

FORWARD

Upon his resignation as President of the Southeast Telephone Company of Wisconsin in January 1996, having served in that capacity for 50 years, Melvin J. Johnson provides herein his memories and reflections of that period of time. His account of the early history of the Wind Lake and subsequent Southeast Telephone Company of Wisconsin is a rich personal series of recollections of significant milestones in the growth of the company. Copies of the actual telephone company minutes from 1902 to 1929 are interspersed throughout the booklet and provide the reader with a factual record of company business activity.

The narration in this booklet is an *unedited transcript* as dictated by Melvin J. Johnson into his tape recorder in January 1996. It was transcribed essentially verbatim so as to keep intact the conversational tone characteristic of his speech. Those who read this material who have known and/or worked with Melvin J. Johnson as a community servant and leader for all his adult life, will undoubtedly immediately recognize the prose as his. For those readers who have not had the opportunity to know Melvin J. Johnson, we hope you can read between the lines as well as the spoken words to know the depth of his commitment to public service and the contributions he made to his community.

February 12, 1996

