



Parkside Education Center

**In the words of Dr. Carl Sagan,
"You have to know the past to understand the present."**

That is exactly why the recent dedication of the Parkside Education Center was of interest to many at Palmerton Telephone Company.

In fact, our history, just as that of the entire town, can be traced back to the New Jersey Zinc Company. It was their need for communication between offices that launched the idea of a telephone company in Palmerton.

In 1897, the New Jersey Zinc Company had a number of smelting plants throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They considered a central location, which could meet their needs for efficiency, including convenient shipping facilities and close proximity to an ore supply. The area of land now known as Palmerton, was just north of the Lehigh Gap and adjacent to anthracite coal fields – an ideal location to start a community.

By 1898, the New Jersey Zinc Company opened their first plant in the area, now called the West Plant. Under the leadership of Stephen S. Palmer, then President of the Zinc Company, the town of Palmerton was born.

In 1900, the management of the fledgling New Jersey Zinc Company decided that a communications system was needed to enhance the efficiency of its operations. As a result, the telephone came to the yet unincorporated town of Palmerton.

A single line serving seventeen subscribers was constructed and would later become Palmerton Telephone Company. A directory of that era might have listed various New Jersey Zinc Company offices, the Chestnut Ridge Railroad, The Horsehead Inn and the residences

of some of the more important Zinc Company officials.

A few years later, a telephone association was formed to oversee the new telephone operations. In 1912, the Palmerton Telephone Company incorporated taking the name of the new borough of Palmerton, and operated as a subsidiary of the New Jersey Zinc Company. By this time, 121 telephones were in use on this growing system. The Zinc Company owned the telephone system until 1948.

The New Jersey Zinc Company also realized the necessity for a Research Group. This department would support the company in the areas of exploration, applications and process improvements.

It wasn't until after the beginning of World War I that the department experienced rapid growth. In 1919, they built a modern three-story research and analytical laboratory on Fourth Street, known as the New Jersey Zinc Central Laboratory.

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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.*

S E R V I N G T H I S A R E A S I N C E 1 9 0 0

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?

EXERCISE BUILDS STRENGTH

In July of 2007 I noticed a marked loss of strength in my right arm. After a series of tests and scans my doctors told me that I needed surgery on my neck to relieve pressure on the nerves controlling my arm. The surgery was successful, but the arm was still weak. It was time for physical therapy. The therapist coached me in a repeated series of exercises and slowly my arm regained its former strength. Today I am fully recovered and getting stronger due to continuing the exercises she prescribed.

Through this experience I got to thinking about how the continued exercise of one of our rights strengthens the nation. I'm referring to the right to vote. We are being told that this coming presidential election may be the most

important in our history. While that may be true, every election is important and demands our attention. Who knows what the current presidential race might be like if, several years ago, voters in Chicago had ignored an election for the state assembly. The person you elect to your town council today may someday run for national office. So study the issues, listen to the debates, find out everything you can about the candidates, but above all exercise your right to vote in this and every election.

Sincerely,

Tom Lager

General Manager
 Palmerton Telephone Company

French Onion Soup

Ingredients:

3 14-ounce cans ready-to-eat beef broth

3/4 cup canned French-fried onions

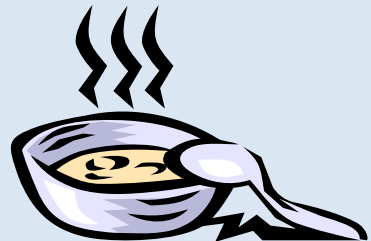
1/4 cup dry sherry

4 slices stale French bread

4 1-ounce slices Swiss cheese

Heat oven to 400° F. Arrange four 10-ounce oven-safe soup bowls on a baking sheet. Divide the broth and onions among them. Add 1 tablespoon of sherry to each. Float a slice of bread in each bowl and top with a slice of cheese. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the soup is bubbling.

Makes 4 servings.



Recipe

Parkside Education Center

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It was designed by Donn & Demming Architects of Washington, DC. The same architects designed the Bureau of Standards Laboratories in Washington, the building at Langley Field and the Grasselli Laboratory. The builder was Hugh Montgomery Krumbhaar of New York. Many of those who worked in the building were graduates of the universities for which the streets of Palmerton were named.

The first floor and part of the basement was used by the Testing Department of the Palmerton Plant, and the remaining area was occupied by the Research Division. An automatic telephone system, with thirty telephones, allowed communication within the building. On the second floor was home to additional Research offices, the Analytical Laboratory, the Library, the Metal Section and the Standards Library. The Research Library contained 3,000 volumes and copies of all important technical periodicals. The company's operations were doing well and respected around the world. In fact, the War Years marked intensified activity for them, as they provided the essential zinc products necessary to achieve victory for the United States.

Later, a downturn in the demand of zinc caused a reduction in the workforce. The Zerbe Research Center was built in Bethlehem, and the functions of the Central Laboratory were reduced to quality control. Eventually, the building was no longer needed.

Today, we can remember the remarkable history of the work done in the Central Laboratory, and its importance to our town. The former NJZ Central Lab Building was chosen as a way to expand space at the current S.S. Palmer Elementary School, which was overcrowded and utilizing hall space & storage areas for classrooms. The district offices also moved to the third floor of the newly-renovated building, making more space for classrooms at the Junior High.

The expansion/renovation project has revitalized and utilized an important vacant, historic downtown building. Experts in planning say a school's presence often stabilizes and sustains established neighborhoods by facilitating community involvement and providing a center for community activity. Many historic buildings, like the former NJZ Central Laboratory, were constructed with materials and expert workmanship that would be difficult to duplicate.

In August, the newly renovated building became the Parkside Education Center, home to the kindergarten and first grade classes and the Administration of the Palmerton Area School District. Palmerton Telephone was proud to have a hand in the project, installing the cabling and demarcation points and providing for the building's telephone system. Wonderful things are already happening in those classrooms, as the imaginations of our future leaders prepare for our town's next great achievements.

Commerative Stone Coasters, featuring a photo of the new Parkside Education Center and a cork base, are available for \$4. They can be purchased at the Administrative Offices, located on the third floor of the Parkside building, weekdays from 9 AM- 4 PM. Call in advance for availability at 610.826.4914.

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

Brain Teaser September 2008 Winner!

**Congratulations to
Arline J. Banas of
Palmerton, PA.
She was the
winner of a \$25 Gift
Card to Roadies
Restaurant and Bar at
Penn's Peak in Jim
Thorpe, Pa.**

I soar without wings. I
see without eyes. I've
traveled the universe
to and fro. I've
conquered the world,
yet I've never been
anywhere but home.
What am I?

Answer: Imagination

Fun Facts

In the famous Parker Brothers game Monopoly, the space on which a player has the greatest statistical chance of landing is Illinois Avenue. This is followed by the B&O Railroad, Free Parking, Tennessee Avenue, New York Avenue and the Reading Railroad.

A kangaroo cannot jump if its tail is lifted off the ground. It needs its tail for pushing off.

If you attempted to count the stars in a galaxy at a rate of one very second, it would take around 3,000 years to count them all.

Cats, not dogs are now the most common pets in America. Approximately 66 million cats to 58 million dogs are family pets, with parakeets "flying" a distant third at 14 million.

The average porcupine has more than 30,000 quills. Porcupines are excellent swimmers because their quills are hollow and serve as pontoons to keep them afloat.

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A car uses 1.6 ounces of gas idling for one minute. Half an ounce is used to start the average automobile.

It requires the use of 72 muscles to speak a single word.

Butterflies cannot fly if their body temperature is less than 86 degrees.

Mosquitoes are attracted to the color blue twice as much as to any other color.

Val-YOU Package

In the words of Warren Buffett, "Price is what you pay. Value is what you get."

A while back, we heard from you, our customers, and responded. You wanted an all-inclusive bundle package that included long distance calling for one low price. The result is Palmerton Telephone's Val-YOU package. For the low monthly price of just \$39.99 (plus applicable taxes and surcharges), you could be receiving 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.

Val-YOU Package customers also automatically receive the new, low international calling rates offered by Palmerton Long Distance. For example, Mexico is only 9¢ per minute, Canada is only 6¢ per minute and Portugal is only 7¢ per minute! (These rates do not apply to mobile/special services.) A complete list is available at www.pencorsuperstore.com.



As an added bonus, Val-YOU Package Customers who have or choose to add Platinum or Platinum Plus DSL 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 of storage per mailbox, no busy signals and 24X7 Technical Support!

For more information, call our Business Office at (610)826-6650.

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 **11/20/08**.

Good Luck!
Palmerton Telephone



Brain Teaser

What has arms but cannot hug, legs but cannot run?