

## First National, Highland Telephone Cooperative have much in common

By FRED TERRY FNB Guest Columnist

As we reflect back in time 100 years ago to think of the beginnings of First National Bank, we realize we have much in common. First National Bank and Highland Telephone were both established out of a common need, that of providing services to meet the needs of a rural community.

First National Bank, established in 1904, and Highland Telephone, established in 1955, were both organized by business and community leaders who decided to develop something to provide needed services to people in rural areas, one of those being competent phone service. A plan was formulated and various citizens bought the existing telephone facilities from Southern Continental, chartered the Cooperative and began upgrading facilities and providing telephone service to Scott and Morgan counties. These insightful leaders knew the company stood the best chance of success if the members had something invested, and thus it was formed as a cooperative. Those innovative business leaders went on to become the first Board of Directors for Highland Telephone, with the first President of the Board being Mr. W.H. Swain. Mr. Swain was instrumental in the formation of Highland Telephone Cooperative.

Over the years both institutions have continued to grow and evolve, meeting the changing needs of a fast-paced world and bringing in new technology to remain state-of-the-art in their industry. First National Bank and Highland Telephone have had a long-standing working relationship, with First National being one of the financial institutions with which we do business and HTC providing many of the Bank's telecommunications services.

We commend First National Bank and its leaders for being such a long-standing financial institution and leader in providing services to our community.

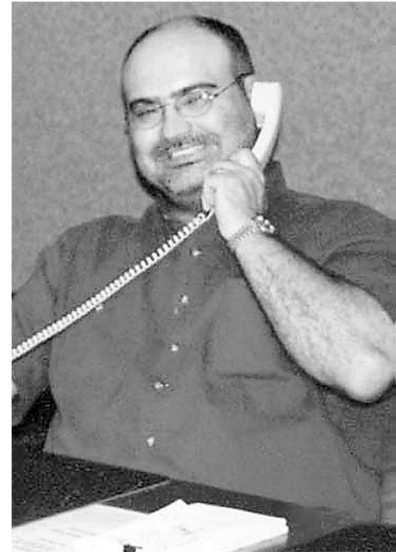


Figure 1 - Fred Terry - Highland Telephone General Manager