On May 1, 1905, when the New Ulm Rural Telephone Company began operating, a loaf of bread cost 5 cents and gas was about 7 cents per gallon. Actor Henry Fonda was born in May 1905 and the most popular song was Give My Regards to Broadway. Our world has changed dramatically in the last 115 years, including astonishing changes in the telecommunications industry.

Over the years, Nuvera added many residential and business offerings including Internet, TV, wireless phones, managed services and more. Taking a step back in time provides an entertaining look at how far all these services have come as an industry! Here are some fun memories of technology of the past:

- Busy signal anyone? How annoying was it to have to wait to call back until your best friend's brother got off the phone with his girlfriend?
- Kids these days don't appreciate the convenience of the remote control. Did anyone else's Dad make them stand by the TV and flip the channels until you got to the “right” one?
- How about “rabbit ear” antennas or, when that didn't work, tinfoil wrapped around the top to try to get decent reception?
- Remember having to drag the phone as far as the cord would reach so that you could find some degree of privacy on your phone calls?
- The size of those first mobile phones... whew! They could be used as paperweights now!
- Who remembers dial-up modems and the screeching noise they made?

Yes, we've definitely come a long way in the last 115 years. One thing hasn't changed, though. Nuvera is proud to be your hometown telecommunications provider, and we love the challenge of continually finding new, innovative ways to keep you connected to the people, events, and activities you love!

Watch for celebration events to come this year, marking this significant anniversary. Due to uncertainties with the COVID-19 outbreak, our plans are fluid, but we will, no doubt, find ways to celebrate.
With the introduction of COVID-19 into our daily lives, many more people are working from home, doing schoolwork over the Internet, and just plain spending more time online. The right wireless router can make a significant improvement in the performance of all these connected devices.

When considering your home router, there are a few features to think about.

**Capacity**
What kinds of devices are you running off your router? How many devices is your household using at one time? Are you gaming or just checking emails and browsing the web? Avoid frustrating pauses and buffering by making sure you have a router with enough capacity to handle your needs.

**Broadcasting frequencies**
Look for a router that is at least dual band if not more. Dual-band or tri-band routers emit their wireless signal on a much higher frequency than a single-band router, making them faster and reducing congestion. If you are connecting smart home devices, using Full HD or 4K streaming, you need a dual-band or tri-band wireless router.

**Mesh Wi-Fi**
Mesh Wi-Fi has gained popularity in recent years. It is similar to a Wi-Fi extender in that there are multiple units to place around the home. However, Mesh Wi-Fi is actually meant to replace the Wi-Fi router in your home, creating a whole new Wi-Fi network, reaching out into the “dead” spaces in the home and providing better coverage in areas that may have been problematic in the past.

---

**Hospice Donation**
Nuvera employees recently held internal fundraisers for local hospice programs. Employees participated in a holiday sweater contest, gift wrapping and an auction. Pictured are Nuvera employees Chris Newman, Laura Hage and Connie Ryan presenting a check for $572 to Allina employees Missy Dreckman, Autumn Stueber and Dana Lopez.

---

**Farm Show**
Steve Seifert, technology solutions specialist, chatted with visitors to our booth at the New Ulm Farm Show in early March. Due to COVID-19, the other trade shows Nuvera was scheduled to participate in have been cancelled.
As if your email inbox isn't full enough, now it appears that spammers have gotten ahold of your email address and your inbox is bursting at the seams with unwanted messages. How did this happen? How can you keep it from happening again?

The truth is you can’t keep spammers out of your email 100 percent of the time. But there are some tricks to keep in mind as you are putting your email address out in the world that can help keep spammers at bay.

First, let’s understand the different ways spammers get their hands on your email in the first place and steps you can take to counteract these tactics.

- **Buying email addresses from a list**
  Sometimes when you create an account on a website or service or make a purchase online, your name gets farmed out to a marketing list. Review the privacy policy before handing over your email address to any company or service. Unfortunately, it’s also possible for spammers to hack into a company’s database and steal their list of email addresses.

- **Guessing**
  Yes, that’s right, spammers will make up whole lists of email addresses and if your email address is a common name at a common domain (i.e.: john@gmail.com or cathy@hotmail.com), they could very easily happen upon your email address. Because email is free, it costs nothing for spammers to send out thousands of emails, hoping to hit a few legitimate addresses. Use an email address that is more difficult to determine, such as john365@gmail.com or cathy.hm@hotmail.com.

- **Using harvesting programs**
  Spammers use tools to scan the web and collect email addresses. They can pull email addresses from websites, chat rooms, mailing lists and more. Essentially, any text on a web page that has the @ sign in it will attract the attention of the spammers and their collection strategies. To combat this tactic, make your email harder to simply scan and re-use by the spammers. Put extra spaces into your email address: j o h n 3 6 5 @ g m a i l . c o m. Or replace the @ sign and the (.) with the word: john365(at)gmail(dot)com.

While there is virtually no way to keep spammers out of your email completely, these steps can go a long way toward keeping your inbox a little lighter.

**Wondering how to do something on your computer, wireless phone or social media?**

Nuvera’s Technology Solutions team has extensive knowledge in all things technology. Visit nuvera.net/ask to “Ask Our Experts” and have your questions answered! Follow our Facebook page for answers to your Q&A and others.

---

Please go to nuvera.net for all the latest COVID-19 updates and changes from Nuvera.
Upcoming Events
Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Nuvera’s Annual Shareholders’ Meeting will be held online. Watch for more details to come.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all Customer Appreciation events scheduled for May and June have been cancelled. We are evaluating whether or not we will be able to reschedule them.

What they’re saying...
“I really like the DVR and HDTV.”
- Krista Howk, Hutchinson

“My favorite thing about Nuvera is that they always have our devices working and not breaking.”
- Teresa Fischer, New Ulm

Make the most of your summer!
Summer will be here soon and whether you plan to travel, stay right in your own backyard, or barely leave the house, there are lots of apps and websites that can make life better. Here are a few of our favorites.

**AllTrails:** AllTrails has the largest collection of detailed, hand-curated trail maps so you can hit the trail with confidence. Anytime. Anywhere.

**LeafSnap:** When you discover a beautiful wildflower or unusual looking shrub, and you struggle to discern its genus. Instead of wasting time trawling through websites or asking your gardener friends, why not simply take a snap and have an app do the work for you?

**Night Sky:** Quickly identify stars, planets, constellations and satellites above by simply holding your iPhone, iPad or Apple Watch to the Night Sky!

**Spotify:** Spotify lets you search for any track, artist, album, or playlist and listen for free. Create and share playlists and get personal recommendations.

To see webcams from all over the world – wildlife, puppies, landscapes, and more – without ever leaving your couch, Explore.org provides hours of entertainment.

If a virtual field trip is what you’re looking for, here are a few that will fill the bill:

**Smithsonian:** naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour

**San Diego Zoo:** kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos

**Monterey Bay Aquarium:** montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams

**Boston Children’s Museum:** bostonchildrensmuseum.org/museum-virtual-tour

Meet Our Employees

Christopher Machacek
Position: Sales Associate
Length of time with company: 2 1/2 years
One of my favorite hobbies: Adventures with my fur baby.
How I like to be involved in the community: I try to shop local, support the local farmers’ markets, take part in festivals, and recently began coordinating festivals and events.

Kitty Hietala
Position: Marketing Specialist
Length of time with company: 8 months
One of my favorite hobbies: I love to read and get together with my book club.
How I like to be involved in the community: I like to be involved at church, recently finishing a term on the church council, and at New Ulm High School where my daughter is a student.

Like Us on
Watch for prize giveaways on
#thankfulthursday

If you are interested in purchasing Nuvera Communications, Inc. stock (NUVR), please contact our corporate office. View Nuvera News on our website at nuvera.net.