


Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections

WHITE OUT

February brought arctic conditions to southwest Missouri

Officially, January 2011 finished just a few degree-days from topping January 2010 as the coldest first calendar month in more than 20 years. Likewise, February 2011, at the time of press, appears to be on pace to rival the bitter February of 2010, which also happened to be the coldest in 20 years.

February 2011 literally stormed on to the scene with a blizzard unlike any experienced in this area in some time. It started with around 18 inches of snow (more in some parts), followed by another 6-10 inches a few days later. It also brought extreme frigid temps with reports of 20 degree below zero in various parts of the New-



During the morning of Feb. 1, when this photo was taken, visibility was limited and would continue to be so for the next several hours while driving snow descended upon the New-Mac Electric service area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Another Stop on the Lines...page 2
- Recipe of the monthpage 3
- Doug Rye.....page 4



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections

Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Mac service area in the morning hours of February 10th.

Obviously, this was a February that will not be forgotten, and New-Mac hopes that memory will linger as customers look at the bill that accompanies this newsletter.

This good news was in spite of a nearly unprecedented winter storm (at least in the memories of most), New-Mac sustained very few outages. The co-op was prepared for the worst, but only had to tend to a handful of isolated interruptions.

The reality is: the current bill for most New-Mac customers will likely be one of their higher winter bills. When you con-

sider we endured more than a week's worth of single digit temperatures and on five days the low temp was zero degrees or below, there's little doubt our heating units were strained to the maximum. Also, to be factored in was the fact that schools were shut down for weeks – even rarely closed businesses shut their doors, meaning people were home more often using energy.

So, please consider as you look at your bill reflecting February's usage, it was bitterly cold and challenging outside, but you enjoyed warmth, cooking, lights and entertainment inside thanks to reliable electricity.

*Please call
before you dig*

Digging in areas where there may be an underground electric line can be dangerous! So, before any project that requires digging, call the Missouri One Call System at 800-DIG-RITE.

Those who fail to make this call not only face the chance of electric shock; they also will be held responsible for any repairs that may be necessary if a line is accidentally cut or damaged.

*Don't miss us at
upcoming trade
shows*

New-Mac Electric will be hitting the road and making its usual stops at three local trade shows in the weeks ahead.

Come by and visit with us and see how you can be more energy efficient around your house.

**Neosho Area Business
& Industry Review**

- March 11-12
- Neosho High School cafeteria
- Friday, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**McDonald County
Business Expo**

- March 26
- McDonald High School gymnasium
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Help yourself to
'Rural Missouri'*

Copies of the latest *Rural Missouri* magazine are always available, free of charge, at either New-Mac office.

Another  on the lines 

An artist and then some

Doug Hall is an artist, but to leave it at that, might be like saying Daniel Boone wore a coonskin cap.

There's so much more to this man, who resides in the loft of his horse barn in McDonald County.

What he's best known for is his paintings, mostly of Woodland Indians.

"I have been fascinated with indians since I was a kid," said Hall.

Surprisingly, considering the Native American artifacts throughout his abode, including the elaborate chief sculpture known by family to eventually serve as his tombstone, he has no Native American blood within him.

"Not that I know of," he said. "If there is, it's coming out through the paint brush, maybe. I don't know."

To say the least, his works are in demand.

"I paint for the Buffalo Bill Museum, out in



Hall and Mr. Dobbins have been together for thousands of miles and two motion pictures.

Cody, Wyo.; the Gilcrease Museum (Tulsa) – I do a miniature show with them in the fall; and this year, I'll have a painting go up for auction at the Charlie Russell Museum in Great Falls, Mont." Hall continued, "Then I do the History Meets the Arts in Gettysburg, and the MGA (Midwest Gathering of the Artists) in Carthage. Then I paint for the Altermann Gallery in Santa Fe, and they do three to four auctions a year, and I've got an auction coming up in Scottsdale (Ariz.) in April."

Needless to say, Hall has advanced beyond the "starving artist" stage. Each of his works are spoken for before they are even started, but he remains humble in his approach.

"I always think *this* could be my last painting. I do. You know, nothing lasts forever, but if I didn't paint for money, I would still paint, like I've always done."

But that's not all he's done.

He's covered just a few miles on horseback.

"I love roaming around on horses," he said. "For the first 25 years of my life, I couldn't even work because I had to roam around on horses. It just consumed me. I'd get on a horse and ride for weeks, and get off and be in Iowa, or get off and be out in Kansas, or in Oklahoma



Hall at work.

○ Hall

Continued from page 2

somewhere. Just literally roaming around. I loved to do that. In fact, I want to do it some more. I'm not done yet."

Mainly, his love for riding got him involved in Civil War reenactments with the 2nd Missouri Cavalry, which in turn brought about a pair of interesting life events: appearances in two major motion pictures. Hall and the horse he's now owned for 25-years, Mr. Dobbins, got to take part in both Kevin Costner's *The Postman* and the Civil War-themed *Ride with the Devil*, starring Tobey Maguire. In both movies, he and Mr. Dobbins were included in 300-horse cavalries, which he said was the most exhilarating thing he's ever done.

"To be lined up and then to do a battle charge with 300 horses at full tilt shooting, that will make your hair stand on edge. The thunder of the hooves of 300 horses is incredible. It's deafening."

Riding and shooting are nothing new for Hall, as if anything could rival the time he's spent with a brush or on horseback, it'd be the hours spent with a rifle in hand – but not just any rifle.

Hall is partial to the choice weapon of the 18th century, the flintlock. He bought his first at 16 in Union City, Tenn., when as a Neosho teenager, he looked at a map and figured he could skip school and be back in the afternoon, only to return the next evening.

"The flintlock, I like everything about it. I carry it in the woods. I like hunting with it. I like shooting it. I like cleaning it. I like to look at them. Everything about it suits me."

That passion led him to a temporary career path. While regularly shooting with fellow enthusiasts of his choice black-power, muzzleloader gun out in the woods of McDonald County, he got to thinking that if he could come up with a good location, perhaps he could sell supplies for muzzleloaders and archery (yes, another hobby of Hall's). At the age of 27, after years of painting duck and goose calls for Lohman Manufacturing in Neosho, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, he opened up The Log Cabin Store, just south of Neosho on Highway 59.

So, the regular get-together of muzzleloader shooters migrated to the field behind The Log Cabin Store in 1987, and it continues on today, even though the business was blown away by the Easter day tornado of 2001.

"When the shop blew away, I just assumed everyone would stop coming," said Hall. "Well, the next weekend, even when the store was strewed about, people showed up to shoot. So, we stopped cleanup and shot, and we shoot every Sunday. We have not stopped. It doesn't matter how cold or how hot or how windy, we shoot Sunday at 3. My brother says, it's the only place he knows, where there's nothing there, but people still show up."

Nowadays, at least until he makes it outdoors, you'll find Hall painting in the loft above Mr. Dobbins' quarters. Soon, the loft will be exclusively his studio, as Hall



Hall's interests are on display in his loft, as well as his works and eventual tombstone (at left).



is currently building, naturally, a log cabin just a few hundred feet away in the Ozark hollow.

Even though you might expect otherwise from this outdoorsman, who almost seems to have been born a few centuries too late, the cabin will feature the modern-day luxury supplied by New-Mac Electric.

"Oh yeah, electricity is the most wonderful thing there is. Just look at all the wonderful things we get from electricity. It's the best bargain going."

He even contends the Woodland Indians could have tolerated it. "They would have loved it," he said.

So, even for an artist, who also happens to be a horseman, flintlock rifleman, archer and woodsman, the 21st century isn't all bad.

Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

TOFFEE COOKIES

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Barbara Chester**

1 box dry butter pecan cake mix
½ cup oil
2 eggs
1 bag *Heath* toffee chips

Mix well and bake 8-10 minutes at 350°.

Send your recipe, along with your name and customer number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Rye: I'm here to help, just as I've been in the past

No, it can't be. It can't possibly be time for the March column. It seems like I just wrote one for 2010 a few weeks ago. Unless you are a teenager, you know exactly what I am talking about. Well, time really flies when you are having fun. Of course, the frog says that time is really fun when you are having flies. Please smile.

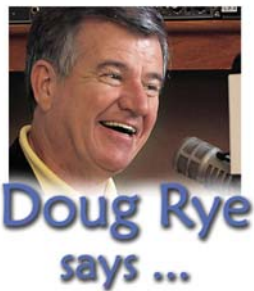
As I think of a new year, I also think of the past. I just love it when you tell me that you were helped by something that you read in this column. I just got a call a while ago from a fellow who told me that he had just finished reading the last column and wanted to order the attic radiant barrier so that he could install it before his attic gets hot. He is a smart fellow. I hope to continue helping you for a long time, so write my phone number down – 501-653-7931 – and just file it under "energy nut" and continue reading these columns.

I have received a lot of calls lately from folks with comfort problems in their homes. Some have older houses, and others have fairly new ones. It really doesn't matter because if you are not comfortable, you are not happy. I can tell you that the subject of comfort has changed over the years. My first bedroom as a youngster was 6 feet by 9 feet. I had my own bunk bed, a place for my electric train, and I didn't have to share it with three older sisters.

The problem was that I had to go through their room to get to my room. And my room had no source of heat whatsoever, except what seeped into my room through the curtain (door) from the big non-vented gas heater in the girls' room, and they didn't have to share the heat with me. On many cold mornings, I would draw pictures in the frost on the window before I would jump out of bed and run through their bedroom to get to the non-vented gas heater in the living room. Think of it. My room was freezing; their room was smothering hot; the temperatures of the other rooms were anybody's guess, and basically we were all thankful and happy just to have a house

with heat.

What a difference a few years can make. Now we expect every room in our house to be the same comfortable temperature. I know of a case this past year where the



homeowner threatened to file suit against the builder of his new house because upstairs was always a few degrees hotter than downstairs in the summer. We have proven many thousands of times that there is no excuse for a new house not to have affordable comfort. It is not always possible that every room will

have the exact same temperature 24/7, but it can be very close. All you have to do is build it like the electric cooperatives, and I, have been teaching you to do for the last 20 years. It is easy and affordable, and IT WORKS EVERY SINGLE TIME. Just ask us for help.

I recently received a call from a lady in Illinois who said that she and her family had been in their new house for seven months and the house was cold. I said, "I assume that you meant cold in the winter." She said, "Yes, it was just great in the summer." I said, "You should have built the house to my standards." She replied, "We did." My heart skipped a beat and I asked her every question I could think of. Did you caulk; did you use cellulose; did you use good windows, etc.? And yes, they even installed geothermal.

I couldn't imagine what the problem might be, so I asked the age-old question. "What is the thermostat setting right now?" Her answer was 60 degrees. I told her to turn it up to 75 degrees. She said that if she did, her husband would come through and turn it back down to 60 degrees. I told her to go whack her husband upside the head and tell him who was boss, and if that didn't work, stop cooking his meals. She laughed and said that might work.

This is a true story, and it has what appears to be an easy solution. Some problems don't have such easy solutions, but I am confident I can help all of you. See you



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86
Neosho, Missouri 64850
Telephone: 417/451-1515 800/322-3849
Fax: 417/451-9042
Office Hours: Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at
www.newmac.com.

Management

CEO/General Manager Mitch McCumber
Controller David Childers
Manager of Administration Mary Hatfield
System Engineer Stan Irsik
Manager of Operations Alan Loehr
Manager of Marketing Mark K. Rakes
Billing Supervisor Vickie Stuart

Board of Directors

District 1 Martin Youngblood
District 2 Kenneth Daniels
District 3 Bobby Fields
District 4 Beryl Kennedy
District 5 Billy P. White
District 6 Paul Sprenkle
District 7 Maurice Mailes
District 8 Virgil Winchester
District 9 Dewey Allgood

Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:
Autowithdrawal Payment
Levelized Billing
Rental Light
Meeting rooms available at both locations
Credit Card Acceptance
Safety Programs (upon request)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

next month when I will give you more ways to make your house more comfortable.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 AM), works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.eark.org.