



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Great Plains Communications has been serving the telecommunications needs of rural Nebraska since 1910. That includes over 60 years of service in Imperial.

Now in its fourth generation of family ownership, Great Plains is the largest privately-owned communications provider in Nebraska. It serves 30,000 customers in 90 rural communities.

Most of the 200 employees live and work in the towns where Great Plains provides service.

The Imperial branch has six employees: broad band technicians Cory Schuller, Greg Dickey, Daryl Sharp and John Miller; central office technician Jody Bopp and field engineer Ray Wright.

Great Plains was founded by E.C. Hunt, who was first a general manager and majority owner of Camp Dewey Telephone Company in Creighton. Great Plains is now based in Blair.

Great Plains offers residential and business services such as digital phone including local and long-distance calling, as well as a high-definition cable television. Broadband Internet is available in all Great Plains Communications' communities through DSL and cable modem facilities, or its partnership with WildBlue Satellite Internet Services.

The first "100 year" celebration was held for employees and their families in Omaha in February.

Amy Moan, Marketing and Public Relations Manager, said the celebration will continue with barbeques across the state this summer, as a way of saying "thank you" to customers.

The company's television station, GPC-TV, will also air a commemorative 100th anniversary video.

More information may be found at www.gpcom.com or www.GPC-TV.net.