

attending the Geneva school, being transported by buses operated by District 75.

By 1966, the assessed valuation of the Geneva school district had risen to \$11,531,790.

Enrollment in the school year 1966-67 totaled 742 students. Of these, 260 were in the senior high school, 127 in junior high, and 355 in the elementary grades.

The professional staff in the same year—teachers, administrators, nurses, etc.—numbered 39; the nonprofessional staff—bus drivers, cooks, janitors, etc.—numbered 20.

In 1966-67, the superintendent of schools was Bernard Blifernich; the principal of the junior and senior high schools, William McNaught; and the elementary school principal, Robert Myers.

### Teachers' Institutes

As school districts were established in Fillmore County, other educational activities began to take shape.

The first teachers' institute for Fillmore County was held at the Hall in Fairmont, commencing December 1, 1872, and continuing for one week. The second and fourth institutes were also held at Fairmont, but the third institute was held at Geneva, commencing on November 16, 1874.

In 1880, additional instruction was given at the institute. The session was called the first annual County Teachers' Normal Institute and was held at the schoolhouse in Geneva for two weeks. The notes of County Superintendent J. B. Lewis state: "This Institute begins a new era in facilities afforded for improvement of teachers. Not only is instruction given in branches taught in the schools but also methods of giving instruction. A tuition fee of \$2 was charged to pay expenses of instruction and incidentals."

The third Teachers' Normal Institute session was held at Fairmont for three weeks commencing on July 17, 1882. Sixty-two teachers were enrolled. The curriculum was broadened to include school managements and methods, grammar, analysis of sentences and study of the verb, arithmetic, percentage, methods of teaching, compound numbers, physiology, nervous system, history, causes leading to the adoption of the Constitution, bookkeeping, and orthography.

Before 1891, the expenses were born by the teachers' paying a \$2 fee and by admittance fees for evening lectures. The records show that in 1891 the county superintendent received \$100 from the county treasurer. This amount was increased to \$350 in later years.

Names important in early education in the state appeared often as teachers and speakers in the institutes and normal school programs. State Superintendent S. R. Thompson was on the faculty several summers; also mentioned was State Superintendent W. W. Jones. Chancellor Fairfield was listed on the programs repeatedly. E. J. Hoenshel, noted grammarian and textbook writer, taught in the Junior Normal in 1902.

—Miss Emma Renken

### Junior Normal School

In the summer of 1902, State Superintendent W. K. Fowler organized junior normal institutes of five weeks' length at Holdrege, Culbertson, and Sidney. These were the precursors of the junior normal schools. In 1903, the legislature appropriated \$12,000 for the biennium to support five such summer schools of ten weeks each, located at Alliance, Valentine, McCook, Holdrege, and North Platte. In 1907, with an appropriation of \$15,000 for the biennium, eight schools were maintained—Alma, Broken Bow, O'Neill, and Geneva being added and Holdrege being dropped. The length of term was reduced to seven weeks.

Junior normals were established to encourage the teaching profession among those in the western and northern parts of the state for whom distance to established schools in eastern Nebraska was hundreds of miles and expense prohibitive. The Junior Normals were placed in the centers of the vast areas of country where the problem was that of overcoming isolation and insufficient local school facilities. During the first five years of Junior Normals, from 1903 to 1908, 5,000 teachers and prospective teachers from remote

districts were enrolled, only a small percentage of whom would or could have attended any other institution of summer training.

Junior Normals did the work of university extension, and inspired young men and women to carry on their education in established institutions of higher learning.

Before a student was entitled to a Junior Normal credit in any subject he had to attain an average of at least 70 per cent and attend instruction in each subject for at least 30 days. A student who had attended Junior Normal for four sessions of not less than six weeks each could receive his elementary state certificate upon completion of the entrance requirements as provided by law at the state normal schools and the completion of the junior normal training course.

The instructors were men and women of scholarship, experience, and integrity, men and women of well-known and approved educational opinions. The tuition was free but an enrollment and incidental fee of \$2 was charged each student-teacher.



Photo from Mrs. William Fenske  
Junior Normal class photo, taken in 1910.

The Junior Normal was held at the Geneva public schoolhouse. The courthouse supplemented the schoolhouse in accommodating the teachers in class and lecture periods. The basement of the high school building was used for the dining hall, with the Geneva domestic science instructor in charge. It accommodated 150 to 200 students. They could secure board there for from \$2.50 to \$3 per week. Board and lodging was made available in private homes for \$3.50 per week. Those who boarded at the dining hall could secure rooms in homes for 50 cents a week.

The Junior Normal school was held in Geneva from 1907 through 1912. In 1913 Geneva lost the school owing to lack of interest in securing the school. Many educators felt that it was now unnecessary because Normal Training had been added to the high school curriculum. The subjects offered in 1908, when enrollment totaled 153, were listed in the *Signal* as follows:

Agriculture	History	Reading and Literature
Algebra I	Music	Geography
Algebra II	Composition	Geometry I
Arithmetic	Course of Study for	Geometry II
Arithmetic—Written	Rural Schools	Orthography
Bookkeeping	Drawing	Penmanship
Botany	Physiology and	Physics I
Civics	Hygiene	Physics II
Grammar		

Other subjects were taught if the number desiring such study was sufficient to warrant forming a class.

## UTILITIES

### Water

The earliest water supply was provided by wells and windmills, with cisterns for storage. Inadequate fire protection and the steadily increasing water consumption each

year caused J. H. Luke and a number of other citizens to petition the city council on April 15, 1889, for a modern waterworks system, with an investigation and cost estimation of such works in other cities.

A special election was held August 15, 1889, to vote on \$23,000 in bonds for construction, maintenance, and operating costs of waterworks. There were 279 votes cast, with 265 for and 14 against.

The engine house and standpipe were placed on the west side of Garfield St. and facing Court St. between Lincoln and Court Sts. For the sum of \$200, A. A. Richardson of Lincoln drew up plans and specifications for waterworks and acted as consulting engineer; W. G. Hames was to superintend construction.

The following bids were let:

Boilers—Brownell & Co., of Omaha.....	\$ 722.00
Standpipe—Porter Jackson & Co.....	3,795.00
Engine house—L. L. Fisher.....	1,286.00
Two wells with pumps and engines guaranteed to furnish 125,000 gal. of water per 24-hr. day—Cook Well Co.....	2,100.00
Stone for base of standpipe—Keys & Bullock.....	53.30
Two hose carts and 1,000 ft. of hose—Rubber Co.....	1,220.00
Boiler smoke stack—T. J. Beals.....	207.00
Twenty-eight or more Adams Patent Improved Fire Hydrants with two 2½" nozzle and 4" bell at \$31.00 each— Tamaqua Mfg. Co.....	868.00
Bids of Shicklen, Harrison & Howards of St. Louis, Mo., for 2,600 ft of 8" cast-iron pipe, 7,744 ft. of 6" cast-iron pipe, and 4,208 ft. of 4" pipe—All totaled.....	8,863.23
Five 8" Lorain Hub and brass-mounted gate valves, seven 6", and four 4"—U. S. Wind Engines & Pump Co.....	1,286.00
Ladder on standpipe—Porter Jackson & Co.....	—
Building for hose carts Geneva No. 1 and Geneva No. 2— Sager lot.....	125.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$20,525.53</b>

On January 16, 1890, the final test of the waterworks system proved satisfactory. The plant consisted of a standpipe 110 ft. high, capacity 93,000 gallons; 2 pumps, each capable of raising 125,000 gal. of water per day and driven by a 60-horsepower boiler; about 2½ miles of mains ranging from 4" to 8" in diameter. Auxiliary to this was a two-hose-company fire department supplying 1,200 ft. of hose and 40 fire hydrants. Water rates fixed by the council were \$5 per year for household purposes and \$2 for connecting on the mains.

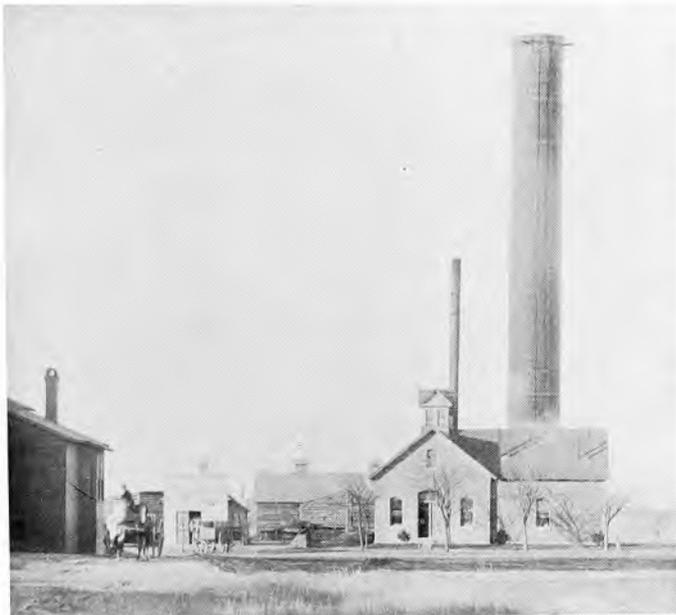


Photo from Miss Delia Fisher  
Geneva Waterworks in 1899.

By May, 1890, the water system was self-supporting. The demand was so great that more bonds were voted to extend 2 or 3 miles more of water mains.

In April, 1894, water rent was raised to \$18 per place, provided there were four taps per main. The water commissioner charged 25 cents per load of water.

The bonded indebtedness of the city, because of the water system, was \$27,000 on April, 1896.

On January 30, 1898, meters were placed at the Court-house, Citizens Bank, and Geneva National Bank buildings.

In June, 1902, water meters were installed all over town. Water rent was to be paid quarterly at the rate of 20 cents per 1,000 gal. for the first 10,000 gal. and 15 cents per 1,000 gal. thereafter for each quarter.

In May, 1904, a new well was added at a cost of \$673.05. In the fall of 1904 water was run to the city school.

In October, 1907, the city voted to furnish 2 motors, 2 transformers, and 2 geared-head pumps to furnish full-day service of water and lights, at a cost of \$1,245. Adding another boiler, engine, and dynamo doubled the plant service for a full day.

On April 1, 1909, the city changed from steam to electric pumps at an annual cost of \$1,953 for a five-year contract between the city and the Geneva Electric Co. (G. F. Skinkle, mgr.).

At present Geneva has four wells. The older ones are at 7th and H and 8th and K Sts. All are now powered by electricity, although the oldest well (at 7th and H) can be converted to gas operation in case of emergency. The capacity of each well is 550 gallons per minute. The standpipe holds 100,000 gallons.

In May, 1959, the council awarded a contract for construction of a new city well and about eight blocks of new water mains to replace the old third well (located west of the Koehler lumber yard). The well contract went to Layne-Western of Omaha, whose bid was \$10,295; the contract for the mains was awarded to Munt Brothers of Beatrice with a bid of \$15,201. The new well was located at the NE corner of the junction of Highway 81 and I St. The addition of this well gave the water department a pump capacity of about 1,900 gallons per minute.

The newest well, added in 1965, is at the NE corner of the city park, at 15th and F Sts.

The present water rates are as follows; \$1 minimum for 200 cubic feet per month; next 300 cu. ft. at 25 cents per 100 cu. ft.; next 500 cu. ft. at 20 cents per 100 cu. ft.; next 1,000 cu. ft. at 15 cents per cu. ft.; next 8,000 cu. ft. at 10 cents per 100 cu. ft.; and all over 10,000 cu. ft. at 7.5 cents per 100 cu. ft. During the summer a special rate is given: All the water used over 1,000 cu. ft. is given a 50 per cent discount.

### Sewers and Paving

A modern sewage disposal system was accepted by Geneva in November, 1922. The contract was let on May 8, 1919, to S. A. Canaglia and Co. of Omaha for the sewer and disposal plant for the sum of \$30,244.70. The right-of-way for the plant was purchased from Charles H. Sloan, to be located on his farm north of Geneva. In July, 1943, plans were accepted to enlarge the sewage disposal plant to include the Government Housing Project in east Geneva. In the winter of 1954-55 a lift-station was constructed at 10th and A Sts., in the south part of town, giving more Genevans in that area access to the sewer. The sewerage system was extended until by the end of 1959 most of the city was connected to the sewer system. A sewer-use fee has been added to the water rates to provide for expansion of the system.

The first paving contract was let to the Abel Construction Co. of Omaha on May 29, 1919, for the sum of \$140,493.75. The contract called for the paving and storm sewers of 10½ blocks—G St. from 6th to 11th Sts.; H St. between 9th and 10th Sts.; 8th St. from F St. to the alley between G and H Sts.; 9th St. from G to H; and 10th St. from F north to H St. This district was completed early in 1920. Gradually more streets were paved, and by 1958 a total of 46 blocks had been hard-surfaced or paved. Thirteenth St., being a part of U. S. Highway 81, was paved by the state from the south to the north city limits. F St., which is part of State Highway 41 from 13th St. to 5th St., then north to the Girls' Training School, was also constructed and maintained by the state.



Top Photo from Nebraska Signal  
Lower Photo from Mrs. Carl Janing

Top: Laying brick pavement on Main Street in 1919. Bottom: Paving gang.

The first residence street in the city to be graveled was North 11th St., in 1929. Graveling the streets was completed in 1931.

As of December 1, 1967, a total of 156½ blocks were hard-surfaced, with gutters and storm sewers. Of these, 26 blocks—on Highways 81 and 41 and the highway to the Girls' Training School—are maintained by the state; the rest are maintained by the city.

Stop signs were installed at numerous places and stop lights placed around the school area. (In 1926, the city voted to place "stop buttons" on streets and a man was employed to enforce traffic laws.) In 1953, the city purchased its first police car from the Steider Plymouth and Chrysler Co. It was a black, 2-door, 1953 sedan and cost \$1,332.78.

### Electricity

Interest in electric lighting was aroused in 1890 when some eastern capitalists presented a plan to build a plant. They were not successful in their attempt. In April, 1893, it was voted to grant an exclusive franchise for 10 years to the Geneva Electric Light and Power Co. to erect and operate a plant, with the privilege of purchasing the plant at the end of 10 years if desired. This plan also failed to materialize.

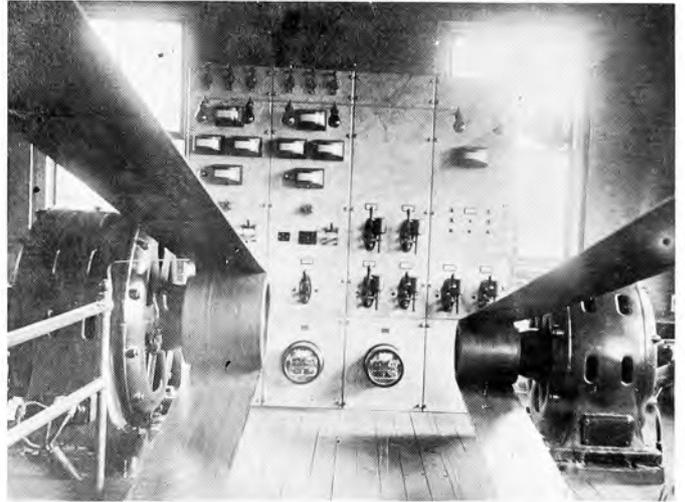


Courtesy Geneva State Bank

Scene at the Pierce Store fire in 1912 (Skinkle Power Plant at center right).

The first plant which actually produced electric current was built by Gregory F. Skinkle in 1904. Mr. Skinkle sold his drugstore in Geneva and secured a franchise to build this plant, which he owned and operated until 1916. The plant was a house 45' x 48' located on 9th St.—¾ block north of the courthouse (about where Consumers is located now). This location was chosen by Mr. Skinkle because it would be a great saving, especially in furnishing heat, to have the plant close to the business houses. The building was divided into two rooms, leaving plenty of space to double the capacity of the plant.

The engine was a high-grade Atlas Corliss of 115 horsepower. The engine had a 12-foot flywheel, occupied a floor space of 9' x 20', and weighed 23,000 pounds. The boiler had the same indicated capacity as the engine, with an overload capacity of 25 per cent.



Courtesy Geneva State Bank

Interior of Gregory Skinkle's Geneva light plant (about 1905).

The crowning piece of machinery was the dynamo. It was a single-phase Wood alternating, manufactured by the Fort Wayne Electric Works. This dynamo was a 60 K.W., having a frequency of 60 cycles, 1,100 volts, 900 revolutions per minute.

Under the Wood system an alternating current of high pressure is generated at the power station and is reduced to low pressure by transformers placed on poles in various parts of town. (The voltage of an electric current corresponds to the pressure of the waterworks system.) There were 14 of these reducing transformers, with a total capacity of 660 lights.

The vitalizing current was turned through the street lamps for the first time on January 22, 1905. The city had four arc lamps, located respectively at the principal Court St. (G St.) intersections and 21 incandescent lamps at as many residence street intersections. Several business houses were connected and lighted the following week. Among the first residents to have electric lights were F. B. Donisthorpe, Frank Sloan, Mrs. Kate Koehler, Mrs. Frank Keeler, B. Koehler, E. Sandrock, C. A. Thorpe, C. A. Warner, Dr. W. E. Propst, and Dr. M. Propst.

Electric service at this time was intermittent. The plant operated from dusk to 11 P.M., with a little longer service on Saturday nights. Daytime service was established in 1907, and at that time several motors were installed. On June 19, 1911, the city contracted with Mr. Skinkle for 67 Mazda street lights of rated 60 candlepower each at a monthly rate of \$1.75 per lamp. The lights were maintained on a midnight-moonlight schedule. The lamps burned from dusk until midnight only, and on moonlight nights were not turned on at all.

Five years later a new contract provided Geneva 24-hour service for residential and commercial use. The commercial lighting rates at that time (1916) might also be of interest; the top rate was 20 cents per kilowatt hour and the cheapest, 9 cents.

"Betsy," as the generator was called, with her two boilers was able at the beginning to supply the demand for electricity, but as time went on the engine with its 90-K.W. generator could not meet the demand, and transmission lines connected to larger plants were installed. Betsy was disassembled, sold, and shipped away to be recast into some other type of equipment.

The plant (called the Geneva Electric Co.) was sold in 1916 to the Continental Gas & Electric Co., which owned the plants at York and Aurora. The name of the new company, after being purchased from Mr. Skinkle, was the "Public Service Co." F. J. Gunther of York came to Geneva as a manager.

In 1916, 18 electroliers were installed on the north side of G St. and along 9th St. In January, 1917, 20 more electroliers were added.



Photo from Geneva State Bank  
Laying steam pipes to heat courthouse and business houses (about 1910).

By 1922, the building of transmission lines bringing current into the city had caused the plant to be abandoned for generating electricity. The old plant, however, was kept as a standby for emergencies and was used as a heating plant for the courthouse and quite a number of business buildings. Modern advancements finally made it unnecessary; and so, shortly after Herbert Lauber built a brick building adjoining the south side of the powerhouse in 1948 and 1949, the old plant was rebuilt into the present Consumers Public Power office building.

As the years passed, several different companies furnished Geneva's electricity. In October, 1927, Nebraska Gas & Electric passed on their franchise to the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co. Although on August 19, 1929, an ordinance granted a 25-year franchise to Iowa-Nebraska, they relinquished this in April, 1941, when Consumers Public Power District started serving the city.

Consumers today supplies current to Geneva through the Nebraska Public Power System, an intricate statewide network. A Nebraska Public Power System sub-station that supplies Geneva is located 2 miles N of the fairgrounds. In case of trouble, power may be secured from York, Hebron, Beatrice, or Seward by switches located at this sub-station.

The residential rates in 1967 were: \$1 for the first 13 kilowatt-hours per month, 6 cents per kwh for the next 37 kwh, 2¾ cents up to 100 kwh, 2 cents per kwh for the next 450, and all additional at 1.5 cents per kwh. Commercial rates are higher than residential.

The latest improvement in electricity for the city was accomplished in January of 1951. Sixty-one luminaires street lights were installed to replace the electroliers extending from Highway 81 throughout the downtown area. These have also been extended to the high-school street because of the many community activities there. The units consist of 25-foot standards whose brackets support scientifically designed luminaires, equipped with 10,000 and 6,000 lumen lamps, to provide maximum output of usable light on traffic area.

## Natural Gas

Geneva was one of the first communities in Nebraska to pioneer the use of natural gas. A franchise to serve Geneva was granted to the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co. on Oct. 14, 1931. Natural gas was turned into the distribution system for 42 customers on December 22, 1931. Although many old records are no longer available, it is believed that natural gas was first turned on at the Geneva Hotel and that Jake Weis, of 311 South 10th St., was the first customer to use natural gas for cooking.

The Central Electric & Gas Co. purchased the natural-gas system on February 26, 1945. By 1967, a total of 1,003 Geneva customers were using natural gas.

The company, now known as the Western Power & Gas Co., buys its gas from the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Co., a Nebraska firm located in Hastings. Natural gas is gathered from western Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. By means of underground pipelines, the gas is brought to Geneva for house heating, cooking, water heating, refrigeration, clothes drying, incineration, all-year air conditioning, and many other uses.

In 1932, approximately 7,713,700 cubic feet of gas were used in comparison to 217,688,000 cu. ft. during 1966. This overwhelming acceptance of natural gas has been partly responsible for maintaining the lowest possible rates.

The first year natural gas was used in Geneva, 20,000 cu. ft. cost the customer \$14.20. This rate prevailed until 1945, at which time Central Electric & Gas reduced the rates. Again in August, 1946, and November, 1947, rate reductions gave Geneva customers even cheaper gas service.

World War II started an inflationary spiral that caused prices to rise. In many instances, the price of normal necessities increased as much as 200 per cent before 1947. Not until January, 1955, was the first price adjustment made for natural gas, and this increase did not absorb the previous three reductions. The second price adjustment was made on October 1, 1957, due to increased cost of natural gas by the pipeline company. Another upward adjustment was made on August 17, 1964; but, in contrast to other costs, the average home owner pays less for natural gas today than in 1931.

—Data from Western Power & Gas Co., Inc.

## Telephones and Telegraph

As early as 1883, telephone service was brought to Geneva by the Nebraska Telephone Co., which started with about 12 subscribers. By 1886, 30 telephones were in use. In the early 1890's, the Bell Telephone Co. organized in Geneva. The company had its office in the Will Stewart home, now the Hugh Hadsell residence. Laura Bender (later Mrs. Monroe Heisey) was one of the first telephone operators. Mr. Stewart's daughter, Bess, was also an operator.

In 1903, Mr. Wettstine came to Geneva, bringing with him a crew of men (one of whom was Monroe Heisey), with wagons and equipment to build a telephone line. When the



Photo from Geneva State Bank  
Early telephone switchboard. Left to right: Laura Bender, operator; Kate Porter; Monroe Heisey, trouble man.



The shift to the dial system (1963). *Left:* Switchboard before pulling picks for dial system (Miss Emma Ebbeka in foreground). *Second picture:* Pulling picks in old office—L. D. Anderson (left) and Roger Bates. *Third picture:* Pulling picks to make change from operator switchboard to dial system. The second man from the front is Lowell Garrett of the Geneva exchange; the other three are from the Lincoln office. *Fourth picture:* Mayor Francis McPeck making first dial call to Commercial Supervisor in Lincoln.

line was completed and the crew moved on, they left Mr. Heisey here to take care of the line, which he did on horseback. With the completion of this line the first independent company was formed. This, called the Fillmore County Telephone Co., consisted of operating exchanges at Geneva, Exeter, Fairmont, Strang, Grafton, Milligan, Shickley, and Ohioa. This company was managed by John Barsby. The office was located over the Citizens' State Bank. Later, because of the fire, it was moved to a room over the *Signal* office. Here it stayed until the new and present telephone building was built in 1924.

The Independent company almost immediately became the dominant one of the two telephone companies then doing business at Geneva. In 1904, the Bell company, with R. J. Dean as manager, was operating only 31 telephones on the Geneva exchange, most of which were in business establishments.

The Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co. purchased the Bell properties at Geneva in January, 1912, and of the Fillmore County organization in July, 1913. These properties were consolidated in September, 1913, at which time the Bell company was serving 356 subscribers and the Independent 570. This, of course, represented a duplication of service, because a majority of the subscribers of both companies had to have two telephones in their homes or offices, because there was no interconnection between the Bell and Independent switchboards.

In 1913, several switching companies also had telephone facilities on the Geneva switchboard. These were the Chelsea, Alpine, West Geneva, and Big Four telephone companies. The Pioneer Telephone Co., also a switching company, was purchased by the Lincoln company in 1918, at which time the Pioneer company had 78 subscribers who received switching services from the Geneva switchboard.



Photo from Norman Yates

Geneva Fire Company in 1900, taken in front of the old Methodist Church. H. F. Mohrman, chief of the fire department for more than 20 years, standing in front of hose cart (marked with a cross).

At about the same time that the Lincoln company purchased the Geneva properties, it also reached an agreement with the Bell system for a general division of properties in the state. The Bell company withdrew from the area south of the Platte River westward to Adams and Webster counties and Lincoln T. & T. purchased all the Bell properties in these 22 counties. A number of Independent properties were also purchased at that time.

At present (1967), the Geneva exchange serves approximately 1,600 local patrons, as well as all the other towns in Fillmore County, plus Ong and Tobias. Geneva went over to the all-dial system in 1963 and is now on Direct Distance Dialing. The local exchange also provides mobile phone service for microwave transmitters.

The telegraph line was put in at the same time the Burlington line was built in June, 1886.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Volunteer Fire Department

As the village of Geneva grew, so did the need for an organized fire department. In 1890, the first books were kept and the department was named the Geneva Hose Company. The first officers and members of the Geneva Hose Company were the following:

Chief—H. F. Mohrman

*Hose Company No. 1*

F. A. Kuler, Foreman  
C. L. Rathbun, 1st Assistant  
O. C. Houchin, 2nd Assistant  
W. B. Holmes  
G. R. Wolf  
S. S. Walker  
L. F. Landmesser  
W. W. Fellows  
Clink Shickley  
William McCartney  
C. R. Burnett  
A. B. Payton  
Robert Schofield  
Frank McGrew  
Will Carson  
E. A. Webster, Secretary

*Hose Company No. 2*

H. B. Young, Foreman  
Arthur Atherton, 1st Assistant  
F. C. Laffin, 2nd Assistant  
Bert Cobb  
Walter Spear, Treasurer  
Louis Cobb  
Frank Crawford  
Charles Spangler  
W. S. Huston  
J. W. Burt  
A. Stephenson  
A. Koehler  
O. A. Beals  
J. D. Kessler  
J. H. Sager, President  
Frank Burke

H. F. Mohrman served as chief for 20 consecutive years. In 1895, he wrote to the city council this letter:

"After 5 years' experience as Chief of the Geneva Hose Co. and knowing full well that at every fire the boys spoil more or less clothing I would therefore pray that your honorable body allow out of city funds the sum of \$1 to each member of the hose co. that answers to his name after each fire. Also \$.25 to each member participating in monthly practice."

The company was located on North 10th St. in a frame building. A large bell served as an alarm until about 1923 when an electric siren was purchased. Their first equipment consisted of two hose carts, a hook-and-ladder wagon, six buckets, and five lanterns. In March, 1890, the department gave a ball to defray the expense of uniforms.

The first fire in Geneva after the completion of the new