

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

Tragic tornado also hits New-Mac

EF5 twister, flooding kept co-op customers out of power

One of the deadliest tornados in our nation's history sadly did most of its damage inside the city limits of Joplin on May 22. However, it hit the New-Mac Electric system hard enough to knock more than 4,000 customers out of power.

The tornado was rated as an EF5, meaning it had winds greater than 200 mph. Heavy rains and lightning throughout the entire day following the devastating twister also did not help conditions.

New-Mac was able to restore power to most of its customers the same night, but around 1,000 had to wait until KAMO Power could finish the repair of transmission lines two days later.

New-Mac also incurred additional storm-related outages, most of

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The Diamond area certainly also felt the horrific tornado, as seen above and below. At left, McDonald County experienced tornadic winds as well: This tractor was wrapped around a tree near Southwest City. At bottom, New-Mac brush crews were plenty busy dealing with hundreds of trees that were blown over.



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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.

Watch out for kids

Children are out and about enjoying their break from school, and New-Mac Electric asks that you be mindful of that as you drive around this summer.

It's every driver's responsibility to be on the lookout for kids at play; just as every parent needs to stress that their children always be watchful for cars.

Let's all work together to keep summer both fun and safe.

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.

Offices closed for 4th of July

New-Mac's offices will be closed Monday, July 4th, for the observance of Independence Day.

Another  on the lines 

Fame has found the Brumleys in peaceful Powell

Albert E. Brumley got to "fly away" in 1977, but his songs are still going strong.

Having written such well-known songs as "I'll Fly Away", "Jesus Hold My Hand", "This World Is Not My Home" and "I'll Meet You in the Morning" certainly

has contributed to his lasting legacy. One might think that the merits of those and around 1,000 other songs he put to paper ought to ensure that Albert E. Brumley's works will not soon be forgotten.

Still, Bob Brumley is seeing to it that his father's efforts are preserved.

"My whole thing is just about keeping Dad's music alive," he said. "That's all I want to do."

This pursuit has been accomplished through Albert E. Brumley & Sons, Inc., which Bob has served as the president and CEO of since the mid-1980s.

"Primarily, we're just a publishing company.... That involves getting songs cut and printed and used, whichever way we can," he explained.

The company is located on the banks of Mike's Creek in Powell and across the road from the home where Albert and his wife Goldie raised six kids: Bill, Al Jr., Tom, Bob, Jack and Betty. It was actually started by Albert in the early 1940s, and his sons,

Bill and Bob, came into the business along the way. The sons took over completely in 1976, and then in 1986, Bob bought out Bill (who has since passed away).

"Brumley Music hasn't changed much," said Bob. "We're doing what we've always done It's just the way we do it has changed a lot with the Internet and computers."

Indeed, the inventory of songs Brumley Music is pitching to various artists, mostly in the southern gospel genre, hasn't changed much since 1977.

"I do have some writers in Nashville in the country side and bluegrass side, but my main focus has always been on Dad's music."

The popularity of Albert E. Brumley's songs hasn't wavered through the years. His songs have been performed by a wide variety of artists in all genres of music from Elvis Presley to Ray Charles to the Supremes – even



Above, Albert and Goldie raised six children in Powell, while Albert was writing song after song.

The Brumleys will soon have two members in the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame, when Bob (below) joins his father, Albert (at left).



the Boston Pops Orchestra. Additionally, Brumley's works have been featured in movies, such as *O' Brother Where Art Thou?*, as well as numerous television shows and commercials. His songs have been recorded in over 30 languages.

Bob believes it's the emotions evoked and the stories told by his father's songs that have given them such staying power. Albert knew how to express himself through the crafting of his words, his son maintains.

"To me, he was the greatest writer of words there ever was,"

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○ Brumley

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said Bob. “He could write words that would just paint a picture in your mind. You can see what he’s talking about. He had those stories to tell.”

Most of those stories came to him, while experiencing rural living. Albert was born into a farm family near Spiro, Okla., in 1905. He grew up picking cotton and working hard on the farm before attending the Hartford Musical Institute in 1926. It was, while picking cotton back home in Oklahoma, that he wrote his most famous song, “I’ll Fly Away,” in 1929. The deep-voiced young songwriter would go on to spend time traveling with a quartet as a bass singer and eventually started teaching singing schools in several states. It was at one of those schools that led him to his future wife and McDonald County home, when in Powell, he met Goldie Schell, whom he married Aug. 30, 1931.

In spite of the spreading fame of the prolific song crafter, Albert never felt compelled to leave his peaceful existence in Powell for Nashville or the other big cities, where his works were in demand. This also kept a sense of normalcy for his children.

“He wasn’t a flamboyant or outgoing-type person. He was reserved – some people would say shy,” said Bob. “He liked it here where it was quiet and peaceful. He didn’t like to be out in the hustle and bustle of life. In those days, people that were pretty famous would come by the house – The Delmore Brothers and Wayne Raney and some of the Opry stars. To me, it was just part of life.”

Fame, indeed, found Albert E. Brumley. He’s been inducted into five different Halls of Fame for music, and among many other honors, he was named by the Smithsonian Institute as “The greatest gospel songwriter before WWII.”

Surprisingly, at least to Bob, the latter Brumley has also risen into fame. On Sept. 28 of this year, Bob will, like his father before him, be inducted into the Southern Gospel Hall of Fame in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

“Being in there with my Dad means a lot,” said Bob. “I never thought about anything like that ever happening. I just do what I do.... I don’t consider myself a famous man.”

Bob’s recognition comes after a lifetime of promoting both his father’s songs and the southern gospel genre, in general. Beyond, keeping Brumley music alive and well on the radio, in TV and the movies, Bob has been the chief promoter behind the Albert E. Brumley Memorial Gospel Sing, which has been held annually since 1969.

The Albert E. Brumley Memorial Gospel Sing has become the largest event of its kind in the country. Last year’s four-day event, featuring dozens of southern gospel performers, drew more than 30,000 fans to Lebanon, Mo. – the event’s home since 2006. Past sites included Springdale and Fayetteville. This year’s Gospel Sing will be held Aug. 3-6 in Lebanon.

Anyone interested in learning more about the history of Albert E. Brumley or the publishing company, can do so online at brumleymusic.com, or better yet, follow Highway E into Powell. You’ll actually be driving on “The Albert E. Brumley Memorial Highway”, which was officially designated on what would have been the songwriter’s 100th birthday in 2005. You’ll find the shop right by the creek, and inside you will find a small museum featuring numerous items of interest from the early days of Brumley music.

If you find yourself in church, take a look at who wrote the hymn you are singing. Maybe you never realized it, but those clever lyrics might have come from just down the country road.



The office building of Albert E. Brumley & Sons, Inc., (above) features several historical items related to the songwriter of its namesake, such as a shape note typewriter (at left).

Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

COCONUT CREAM PIE

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Jacque Wilson**

premade pie crust
2 boxes coconut pudding (Cook & Serve) JELL-O
3½ cups milk
4-5 egg whites
¼ tsp. cream of tartar
½ tsp. vanilla
6 Tbsp. sugar

Cook JELL-O per directions on box. Put in pie crust. Set aside. Whip egg whites, cream of tartar and vanilla until peaks. Gradually add sugar. Beat sugar in. Put cream on top of pie. Bake at 350° for 10-12 min.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account 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.

○ Tornado

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which were the result of flash flooding in McDonald County, but the co-op was able to return to normal operations within two days of the storm.

“Our hearts and prayers go out to all of those affected by this horrible tragedy,” said New-Mac spokesman Mark Rakes.



Above and far left, the tornado proved devastating to utility poles and trees alike. At left, KAMO Power works to repair heavily damaged transmission lines to the Diamond Grove substation.



Don't get burned by energy scams

by Christine Grammes

The devices could not be simpler—a small gray box that plugs into an electrical outlet in the home. The accompanying advertising insisted these products, costing up to \$300, could shrink electric bills by 10 percent and reduce energy consumption by 25 percent. In times of rising energy prices, who wouldn't want to try them?

In recent years, the Texas Office of Attorney General took legal action against the firm offering what it called the Xpower Energy Saver or Mega Power Saver, which sell for \$200 and \$300, respectively. A lab at the University of Texas at Austin tested the units and concluded they could not live up to their promises.

In addition, the lab revealed the products are, in reality, ordinary capacitors. Capacitors are regularly used by electricians, and they can be purchased for less than \$20.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) also warns consumers to be careful about marketers or home-improvement contractors aggressively trying to sell energy-saving products. According to the agency, consumers should look carefully and check independent information—such as from state or local consumer protection offices like the Better Business Bureau—about companies selling such items.

“Don't fall for high-pressure sales pitches from contractors or door-to-door sales people,” says the FTC.



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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?

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LIVE WIRE: Metal theft threatens safety, lives

New-Mac Electric Cooperative does not take copper theft lightly, and neither should you.

In recent years, the rise in the price of scrap metal has brought a rash of copper thefts across the nation. It has also brought about a rash of deaths, power outages, expensive repairs and criminal prosecutions that should weigh heavily on the mind of anyone contemplating or observing such a despicable act.

Foolishly, thieves are risking – and sometimes losing – their lives by attempting to remove copper wiring from electrical systems, even going as far as climbing power poles and scaling substation fences.



Copper theft affects every co-op member. Just a few dollars worth of stolen copper can bring about hundreds of dollars in repairs, and unfortunately, most times when stolen copper is recovered, it is in a useless condition, having been cut into pieces.

New-Mac Electric has made great efforts to deter copper theft and even helped bring about legislation that now means harsher penalties on copper thieves.

If you observe suspicious activity, such as unmarked vehicles near substations or around utility equipment, **call New-Mac immediately** at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.