

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

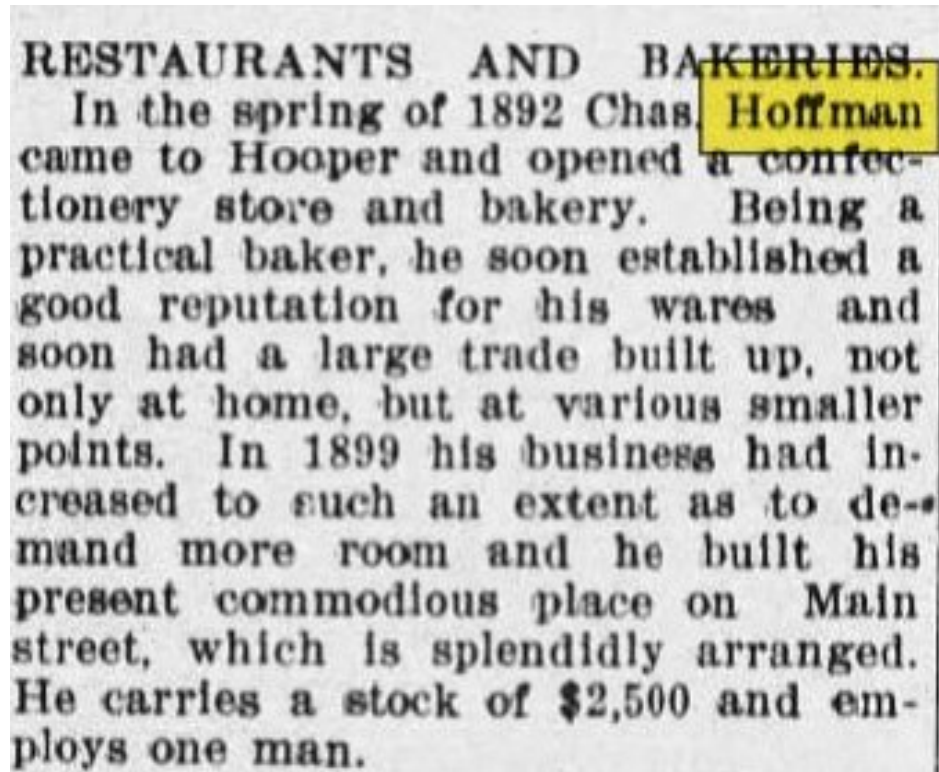
were elected directors for the first year or until the annual meeting in January 1902: T. W. Lyman, Jerry Denslow, M. E. Shipley, E. O. Spielberg, J. Howard Heine, B. Monnich and A. M. Tillman. The articles of incorporation provide that the legal existence of the corporation shall commence March 1st. 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.

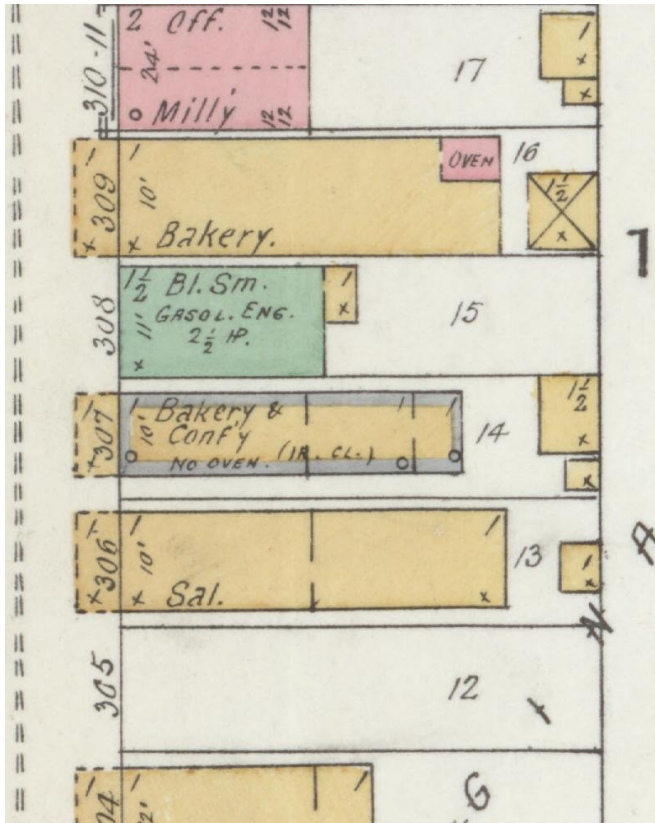
That wording is more exact than saying simply "behind Hecker Grocery."

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

[Open the complete newspaper page](#)

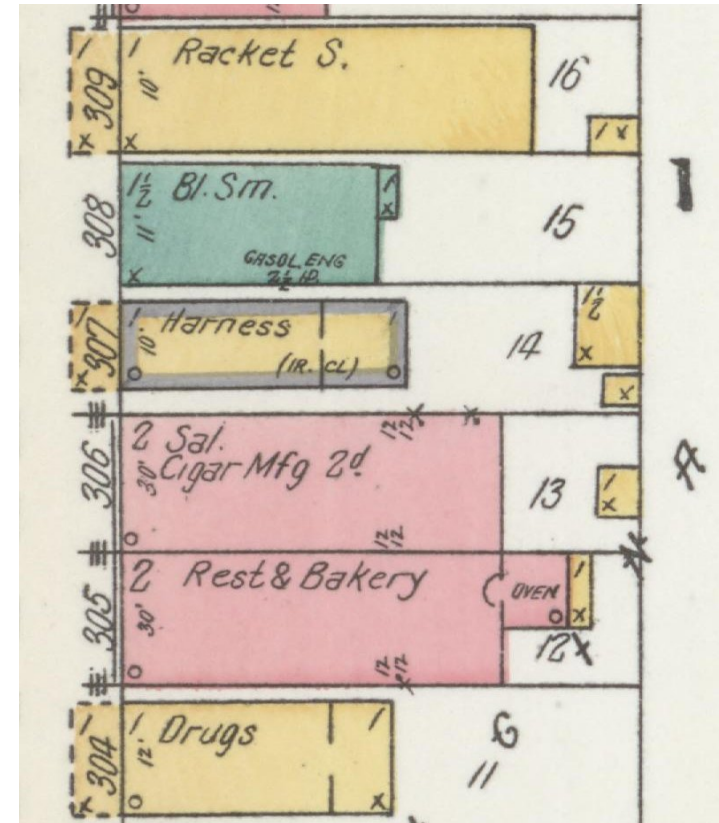
Hoffman premises: the map comparison

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](#)

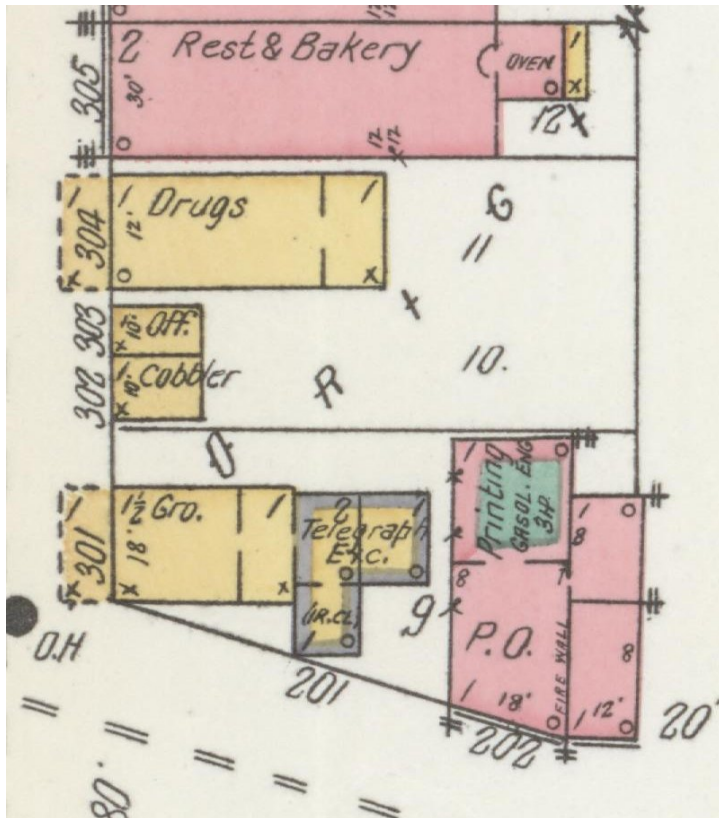


June 1904, sheet 1: A two-story brick restaurant/bakery is at historic map number 305 Main, lot 12; a saloon occupies lot 13. This matches the 1899 construction sequence and 1901 business profile. Owner names are absent.

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

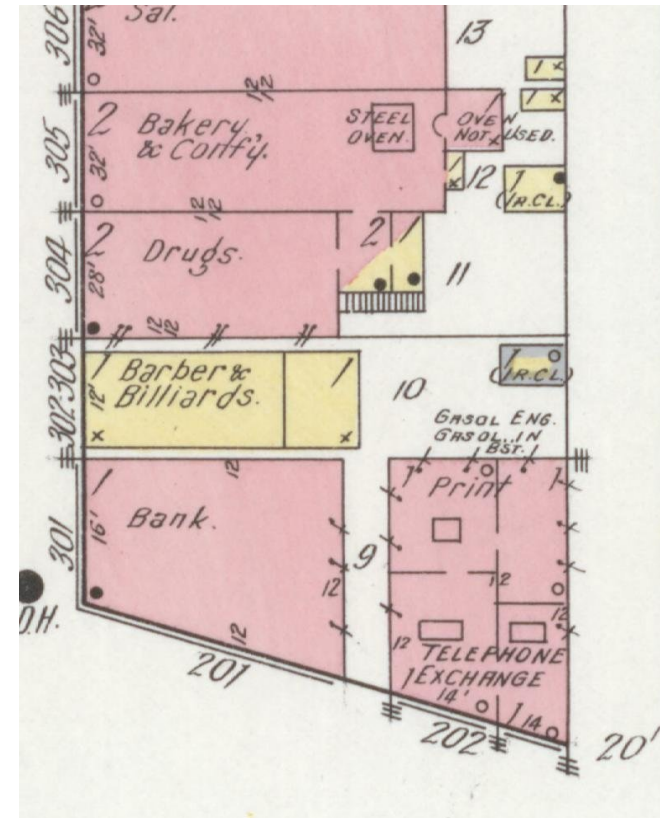
The Hecker site and the later exchange

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](#)

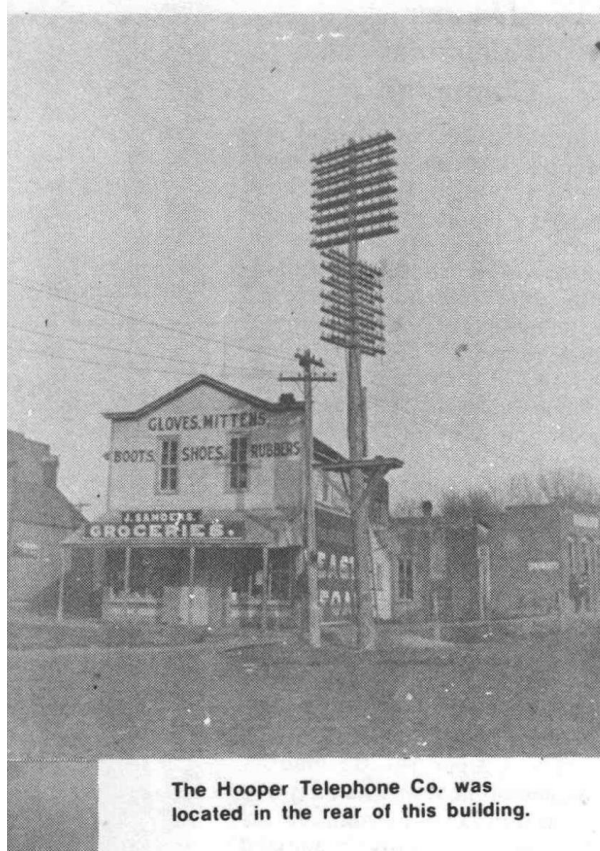


January 1916, sheet 2: The bank occupies the corner; "Telephone Exchange" is explicitly shown immediately east, facing Fulton, at historic 202 Fulton. This confirms the 1916 exchange location.

[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.



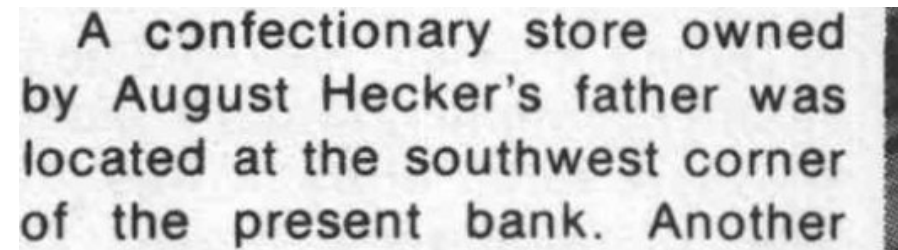
On May 1, 1913 the First National Bank made plans to erect a modern one story building on the corner lot which was purchased from the W. C. Hecker estate.

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.

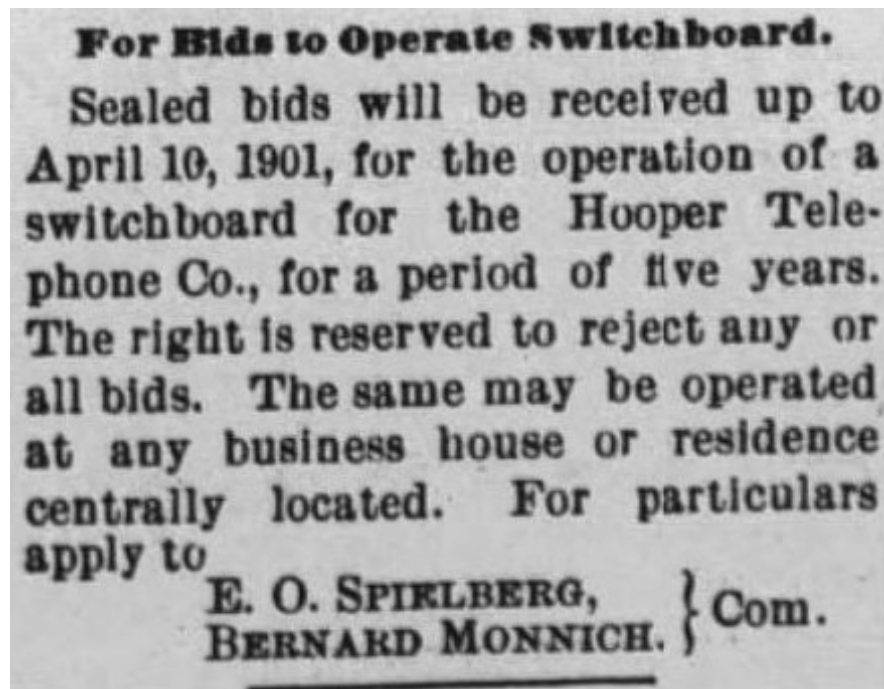
Date caution: The assessor card lists 1910 as the building year. Contemporary newspaper construction accounts and the historic-district survey support 1899. This packet uses the assessor record for parcel and address identification, not to establish the construction year.

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

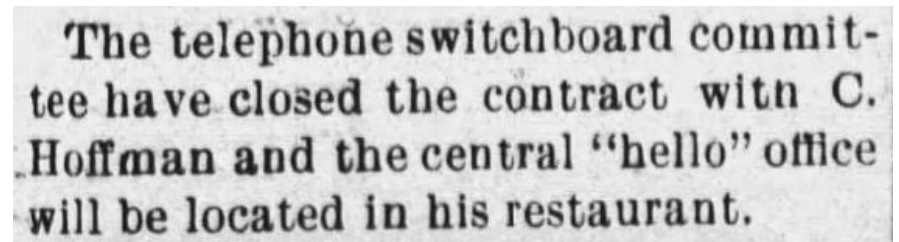
The April notices document the search for an operator and the contract with C. Hoffman.



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.

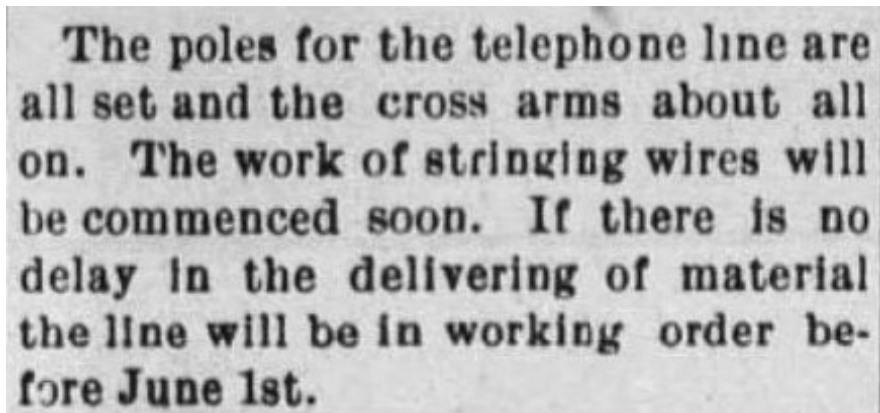
ART. 5. This corporation shall commence business on the first day of March, 1901, and shall continue for a period of fifty years, unless sooner dissolved in the manner provided by law.

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](#)

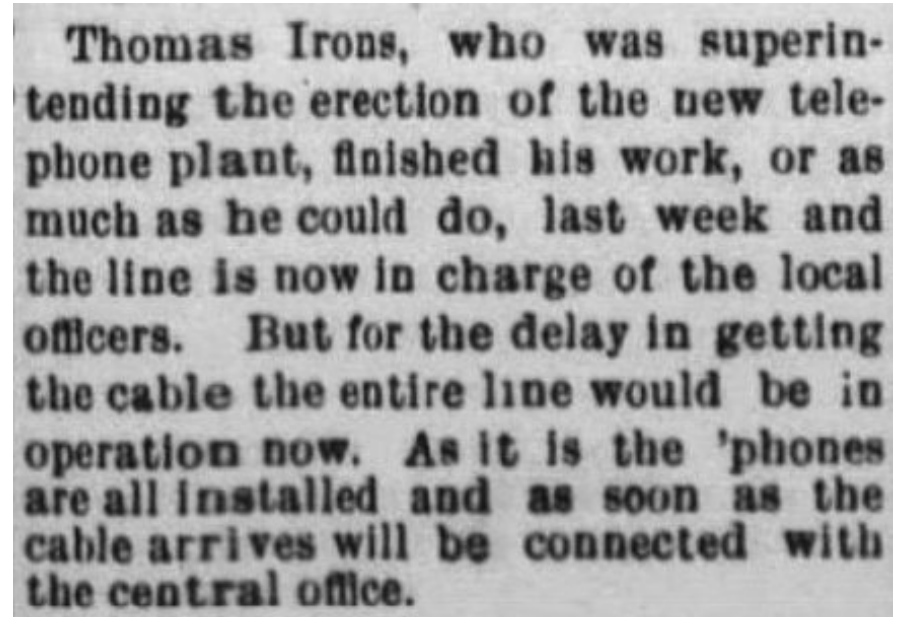
Construction was not an opening date

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.

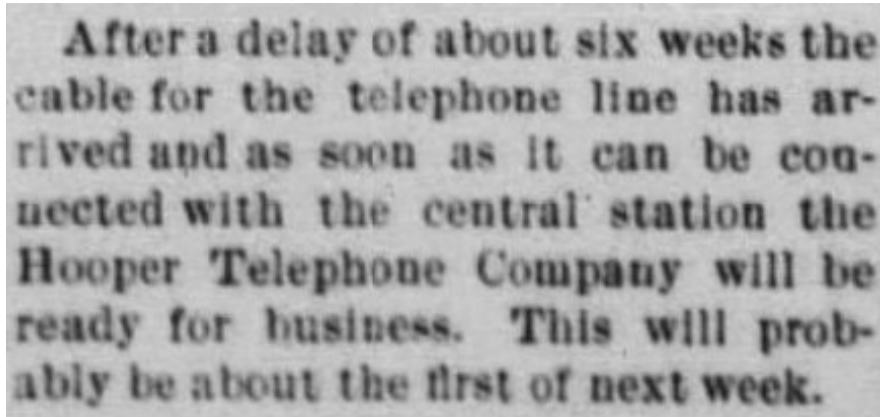
Sources: The Hooper Sentinel, May 9, 1901, p. 5; June 13, 1901, p. 5. Complete local-news paragraphs, cropped from the saved newspaper captures.

[May 9, 1901 newspaper page](#)

[June 13, 1901 newspaper page](#)

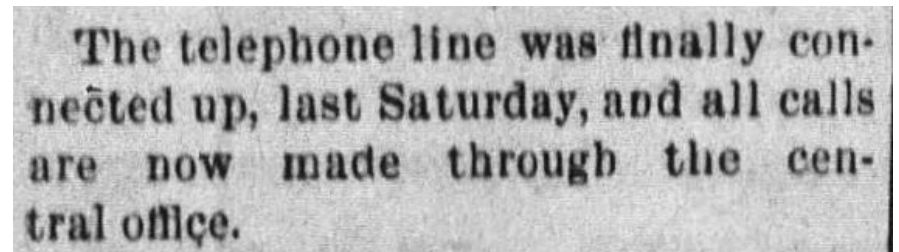
Connected through central: July 13, 1901

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.

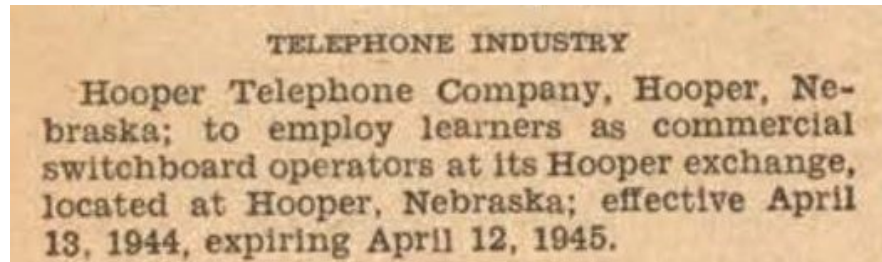
Sources: The Hooper Sentinel, July 4, 1901, p. 8; July 18, 1901, p. 8. Complete local-news paragraphs. The precise July 13 date is a calendar calculation from the contemporary report, not a date printed numerically in the paragraph.

[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.

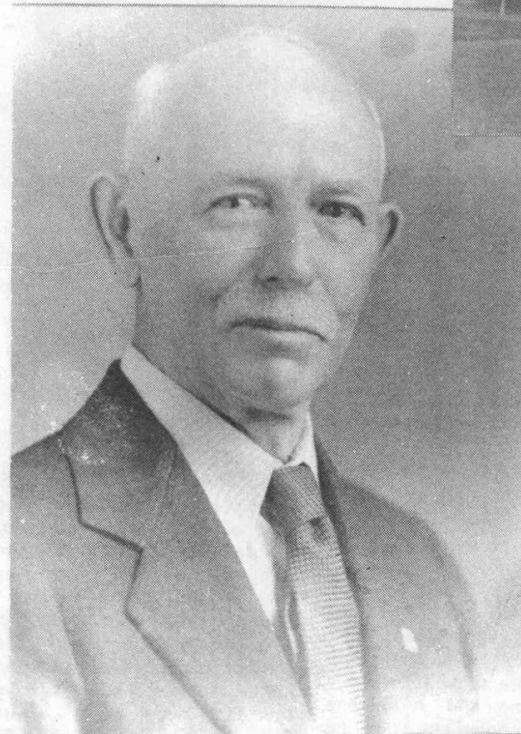
In 1949 the Uehling exchange was converted from the manual to dial service. During the same year the Hooper and Uehling communities were hit by another sleet storm. The company had to borrow more money to pay for some large expenditures on account of street paving where the telephone cables had to be 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.....	27,144.36	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	130	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	99,132	...

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.

[Open the digitized original report](#)