Book: *Talking News: The Story of Farmers Telephone Company*
Preface
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It's rare in one's lifetime to work on a project that elicits so much good-heartedness and community spirit as the production of this book. As general manager of Farmers Telephone Company, I've seen the determination of the Board of Directors to preserve its history through the opening of a telephone museum and the recording of personal histories as documented in this book and its companion CD.

When we started this project, however, none us could imagine the beauty or the enormity of what we had undertaken. Not until the stories began to unfold – tales of walking 25 miles on snowshoes to find a doctor or felling a tree and putting up your own poles and lines to make a phone call – did we begin to appreciate the heartiness and tenacity of the people who had gone before us.

Talking News: The History of Farmers Telephone Company is our way paying tribute to a small band of dry land pinto-bean farmers and their families who, in 1920, pooled their resources to start an independent telephone company. Until phone service was established in this region, most residents rode a horse, hitched a ride on a train or a buckboard, or walked many miles to carry news to family and friends. The advent of the phone changed everything, putting them in touch with the world.

This is our gift to the people of Southwest Colorado. May we always remember the hard work and vision of those who have gone before us.

Doug Pace, general manager, Farmers Telephone Company, Inc.