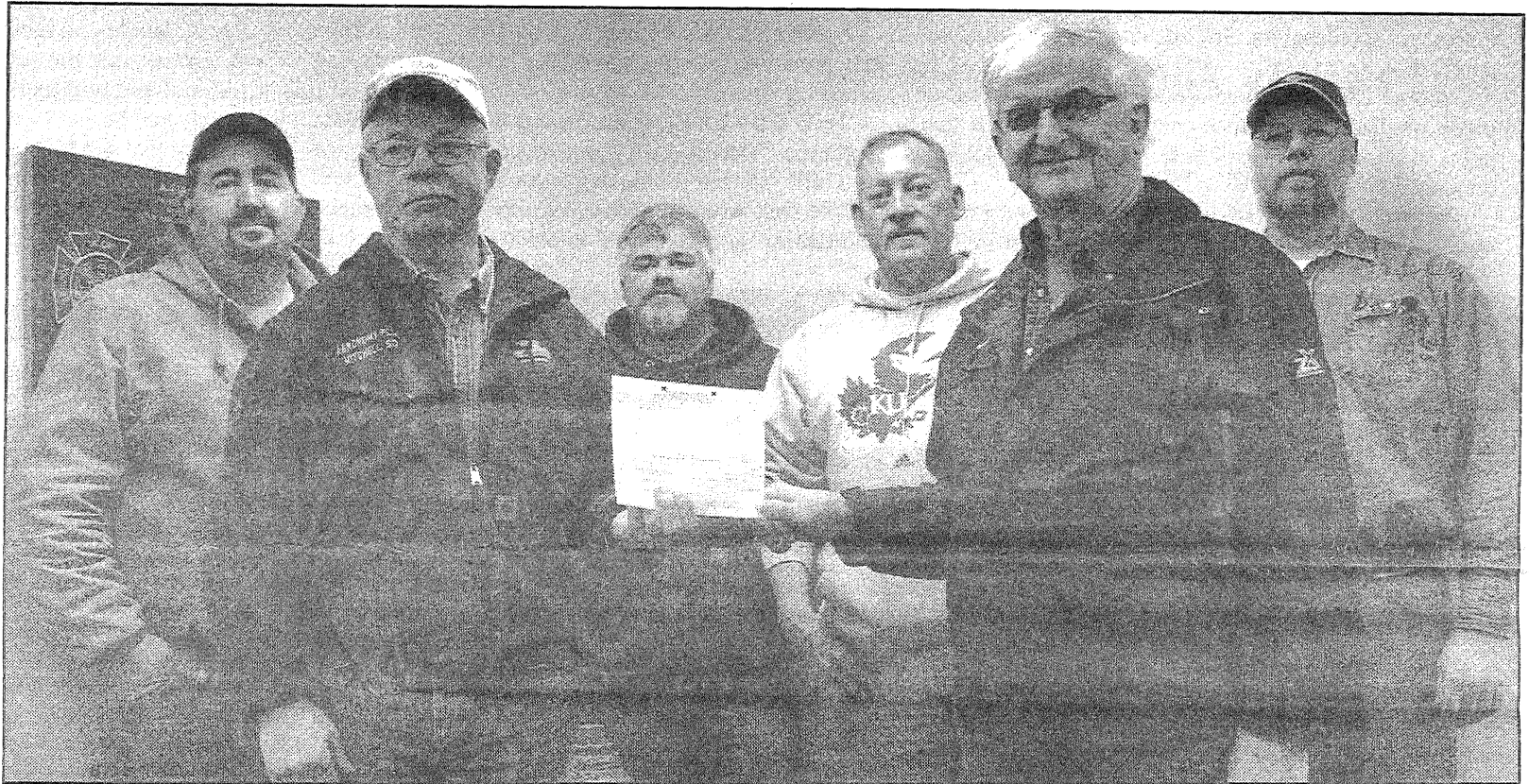


# Delmont Fire Dist. receives \$250,000 no-interest loan



Douglas Electric Cooperative presented a \$250,000 check to the Delmont Fire District on March 17. Front, from left--Tad Kaufman and Ervin Fink; back from left--Jay Kokes, Elmer Goehring, Mike Redd and David Hartmann. Goehring noted that the Open House for the new fire hall is set for Sat. April 2, from 3-5 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by and see the new facility and enjoy a light lunch, he said.

--photo by Elizabeth "Sam" Grosz

## by Sam Grosz

freelance writer

It was a year in coming, but the Delmont Fire District members recently received a check for \$250,000 presented by Douglas Electric Cooperative.

The check represents a \$250,000 no-interest loan that passed through the cooperative from the Rural Electric Economic Development, or REED, fund. The funding, according to Linda Salmonson, REED fund, Madison, is the result of a successful

application submitted to USDA Rural Development's Rural Economic Development loan and grant program.

Almost a year ago, the new fire hall was destroyed in the May 10 tornado, and was recently rebuilt and completed.

The zero-interest loan is one more cause to celebrate when the Fire District holds an Open House for the public to tour the new fire hall. It is set for Sat., April 2, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Douglas Electric's director, Ken Van Zee, said the cooperative had been able to give out four other low-interest loans in the area, "but this is our first zero-interest loan in Douglas County."

Van Zee said Douglas Electric is a member of REED, and "because of that we are a pathway to receive this sort of money from the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Fund."

Douglas Electric and 21 other

electric cooperatives created the REED Fund in 1996, said Salmonson, to provide economic development financing throughout the region. Applicants need to be from the region, but do not have to be a member of the Douglas Electric Cooperative.

As the funds are repaid, they become available for relending to community and business projects through Douglas Electric's participation in the REED Fund.