

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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From the General Manager/CEO



Lives on the line

By Rick L. Eichelberger

EVERY YEAR, we take the time to thank our extraordinary linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Seven linemen maintain 462 miles of line in New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep New Enterprise Rural Electric running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all linemen who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time — day or night, weekday or weekend — if the lights go out, so do they.


Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every consumer-member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding consum-

er-members in our local service territory, linemen are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

The linemen at New Enterprise Rural Electric are the first responders to an outage call from a consumer-member or a direct call from 911 in Bedford, Fulton or Huntingdon counties. They immediately take control of the scene at traffic accidents, fires, or downed wires and poles from trees or storms. They are trained, properly equipped, and ready to step forward to safely secure the scene and promptly repair the damage to power lines and restore electric service.

Our linemen are brave, committed, and critical to our success in building, maintaining, and repairing the electric lines 365 days a year under dangerous conditions. This year, again, we recognize them for their tireless efforts.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many linemen — both locally and around the world — who light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support. 

Line crew at New Enterprise Rural Electric:

Rodney Decker, Outside Operations Manager	30 years service
Mark Replogle, Crew Chief	19 years service
Randy Walker, Lineman	19 years service
John Simington Jr., Lineman	10 years service
Zach Conley, Lineman	6 years service
Roman Dell, Lineman	2 years service
Zach Pressel, Lineman	1 year service

Rescue dogs teach courage, forgiveness, love

By Anne Gray

Morrisons Cove Herald

Feb. 2, 2017

Before they met Mr. Gibbs, Ralph and Pat Scott of Hopewell had never considered adopting a pit bull. In fact, they almost didn't take him.

Just after the Scotts met Mr. Gibbs, he began growling when their daughter, Kecia, hugged him. Ralph said that initially, he assumed Mr. Gibbs to be displaying the typical behaviors of an aggressive ex-fighter dog. However, before he could make a judgment, Ralph spotted a rat directly within Mr. Gibbs' eyeshot.

He chuckled as he thought, "Any self-respecting dog otta growl at a rat."

The Scotts' heartstrings, coupled with their daughters' pleadings, convinced them to keep Mr. Gibbs, and their lives were forever changed because of it.

Left to die

In 2013, Mr. Gibbs was found with his throat slit, laying in a ditch on the side of the road in rural North Carolina. An ex-bait dog used to spark aggression during dog fights, Mr. Gibbs was essentially "thrown away" when he was no longer useful to the fighters who had held him captive.

He was picked up by the daughter of Cindy Robinette, who works at the Bedford County Humane Society. She knew that if she took Mr. Gibbs to a shelter there, he would likely be euthanized, so she helped make arrangements to bring him to Bedford, where he met the Scotts.

The Scotts' daughters had heard about Mr. Gibbs and his story, and they convinced their parents to see him.

Despite the initial shock of innumerable scars, partially-healed bones and an emptiness that would soon leave his eyes, the Scotts chose to adopt Mr. Gibbs, who acted warmly, as if he knew he was going to be loved.

The Scotts quickly began to learn the ins and outs of Mr. Gibbs, including more about his background as a bait dog.



The photo above shows one of Mr. Gibbs' permanent scars from his days as a bait dog. When he was discovered dying in a ditch, he had wounds all over his body.

"We never even knew what a bait dog was. We just thought fighter dogs were fighter dogs," Pat said.

Robinette said that bait dogs are normally chained to cement blocks on a short leash, duct taped across the mouth and left to be attacked by other dogs.

"How he ever survived I don't know," Robinette said.

Often, bait dogs are stolen or obtained through "free to a good home" ads, Pat said.

The Scotts believe that this is what happened to Mr. Gibbs, because he never showed aggression and had many mannerisms of a former house pet.

His injuries almost made him look grotesque as he walked around, but he never jumped or licked, Ralph said.

"He never showed signs of aggression," Robinette said.

Full of personality

The Scotts called this assumed aggressive, antisocial persona "the myth of the pit bull."

After some time in a loving home, Mr. Gibbs' personality began to blossom, and he quickly grew to defy the pit bull stereotype.

A very social spirit, Mr. Gibbs always wanted to get in on the action. During one of the Scotts' Christmas meals, Mr.

Gibbs lay in the kitchen resting, just wanting to be amidst the interaction.

Mr. Gibbs was always thrilled when anyone gave him attention and love.

"You'd see his tail wag like he was meeting a long lost friend," Pat said.

When the Scotts would take Mr. Gibbs to visit Pat's father at Homewood, he always parked himself right at the doorway so that he could be a part of the hustle.

Pat said that she would have to latch the basement door when she would go downstairs to do laundry because otherwise, Mr. Gibbs would have fallen trying to follow her down the stairs. She also had to use an alternate route to come back upstairs afterward, because Mr. Gibbs was always waiting for her, lying right against the basement door.

Despite his desire to be social, Mr. Gibbs "never made a pest of himself ... except when there was ice cream," Pat said, chuckling.

Lasting effects

Though Mr. Gibbs' personality returned upon his placement in a loving home, his body never fully recovered.

Many of the scars from his abuse were permanent, and his mouth was always drawn up into a half smile because his eye was once pulled out and sewn to his

cheek in a gross attempt to repair it.

His formerly broken legs and inverted paws made walking cumbersome, and Mr. Gibbs would frequently fall, even when walking short distances.

Even when he fell, he never cried, Ralph said.

Mr. Gibbs was never able to do stairs and always had to be taken outside on a leash so that he didn't wander off.

The constant monitoring taught the Scotts patience and compassion, but now that Mr. Gibbs is gone, they both miss these moments terribly. Pat said she often reminisces about their morning walks together.

On Jan. 11, Mr. Gibbs passed away. Though he was "healthy," his body couldn't overcome the lasting effects of the abuse he had faced.

The Scotts said that even in his death, Mr. Gibbs' story opened people's eyes to the world of dog fighting.

When Ralph changed his profile picture on Facebook after Mr. Gibbs'

death, they discovered that he touched more lives than they had realized.

Lessons learned

As retired teachers, the Scotts said that they often saw the moment when people's "lightbulbs went off," and all of a sudden, they understood, through Mr. Gibbs' story, the reality and serious nature of dog fighting.

Though people were often hesitant because Mr. Gibbs was a pit bull, his gentle, loving nature won over even the non-dog lovers in the Scotts' circle.

The Scotts themselves have also learned many lessons from Mr. Gibbs.

Ralph said that Mr. Gibbs taught him courage.

"Since we first got him, I had been telling people that he had shown me true courage and determination each and every day. For example, while he loved his car rides, he could not get into or out of a vehicle. We had to lift him in and out, for he could not jump

up, and his legs would collapse if he jumped down. It was too painful for him to do even the simplest tasks."

Both Ralph and Pat agreed that Mr. Gibbs also taught them forgiveness, and were initially surprised that he was still willing to love, trust and accept people

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The love continues

By Brawna Sell

The act of caring for hurt or abandoned dogs runs in the Scott family. Ralph and Pat's oldest daughter, Shalonne Sipes, a New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op (REC) consumer-member, has rescued two dogs from A Darrah Bull Bully Rescue, a non-profit bully breed rescue based in Central Pennsylvania.

Her one dog, Kapone, was pulled from a high-kill shelter in New York City. He was surrendered with his pregnant female companion. Kapone was "due out" three days after he was surrendered, meaning he was to be euthanized. He was rescued by A Darrah Bull Bully Rescue before this could happen. That day, he was moved into the "safe" folder – an area of the shelter where animals are placed once an adopter commits to giving them a forever home. This day was important in more than one way. Kapone became a father the same day.

The Scotts' youngest daughter, New Enterprise REC consumer-member Kecia Scott, has adopted dogs from several organizations. She rescued her St. Bernard from Central Pennsylvania Humane Society, a cancer-stricken Chihuahua from Bedford County Humane Society and her Cocker Spaniel from a puppy mill rescue in Lancaster rehomed by Community Pet Care Philadelphia.

Another of Kecia's passions is helping at the House with a Heart in Maryland. House with a Heart provides a helping hand for senior pets.

If you would like more information on any of these great rescues, check out the website: Bedford County Humane Society – www.bchsonline.org; Central Pennsylvania Humane Society – www.centralpahumane.org; A Darrah Bull Bully Rescue – adarrahbullyrescue.webs.com; and House with a Heart – www.housewithaheart.com.

Get involved to help dogs like Mr. Gibbs

By Anne Gray

Among the many touched by Mr. Gibbs' life is the staff at the Bedford County Humane Society, where Mr. Gibbs lived for a couple of weeks before being adopted.

Ralph said that when they took him there, "It was like Elvis had arrived."

The Scotts hope that sharing Mr. Gibbs' story will inspire others to learn more about dog fighting and consider adopting dogs who have been rescued.

"If you're looking for a dog, consider a shelter," Pat said.

"Rescue dogs are not damaged," said Janet Gates, manager of the Bedford County Humane Society. "It's like they know they've been rescued. They want to know they're loved, they're eager to learn and eager to please."

Gates added that contrary to popular belief, shelters often get purebred dogs and dogs who were loved in addition to those who were abandoned.

Cindy Robinette, who also works at the shelter, said that right now, it currently houses almost 40 dogs (which is a lower number than normal) and about 70 cats. The Bedford County Humane Society does not euthanize as many similar shelters would.



Shelters across the country are full of rescued dogs who want to be loved, and thousands are being killed every day, Gates said.

Besides adoption, people can also help the shelter through donations of dog and cat food, canned dog food, cleaning supplies and other items. Monetary donations are also appreciated to help with miscellaneous medical and supply needs, Gates said.

"People are fantastic (with donations)," Robinette said.

The shelter has also broken ground for its new building, which should be open by the end of the year, Robinette said.

(Reprinted with permission from the Morrisons Cove Herald, Feb. 2, 2017)

Rescue dogs teach courage

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despite what he had been through.

Ralph said that his grandchildren also learned about forgiveness from Mr. Gibbs. He recounted a story from church last Sunday: “The church children were given paper stars to give to someone else who was special to them. Our two granddaughters brought theirs here and placed their stars next to Gibbs’s box that holds his ashes. They

said he was special because he showed them how to love and forgive, just as Jesus tells them to do. Yes, it brought tears to Mimi’s and Pappy’s eyes.”

The Scotts also learned to enjoy each day and to avoid taking things for granted.

“Someone could be here one day and gone the next,” Pat said.

Ralph said he once heard that a dog will give you “love, loyalty and a broken heart.”

“But you can’t really love without a

broken heart,” Pat said.

Though Mr. Gibbs’ life was cut short, and though the Scotts have an empty nest all over again, they said that they are grateful for the time Mr. Gibbs was in their life. They knew when they adopted Mr. Gibbs that he would only live for a few years. They also knew that giving Mr. Gibbs a few years of life with a warm bed, good food and unconditional love was well worth it. ☀

(Reprinted with permission from the Morrisons Cove Herald, Feb. 2, 2017)

KIDZcorner

What the well-dressed lineman is wearing

New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op Lineman, John Simington Jr. knows better than to go to work half-dressed. He has special clothing and tools that allow him to work on live power lines and do his job safely.

But you don’t have the same outfit or expertise as John. That’s why you should never touch any electric line, even if you think it’s off. Electricity helps us in many ways, but it can be very dangerous, even deadly. Call New Enterprise REC if you see a downed power line.

1. FIBERGLASS SHOTGUN STICK

Allows linemen to perform some tasks from the ground.

2. HARD HAT

Protects head from falling objects and bumps; also insulates head in case of electrical contact.

3. FIRE-RETARDANT SHIRT

Protects against flames, flash fire and electric arc.

4. CLIMBING BELT

Securely supports lineman’s weight when climbing poles; also holds tools and supplies to free hands as necessary.

5. FIRE-RETARDANT JEANS

Protect linemen in case of fire or sparks; made from 100 percent natural fibers; they must be fire retardant.



6. HOOKS

Used for climbing poles when a bucket truck can’t be used or more assistance is required.

7. SAFETY GLASSES

Protect eyes from debris, flying objects and other hazards.

8. RUBBER GLOVES

Insulate hands and fingers from live electrical circuit; allow linemen to repair lines without disconnecting your power.

9. LEATHER PROTECTORS

Protect rubber gloves from punctures.

10. SAFETY STRAP

Wraps around a pole for support and protection while linemen are climbing.