



Watertown, South Dakota. 45 years ago, in a one room office in Cambridge, MN, a young motivated entrepreneur set out to promote the three [TS meteorological elevator systems](#) that he had co-developed to assist in gathering meteorological data off of towers. On that day, Tower Systems, Inc. was born.



Company founder, Bill Carlson, spent five years in the US Army working with meteorological equipment. He took a liking to that and upon leaving the Army, applied his new found skills with Meteorology Research, Inc. (MRI) out of Altadena, CA. During his time with MRI, towers became a common means of mounting instrumentation used to capture valuable weather data. It was here where Carlson got started erecting towers and his passion for this new industry quickly gained momentum.

They say that timing is 90% of a rain dance and let's just say that it poured when Tower Systems opened their doors for business. Not only with the TS meteorological elevator systems but also with an entirely new technology... Cellular Telecommunications! Bill and his partners were well equipped with the knowledge and skills that were needed to help with the expansion of this massive new industry. With no marketing whatsoever, TSI quickly became a valued partner to many different cellular companies looking to build their infrastructure, not only across the nation, but also in over 30 countries throughout the world.

Tower Systems, Inc., through Bill's leadership, moved the business to South Dakota in 1991, expanded into Florida in 1993 and in 1995 conceptualized the idea to start an organization that would focus on safety for the entire industry. Soon after that, TSI along with 61 other

companies founded the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE) which is still headquartered in Watertown, SD. Carlson's achievements also include being the first ever recipient of the NATE Lifetime Achievement Award as well as being the first ever representative of the tower erection industry to be inducted into the Wireless Hall of Fame. To watch his Hall of Fame video profile visit [www.WFCHallOfFame.com](http://www.WFCHallOfFame.com).

45 years have passed since that fateful day when Tower Systems, Inc's founding father, Bill Carlson, decided to take a chance at the American Dream. In that time, telecommunications has evolved into a sophisticated, high tech industry. One that is now commonly referred to as the 4<sup>th</sup> utility. TSI has expanded from its humble beginnings and today employs over 50 team members while looking to add 50 more. The company is now led by Carlson's daughter, Kari L. Carlson. Ms. Carlson is very grateful for the mentorship that she received from her Dad which but knows that without her great team, none of this would be possible. "Though Dad's leadership was instrumental in paving our path, none of this would be possible without our great team members that are out there representing TSI everyday as an industry leader focused on safety, quality and integrity". Ms. Carlson continued, "As professionals, we are no longer looked at as tower dogs or cowboys. We are now seen as skilled, professionally trained and certified technicians. We are all part of an exciting and fast paced industry that allows us to make what we do not just a job but a career. Our company can and will continue to grow on the strong foundation that it has been built upon and the TSI family will proudly carry on the legacy that is Tower Systems, Inc." To learn more about Tower System, Inc. or to apply for a position with the company, visit [www.towersystems.com](http://www.towersystems.com) or send an email to [careers@towersystems.com](mailto:careers@towersystems.com).

