

BEYOND THE BLARNEY: SOME FUN ST. PATRICK'S DAY FACTS AND A GREAT OFFER

HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY! WILL YOU BE WEARING GREEN ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH?

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY, HERE ARE SOME SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT THIS DAY AND ITS TRADITIONS:

- 1** St. Patrick's Day marks the Roman Catholic feast day for Ireland's patrol saint, who died in the 5th century. St. Patrick (Patricius in Latin) was not born in Ireland, but in Britain.
- 2** One of the best myths surrounding St. Patrick is inaccurate. People once believed that Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland into the Irish Sea, where they drowned. Some still say it's the reason the sea is so rough. In reality, the snakes have never been native to the Emerald Isle. Serpents were likely a metaphor for druidic religions, which steadily disappeared from Ireland in the centuries after St. Patrick introduced Christianity to the area.
- 3** The color green was long considered unlucky in Ireland. Irish folklore holds that green is the favorite color of fairies, who are likely to steal people who wear too much of the color.
- 4** Corned Beef is not part of a traditional Irish St. Paddy's Day Celebration. Cabbage was a staple of the Irish diet, but was traditionally served with Irish bacon, not corned beef. Poor Irish immigrants in New York's lower east side couldn't afford the traditional Irish bacon, so they used the less costly corned beef, a dish they learned from their Jewish neighbors.
- 5** Although many associate the day with a visit to the local pub, Irish Pubs were closed on St. Patrick's Day until 1970. Since the day was a religious holiday, most Irish families went to Church in the morning and then had dinner later that afternoon – Irish bacon and cabbage.
- 6** Each year, the Chicago River is dyed green. This tradition began in 1962, when Chicago pollution-control workers used green dye to trace illegal sewage discharges in the river. The workers thought it might be a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, so they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river – enough to keep it green for a week! The idea was a hit, and continues to this day. However, only 40 pounds of vegetable dye are used today to minimize environmental damage.



**IN HONOR OF THE DAY WHEN WE'RE ALL A LITTLE BIT IRISH,
WE HAVE A SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR CUSTOMERS!**

Residential customers can receive FREE Setup for Val-YOU Package (learn more on last page of newsletter). Also, for our business customers, we'll waive the set-up fee for our new Small Business Val-YOU Package. Hurry – call us today. These promotions end on **March 31, 2010**.

Phone Numbers

Customer Service
610-826-6650

Business Office
610-826-2115

Repair Service
610-826-3444

Gilbert Office
610-826-9321

*Palmerton Telephone
Company continues
to engineer and
advance technology
for tomorrow while
providing reliability
and quality service
that Pennsylvanians
count on today.*

SERVING THIS AREA SINCE 1900

465 Delaware Avenue • Palmerton, PA 18071 • www.ptelco.com

From the Manager's Desk...

Do you know that
Palmerton Telephone
has been serving the
area since 1900?

SPRING AND OTHER THINGS

We've almost made it through another Northeast Pennsylvania winter. Despite what the groundhog may have predicted, the U.S. Naval Observatory says spring will arrive at 1:32PM EDT on March 20, 2010. That doesn't necessarily mean the weather will suddenly turn spring-like. Quite the contrary, I recall in 1958 we had one humdinger of a snowstorm around March 21, such that the newspaper headlines shouted "Spring Comes Garbed in White." Be that as it may, we are closer to the warm weather than we were back in January.

As the weather gets nicer, we start to think of home improvements such as landscaping or replacing that mailbox the snowplow knocked down. Once the ground thaws, the picks and shovels will come out of hibernation and people will begin to dig holes for whatever purpose. Therein lies the potential for trouble. Many areas have buried utility lines, sometimes unknown to the property owner. Digging up one of these can cause, at a minimum, interruption to service or, at worse, injury or death. None of these consequences is necessary since there is a simple way to prevent damage to underground utilities.

Here in Pennsylvania all a person needs to do is dial 811 and he or she will be connected to the Pennsylvania One-Call System. Do this at least three business days before you intend to dig, answer a few simple questions, and every utility that has underground plant in your municipality will be notified. They then have three business days to come and mark the ground if there are any underground facilities on your property. A little forethought and a simple call to 811 can save you a big headache or worse.

Sincerely,

Tom Lager

General Manager
Palmerton Telephone Company

Easy Corned Beef and Cabbage

Ingredients:

- > 1 can corned beef
- > 1 head cabbage
- > 3 medium potatoes
- > 1 medium onion
- > stock pot
- > water
- > pepper

Directions:

1. Remove the outer layer of cabbage and discard. Cut a 'wedge' in the bottom to remove the core. Cut the remainder of the cabbage in half, so you have two 1/2 sphere shapes. Rest 1/2 the cabbage on its flat end on the cutting board. Make several cuts horizontally and then vertically across the 1/2 cabbage so that you get little cabbage squares. Do the same with the other half and put it in the stock pot.
2. Peel and cube the potato and put it in the stock pot.
3. Peel and dice the onion and put it in the stock pot.
4. Add the corned beef.
5. Add a dash of salt and pepper.
6. Add enough water to cover the cabbage and potatoes.
7. Stir to mix.
8. Cook on medium-high. Stir occasionally (checking water level and adding as necessary, but without making it a soup consistency). Cook until the potato, onion and cabbage are soft.

Recipe March 2010

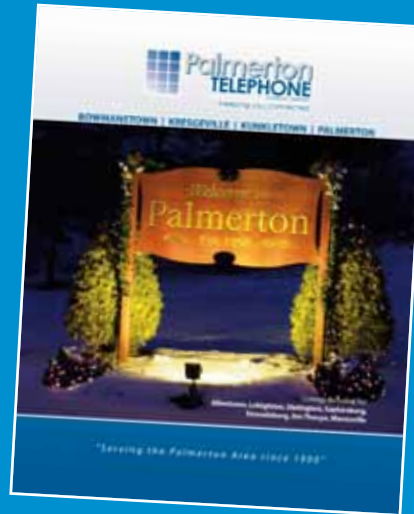
2010 PALMERTON TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

WILL ARRIVE THIS SUMMER!

The Palmerton Telephone Directory – it's more than just a list of phone numbers. Our staff has been diligently working to make this year's summer release as knowledge-packed and helpful as always.

We've included a variety of resources, including:

- details about our optional services
- a list of our local calling areas (where you can call without a toll charge)
- zip codes
- local history facts
- details about your rights and responsibilities as a phone customer
- emergency information
- instructions for our optional features
- much, much more!



To make it all even better – the entire directory is available on our website by choosing the directory link at www.ptelco.com. You can visit now to see the 2009 phone book - the 2010 edition will be available this summer.

*Do you know that
Palmerton Telephone
copper wires, connected
end to end, circle the
earth 4 times at the
equator?*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

AT PALMERTON TELEPHONE, WE NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE BEST, MOST RELIABLE TELEPHONE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE CAN, BUT WE ALSO HELP IN OTHER WAYS.



In addition to investing millions in our telephone network and the equipment and facilities to maintain it, we also invest our time, equipment and manpower to make our community a better place. From putting up holiday decorations in Palmerton to donating our time for other worthwhile projects, the people we serve are important to us.

That's why we maintain an online listing of local non-profit events. The Community Events Calendar is located on our website at www.ptelco.com. On the left side bar, select 'Our Community'; then select the 'Community Events Calendar'.

Brain Teaser January 2010 Winner!

**Congratulations to
Ken Smith of
Kunkletown, Pa.
Ken was the
winner of a \$25 Gift
Card to Roadies
Restaurant and Bar
at Penn's Peak in Jim
Thorpe, Pa.**

If you divide 14
by 1/2, what do
you get?

Answer: 28

Fun Facts

King Francis I of France is reported to have paid master artist Leonardo da Vinci 4,000 gold crowns for his masterpiece "Mona Lisa," but the king did not get immediate possession. Da Vinci kept the painting hanging on a wall of his chateau to the day he died.

Although beavers live near rivers, streams, and lakes — they do not eat fish. Beavers eat only plants. They eat poplar trees, carrots, cattail, mushrooms, potatoes, berries, water plants, swamp wood, and fruit. Soft bark is the main food for a beaver.

An average bee hive has 30,000 to 60,000 bees living in it. This population is easily maintained by a queen laying 1,000 to 3,000 eggs per day.

The first lighthouse to use electricity was the Statue of Liberty in 1886.

In most American states, a wedding ring is exempt by law from inclusion among the assets in a bankruptcy estate. This means that a wedding ring cannot be seized by creditors, no matter how much the bankrupt person owes.

The Nike "swoosh" logo was designed by University of Oregon student Carolyn Davidson in 1964 — four years after business undergrad Phil Knight and track coach Bill Bowerman founded the company they originally called Blue Ribbon Sports. Ms. Davidson was paid \$35 dollars for her design.

An item must contain 92.5 percent silver to be considered sterling silver.

According to a 1999 survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, of those people who snore, 19 percent snore so loudly that they can be heard through a closed door.

The Beatles played the Las Vegas Convention Center in 1964. Some 8,500 fans paid just \$4 each for tickets.

Val-YOU Package

If you could choose, which of these services would benefit your household?

- NO long distance fees for calls within the Continental United States
- Voice Mail
- 3-Way Calling
- Return Call
- Call Waiting
- Caller ID Deluxe
- Call Forwarding
- Speed Dial 30

Did you pick one?

What if you could have them all for the low package price of \$39.99*per month?

Now you can! Our **Val-YOU Package** is the perfect combination of reliability and affordability. With the **Val-YOU Package**, there's no tracking minutes. Calls within the continental United States are included in the package price, so there's no reason to worry about overage charges. That's right; the minutes are unlimited regardless of the time of day! The call quality is incomparable. Unless you have a low quality cordless phone, when was the last time your landline phone echoed or dropped a call? It just doesn't happen. At Palmerton Telephone, we believe that communication is essential, so the reliability and quality of a call should never be compromised. In addition, we're on even when the power is out! Unlike some providers, Palmerton Telephone provides the power to make a call directly through the phone line. We have plans in place for outages, including batteries, standby generators and mobile units. That means no back-up batteries to worry about (which typically last only a few hours – a power outage can last much longer). If you do rely exclusively on a cordless phone, keep a wired phone handy for emergencies. That way, if the power does go out, you can simply switch the jack from one phone to the other.

As an added bonus, **Val-YOU Package** Customers who have or choose to add Platinum or Platinum Plus DSL will automatically save \$10 per month on their high-speed broadband Internet connection.

To make this great deal even better, sign up by March 31, 2010 and we'll waive the set-up fee! For more information, call us today at 610.826.6650.

**Taxes and surcharges apply.*

Can you beat this BRAIN TEASER?

Palmerton Telephone is giving away a \$25 Gift Card to Roadies Restaurant and Bar at Penn's Peak in Jim Thorpe, Pa.

To enter, e-mail the correct answer to ptelco@ptd.net or send a 3" x 5" index card to 465 Delaware Ave. Palmerton, PA 18071. Please include your name, address, daytime telephone number (to call only if you win), and the Brain Teaser answer. All entries must be received by **3/20/10**.

Good Luck!
Palmerton Telephone



Brain Teaser

Wearing a brown jacket, I'm very common in chips packets. I am plump and round, and white inside from bottom to top. Who am I?