

EXHIBIT A

56

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF

THACKER-GRIGSBY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INCORPORATED.

RECEIVED
OCT 24 1956
TELEPHONE OPERATIONS
& LOANS DIVISION

Know all men by these presents:

That we, Robert Thacker, Leburn, Knott County, Kentucky, Janice Grigsby, Leburn, Kentucky, and Junealla Thacker, Leburn, Kentucky, do associate to form a corporation under the laws of the State of Kentucky.

Article I. The corporation hereby proposed to be organized shall be named and known as Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Incorporated, by which name it may contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, adopt a corporate seal and do its business.

Article II. The principal office and place of business of said Corporation shall be in the Town of Hindman, Knott County, Kentucky.

Article III. The nature of the business proposed to be transacted, promoted, and carried on by this corporation shall be constructing, maintaining, promoting, and owning telephones, telephone lines, and telephone equipment and appliances, and carrying on and operating a telephone line and lines in Knott County, Kentucky, and other counties in the State of Kentucky; also purchasing and owning of rights of way for telephone lines and other real estate necessary for use in its business for offices, plants, and other purposes in carrying on said business; also purchasing, owning, and selling of telephones, telephone equipment and appliances, plants, machinery, and equipment; also with the right and power to do any and all things necessary in carrying on its said business of furnishing telephone service over its lines in Knott County, Kentucky, and adjoining counties, and to obtain and own franchises and certificates of necessity for constructing, maintaining, and operating telephone lines and furnishing telephone service; also with the full right and power to own, buy, sell, lease, or mortgage any of its said property or equipment, and with the right and power to borrow money and mortgage its said property as security therefor.

The corporation shall further have power to make contracts and to do any and all things usually done by similar corporations engaged in a similar business, and any and all things necessary in carrying on its business of furnishing telephone service.

Article IV. The capital stock of the corporation shall be Thirty Thousand (\$30,000.00) Dollars, which shall be divided into 300 shares of the par value of \$100.00 each.

Article V. The names, places of residence, and number of shares of stock subscribed by each stockholder are as follows:

Janice Grigsby, Leburn, Kentucky----- 150 shares.

Robert Thacker, Leburn, Kentucky-----140 shares.

Junella Thacker, Leburn, Kentucky----- 10 shares.

Article VI. The corporation shall commence business as soon as practicable after these articles of incorporation are filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Kentucky and in the Knott County Court Clerk's Office, and after fifty per cent of the capital stock of this company has been in good faith subscribed, and such subscription certified to the Secretary of State of Kentucky.

The corporation shall continue for ninety nine years unless sooner dissolved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the capital stock issued.

Article VI. The affairs and business of the corporation shall be conducted by three directors, one of whom shall be elected president of the board, and another vice-president. The president of the Board shall be the chief executive officer of the company.

The first board of directors shall be elected by the stockholders by ballot at such time and place as a majority of the stockholders may determine, and thereafter an election of directors shall be held at the company's Office in Hindman, Kentucky, at the annual meeting of the stockholders which shall be on the first Monday in February of each year.

Changed to " " " " April 1965

The board of directors shall at their first meeting elect one of their number president, and another vice-president. They shall also

elect a secretary-treasurer of the company, who shall hold office for one year, unless removed by a majority of the directors. A majority of the directors shall have power to remove the secretary-treasurer at any time.

The board of directors shall have power to make all such by-laws and rules to regulate the business of the company as will not be inconsistent with these articles of incorporation, the laws of the State of Kentucky, and of the United States of America.

Article VIII. The process agent for the company upon whom process for the company may be served shall be Robert Thacker, Leburn, Kentucky.

Article IX. The highest amount of indebtedness which the corporation may incur at any one time shall be Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000.00) Dollars.

Article X. The private property of the stockholders shall not be subject to the payment of the debts of the corporation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness the signatures of the incorporators hereof, this the 5th day of May, 1956.

Robert C. Thacker
Janice Grigsby
Junella Thacker

STATE OF KENTUCKY {
COUNTY OF KNOTT { SCT.

The undersigned, LeRoy Sturdivant, a Notary Public in and for the county and state aforesaid, hereby certifies that the foregoing articles of incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Incorporated, was on the 5th day of May, 1956, produced to me in my said county and state by Robert Thacker, Janice Grigsby, and Junella Thacker, and signed in my presence by each of them and acknowledged by them and each of them to be their free act and deed.

My Commission expires the 5 day of May, 1956.

Given under my hand, this the 5th day of May, 1956.

LeRoy Sturdivant
Notary Public Knott County, Kentucky

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF KNOTT /SCT.

I, Roy Mullins, Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing instrument of writing was on the 14 day of May, 1956, lodged in my office for record whereupon the same with the foregoing and this certificate have been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand this 14 day of May, 1956.

Roy Mullins, Clerk

By Betty Mullins D.C.

*Recorded in Deed Book 80
at page 291*

Thomas J. Blount
SECRETARY OF STATE OF KENTUCKY
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY
BY *[Signature]* CHIEF CLERK

MAY 7 1956

ORIGINAL COPY
FILED AND RECORDED

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Department of State



Office of Secretary of State

THELMA L. STOVALL, SECRETARY

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT

I, *THELMA L. STOVALL*, Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby certify that Articles of Incorporation of

THACKER-GRIGSBY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INCORPORATED

Hindman, Kentucky

have been amended pursuant to Articles of Amendment, duly signed and acknowledged according to law, this day filed in my office by said corporation, and that all taxes, fees and charges payable upon the filing of said Articles of Amendment have been paid.

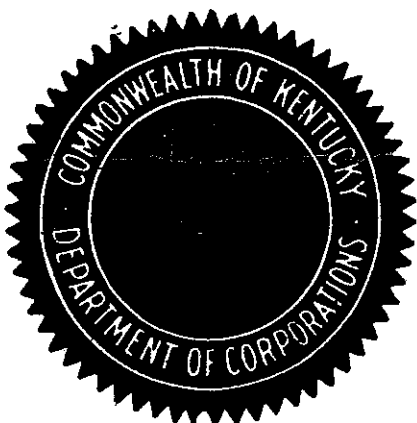
Witness my official signature this 15th day

of March, 1965.

Thelma L. Stovall

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



SECRETARY OF STATE

Thelma L. Stovall
Secretary.

FILED AND RECORDED

MAR 15 1965

Thelma L. Stovall
SECRETARY OF STATE OF KENTUCKY
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY
Thelma L. Stovall
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

STOCKHOLDERS MEETING OF
THACKER-GRIGSBY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INCORPORATED.
FEBRUARY 1, 1965.

The stockholders of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. met at its office in Hindman, Knott County, Kentucky, on February 1, 1965, being the regular annual meeting place and date, pursuant to notice to the stockholders as required by law, and there was present Robert Thacker, Janice Grigsby, Junella Thacker, Dennis Cornett, and Nezra Cornett, they being the owners of a majority of the capital stock of the corporation, Robert Thacker, President, presiding, and there being a quorum present the meeting was called to order by the president and the following business was transacted.

A motion was made by Janice Grigsby and seconded by Junella Thacker that Article IV of the articles of incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. as amended by amendment dated May 3, 1957, be amended so that as amended said article shall read as follows:

The capital stock of the corporation shall be Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars, and of this amount Four Hundred and Ninety Thousand (\$490,000.00) Dollars shall be divided into 4900 shares of Common stock with a par value of \$100.00 each and shall have full voting rights and privileges. The remaining Ten (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the capital stock shall be divided into 50, five per cent cumulative preferred shares with a par value of \$100.00 each and 200 five per cent cumulative preferred shares with a par value of \$25.00 each. The preferred shares shall have no voting rights or privileges, shall be non-participating, and may at the option of the corporation be redeemed by the corporation on any anniversary of the preferred stock certificates.

Also that the second literary paragraph of Article VII of the articles of incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. be amended so that as amended it shall read as follows:

The first Board of Directors shall be elected by the stockholders by ballot at such time and place as a majority of the stockholders shall determine, and thereafter an election of directors shall be held at the company's office in Hindman, Kentucky at the annual meeting of the stockholders which shall be on the first Monday in April of each year.

The vote being called upon the motion resulted as follows:

Janice Grigsby for it
Junella Thacker for it
Dennis Cornett for it
Nezra Cornett for it
Robert Thacker for it

The holders and owners of a majority of the stock of the corporation having voted for the motion, it was declared carried, and ordered that the articles of incorporation be amended accordingly.

Robert C. Thacker

President, Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company.

Attest:

Janice Grigsby

Secretary.

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FILED AND RECORDED

MAR 15 1965

Helma L. Stovall

SECRETARY OF STATE OF KENTUCKY
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY
Helma L. Stovall

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
THACKER-GRIGSBY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INCORPORATED.

At the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Incorporated, held at its office in Hindman, Kentucky, on the first Monday in February, 1965, which was February 1, 1965, pursuant to notice to all the stockholders of said corporation as required by law, a quorum being present, a resolution of the corporation was adopted by vote of a majority of all the voting stock of the corporation, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as much as if set out herein in full, and marked "A" for identity, authorizing and directing that Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. as amended by resolution and amendment, dated May 3, 1957, and pursuant to said resolution the Articles of Incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. are hereby amended as follows:

I. Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. as amended by amendment dated May 3, 1957, is hereby amended so that as amended said article shall read as follows:

The capital stock of the corporation shall be Five Hundred (\$500,000.00) Dollars, and of this amount Four Hundred and Ninety (\$490,000.00) Dollars shall be divided into 4,900 shares of common stock, with a par value of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars each and shall have full voting rights and privileges. The remaining Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the capital stock shall be divided into 50 five per cent cumulative preferred shares with a par value of \$100.00 each, and 200 five per cent cumulative preferred shares with a par value of \$25.00 each. The preferred shares shall have no voting rights or voting privileges, shall be non-participating, and may at the option of the corporation be redeemed by the corporation at any anniversary of the preferred stock certificates.

2. The second literary paragraph of Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc. is hereby amended so that as amended said paragraph shall read as follows:

The first Board of Directors shall be elected by the stockholders by ballot at such time and place as a majority of the stockholders shall determine, and thereafter an election of directors shall be held at the Company's Office in Hindman, Kentucky, at the annual meeting of the stockholders which shall be on the first Monday in April of each year.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness the signature of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company by Robert Thacker, President, and Robert Thacker, President of said corporation, and Janice Grigsby, Secretary, this Feb. 22, 1965.

Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc.
By Robert C. Thacker President.

ATTEST:

Janice Grigsby
Secretary.

STATE OF KENTUCKY {
COUNTY OF KNOTT { SCT.

The undersigned, Franklin D. Adams, a Notary Public in and for Knott County, Kentucky, hereby certifies that the foregoing amendment to the articles of incorporation of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, Inc, was on the 22 day of Feb, 1965, produced to me in my said County and State by Robert Thacker, President of Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company, and Janice Grigsby, secretary of said corporation, and signed by them and each of them in my presence and acknowledged by them to be their free act and deed as president and secretary of said corporation, and to be the act and deed of said corporation.

My Commission expires the 28 day of Sept., 1968.

Given under my hand, this the 23 day of Feb, 1965.

Franklin D. Adams
Notary Public Knott County, Kentucky.