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## AT&T Overhead Long Distance Telephone Lines: 1920s - 1950s

AT&T built long telephone distance lines through Josephine County in the 1920s. Service from these overhead lines continued until the mid to late 1950's when the lines were replaced with buried cable. Insulators used were CD 152 Hemingrays, CD 154 Hemingrays & CD 208 Hemingrays. While the poles can still be found in the mountains, the insulators and hardware were removed by the company and taken to landfills. Howard Banks can remember seeing stacks of insulators at Dry Diggin's, a landfill just east of Grants Pass that was closed with the construction of Interstate Five in the late 1950's.<sup>1</sup>



*CD 152 Hemingray*

Howard thought the line had 24 wires (24 insulators per pole). The Hemingray insulators are pretty common. In fact they are the most common insulators that were every made and they were used on that line. As a kid, Howard can remember going to the Grants Pass City dump (Dry Diggings where I-5 goes by east of town) and seeing piles of insulators and cross arms. He is sure they just got buried. They are under the freeway or not far off the freeway.

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## CD 152 Hemingrays, CD 154 Hemingrays & CD 208 Hemingrays

You can find the poles out in the woods today. They left the poles behind, but they hauled off the materials. An old Hemingray 40 or 42 probably came off that line.

The CD 154s are two insulators Mike Walker found in Rat Creek in 2006.



*CD 154s*



*CD 154*



*CD 154*

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## More Information

The Postal Telegraph lines and AT&T long distance telephone lines were located on similar routes (perhaps 50 to 100 feet apart). They also both tended to be located in the mountains along the old stage routes (usually along side the roads).



*CD 208 Hemingray*

**Insulator Brochure Series** This brochure is number eight of several in the "insulator" series numbered 1 through 11. Most importantly, the insulator series is all about Josephine County, Oregon, insulators. The series will be continued with adventures in the field.

1. Insulators of Josephine County
2. Crown Jewels Of The Wire
3. Anatomy Of An Insulator
4. Insulator CD Numbers
5. Collins Line
6. Oregon & California Railroad
7. Postal Telegraph Company
8. ***AT&T Long Distance Telephone Lines***
9. Local Phone Service Lines
10. Power Lines
11. First Insulators of Hugo Neighborhood

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1. Hugo Neighborhood. March 19, 2006. *Crown Jewels of the Wire*. Hugo, OR.

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## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

### Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, as requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Membership dues are \$10.00 annually and due in January. They are used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications, and mailings. Make checks to the *Hugo Neighborhood* and send them to our Treasurer.

*Hugo Neighborhood*

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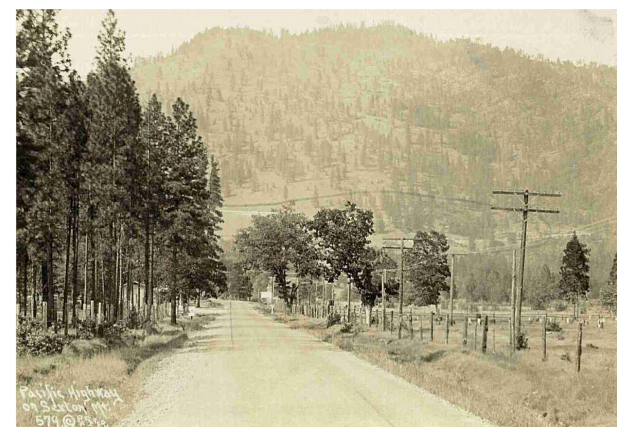
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AT&T Long  
Distance  
Telephone Lines



Brochure 8 in Insulator Series



*Pacific Highway With Postal Telegraph & AT&T Lines  
Parallel to Each Other: ca., 1920*

**March 19, 2006**

by

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**

&

**Crown Jewels Of The Wire**

Brochure 8 in Insulator Series: HNA&HS 2006 - 28  
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