



CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

On March 22, 1990, during a White House Tree-Planting Ceremony, George Bush addressed his audience, "I want to talk just a little about the precious inheritance of trees passed from one generation to another. We see it in the great ebonies of India or the sequoias in California, the lush rainforests of South America and the evergreens of the Alps. Their very presence demands that we renew and restore the natural beauty of our land. Trees do enhance our atmosphere, providing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. A tree planted today can enrich the lives of generations yet unborn.

Just think, on these grounds stands a tree planted by John Quincy Adams in 1826. Nearby is the spot where Woodrow Wilson's family so loved bay trees that they often ate lunch in a makeshift grove. And not far from here is the little-leaf linden planted in 1937 by Franklin Roosevelt for Britain's King George VI. Next to the Oval Office -- there you'll find an oak tree planted by President Eisenhower. There's a swing on it. You can almost see it, over past that Suburban over there. Often our grandchild swings on it, and I expect in the future many other grandchildren of Presidents will do the same."

Planting done on the White House lawn requires meticulous planning, and even when White House newcomers Malia and Sasha Obama use the swing on the oak tree planted by President Eisenhower, careful consideration will be taken to preserve the surrounding environment.

Similar precautions are necessary when planting or doing any digging at your own home. Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Knowing what lines are below protects you and your family from explosions, flooding, fires, electrocutions and communication or power outages.

One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked at no cost to you. Operators from your local call center will ask you for the location of your digging job and route your call to affected utility companies. Within a few days, your utility companies will then send a professional locator to your home to mark your lines. That way, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely.

PENCOR SERVICES, INC. HELPS PRESERVE HISTORY AT THE PARKSIDE EDUCATION CENTER

The Parkside Education Center, Palmerton's newest school, is located in the former New Jersey Zinc Company Central Laboratory. This completely remodeled facility at 680 Fourth Street in Palmerton holds a tremendous amount of historical significance to our town. Now, thanks to a donation by our Pencor Services, Inc. (Palmerton Telephone's parent company), the new page of its story will be cherished for generations to come.

Pencor Services has taken pictures of each kindergarten and first grade class with their teachers, and of the school board who is responsible for the school becoming a reality. The pictures have been matted and framed, and adorn the hallways of the school as a tribute to education in the 21st Century.

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?

CABLE DIG-UPS: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article about Pennsylvania's One-Call underground locating system. I'd like to give you some insight as to what it's like for the worker who has to repair the dig-ups caused when people disregard the warnings about underground cables.

I worked in Outside Plant, for most of the 1970's. During this decade there was no organized way of finding out whether or not some utility had plant buried in an area where you wanted to dig. Since directly buried utility cables were just coming into use in that period, people were not that conscious of the need to have facilities located before beginning an excavation. Because of this, we had many cables damaged by excavators. There was one fellow who claimed he knew where all the underground stuff was and didn't need to call for a location. He was usually wrong. Lucky for him he always hit the telephone cables and stopped digging before he hit the energized electrical lines.

As an outside plant technician, it was often my job to help find these breaks and repair them. Since some contractors would quickly

finish their jobs before we got there and close up the hole, we usually had to excavate the break ourselves as well as repair the break. This usually involved splicing a piece into the damaged cable. This meant we had to make the hole bigger, by hand digging, than the contractor originally had done. The holes we had to dig were usually about six feet long by about two feet wide and up to three feet deep. It was a lot of backbreaking work just to get to the break, before we could even begin to work on it. Try doing this while customers are yelling at you because their phones don't work. For some reason, there always seemed to be water in the hole as well. It's no better for today's technician when a dig-up happens. They still need the brawn to excavate a hole by hand as well as the brains to repair the cable. Please be considerate of the workers who will have to repair the damage you may cause and call PA ONE-CALL before you dig. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Lager

General Manager
Palmerton Telephone Company

Recipe March 09

Lobster Bisque

Ingredients:

- > 1 cup chicken broth
- > 2 medium slices onion
- > 2 tablespoons butter
- > 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- > 2 cups milk
- > 1/2 teaspoon salt
- > 1 lb. cooked and cubed lobster meat
- > 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- > 1 pinch ground cayenne pepper

Directions:

1. In a small frying pan place 1/4 cup chicken stock and the onion. Cook over a low heat for 5 to 7 minutes.
2. In a medium size pot over medium heat melt the butter. Slowly whisk in flour. Whisk until a creamy mixture is created.
3. Gradually pour in stock, whisking constantly. Whisk in milk, salt, onion, lobster meat, Worcestershire sauce and cayenne pepper. Heat until soup is almost boiling.

*TIP: Do not boil the soup as the milk will curdle when boiled!

2009 DADISMS

Do you know the "Dad's Curse"? It goes like this:

"I HOPE THAT WHEN YOU GROW UP YOU HAVE A SON WHO BORROWS YOUR TOOLS WITHOUT ASKING AND NEVER RETURNS THEM."

We've taken an informal poll here at Palmerston Telephone, and sons and daughters alike, most of us seem to have had the curse bestowed upon us.

As a follow-up to our Momism series, we've been including Dadisms in our advertising. After all, with all the instructions and explanations that happen in a home over 18 years, what are the things we really remember? Here are a few of our collective favorites:

- > We're not lost. I'm just not sure where we are.
- > When I was your age, I treated MY father with respect.
- > As long as you live under my roof, you'll live by my rules.
- > I'll tell you why. Because I said so. That's why.
- > If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times...
- > You had to learn the hard way, didn't you?
- > I'm not sleeping. I'm just resting my eyes.

What are your favorite Dadisms? Tell us, and you'll win a prize!

Send your Dadisms, along with your name, address and telephone number, to:
Palmerston Telephone, Attn: Marketing Department, 465 Delaware Avenue, Palmerston, PA 18071

LIFELINE

PALMERTON TELEPHONE OFFERS TWO PROGRAMS TO HELP OUR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS GET OR KEEP THEIR TELEPHONE SERVICE. THEY ARE *LIFELINE 135 SERVICE* AND *LINK UP AMERICA*. IF YOU ARE A LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR THESE PROGRAMS.

Lifeline service gives eligible customers a credit of \$8.25 per month on his or her basic telephone service bill. Link Up America gives 50% off your telephone hook-up charge, and is available to those who qualify for Lifeline service.

To qualify for Lifeline & Link Up America, you must not be claimed as a dependent by anyone on their Federal Income Tax, unless you are 60 or older and receive assistance from one of the following programs:

- > General Assistance
- > Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- > Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- > Food stamps
- > Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- > Medicaid
- > Federal Public Housing Assistance
- > National School Free Lunch Program

OR

Your yearly income is at or below 135% of the United States Census Bureau Poverty Guidelines.

If you meet the qualifications, and would like to apply for *Lifeline and Link Up America*, contact our Business Office at 610.826.6650.

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

Brain Teaser January 2009 Winner!

Congratulations to Diana Diamond of Gilbert, PA. Diana was the winner of a \$25 Gift Card to Roadies Restaurant and Bar at Penn's Peak in Jim Thorpe, Pa.

Round and white, fearing the bright, I melt away at the sign of the sun, but building me you do have fun.
What am I?

Answer: Snowman

Fun Facts

Parsley is a common herb of the Mediterranean area and was well known to the ancient Greeks. They considered it too sacred to eat. Romans did serve it as a garnish and to improve the taste of food. They believed it had special powers and would keep them sober.

Bill Gates formed a company to sell a computerized traffic counting system to cities, which made \$20,000 its first year. Business dropped sharply when customers learned Gates was only 14 years old.

In 1996, measuring 6 feet 6 inches, "Sir" Charles Barkley was the shortest basketball player ever to lead the NBA in rebounding.

The yo-yo is the second oldest known toy in the world (only the doll is older), and was born over 3,000 years ago in the days of ancient Greece.

The first motion picture copyrighted in the United States (in 1894) showed a man in the act of sneezing.

Americans spend more money on dog food every year than they spend on baby food.

The crayfish isn't a fish at all — it is related to the lobster.

Up to the age of six or seven months, a child can breathe and swallow at the same time. An adult cannot do this.

It takes nearly two million flowers to create one pound of jasmine.

Val-YOU Package

WILL YOU BE LOOKING FOR THE POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW ON THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

IF SO, PALMERTON TELEPHONE CAN HELP!

It's not luck at all. In fact, when we designed the **Val-YOU Package**, we were careful to create a cost-effective bundle that includes everything most of our residential customers would want or need.

Val-YOU Package customers receive their dial tone telephone line, **unlimited local and long distance calling within the Continental United States**, 3-Way Calling, Touchtone Service, Call Forwarding, Repeat Call, Call Waiting, Voice Mail, Return Call Service, Caller ID Deluxe and Speed Dial 30.

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. Palmerton Telephone DSL, Powered by PenTeleData, offers a variety of features, including a dedicated, constant Internet connection, free Spam Tagging, free Unleashed Wi-Fi Hot Spot Access, unlimited access to the Internet, five e-mailboxes with up to 50 MB per mailbox, no busy signals and 24X7 Technical Support!

Don't wait on luck for your riches – let us help you save money today! To order, simply call our Business Office at (610)826-6650 and ask us to include **YOU** in the **Val-YOU Package**.

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 **3/20/09**.

Good Luck!
Palmerton Telephone



Brain Teaser

How many 2-cent stamps does it take to make a dozen?