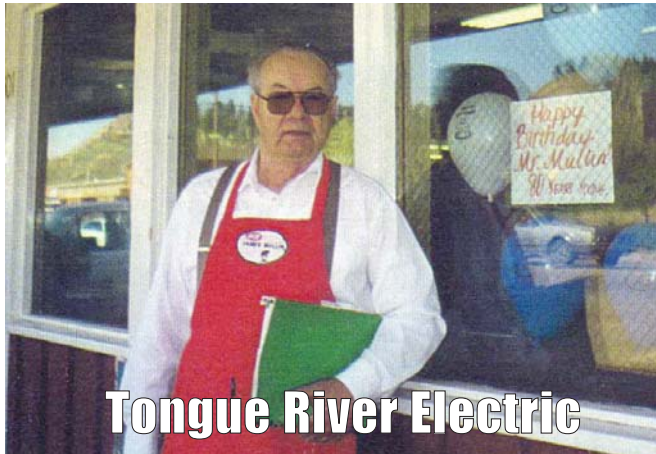


WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER CO-OPS



Tongue River Electric

Pam Cooper, granddaughter of an Ashland-based Tongue River trustee, contacted *RM* to ask if it'd be proper to pay tribute to Grampa Jim Mullin in the magazine. Jim is a fixture on the MECA board as well, so it wasn't too hard to get his OK. The only stipulation: *Don't get too squishy about it.* Here it is:

Grandpa Mullin was born May 10, 1921, in Minnesota. During the Depression he and his family traveled from farm to farm making a living.

At 18 he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps until the war. He then joined the Army Air Corps, where he was an anti-aircraft gunner in the South Pacific.

When he returned from the war, his dad and uncle had bought the Busby store in Busby, Montana.

Grandfather ran the store

with his dad until 1950, when they bought the Lame Deer Trading Post.

Grandfather owned and operated the store for 55 years, spending more time and devotion than any business owner I have ever met.

Grandpa now works out of his house where he lends money to help the local community if they get into troubled times.

Working only 40 hours a week for an 86-year-old is considered retirement! His uncle Clayton is 97 and still operating under his own power.

Grandpa has always been there to lend a helping hand. He was also the first person on the reservation to let the Cheyenne people use shopping carts.

He has given so much to his communities.

(And now the squishy part:)

We love you, Grandpa.



Lincoln Electric

*This fire is a controlled burn, photo by LEC's Tim Engleson, member services manager, to go with a story on burn safety around electric equipment. The flames looked so good, *RM* used them to set the world on fire on the statewide cover.*

Ravalli County Electric

A 26-year old man decided to have a cup of coffee, according to a story by Jim Maunder in the Ravalli newsletter. It's one we all should note. The man took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up, something that he had done numerous times before. I am not sure how long he set the timer for, but he wanted to bring the water to a boil.



When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup, he noted that the water was not boiling, but suddenly the water in the cup "blew up" into his face.

The cup remained intact until he threw it out of his hand, but all the water had flown out into his face due to the build up of energy. His whole face was blistered and he had 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face, which may leave scarring.

He also may have lost partial sight in his left eye. While at the hospital, the doctor who was attending to him stated that this is a fairly common occurrence and water (alone) should never be heated in a microwave oven. If water is heated in this manner, something should be placed in the cup to diffuse the energy, such as a wooden stir stick, tea bag — as long as it is nothing metal.

It is a much safer choice to boil the water in a tea kettle.

Fergus Electric



Co-op Storm Damage

The photo here is from Fergus Electric based in Lewistown. The co-op lost 11 poles in the spring storm. Another co-op suffering damage, Mid-Yellowstone Electric, based in Hysham, lost 27 poles and "line breaks too numerous to count." About 12 miles of line was replaced. Tongue River Electric, based in Ashland, reported about 3,500 outages of from two to 30 hours.