

# THE CANDLESTICK

ALAMON TELCO INC-MONKAL INC.

## ALAMON: AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

**Alamon Telco Inc.**, headquartered in Kalispell, MT, was incorporated by Frank and Peg Gebhardt in 1975. Raised on a small North Dakota farm in the dustbowl era of the 30's and 40's, Frank got his start in Telephony in 1956 when Wally Kobreek hired him to work as a Central Office installer for Automatic Electric (AE). Frank traveled throughout the U.S. with AE until 1963, and settled back in to his home state of North Dakota as a Central Office repairman with a local Rural Utility Service.

In 1964, Mother Nature had a different plan...the Great Alaskan Earthquake. Wally Kobreek called once again, this time with Municipal Utilities in Fairbanks. Wally needed help re-building the earthquake decimated phone system. On Friday nights, Frank and Wally would 'moonlight' by airplaning into remote Alaskan villages, where they would work the weekends to repair village Central Offices. That was Frank's first taste of contracting, and from there, he and Wally continued to partner, contracting throughout the U.S., which eventually landed Frank in Kalispell, MT.

Roots finally sprouted in Montana, much to the relief of a road weary Peg and their seven children. It was at this point that Peg became an intricate part of the fledgling business. "I couldn't have done any of it without Peg's help," says Frank, who then adds, "I'm horrible at paperwork, and Peg kept us in business dealing with all the contracts and accounting." Alamon continued to grow and diversify the business, ranging from refurbishing CO equipment, to supplying Contract labor to Telephone Equipment manufacturers and Operating Companies. The growth in workload lead Alamon to open the Alamon Telephone Training Center in 1980, to ensure Alamon had quality, trained staff in the field.

Peg's management experience was critical in 1993, when Frank had a life threatening bout with Wegener's Disease, a rare condition that causes inflammation of the blood vessels. During Frank's long road to recovery, Peg officially took the helm of Alamon as President and CEO.

Today, through the generosity of the Gebhardt's, Alamon is transforming into an ESOP, and provides a diverse range of Professional Services, which includes Telephony/Fiber Optic Installation, EF&I Communications Engineering, Tower Construction, IT Services, and Utility Infrastructure Inspection Services. We look forward to another 38 years and beyond!

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### From the Editor's Desk

**In** many of our manager's meetings in the last year, we've discussed various ways that we could let our employees and customer's know about the great work our folks in the field have been doing. We wanted everyone to have an opportunity to see the diverse range of services that we provide, and that we continue to grow in competitive markets. We are very proud that many of our Field Supervisors and Managers got their start with Alamon, and that we've been able to promote and train quality people from within. But most importantly, we wanted a chance to show that we continue to reflect the principles, integrity and workmanship that Alamon was started upon by Frank and Peg Gebhardt. -ES

## THE CUTTING EDGE

Fiber Characterization may be a foreign term to those outside of the industry. But to those within, it is a very technical but valuable procedure, involving highly trained Fiber Optic technicians, and using advanced and expensive test gear. Alamon has both the staff and company owned state-of-the-art test equipment to expertly determine a customer's optimal Fiber Optic bandwidth. In the last year, lead by Field Supervisor Troy Reeves, Alamon has provided this service for many customers, including major carriers such as Verizon, Frontier, and LightRiver.

**ALAMON TELCO  
INC  
MONKAL INC**

**315 W. Idaho  
Kalispell, MT 59901**

**Tel: 1-800-252-8838**

**Fax: 406-752-2074**

**E-mail:  
information@alamon.com**



**Margaret Gebhardt**

*President / CEO*

**Brad Cronk**

*Vice President / CFO*

**Alex Hatfield**

*General Manager*

**Scott Lawrence**

*Sr. Operations Manager*

**Terry Mickens**

*Sr. Operations Manager*

**Dan Dennison**

*Operations Manager*

**Dennis Gesker**

*Operations Manager*



**1904 Silver Dollar pay phone  
on display at Alamon HQ,  
Kalispell , MT.**

**FIELD SPOTLIGHT: MIKE GALLAGHER,  
ENGINEERING**

In 14 years, Mike saw US West change to Qwest, and then from Qwest to CenturyLink . The one thing that was consistent was that all three companies saw the value Mike brought to the table as a Planning Engineer. Whether it was LAN/WAN systems, CO Infrastructure, or DC Power Plants, they all knew Mike was the 'go to' Engineer to cover a 14 state footprint.

On many occasions, Alamon worked directly for Mike as an Installation Vendor to complete these build-outs. Mike got to know our Installers, Supervisors and

Operations Management, and thought enough of our quality, people and organization to join our Team after his retirement from CenturyLink in 2012. Now, as the head of Alamon's Engineering Services, Mike's management and technical knowledge are helping Alamon to continue to provide a full array of EF&I solutions to nationwide customers such as Frontier, CenturyLink, AT&T, and Verizon. Alamon is very happy to have Mike's expertise at our disposal!

**NEW WORK**

This spring, Alamon Contract Services added another fortune 500 company to its client list. Alamon Contract Services will begin Utility Pole Testing for AT&T in Connecticut in June.

AT&T was sold on our labor saving, cutting edge Resistograph Technology. Saves money with better, more accurate results... it's no wonder AT&T choose Alamon's Inspection service!

**H.Q. Spotlight**

**Cheryl Williams –  
Administrative Assistant**

When not relaying Jimmy Johnson NASCAR updates, Cheryl plays a key role in Alamon HQ Operations. From payroll, to the ever changing rules of Insurance, she's an important player of a very fast paced office operation. With 14 years of service with Alamon, chances are that every one of our field staff has heard Cheryl's cheerful voice on the end of the line, and maybe also her 'not-so-cheerful' voice when they're late sending in a timesheet. She's a perfect fit for keeping 'her guys' in line. Thank you Cheryl for your great contributions to Alamon.

**Community Corner**

For more than two decades, Alamon has been a proud supporter of local 4-H clubs. Every fall, during the annual Flathead Country Fair's 4-H Livestock Sale, Alamon has flashed their bid cards frequently, purchasing dozens of steers, hogs, and sheep from two generations of young, hard working 4-H kids.

**In 1975...**

One gallon of regular gas.....\$0.57  
Number one movie.....'Jaws'  
Median Household Income...\$11,800  
And....Alamon Telco was Incorporated.