



– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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**Farmers Telephone Company Opens Historic Telephone Museum;
Receives Grant from the Colorado Council on the Arts**

PLEASANT VIEW, COLO. – Farmers Telephone Company, Inc., an independent telecommunications company serving customers in the Four Corners region, will open the “Farmers Telephone Museum” on Oct. 4, 2008, near its headquarters in Pleasant View, Colo. The museum contains artifacts, equipment and memorabilia that have been collected and donated by the staff, board of directors and local residents. It is housed in the original telephone company office, the building where Farmers first launched the company in 1920.

“The opening of the museum reflects the vision and determination of Farmers Telephone Company and its board of directors to preserve the company’s history for future generations,” says Doug Pace, general manager of Farmers Telephone Company.

This week the company received a grant from the Colorado Council on the Arts to partially fund the production of a living history CD and companion book called, *Talking News: The Story of Farmers Telephone Company*.

“The book and CD are part of a larger effort on behalf of the telephone company to educate the public about life in rural Colorado nearly a century ago,” says Pace. “It’s

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also our way to pay tribute to a small band of dry land pinto bean famers and their families who had the vision to bring the best telecommunication services to this area.”

Today, Farmers Telephone Company provides phone, high-speed Internet and Web-based services to communities throughout the Four Corners.

Long-time resident and board member Bessie White, who moved to the Four Corners in 1934, wants her children and grandchildren to know what a sacrifice it was for local farmers to start the company. “These weren’t rich people. They pooled what little money they had to do this and took some big risks,” says White whose father and husband were dry land pinto bean farmers. Her son is a third generation dry land farmer on the original homestead. “Before the phone company, most people had to ride a horse to Lewis or Cortez to make a phone call,” says White. “Having a telephone made a big difference. It put us in touch with the world.”

White is featured in the hour-long audio CD as well as the book on the telephone company.

An open house and ice cream social will be held on Oct. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the site of the new Farmers Telephone Museum. The public is invited. For more information, call 970.562.4211. For additional information about Farmers Telephone Company go online to *www.farmerstelcom.com*

For an interview with Doug Pace, please call 970.562.4211.

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Farmers Telephone Company, Inc., is an independent telecommunications company serving customers throughout the Four Corners region. It provides phone and data services; high-speed Internet; Web-based technologies and interactive phone services to residents and businesses in southwest Colorado, as well as Hovenweep National Monument in Utah. www.farmerstelcom.com