



## What a beautiful sight!

February in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area brought bitter temperatures and biting winds. But there is a beauty in all things, and Becky Graner, a Mor-Gran-Sou member from Fort Rice, captured God's hands painting this warm sunrise in Morton County, looking south along Highway 1806 toward Sugarloaf Butte.



Becky Graner 2015

## In this issue:

- Woodworker turns old into new
- What happens when your lights go out?
- Bob Scholl returning this spring
- Meeting minutes ... and much more!



*Jim Hopfauf's bedroom is a combination of rustic and modern. After planing wood from an old, white picket fence, he lined the walls. He had leftover wood, so he kept carving — a headboard and frame. He varnished the walls and added lights that add a soft glow at night. "It's pretty cool," he shares.*

# Woodworker turns old into new — and beautiful

## Hopfauf uses talent to benefit the community

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

**W**hen a friend from the Soil Conservation District toured Jim Hopfauf's shop, she saw his custom cabinets and commented that they were nicer than the ones she has in her kitchen. If she had visited recently, she would have surely commented on the hand-crafted French doors that feature stained-glass windows, leading to the bathroom. It's not your ordinary shop — and Jim isn't your ordinary woodworker.

Jim, a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member from north of

Flasher, started working with wood as a young boy. He is the son of Joe and Dianne Hopfauf, the grandson of John and Wilhelmina Hopfauf and great-grandson of Sebastian and Magdalena Hopfauf; the fourth generation to farm and ranch eight quarters of land, a little over 1,700 acres, on this recognized centennial farm.

His hobby developed while he attended Flasher Public School. It started with bird houses and benches, and evolved to hope chests, vanities, cabinets, sleigh beds, gun cases, and

*In addition to woodworking, Jim Hopfauf has a great interest in solar-powered water systems. In 2003, he wanted to find something that could pump water out of the dugouts so the cows had fresh water without going into the mud. He went to a farm show in Regina, Canada, and found a solar-powered pump system. Jim now has three portable water stations that are hooked to a pump that sucks water out of a dugout and pumps it into a trough. In his winter water bowl, after the cows drink and walk away, the eye on the pump shuts off and the water drains out of the trough, so there is no ice to chop. Jim likes the water system so well, he became a dealer for it.*





## Meet your Mor-Gran-Sou neighbor

### JIM HOPFAUF

- Lives 17 miles north of Flasher
- Has 200 cows that will start calving around the first week in May
- Farm and ranch interests include rotational grazing, no-till seeding and cover crops

In the Touchstone Energy® value of commitment to community, Jim serves as:

- A member of the Nominating Committee for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative;
- President of the Morton County Farmers Union
- A board member for the Morton County Soil Conservation District
- President of the Flasher Rural Fire Department
- President of the Flasher local Farmers Union board of directors



*In a couple afternoons, Jim Hopfauf built a hope chest out of used wood that he donated to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Flasher. The item was auctioned off during the Mardi Gras silent auction event.*

anything else a person can find on the Internet. As long as he has a picture of a product made with wood, Jim can custom-build it — and make it nicer. Many of the items he has made, he gives as gifts or to charities.

He prefers to work with used wood, such as door frames from old houses. He says the wood is unique and it has character. He sands it, planes it and likes the challenge of making it useful again.

Jim does most of his woodworking during the colder, slower months when the farm and ranch don't require as much attention. He laughs and says he has received quite a few requests from



*Jim Hopfauf's great-grandparents, Sebastian and Magdalena Hopfauf, were Germans from Russia who homesteaded north of Flasher in 1904. They saw the land and thought they were rich because there were so many rocks — a common material used to build houses in Russia. The original rock home is still sturdy on the farm today. Jim, who has picked his share of rocks over the years, isn't quite as fond of them.*

people for various projects, and that he is booked a year in advance.

Over the years, his hobby has continued to evolve.

"I like working with wood, and I'm starting to combine wood with other stuff like stained glass, tile and deer sheds," he describes.

Regardless of what he is working on, when Jim uses his chop saw (a Christmas present to himself!), he always wears safety glasses and makes sure he gives ample time and attention to the project at-hand. ■



## Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out? Store these items at home in case of an outage.



### Water

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

### Tools

Flashlight and extra batteries, can opener, wind-up radio.



### Food

Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.

### First Aid, Medicine

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least a week's supply of medications for the family.



### Documents

Include copies of passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies.

Learn more at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency



## The flow of electricity

Mor-Gran-Sou purchases its electricity from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (Western). Mor-Gran-Sou's purchased power is delivered along a number of transmission lines including a line that originates from the Leland Olds Station near Stanton and several that originate at Montana-Dakota Utilities' Heskett Station north of Mandan. The electric power is delivered to 21 substations within the Mor-Gran-Sou transmission grid, and distributed in different forms including three-phase, two-phase and single-phase along a number of main distribution lines. From that point forward, the distribution lines are tapped. The final point of delivery is to a member's individual service.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR LIGHTS GO OUT?

*(A simplified look at how we restore power following a major outage)*

**M**or-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with the most reliable electric service. However, outages do occur and they are an unavoidable aspect of providing electricity. Therefore, we would like to illustrate the process of how we restore your power during an outage.

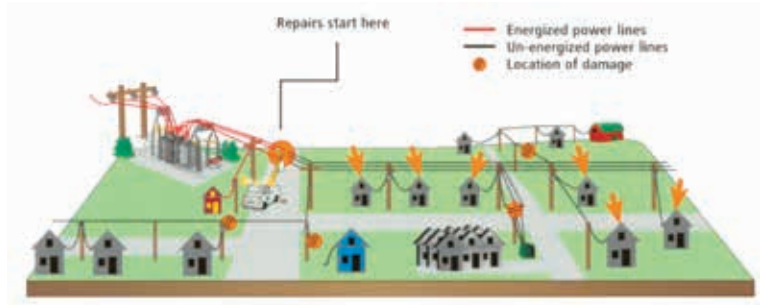
This article examines the repair process in one isolated area, but an important fact to remember is that with a typical outage, there are usually several areas affected at

the same time. Consequently, this effort occurs across our service area simultaneously.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric typically follows a basic outage restoration principle when it comes to restoring power: priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines from the substations that can affect 200 to 600 members. It continues out to tap lines which may affect 30 to 200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just one to five members.

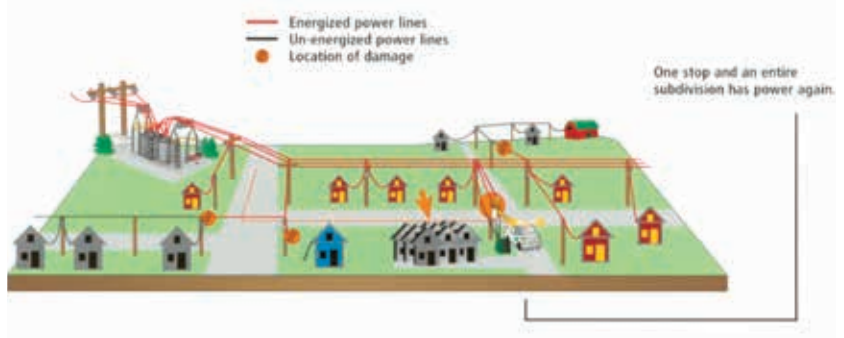
## STEP 1: REPAIRS START WITH THE MAIN LINE

The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power. First, all damaged tap lines need to be isolated from the main line and then repairs can begin on the main line from the substation. A large number of members (shown with orange arrows) will have power returned once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless until this line is restored, as it feeds all the other lines.



## STEP 2: WITH THE MAIN LINE REPAIRED, THE LINE CREW CAN ISOLATE OTHER DAMAGE

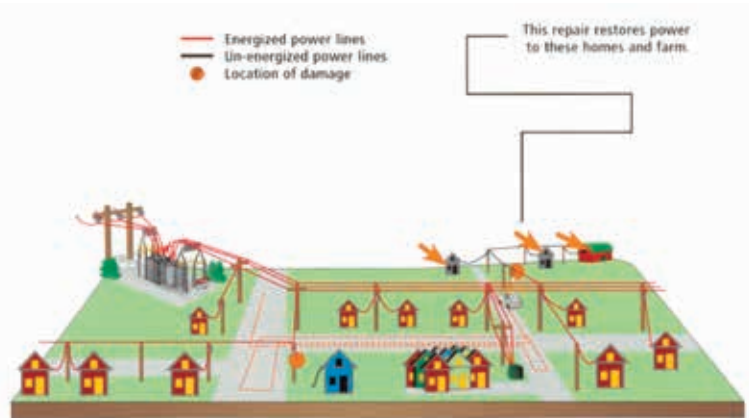
With the main line repaired (now shown in red), the line crew can isolate other damage and prioritize repairs. Though a couple of repairs were closer, fixing the line that serves this subdivision down the road will get a larger number of members online more quickly.



## STEP 3: TAP LINES SERVING THE MOST MEMBERS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THOSE SERVING FEWER MEMBERS

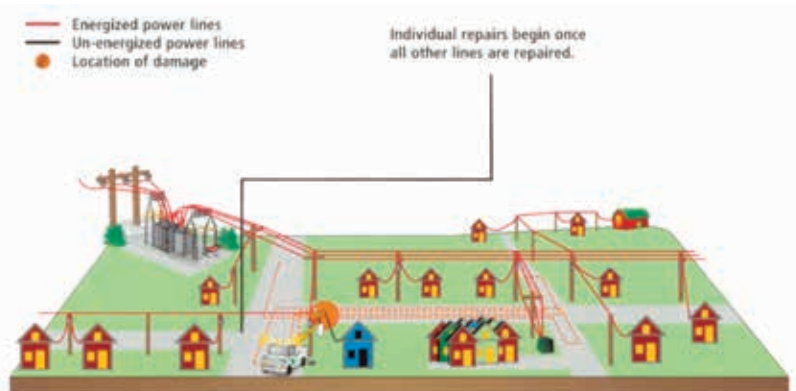
Moving back down the road to fix this tap line will restore electricity to the three homes marked with arrows.

Next on the list for the line crew is a tap line serving two homes and a barn. The move probably doesn't make the folks in the blue house too happy. They've seen the crew driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in the homes of all their neighbors, but they themselves don't have power. That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter is damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.



## STEP 4: INDIVIDUAL REPAIRS ARE FINISHED LAST

Only after the tap lines are repaired does the crew start work on individual service lines. The crew could have stopped at the blue house to restore power any time after the first main line was repaired and electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. But it is more efficient for the crews to move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.





**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



# Annual Meeting 2015

## SAVE THE DATE!

### WHAT:

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting

### WHEN:

Friday, July 17, 2015

### WHERE:

Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, Fort Yates

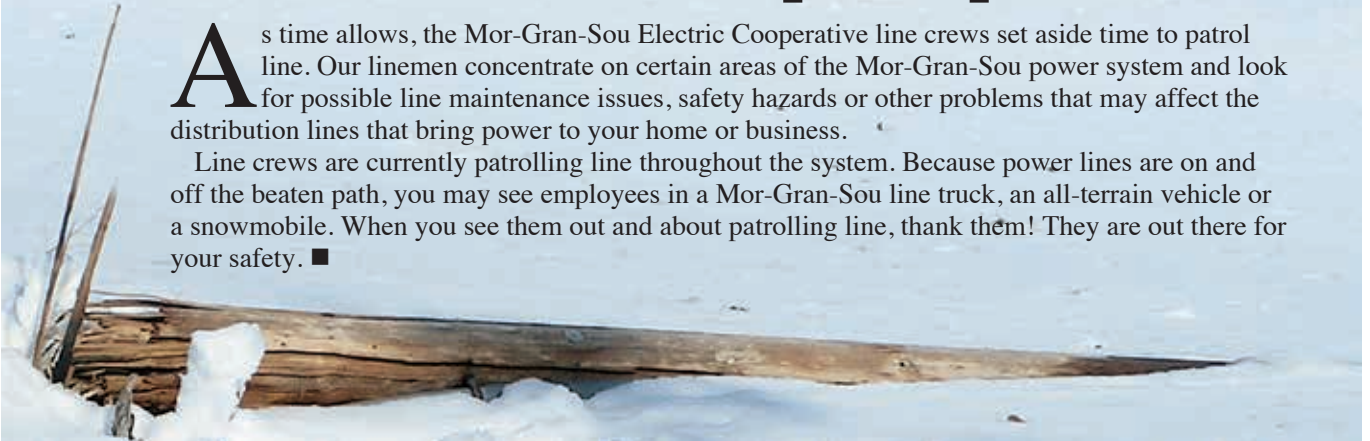
### WHY:

To learn about co-op issues; to cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and to enjoy a hearty meal.

## Mor-Gran-Sou line crews patrol power lines

As time allows, the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative line crews set aside time to patrol line. Our linemen concentrate on certain areas of the Mor-Gran-Sou power system and look for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards or other problems that may affect the distribution lines that bring power to your home or business.

Line crews are currently patrolling line throughout the system. Because power lines are on and off the beaten path, you may see employees in a Mor-Gran-Sou line truck, an all-terrain vehicle or a snowmobile. When you see them out and about patrolling line, thank them! They are out there for your safety. ■



## Keeping our electric system as reliable as possible

Tree trimming is a regular part of your electric cooperative's operations.

Mor-Gran-Sou, like all electric utilities, is required to maintain appropriate clearance between trees and electric transmission and distribution lines. Trees need to be trimmed, and in some cases removed, to minimize potential power outages and to eliminate fire and safety hazards due to trees contacting energized electric lines.

Mor-Gran-Sou typically uses local contract tree-trimming crews to perform this task. Bullinger Tree Trimming will have crews operating within our service area again this year.

Please know that they are working on your cooperative's behalf to help keep our electric system as reliable and safe as possible. ■





## BOB SCHOLL

‘Touchstone’ employee  
set to return this spring

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

**W**hen an employee retires after nearly 40 years of service, it’s a loss — both professionally and personally. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative said congratulations and farewell to mentor and friend Robert (Bob) Scholl when he retired in January. Our co-op hopes the farewell is temporary.

Bob graduated from Flasher High School and worked on the family farm for one year before going to line school. After he graduated, he took a job with KEM Electric Cooperative in Linton for 13 months. When a lineman position became available at Mor-Gran-Sou, Bob applied and was hired in 1975. He and his wife, Kim, moved to Mandan, where they raised two children.

Bob worked as a lineman for 27 years, building and maintaining the cooperative’s overhead and underground distribution lines and fixing occasional power outages. In 2002, he accepted a job in the staking department. He worked as an

engineering technician for 12 ½ years, staking lines, lining up new services and working with some of the co-op’s commercial accounts. He remained on-call to fix power outages until 2007, while it still felt good to be in the field, running the digger and bucket.

Athletic and strong, and with a love of the outdoors, Bob says the things he enjoyed most about his job were being outside in the fresh air; especially on the nice days. He also appreciated that Mor-Gran-Sou allowed him to do his own scheduling and line his jobs up for the contactors directly.

Prior to Bob’s retirement, the co-op promoted Jesse Kuhn from Flasher area foreman to engineering technician. Jesse trained with Bob, and credits him with making the transition easier.

“Bob’s one heck of a guy. He’ll share anything he can to make your job easier,” Jesse says.

Jason Helgeson, senior engineering technician, agrees and says Bob not only has a tremendous amount of

knowledge about Mor-Gran-Sou’s electrical system, but an incredible memory as well.

“He’ll tell you when and why and where he and Henry Benz put a piece of cable in 30 years ago — and what the weather was like that day,” Jason jokes. “Bob had a willingness to teach and share what he knew, and he was always loyal, honest and hard-working; a leader by example.”

Randy Ressler, manager of operations, refers to Bob as a “touchstone” employee. “He’s always there. He’s always there! Bob will do whatever he can for whoever he can,” Randy concludes.

Mor-Gran-Sou is hoping to bring this touchstone employee back on the payroll part-time. This spring, Bob has agreed to return to Mor-Gran-Sou and help with underground cable locating. He says he’s already looking forward to working for the co-op again.

“It’s been a good place to work, and it’s a good job,” Bob concludes. ■

# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## *board meeting highlights*



**Meeting date: Jan. 28, 2015**

- Approved the Dec. 28, 2014 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers update
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA)
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Accepted financial report from Chief Financial Officer
- Approved physical inventory adjustment for 2014
- Heard senior staff department updates
- Accepted annual Red Flag Rule Report from Chief Information Officer
- Approved applications for refund of capital credits to estates and those age 80 and over
- Authorized voting delegates/attendees for various upcoming meetings
- Heard presentation from auditor Brady Martz on process of upcoming audit
- Held Executive Session with auditor
- Had key ratios presentation from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Regional Vice President
- Had discussion/lunch with Mor-Gran-Sou Nominating Committee representative
- Discussion on member assistance requests, inquiries to directors and feedback comments
- Heard status of self-funded health insurance program
- Discussed Operation Round Up program starting time frame
- Appointed director and two alternates for Western States Power Corporation Board
- Heard report of first Nominating Committee meeting
- Heard reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session — results of annual board evaluation

***Upcoming regular board meeting date:***

*March 25, 2015 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT.  
This is also the annual Bylaws/Resolutions meeting*

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at [cternes@morgransou.com](mailto:cternes@morgransou.com), or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Judge Barth or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved Board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com) or call the office for a copy.

## BYLAW/RESOLUTION MEETING SET

A bylaw/resolution meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular board meeting scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. CT (9:30 a.m. MT) on Wednesday, March 25. The meeting will be held in the board room of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, located at 3201 Nygren Dr. N.W., Mandan.

If you have a bylaw/resolution to propose at the 2015 cooperative's annual meeting in July, but cannot make the scheduled meeting on March 25, please submit your information in writing to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative before March 24. Thank you.

**SAFETY FIRST**  
**IF YOU HAVE A GENERATOR,**  
**KNOW HOW TO USE IT SAFELY**

*Learn how to keep your family safe at:*

**Safe Electricity.org**



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800-795-0555 OR 811

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Leland "Judge" Barth  
Vice Chair..... Casey Wells  
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger  
Directors ..... Mark Doll,  
Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,  
Robert Gaebe, Chad Harrison,  
Bob J. Leingang

### MANAGEMENT

Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Chris Baumgartner  
Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Donald A. Franklund

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)

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