



70 Years on the Line:

Judy & Gerald Remember NNTC's Early Days

"Feet first if you could. And you never hung onto the pole. You always kicked away and fell to the ground. If you hugged the pole, you got lots of slivers," laughs Gerald Bousquet. Gerald is sharing how to fall off a telephone pole, something he learned early in his 43-year career at NNTC.

From telephone polisher to lineman, installer, and eventually plant manager, Gerald has done it all. He now sits alongside Judy Yandell, his lifelong friend and former co-worker, as they reminisce about their years at NNTC.

"I remember when we first got a computer. We were worried that one of us would lose our jobs," Judy recalls.

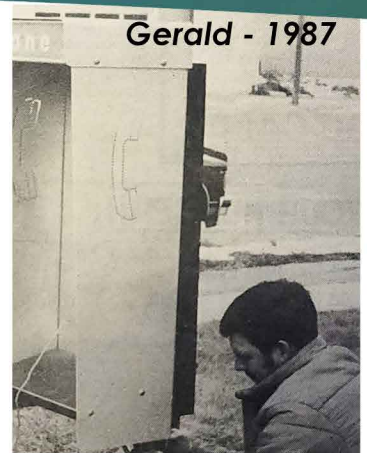
Judy started at NNTC as a receptionist fresh out of high school in 1958. "I started out at \$1, and it was three to six months later that I got \$1.10," she says. "I was at \$1.10," Gerald chimes in.

Judy oversaw anything that left the NNTC office by mail. That included bills, capital credit payouts, and NNTC's first newsletter. "Tilly Ting-a-Ling," she remembers. "It included recipes, and if something interesting was in the paper, I'd put it in there."

But the most interesting happenings may have been behind the scenes, like one unforgettable moment Judy recalls.

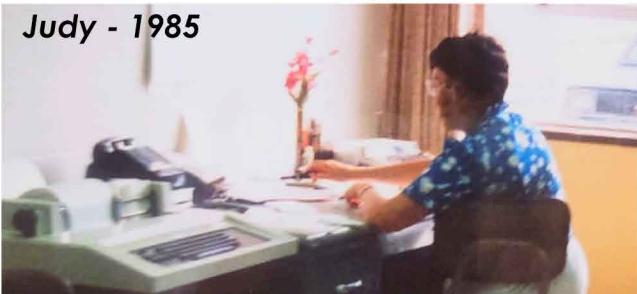
"I remember one day my billing machine had problems. This gal came in with long red hair to fix it. The machine was running, and when she bent down over it, her hair got caught in the rollers. She started screaming. I got the machine shut off and ran back to yell for Wayne. And here he comes into my office with scissors. He got her out. That was exciting," she laughs.

As for aerial lines, Gerald remembers them well. "Trees would go into the lines. Snow would cover them. We had some blizzards you wouldn't believe. Tornadoes would tear all the lines out," he says.



Gerald - 1987

Judy - 1985



Nearly 70 years later, both Gerald and Judy are thankful for their long careers at NNTC. "Everybody got along. We had a lot of camaraderie," Judy says. "We just enjoyed each other." "It was hard work, but we had fun," Gerald finishes her thought.

**Watch their interview on NNTC's social media accounts.*



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We're looking for customer photos to feature in our 2025 Annual Meeting Booklet. If your photo is selected for the front cover, you'll receive \$100! Photos chosen for the inside or back cover will earn \$50.

We'll also pick additional photos for our 2026 NNTC Calendar. If your photo is picked for the calendar, you'll get a 100 GB Fiber Fast Internet usage credit!

The 2026 NNTC Calendars will be debuted at our 2025 Annual Meeting in Jackson on September 18th. (Mark Your Calendar... the date is already marked if you have this year's calendar!)

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3. Jon E. Williams - Weston
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