen had been with the company almost from the beginning and stayed with the company until his death. He was always ready to lend a helping hand as he was



The Hooper Telephone Co. was located in the rear of this building.

known by his fellow men. He also contributed a great deal to improve the telephone service during the difficult years of the thirties and forties.

In 1962, Gen. Mgr. F. W. Daubendiek, unfolded his plans to the board of the directors that the Hooper exchange would be converted from manual to dial operation. This would require, a



W.H. Daubendiek Manager, Hooper Telephone 1899
President Iowa State Bank, since 1933
President Jefferson Telephone Co. since 1939
Secretary Hooper Telephone Co. since 1943

new building, all new central office equipment and all new telephones. It was estimated that the conversion would run over \$100,000.00. The new dial building was erected a block and a half from the old office east of main street. It was specially designed so that future flood waters can not enter the building ever. The havoc, which the 1944 flood raised was still very much on Mr. Daubendiek's mind as he was in Hooper when the flood water struck the community. The new dial equipment was put into operation November 19, 1963.

In 1965 direct dialing was inaugurated in Hooper, there was also at the same time new dial equipment installed in Uehling, in a new building.

At the directors meeting in December 1967, Gen Mgr. F. W. Daubendiek was pleased to announce to the board members that the number of telephones in service had reached over 1000 for the first time in the company's history. During the same year, plans were initiated for the installation of an all underground, private line rural tel. system. The completion of this program is about to be realized in 1976. Very large sums of additional money had to be invested to make this dream possible. The total assets of the company are now well over \$730,000.00 or to put it another way, it all adds up to over \$700.00 per telephone connected to the Hooper Tel. System. It may now be said, that the Hooper telephone system, will classify with the most up-to-date telephone companies in the USA.

The present officers, directors and personnel of the company are:

Officers: Clark Warne, Pres.,
Bertha Monnich Vice Pres., F. W.
Daubendiek, Secretary-
Treasurer, Bertha Monnich.
Assist. Sec'y-Treas.

Directors: R. W. Fitzsimmons,
Clark Warne, Wm. Hargens, Bertha Monnich, F. W. Daubendiek, Letha Leonard, W. C. Daubendiek and Carlene Palm.

Personnel: Ronald Henrich, Service Mgr., Perry Keithley, Service-man, Bertha Monnich, Bookkeeper, Lois Moeller, Cashier, Irma Peters, Clerk.



Business and Industry

Town Of Hooper

According to the History of the State of Nebraska, Volume I, A.T. Adreas, Proprietor, published in 1882 by the Western Historical Company, Hooper was a brisk little village of 200 people containing two elevators, four general stores, one hardware establishment, one hotel, a post office, one agricultural warehouse, one brick yard, a drug store, photographic gallery, barber shop, harness shop, shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, one restaurant, a saloon and butcher shop. There was a fine school district, a flourishing Masonic Lodge and two churches. The

Presbyterian Church had a building which was erected in 1879 in union with the Methodist society. This brick building was valued at \$2,000. These two societies were formed in 1879, and numbered together with over 30 members. Rev. Joel Warner was pastor of the Presbyterians with Rev. J. Charles of the Methodists.

Another viewpoint of the Village of Hooper in 1882 is taken from a letter to the editor of the Fremont Weekly Herald, dated February 27, 1882.

As one strolls through the principal streets and into the various houses of business that make up our small city, he can but note the air of activity and prosperity that pervades all; smiling faces and cheery words greet him everywhere. The ready sale of building lots and the sound of the builder's hammer, the filling and re-filling of stores, the large shipments of grain and stock by our merchants all proclaim our onward march to wealth and greatness. Our doctors alone are idle and depressed, for with the exception of a few cases of vaccination, perfect health prevails.

Our hotel has just been refit-

The 1913 order for telephone connections

Formal Complaint No. 214: Hooper Telephone Company v. Nebraska Telephone Company.

FORMAL COMPLAINT NO. 214

Hooper Telephone Company, Complainant,
vs.
Nebraska Telephone Company, Defendant.

ORDER

On this 15th day of September, 1913, this cause came on for hearing, at the District Court Room in the city of Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska, pursuant to order of the Commission, the complainant appearing by Courtright & Sidner, its attorneys, and the defendant appearing by E. M. Morsman, Jr., its attorney. The Commission having heard the evidence and the arguments and the cause having been submitted by the parties, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises, finds for the complainant and that the defendant should be ordered to connect the joint toll line owned

Printed p. 158, excerpt: The September 15 hearing took place in Fremont. The commission found for Hooper. **Printed p. 159, right:** Its September 20 order required connections at Fremont and near Hooper, divided toll revenue under Nebraska law, and set an October 1 effective date. That is not proof of the date construction was completed.

NEBRASKA STATE RAILWAY COMMISSION 159

by Hooper Telephone Company and Fremont Telephone Company with defendant's switchboard and exchange at Fremont, Nebraska, and continue the same in service for toll business, and that defendant should furnish toll service with the exchange of complainant whenever there may be any toll line connection available therefor, and that defendant should connect its toll line now passing through or near Hooper, Nebraska, with the exchange of the complainant at Hooper, and furnish toll service thereon; that the expense of making said connection with complainant's exchange at Hooper should, in accordance with the general custom prevalent with reference thereto, be paid by the defendant; that the revenue arising from such toll business between the exchanges of the complainant and the defendant and other exchanges should be divided in accordance with chapter 79 of the Session Laws of Nebraska of 1913.

IT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED AND ORDERED by this Commission that the defendant connect its switchboard and exchange with the telephone toll pole line and circuit heretofore in operation between the Hooper exchange of complainant and the Fremont exchange of Fremont Telephone Company, and keep the same in service for toll business to all points in the state of Nebraska reached by the toll lines of the defendant and its connections; that defendant furnish toll connections and service within the state of Nebraska with the exchange of the complainant whenever there may be any toll line connection available therefor; that defendant shall at its own expense connect its toll line now passing through or near Hooper, Nebraska, with the exchange of the complainant at Hooper, Nebraska, and furnish toll service thereon within the state of Nebraska, and that the parties divide the revenue arising from such toll business in accordance with chapter 79 of the Laws of Nebraska of 1913. This order shall become effective on the 1st day of October, 1913.

To each of the findings of fact and to each of the orders of the Commission herein mentioned the defendant separately excepts.

Made and entered at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 20th day of September, A. D., 1913.

NEBRASKA STATE RAILWAY COMMISSION,

HENRY T. CLARKE, JR., Chairman.

Attest: A. B. ALLEN, Secretary.

[Seal]

Source: Nebraska State Railway Commission, Sixth Annual Report to the Governor, year ending November 30, 1913 (published 1914), pp. 158-159. The Supreme Court affirmed the order on May 15, 1914, in 96 Neb. 245-262. The interconnection case is separate from the Uehling exchange purchase.

Identifying Hooper in the 1913 table

Printed p. 506: the company name and accounting columns.

Telephone Companies

NAME OF COMPANY	Location	Book Cost of Construction	Total Assets	Capital Stock	Bonds and Bills Payable	Surplus	Total Liabilities
Grant Telephone Co.....	Grant.....	\$2,500.00	\$3,085.00	\$2,500.00		\$585.00	\$3,085.00
Guide Rock Telephone Co..	Guide Rock..	5,650.00	7,700.00	7,700.00			7,700.00
Hamilton County Far. Tel. Co.	Aurora.....	67,287.04	77,307.22	38,910.00		37,481.94	77,307.22
Hardy Telephone Co.....	Hardy.....	18,855.11	14,271.35	10,000.00		4,268.98	14,271.35
Harrison & Pleasant Ridge Telephone Company.....	Harrison ²						
Harvard Telephone Co.....	Harvard.....	27,144.86	30,735.01	11,820.00		18,771.26	30,735.01
Hastings Ind. Tel. Co.....	Hastings.....	144,507.07	155,393.67	96,200.00	\$24,750.00	19,725.75	155,393.67
Havana Telephone Co.....	Indianola.....	17,400.00	23,128.79	15,000.00		8,128.79	23,128.79
Hay Springs Tel. Exchange.	Hay Springs	1,300.00	1,415.00	1,415.00			1,415.00
Hazard Telephone Co.....	Hazard.....	4,582.79	5,255.74	3,100.00	200.00	1,727.71	5,255.74
Hendley Switchboard Co.....	Hendley.....	1,281.93	1,500.00	1,500.00			1,500.00
Herman Telephone Co.....	Herman.....	6,038.00	9,596.19	6,000.00		3,153.37	9,596.19
Hershey Telephone Co.....	Hershey.....	4,610.00	5,900.00	3,230.00	798.00	1,772.00	5,900.00
Hickman Telephone Co.....	Hickman.....	5,725.94	6,715.09	6,075.00		542.49	6,715.09
Highline Mutual Tel. Co.....	Stamford.....	1,702.63	1,750.00	1,750.00			1,750.00
Holbrook Central Tel. Ass'n	Holbrook.....	1,560.89	1,995.08	1,200.00		795.08	1,995.08
Holbrook-Hendley Tel. Co.	Holbrook.....	1,000.00	1,840.00	1,840.00			1,840.00
Hooper Telephone Co.....	Hooper.....	40,292.79	40,987.24	22,987.50	3,350.00	14,136.74	40,987.24
Hoskins Independent Tel. Co.	Hoskins ²						
Humphrey Telephone Co.....	Humphrey.....	34,036.96	36,481.57	30,150.00	2,800.00	3,425.54	36,481.57
Huntley & Alma Tel. Co.....	Huntley.....	539.90	646.00	646.00			646.00
Huntley & Mill Creek Tel. Co.	Huntley.....	900.00	1,053.00	850.00		203.00	1,053.00
Indian Creek Tel. Co.....	Red Cloud..	930.00	1,100.23	930.00		170.23	1,100.23
Interstate Telephone Co....	Wilsonville..	8,200.00	9,247.17	9,000.00		247.17	9,247.17
Jack Morrow Flats Tel. Co.	North Platte	1,325.00	1,492.37	1,400.00		92.37	1,492.37
Jackson Independent Tel. Co.	Jackson.....	1,085.00	1,749.00			1,749.00	1,749.00
Kearney County Ind. Tel. Co.	Norman.....	16,404.71	17,845.61	18,080.00	1,125.69	3,368.47	17,845.61
Kearney Telephone Co.....	Kearney.....	110,520.72	157,350.16	89,650.00	60,000.00	5,568.72	157,350.16
Kenesaw Telephone Co.....	Kenesaw.....	14,743.30	16,049.17	9,925.00		6,124.17	16,049.17
Keya Paha & Brown County Telephone Co.....	Springview..	2,588.00	3,968.00	3,000.00	200.00	768.00	3,968.00
Kinkaid Telephone Co.....	Ericson.....	200.00	287.00	240.00		22.00	287.00
Kiowa Telephone Co.....	Morrill.....	550.00	625.00	575.00			625.00
Kirtley Telephone Co.....	Kirtley, Wyo	610.00	610.00	610.00			610.00
Klopping's Telephone Exch.	Wynot ²						
Lawrence Telephone Co.....	Lawrence....	12,395.61	15,932.87	10,000.00	2,900.00	3,032.87	15,932.87
Leigh Independent Tel. Co.	Leigh.....	8,463.03	9,200.00	7,600.00	200.00	1,327.62	9,200.00
Liberty Independent Tel. Co.	Liberty.....	5,765.00	6,516.95	5,000.00		1,516.95	6,516.95
Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co.....	Lincoln.....	6,455,757.92	7,264,413.77	4,524,989.17	1,376,600.00	968,722.55	7,264,413.77

¹ Deficit.

² Report not filed and company reported to Attorney General for prosecution.

³ Included in miles of wire.

Hooper Telephone Co. appears between Holbrook-Hendley Tel. Co. and Hoskins Independent Tel. Co. The following packet page continues the same table; Hooper is row 150. These are published extracts of company reports, not the archived original returns.

Reporting period: The introductory note on printed p. 376 states the year ending June 30, 1913, unless otherwise noted. No different period is marked for Hooper.

NOTE—Except as otherwise noted, all information contained in the following pages is taken from the annual reports made by the several companies to the Commission for the year ending June 30, 1918.

Hooper: 647 instruments in 1913

Printed p. 507: the continuation of the table, Hooper row 150.

Telephone Companies

No.	Gross Earnings	Operating Expenses	Net Operating Income	Rate of Div. (%)	Dividends Paid	Interest Paid	New Construction During Year	No. of Stockholders	Farm Subscribers	City Subscribers	Total Instruments Installed	Miles of Wire	Feet of Cable
133	\$1,082.00	\$555.00	\$527.00	...	...	...	...	7	88	35	123	20	2,900
134	2,840.00	1,920.00	920.00	10	\$770.00	...	...	7	180	105	235	195	840
135	28,276.65	24,865.54	3,411.11	...	...	\$18.75	\$2,228.00	1,206	877	961	2,122	1,338	25,882
136	4,573.40	2,628.59	1,944.81	12	1,200.00	...	729.37	59	228	126	354	187	4,330
138	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
138	9,084.61	5,494.98	3,589.63	...	709.20	43.48	646.77	109	350	269	619	453	8,095
139	31,762.44	16,961.74	14,800.70	7	6,730.50	1,865.02	831.46	1	130	1,069	1,199	702	100,857
140	4,045.64	3,205.75	839.89	5	750.00	...	...	23	225	81	306	554	900
141	1,705.00	1,550.00	155.00	...	...	...	...	1	...	70	70	12	1,640
142	1,900.95	1,141.25	759.70	8	254.00	...	578.93	76	110	27	137	119	...
143	1,063.95	962.84	101.61	...	...	...	133.95	3	148	33	171	10	240
144	6,124.99	3,665.11	2,459.88	20	1,200.00	...	90.00	112	260	66	326	453	16
145	2,406.00	1,854.00	1,052.00	...	...	90.00	120.00	30	105	48	153	74	...
146	2,731.42	985.93	1,745.49	...	950.00	63.00	575.94	98	122	27	149	67	...
147	466.00	183.66	282.34	18	315.00	...	52.00	34	59	...	50	75	...
148	1,601.42	1,575.39	26.03	...	...	...	363.39	23	6	62	68	46	200
149	258.00	168.50	89.50	...	...	...	...	46	46	...	46	40	...
150	11,190.69	6,368.00	4,822.69	6	1,389.25	195.90	2,619.59	271	418	229	647	945	5,930
151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
152	9,893.08	6,114.31	3,778.77	...	2,107.00	263.03	779.00	75	321	233	554	667	4,460
153	84.00	79.00	5.00	...	...	...	...	16	22	1	23	12	...
154	254.51	489.82	1235.31	...	...	...	...	17	37	...	37	33	...
155	455.28	421.04	34.24	...	...	...	63.00	56	57	...	57	76	...
156	2,563.09	2,030.59	532.50	7	630.00	...	...	8	179	74	253	184	1,000
157	125.82	105.80	20.02	...	...	...	...	14	17	...	17	26	...
158	805.50	681.26	124.24	...	...	...	...	6	2	42	44	20	135
159	5,205.35	5,003.96	201.39	...	...	50.95	135.78	230	366	56	422	400	1,160
160	27,209.09	14,931.33	12,277.76	...	246.00	3,706.15	4,629.13	83	393	1,152	1,545	1,350	21,069
161	4,859.69	2,401.56	2,458.13	8	794.00	45.40	100.00	71	161	148	309	306	2,169
162	912.00	452.00	460.00	...	...	20.00	...	120	46	...	46	103	...
163	240.00	230.00	10.00	...	...	...	...	24	24	2	226	20	...
164	72.00	72.00	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	...	10	21	...
165	50.00	50.00	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	18	...
166	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
167	5,845.66	3,351.46	2,494.20	10	1,000.00	174.00	...	10	254	127	381	298	3,000
168	4,371.87	3,307.37	1,064.50	...	...	45.23	363.03	29	103	125	228	127	1,870
169	2,351.80	2,141.80	210.00	...	...	...	...	189	300	...	300	235	200
170	1,045,322.63	817,902.17	227,420.46	...	156,787.60	131,429.00	1,573,802.99	1,510	...	...	41,401	99,182	...

Row 150: 418 farm subscribers, 229 city subscribers, 647 total instruments installed and 271 stockholders. The company reported 945 miles of wire and 5,930 feet of cable. Wire mileage is not roadway or pole-line mileage.

Source: Nebraska State Railway Commission, Sixth Annual Report to the Governor, year ending November 30, 1913 (published 1914), telephone-company table pp. 506-507. The p. 376 note establishes that these company figures cover the year ending June 30, 1913.

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