

# Farmers Mutual Telephone Announces Retirements

Farmers Mutual Telephone would like to thank Thomas L. Nelson and Lloyd Hanson for their many years of dedicated service to our cooperative. Congratulations and thank you for all your hard work.

**Thomas L. Nelson**

March 19, 1979 - March 31, 2011

**32**

Years of Service



After 32 Years of helping people at Farmers Mutual Telephone Company stay connected, Thomas L. Nelson is retiring.

*When I started, Farmers had a mechanical switch in Bellingham, Marietta and Cerro Gordo and all customers had private line service. Installation and repair, cable locating, cable plowing and splicing consumed most of my time. In 1987, the first fiber optic cable was plowed in Farmers Mutual area connecting a new digital host switch in Bellingham to remote switches in Marietta and Cerro Gordo. On April 12, 1988, the new digital switches were cut into service. The digital switches had many software upgrades and additions of hardware which provided more features and services for our customers. Two new switches were installed in 2010 for Farmers and Federated customers. One of the switches provides service for the competitive side of the market serving Farmers customers in Madison and Dawson along with Federated customers in Morris and Appleton. The second switch provides services for Farmers Mutual and Federated Telephone Coop members. The conversion to the new switches took place between September 21, 2010 and January 26, 2011. Technology changes have kept us busy with additions, upgrades and replacements as we try to keep up with the industry and customer demands. The use of the Internet is a technology that grew the fastest. The growth of Internet usage was the driver behind fiber optic cable being plowed to every house and business in our area. The fiber and new switch will provide Farmers Mutual Telephone and Federated Telephone Cooperative the ability to provide competitive services well into the future.*

*I attended Wadena Area Vocational School for Telephone & Communications then worked for Central Telephone Company for 3 years. I performed telephone contract work for 5 years until 1979 when I started working for Farmers Mutual Telephone Company where I have worked for the past 32 years.*

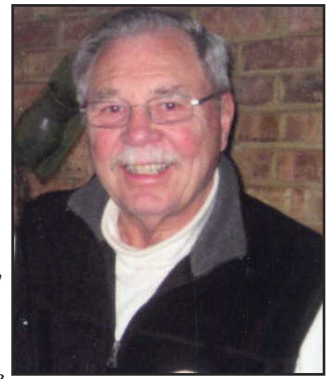
*Over two thirds of my life has been in the communications industry and THANK YOU for being part of an interesting journey which has allowed me to work in 43 communities in 4 states.*



# Lloyd Hanson

September 1982 - April 2011

28  
Years of Service



*It has been an honor and a privilege to have been able to serve as a director for the past 28 plus years for Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. I feel that it is time for me to retire from the board. I have seen many big changes in the industry and our directors have had to make many big decisions as to the direction we need to go to keep up with the changing times. What used to be just telephone service, has gotten to be a complete new world of complicated communications. Most everything we have done didn't come cheap. We have always thought what we were doing was for the good of our cooperative and our members. I was disappointed that the merger didn't pass last year, with all of the research and study that we did, I felt that for the long range good of both Farmers and Federated it would have made them both stronger cooperatives and would have been beneficial to members of both cooperatives.*

*I would like to thank all the employees and directors of both Farmers and Federated that I have worked with and to our members for their support. A special thank you to Kevin Beyer for his management skills and great knowledge of the telecommunications industry over the past 9 years.*

## Lloyd & Sandy Hanson Named 2010 Lac qui Parle County Outstanding Senior Volunteers

Lloyd and Sandy Hanson were selected as 2010 Lac qui Parle County Outstanding Senior Volunteers. "We were real surprised," Lloyd said of being chosen. "We were shocked and honored. Never thought about such a thing," said Sandy. One week before hearing the good news, Lloyd received tickets to the Minnesota State Fair to be recognized for the award. "I got a ticket in the mail, and the next day Sandy got one. We didn't know what it was for and nearly threw them away," said Lloyd. Good thing they didn't. On Sept. 7, the Hanson's got word from Julie Olson that they had been selected as Outstanding Senior Volunteers.

"It's a good feeling when people like what you have done, just makes you feel good inside," said Sandy. Lloyd and Sandy traveled to the state fair and were honored, along with other outstanding volunteer award winners from different counties. "We had a great time," said Sandy. It's hard to imagine people being involved in as many different activities and groups as the Hansons, but they did it, thrived at it, and had a great time doing it. "We don't even think about helping; we just do it and don't even realize it," Sandy said.

Lloyd must have extra oomph considering the massive amount of projects, committees, and boards he has helped with and served on. Lloyd spent over 40 years working for the postal service, as a postal clerk, rural carrier, and postmaster. From 1957-58, Lloyd served in the US Army, using his postal experience in the 16th Base post office. At St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lloyd has served as president, secretary, treasurer, and financial secretary. He is currently serving on the audit committee, is the Thrivent coordinator, and sexton for the St. Paul's cemetery. Lloyd was a firefighter with the Bellingham Fire Department for 34 years, spending 25 of those years as fire chief. He also spent time with the Bellingham First Responders and was president of the West Central Firemens Association. Lloyd has spent time serving on the LqP County Draft Board, was a bookkeeper and secretary for Bellingham Shipping Association, and served six years on the Madison Lutheran Home Board (Madison Healthcare Services)-two years as president.

It's obvious Lloyd and Sandy support their community with great enthusiasm, but even more, they support each other. "We are very close and always enjoyed helping each other and the community," said Sandy. As much as the Hansons enjoy their individual projects, it's the projects they share that bring them the most joy. For 16 years, the Hansons composed the Bellingham Radio News, which was broadcast on KDIO in Ortonville. "DuWayne Evenson (radio broadcaster) would come over every Monday night," said Sandy. "Weeks went by fast then. It seemed like it went Monday to Monday," added Lloyd. The Hansons both have been active in the Chamber of Commerce and played major roles in the planning and execution of the Bellingham centennial (1987), Bellingham all-school reunion, and Lac qui Parle County sesquicentennial celebration. Lloyd and Sandy enjoy being active members on boards and committees, but they were also constantly doing fun activities in their community. "Through the years, we've put together programs and skits, mock weddings, birthdays, anniversaries. Just all kinds of fun stuff," said Sandy.

Now days, Lloyd and Sandy try to spend more time with their three kids and seven grandkids. They enjoy spending time at their cabin on Big Stone Lake, feeding wild birds, and reading novels. But don't be fooled; they are still active in the community. Lloyd is still on the board of directors for Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and is presently the secretary/treasurer. Not to mention, he is the mayor of Bellingham and has been for the last six years. Sandy is still president of WELCA, and both her and Lloyd continue to help with the Walk of Hope, an event they have been active in since it began. Lloyd and Sandy have put a tremendous amount of effort and time into helping their community and fully deserve the recognition that comes with being chosen Lac qui Parle County Outstanding Senior Volunteers.

- Taken from the "Western Guard" written by Adam Conroy