

SEPTEMBER 2005 VOL. 40 NO. 9

# Penn *Lines*

Your Cooperative Newsmagazine

ADAMS ELECTRIC NEWS  
Page 12a

## Austin Dam Crack-Up: Remembering A Rural Tragedy

For changes of address, please contact your local electric cooperative.



**Perry A. Stambaugh**  
Editor/Director of Communications

**Eric Wise**  
Assistant Editor

**James Dulle**  
**Kitty Halke**

**Barbara Martin**  
**Marcus Schneck**  
Contributing Columnists

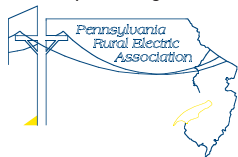
**W. Douglas Shirk**  
Layout & Design

**Vonnie Kloss**  
Advertising & Circulation

**Penn Lines** (USPS 929-700), the newsmagazine of Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives, is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, 212 Locust Street, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. *Penn Lines* helps 145,000 households of co-op consumer-members understand issues that affect the electric cooperative program, their local co-ops, and their quality of life. Electric co-ops are not-for-profit, consumer owned, locally directed and taxpaying electric utilities. *Penn Lines* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. The opinions expressed in *Penn Lines* do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, or local electric distribution cooperatives.

**Subscriptions:** Electric co-op members, \$5.42 per year through their local electric distribution cooperative. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Harrisburg, PA 17105 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes with mailing label to *Penn Lines*, 212 Locust Street, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266.

**Advertising:** Display ad deadline is six weeks prior to month of issue. Ad rates upon request. Acceptance of advertising by *Penn Lines* does not imply endorsement of the product or services by the publisher or any electric cooperative. If you encounter a problem with any product or service advertised in *Penn Lines*, please contact: Advertising, *Penn Lines*, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. *Penn Lines* reserves the right to refuse any advertising.



Y ur

Board officers and staff, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association: Chairman, David Wright; Vice Chairman, Tim Burkett; Secretary, Owen Miller; Treasurer, S. Eugene Herritt; President & CEO, Frank M. Bedey

© 2005 Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

# SEPTEMBER



8

## The Day Austin Died

On September 30, 1911, a dam constructed by the Bayless Pulp & Paper Company broke apart, releasing a crushing torrent of water, lumber, and debris that devastated the rural Potter County communities of Austin and Costello — a tragedy largely forgotten today



14

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Remains of the ill-fated Bayless Pulp & Paper Company dam just north of Austin in rural Potter County. Photo by B. Mark Schmerling.

## DEPARTMENTS

4 News Briefs

6 Outdoor Adventures

12 Energy Answers

12a News From Your Co-op

13 Over The Garden Wall

14 Country Kitchen

16 Classifieds

20 Humor

22 Rural Reflections



Visit with us at *Penn Lines Online*, located at [www.prea.com/Pennlines/plonline.htm](http://www.prea.com/Pennlines/plonline.htm). *Penn Lines Online* provides an e-mail link to *Penn Lines* editorial staff, information on advertising rates, contributor's guidelines, and an archive of past issues.

compiled by Perry Stambaugh  
Editor

## Electric Cooperatives Freed From Hours-of-Service Driving Restrictions

**E**lectric cooperative line workers recently received a permanent exemption from onerous U.S. Department of Transportation hours-of-service driving rules when President Bush signed into law a massive \$286.4 billion bill that funds highway and mass transit programs through 2009. The hours-of-service regulations, which took effect in January 2004, were designed to reduce highway accidents caused by fatigued long-haul truck drivers.

“Electric cooperatives were lumped in the rules simply because the vehicles line workers drive sometimes exceed 10,000 pounds gross weight, not because of any safety concern,” remarks Russ Biggica, director of government & regulatory affairs for the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the statewide service arm of your local electric cooperative. “However, compliance with the hours-of-service policy threatened to increase



costs for electric cooperatives in performing routine line maintenance, slow down line crews trying to restore power after localized storms, and severely ham-

per the capacity of electric cooperatives to help out utilities in other states following a major natural disaster.”

Even with the hours-of-service fix in place, electric cooperatives re-emphasized their position regarding the issue in comments filed with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The agency — as directed by a federal court — has begun the process of revamping existing hours-of-service driving rules to consider driver health. Among arguments made by electric cooperatives:

- Hours-of-service rules apply to truckers, while operators of electric utility service vehicles are technicians.
- Utilities have a documented record of superior highway safety.
- Utilities have local and national public service obligations not shared by long-haul truck or bus fleets, and hours-of-service rules inhibit their ability to fulfill these responsibilities.

## Out With the Young, In With The Old

**A**ccording to the U.S. Census Bureau, 145,543 persons between the ages of 20 and 34 moved out of Pennsylvania’s 48 predominately rural counties between 1995 and 2000. At the same time, 71,538 persons aged 35 to 49 (late Baby Boomers and early Gen-Xers) moved in.

The in-out migration patterns follow a nearly inverse trend. Roughly 43 percent of the rural young adults moved to one of the Commonwealth’s urban counties; another 22 percent relocated in a bordering state. In contrast, 38 percent of the new rural residents came from a Pennsylvania urban county; another 32 percent came from bordering states.

“The data suggests that rural young adults are not moving very far away and may one day return to their rural roots,” speculates Barry Denk, executive director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, the non-partisan rural policy arm of the state legislature.



# Bringing Back The Mighty Chestnut Tree

As part of a decades-long process to develop blight-resistant American chestnut trees, volunteers working in The Arboretum at Penn State's seed orchard recently administered blight-causing fungus to more than 200 hybrid chestnut saplings. Next spring, researchers will select the best candidates — those that show a high level of resistance to the blight — to take the initiative to its final step: reintroducing the American chestnut to Penn's Woods.

To reach that goal, seed from chestnut trees that have undergone similar screenings/inoculations at private plantations around the Mid-Atlantic region will be planted at The Arboretum. Eventually, the seed orchard will hold 210 highly blight-resistant American chestnut trees — the vanguard of East Coast reforestation efforts that should commence in approximately 15 years (although it will take 31,500 trees to get there).

Heralded as “the tree that built America,” the American chestnut comprised

more than a quarter of the nation's forests in 1900 — nearly 4 billion trees, stretching over 9 million acres east of the Mississippi River. In some Pennsylvania counties, more than half of all trees were chestnuts. Mature chestnuts grew to 100 feet tall and averaged 5 feet in diameter; loggers told of loading entire railroad cars with boards cut from one tree.

However, the giant was all but wiped out by an unlikely enemy — an exotic fungus accidentally imported from Asia with Chinese chestnut trees. Like an insidious cancer, blight caused by the dot-sized fungus crept steadily across the eastern United States, moving roughly 20 to 50 miles per year, assisted by birds, insects, and wind. With no natural resistance, chestnut trees in Pennsylvania were systematically obliterated by the mid-1920s.



By 1950, surviving trees nationwide filled just 500 acres.

In an October 2001 interview with *PennLines*, Dave Armstrong, operations coordinator for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation and a member of Gettysburg-based Adams Electric Cooperative, admitted that restoring the American chestnut “gets some of us get a little crazy.”

The “save the chestnut” effort — which began in 1935 and covers seven generations

— involves cross-breeding blight-resistant Chinese chestnut trees with their American cousins, then repeatedly back-crossing the progeny with other American chestnuts. Theoretically, after five generations, one in every 64 young trees should be highly resistant to blight but still exhibit the timber and nut-bearing qualities that made the American chestnut famous.







# 'Mussel-ing' In

by **Marcus Schneck**  
*Contributing Columnist*

**W**hen Charles Dickens penned the famous words, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," to open his famous novel "A Tale of Two Cities," he definitely was not writing about two small clam-like creatures inhabiting Pennsylvania's waters in 2005. But he could have been.

Within days of each other this summer, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that invasive zebra mussels had been found in yet another location in the state while the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission added the Commonwealth's only native mussel — the eastern pearlshell — to the growing roster of endangered species.

Zebra mussels, which were introduced to the Great Lakes around 1985 through infested ballast water released by ocean-going ships, are native to the Caspian Sea in central Asia. Roughly the size of a fingernail but able to grow to about 2 inches in length, they can attach themselves to any hard underwater surface, including the hull of a boat. If the boat then moves from one body of water to another without being properly cleaned, it can carry unseen mussel larvae.

From Lake Erie, the species spread to inland waterways — the most recent conquest being Conewango Creek in Warren County. And they are headed to the Susquehanna River, having been detected this year in the Goodyear Lake impoundment on the river near Oneonta, N.Y., less than 70 miles from Pennsylvania.

Zebra mussels and their equally invasive relatives, quagga mussels, constantly filter water, removing nutrients from it. Some researchers believe these feeding habitats play a key role in the formation of Lake Erie's "dead zone."

"The mussels have few controlling natural predators and multiply rapidly," explains DEP biologist James Grazio.



**BAD BIVALVES:** Fingernail-size shellfish native to Asia, zebra mussels were released into the Great Lakes by means of ballast water discharged from transoceanic vessels. Since their discovery in the mid-1980s, the mussels have spread into northwestern Pennsylvania waterways.

"They disrupt the food chain by devouring microscopic aquatic plants that support the existence of native fish and shellfish."


As if environmental damage was not enough, zebra mussels also clog water intake pipes serving industrial facilities, interfere with the operation of locks and dams on rivers, and damage boat hulls and engines.

## Pearlshell Harbor

While times are good for zebra mussels, they are not so good for the 6-inch eastern pearlshell. Once common in tributaries of the Little Schuylkill River in Schuylkill County, pearlshells are now restricted to a seven-mile stretch of Locust Creek. Since this region lies between two dams, biologists hold out little hope that the species will ever disperse from its tiny foothold. (Coal mining's impact on water quality gradually eradicated eastern pearlshells from other waters like Panther Creek, Indian Run, and Cold Run.)

The eastern pearlshell—which can live

more than a century — continues to do better to the north, although Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island list it a species of special concern and Vermont considers it threatened. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has given pearlshells endangered status because of pressure on populations in northern Europe.

Very likely, loss of the eastern pearlshell would mean nothing in the broad scheme of things. But it certainly would not count as "the best of times." 



*Marcus Schneck, outdoors editor at The Patriot-News (Harrisburg) and editor of Destinations travel-outdoor magazine in Berks County, is the author of more than two dozen outdoors*

*books and a contributor to many state and national publications. You can reach him at mschneck@comcast.net.*

# The Day Austin Died

**On September 30, 1911, a dam constructed by the Bayless Pulp & Paper Company broke apart, releasing a crushing torrent of water, lumber, and debris that devastated the rural Potter County communities of Austin and Costello — a tragedy largely forgotten today**

by **Eric C. Wise**  
*Assistant Editor*

**O**n May 31, 1889, the neglected, earthen South Fork Dam restraining Lake Conemaugh in Cambria County collapsed, resulting in the Great Johnstown Flood that left 2,209 people dead. Twenty years later — even as bodies from the Johnstown catastrophe were still being uncovered — residents in the rural Potter County community of Austin began worrying about a large concrete dam in their own midst.

Completed by the Bayless Pulp & Paper Company in December 1909 to provide a steady supply of water for the company's operations, the structure spanned the narrow valley of Freeman Run, just one mile upstream from the borough of Austin and three miles north of the neighboring village of Costello. At the time, the 50-foot-high, nearly 540-foot-wide dam — the state's largest — held back 200 million gallons of water

(design capacity), although its actual volume was much higher. And almost right from the start, cracks began to appear along its surface.

On Saturday, September 30, 1911, at around 2:15 p.m., the dam gave way, spilling an estimated 265 million gallons of water and carrying along millions of cord-feet of pulpwood stored near the Bayless plant. The deluge killed 78 people and generated approximately \$14 million in property damage — enough to force state lawmakers, including state Sen. Frank Baldwin of Austin who had lost his parents and sister in the calamity, to pass the nation's first dam safety law two years later.

## Setting the Stage

Austin, home to 2,000 in the early 20th century, had been brutalized by a series of fires and floods, including one on the same day as the Johnstown disaster. As tanneries and lumbering — industries that had supported the local

economy — faded, Binghamton, N.Y. industrialist George Bayless, looking to tap the area's immense tracts of pulpwood (and apparently lured by illegally lowered tax assessments that later led to indictments of several county commissioners), moved in and built a paper mill at the head of Freeman Run.

But the once-bountiful stream — despoiled by overzealous timber harvesting throughout its watershed — began running slow during dry spells. To secure water needed to keep his mill humming, Bayless first erected a small earthen dam.

"But that dam quickly proved inadequate, so he built one made out of concrete to meet water demands," explains Ronald Ebbert, president of the E.O. Austin House and Historical Society Museum — which is set to open this fall

**DOCUMENTED DESTRUCTION:** Panoramic photographs captured the horrific aftermath of the 1911 Austin Dam break.





— and a member of Mansfield-based Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.

However, Bayless's state-of-the-art concrete dam was barely two months old when a heavy rainstorm and early spring thaw bowed it more than 36 feet, allowing water to pour over the top. Six vertical cracks also appeared.

"They found a leak near the bottom that needed to be fixed," Ebbert says.

With no way to release the water (and pressure) behind the dam to remedy the situation, Bayless engineers blasted open a 13-foot section near the west bank. While the company later replaced the damaged concrete, no valve was installed to keep the problem from happening again.

Troubles with the dam led people in Austin to question if the dam had been filled before the concrete had dried properly and if the design was sound.

"Others wondered if the reinforcing rods used were too small and too few in number or if the edifice had been 'built backwards,'" Ebbert reflects. "Some suggested that because of a labor dispute shoddy work had been performed intentionally."

One of the town's leaders, grocer and Potter County Register and Recorder Willie Nelson, predicted in the local papers that the dam would fail. His daily journeys to the dam to check on the cracks and his

prophetic admonitions — while scorned by many — later earned him the nickname "the Jeremiah of Austin."

And Nelson was not alone in his beliefs. A New York-based publication, *Engineering News*, also echoed forecasts of ruin. Even more ominous was the August 28, 1911, breakdown of a concrete dam at the Bayless Chemical Company plant, 30 miles from Austin.

Yet most locals — convinced by Bayless officials that "the dam could not break" — remained confident in its stability. They countered the doomsayers by asserting that the 700,000 cords of pulpwood stacked between the dam and town at the mill's lumber yard would slow down and divert any escaping waters.

### Wipe Out

After the concrete dam ruptured on that fateful early fall afternoon, the wall of water behind began smashing its way down Freeman Run valley. At first, the mass of pulpwood retarded the tide long enough for most residents to escape.

"Some witnesses say a child rode a bicycle ahead of the approaching waters, shouting a warning to anyone who would listen," notes Gale Largey, a retired Mansfield University professor who produced a documentary on the disaster in 1997. "Personal reports say floodwaters reached

**BATTERING RAM:** Most Austin residents believed stacks of pulpwood at the Bayless mill would hold back water if the dam broke. Instead, much of it washed away and ended up crushing the town.

the main part of Austin about 15 minutes after the first break."

But the "moving dam" — carrying enough wood to cover seven acres up to a foot deep — eventually picked up momentum. The logs and water first tore through the Bayless mill, drowning and crushing workers. Mary Blaitz, a bookkeeper, became trapped under a giant grinding stone that washed into her office. She cried to her fleeing co-workers to free her by "getting an ax to cut off her leg." No one would volunteer. Finally, a "large Polish fellow" obliged and then carried her to a hospital where she eventually recovered.

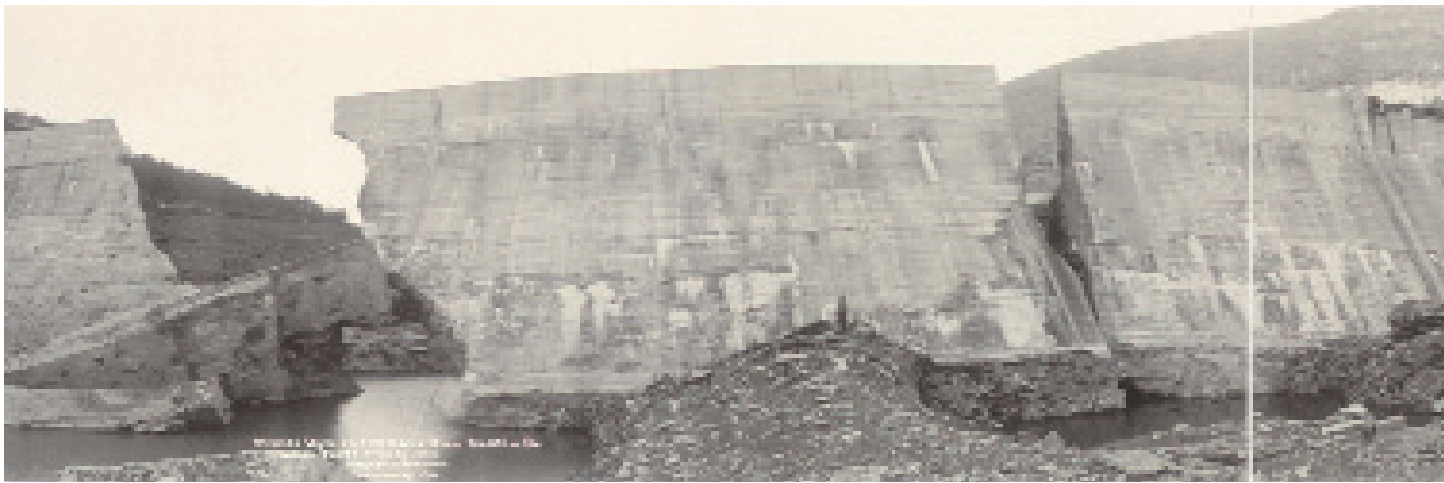
Survivors reported that a siren at the pulp mill — eight short hoots and a long blast — sounded prior to the onslaught. But the klaxon call was generally ignored since two false fire alarms had gone off earlier that day, which coincided with Potter County's primary election.

"They tested the alarms several times, so people didn't pay much attention to them when they were real," Ebbert mentions.

On a hillside above the mayhem, "mad-







am” Cora Brooks, who ran a local house of “illrepute” and was free on bail while facing prostitution charges, heard the dam “shudder and crack” and watched in horror as water twisted and tumbled the concrete. She quickly called Austin’s telephone operators, who ran through the streets screaming to onlookers. The action saved hundreds of lives and because of it, “Old Cora” received a light sentence at her trial in December that year.

Those who fled to higher ground watched in horror as the wood-laden waters, pegged at 50-feet high, crushed and upended homes, businesses, and churches, and swept friends, relatives, and neighbors — some of whom became ensnared on a cattle fence below town — to their deaths. The scene was described as, “a sea of debris and logs, topped by a ‘death mist.’”

News of the tragedy spread quickly, although not accurately. The *Harrisburg Telegraph* put the death toll at 200, while *The Times* of London announced 2,000 deaths in an October 3 front-page headline. Many Americans witnessed the carnage from movie newsreels that highlighted people surveying the dam’s remains and wandering dazed amid the rubble.

Sadly, Nelson and his wife died in the flood. Of the 78 official victims (an accurate accounting was impossible due to the number of transient woodsmen in the vicinity and loss of hotel registers), about one-fifth were children. Surprisingly, though, the local hospital reported very few injuries.

The nearly 1,000 relief workers who flocked to Austin faced a horrific task — a mud-filled valley punctuated by fires, fueled by broken gas lines, tearing

**SHAKY FEELING:** Engineering experts believe Austin Dam suffered a “sliding failure,” as water leached under the structure and allowed it to push forward.

through remains. Locomotives at the Buffalo & Susquehanna railroad shops lay strewn “like so many cheese boxes.” Children burrowed into piles that were once their homes looking for their parents.

“One survivor asserted that the odor of burning flesh and dead cats and dogs often turned strong men into something less than they wanted to be,” Largey remarks.

### Understanding The Failure

Built for \$86,000, Austin Dam functioned as a gravity dam — anchored to bedrock, it used sheer weight to hold back water. Bayless poured 16,000 cubic yards of concrete — weighing more than 30,000 tons — during construction, an impressive amount for the time.

On the reservoir side, Austin Dam rose straight vertically, while facing outside it tapered from a 30-foot-thick base to 2.5 feet wide at the top. But Bayless cut corners to keep costs down. The design engineer, T. Chalkey Hatton, planned for water to reach a height of 40 feet, a level later inflated to 42 feet under Bayless’ orders. Hatton drew in a release valve, only to have Bayless put in a cheaper wooden plug.

Following problems the dam experienced in early 1910 (which had necessitated a hole being blown through it), Hatton suggested significant safety improvements. His requests, though, fell on deaf ears and the dam was repaired

without any upgrades other than a log dam being added upstream.

“My hunch is that Bayless took a risk the dam would hold when he needed water for paper production and that even if a break occurred, it would not be very dramatic,” Largey speculates.

Yet it was one Bayless change that created the dam’s fatal flaw — reducing the depth of the foundation. Hatton had ordered a 9-foot foundation that Bayless slashed to just 4 feet. In doing so, workers began building on a solid layer of sandstone, never realizing that permeable shale lay just below. Inevitably, pressure from the dam pushed water through the shale, effectively “greasing the skids” for the dam to slide forward.

Shortly after the disaster, an *Engineering News* investigation concluded that the dam had indeed suffered a “sliding failure,” with the concrete fracturing in two places where shale proved the weakest. In turn, the dam shattered into nine pieces, some of which slid 30 to 75 feet downstream, where they remain today.

In 1998, Brian H. Greene and Courtney A. Christ of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers examined the dam’s failure for *Pennsylvania Geology*, concluding that *Engineering News’* analysis from late 1911 was right on target.

“While there’s debate as to why it broke, the consensus is the footer was not stable,” Largey points out. “Workers assumed they hit bedrock, but they didn’t, and water got under the dam.”

### Postscript

After the disaster, many families moved away for good. Bayless offered to rebuild





the mill and dam in return for pledges from flood victims and their families not to sue. He apparently succeeded — no case ever went to trial. He further assisted with funeral expenses for about half of the victims, yet never admitted fault. He contended until his death that he truly believed, “It was a dam that could not break.”

Ironically, the new Bayless pulp mill went up in flames in 1933 and his second dam broke — without serious harm — in 1942. Remnants of the mill are now mostly hidden by forest regrowth.

Today, the Austin Dam Memorial Association owns a 75-acre site encompassing the ruins. Located along state Route 872 just north of Austin, a memorial park offers visitors a chance to view the weathered concrete, remember the flood victims, and enjoy the beauty of Potter County.

In 2003 and 2004, a two-day concert dubbed “The Dam Show” brought large crowds to the park in a celebration of arts and music. (Organizers moved the show to Genesee for 2005 because the entrance road to the park was damaged and could not be replaced in time.)

Largey’s documentary, “The Austin Disaster, 1911,” attracted a crowd of more than 600 people when it was first screened in 1997. The video features an impressive ensemble of contributors — former President Gerald Ford and former Gov. Tom Ridge handle voiceovers, reading proclamations issued by their 1911 predecessors, William Taft and John Tener, respectively. Largey even recruited country music superstar Willie Nelson to narrate the program, in tribute to Austin’s late famous “prophet.”

Throughout the film, Austin area residents read comments from the survivors as recorded in news accounts, letters, and interviews.

For more information on preservation of the Austin Dam and the Austin Dam Memorial Park, check the association’s Web site at <http://happeningsinthehills.com/adma/index.html>. For information on purchasing “The Austin Disaster, 1911” on DVD or video, visit [www.gale-largey.com](http://www.gale-largey.com) or call 570/724-3564. 📌

See what a  
difference it  
makes...



**Advertise  
in *Penn Lines*  
Classifieds**





# One in the Oven

by James Dulley

*Contributing Columnist*

**W**hile you may not think about it very much, choosing the right type of device to cook your meals has a major impact on your electric bills. For example, electric heating elements in the oven/broiler of your range can consume more than 3,500 watts of electricity while those in a typical toaster oven use around half that amount. A toaster requires only about 900 watts.

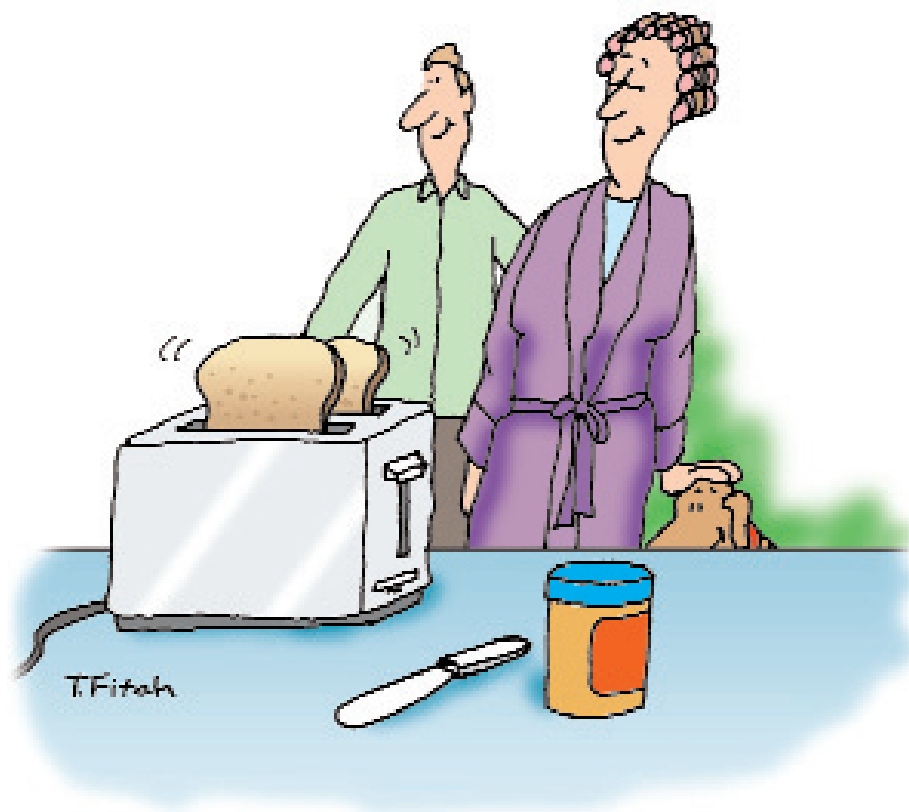
As a result — in terms of energy efficiency — using a toaster oven rather than a range oven for baking and broiling smaller items makes sense. If you only need to toast one or two slices of bread, bagels, or waffles at a time, a standard pop-up toaster provides the greatest savings.

Each kilowatt-hour of electricity an oven uses translates into 3,416 Btu of heat inside your home. During summer, your air conditioner must run longer to remove this extra heat, increasing your electric bills. During winter, the extra heat released from an oven helps, but ovens are a significantly less efficient heating source than heat pumps or furnaces.

## Toasting Toss-Up

For best performance and efficiency, purchase both a toaster and a toaster oven. You should be able to find simple toasters for as little as \$15 at discount stores. If you need to toast four or six slices of bread at a time, switch to a toaster oven.

Toasters equipped with digital controls provide more accuracy and consistency in lightness or darkness of your bread. If you prefer bagels, select a model with a bagel setting that cooks on only one side. If thickness of your slices varies — such as with homemade bread —



look for a toaster featuring self-centering slots.

Some new toasters automatically move your bread or bagel past the heating elements for more even toasting. Put the slice in the top and it slowly moves downward before sliding out the bottom onto an exit tray. (The tray closes flat against the side of the toaster to save space when not in use.) A few units even boast automatic defrost and toast cycles.

When selecting a toaster oven, consider digital controls as well for more precise heating. A good-quality toaster oven with a convection fan will circulate heated air throughout the oven to cook items faster; those labeled “infrared heating” will toast bread faster. If you

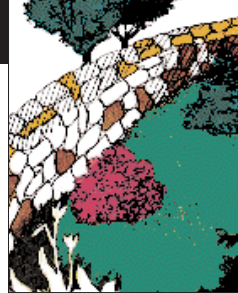
broil hamburgers or other meats often, look for an easy-to-clean nonstick or porcelain interior surface.

The following companies offer toasters and toaster ovens: Braun, 800-272-8622, [www.braun.com](http://www.braun.com); Cuisinart, 800-726-0190, [www.cuisinart.com](http://www.cuisinart.com); Rival, 800-557-4825, [www.rivalproducts.com](http://www.rivalproducts.com); Sunbeam, 800-458-8407, [www.sunbeam.com](http://www.sunbeam.com); and West Bend, 262/334-6949, [www.westbend.com](http://www.westbend.com). ☛



*James Dulley is a nationally syndicated energy management expert. You can reach him at James Dulley, c/o Penn Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244.*





# Second Spring

by **Barbara Martin**  
*Contributing Columnist*

**F**or gardeners, late summer/early fall provides a great time to wander around the yard admiring fruits of your labor, savoring the scents of late roses, and nibbling here and there on a

an old mimosa tree died off. You recall horrific Japanese beetle damage and consider not even trying to grow roses any more. Or you get a big idea, such as expanding the patio to accommodate a second table and more chairs!

September provides a good time to ponder improvements that could be made

will slowly strangle itself and, within a few years, expire.

## Garden Editing

You should take time to thin your perennial garden, too. Many perennials can be planted or transplanted now, and some successfully propagated by division. Make sure to mulch when you replant and keep soil evenly moist (like a wrung-out sponge) as your plantings re-establish themselves. With perennials, you want to finish planting about eight weeks before the ground freezes in your area.

Even if you are not quite ready to invest in a major planting project — or can't decide on what to put into the ground — begin preparing soil for next spring. Doing this will save you precious time when warm days finally roll around and allow the soil to properly settle and mellow. In addition, have soil samples tested through your county's Cooperative Extension Office, add any needed nutrients, and then mulch or plant a cover crop to prevent erosion this winter.

One improvement I encourage everyone to make during the fall — whether you are into flowers, vegetables, or landscaping — involves recycling autumn leaves. Composted or half-rotted leaves produce a superb mulch and soil amendment. All you need is a place to store them. More about that another time! 🌱



**CHOKING HAZARD:** Girdling roots like these on trees or shrubs should be untangled, cut, or sliced apart so they will grow into surrounding soil.

sun-warmed cherry tomato. Your annuals are finally full grown and fabulous, while late blooming perennials provide a fresh burst of color. Of course, home-grown tomatoes and beans taste even more delicious — perhaps because you're not picking them in the heat and humidity of August.

As you soak in the benefits of hard work and nature's generosity, you may sometimes come across abject failure — like the empty spot where the pumpkin patch should be (a victim of squash borers). Or the bare patch in the lawn where

for next year. For example, if your lawn did not seem as thick, lush, or green as you would have liked, this is the optimum month for establishing new grass.

Terrific growing conditions in autumn also give a boost to trees and shrubs. If you purchase "woodies" for planting, try to find ones that have not been left in a container to the point where their cramped roots have grown into a hard, matted mass. Any encircling roots you find should be untangled, cut, or sliced apart so they will grow into surrounding soil. If you do nothing, the plant



*Barbara Martin, who says she began gardening as a hobby "too many years ago to count," currently works for the National Gardening Association as a horticulturist. A former member of Gettysburg-based Adams*

*Electric Cooperative, her articles appear in magazines and on the Internet.*







# Rising to the Occasion

by Kitty Halke

Contributing Columnist

**A**utumn's arrival this month signals the return of serious cooking and baking. Create warm memories for your family — or return to childhood recollections of Grandma's kitchen — by greeting cool, crisp days with the aroma of freshly baked bread.

Except for Pull-Apart Bacon Bread, loaves may be baked this month, properly wrapped and frozen, and then brought out for the holidays as gifts for family and friends.

*Kitty Halke is a cooking professional and freelance writer from rural Pennsylvania. Send recipes and comments to her in care of: Penn Lines, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266.*

## BANANA PECAN HONEY BREAD

- 2-1/2 cups plus 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 ripe bananas, mashed (about 1-1/2 cups)
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 cup toasted pecans, chopped
- 1 stick butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9" x 5" loaf pan and line the bottom with waxed paper. Sift together 2-1/2 cups flour, baking powder, salt, and baking soda; set aside. In a small bowl, combine bananas, milk, honey, and vanilla. Set aside. In another small bowl, stir pecans and remaining 1 tablespoon flour. Set aside. In large mixing bowl, beat butter and sugar at medium speed until fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Reduce speed to low and alternately add sifted dry ingredients and banana mixture, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients. Beat just until combined. Stir in flour-dusted chopped pecans and pour batter into prepared pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center of loaf comes out clean, about 1 hour and 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 10 minutes, then run a knife around the inside rim of the pan to remove the bread, peeling off the waxed paper from the bottom and cool completely before slicing. Makes 16 slices.

## SOUR CREAM MAPLE BREAD

- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans



In a small bowl, stir flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; set aside. Using a wire whisk or handheld mixer, in a medium bowl beat butter until smooth, then slowly add maple syrup, whisking constantly. Whisk in sour cream and egg; stir in pecans and add the flour mixture, stirring just until blended. Spoon batter into greased-and-floured 9" x 5" loaf pan and bake at 350 degrees until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 50-60 minutes. Cool 15 minutes in pan on wire rack, then turn out loaf on rack to cool completely.

## CINNAMON BREAD

- 3 cups flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs, well beaten
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup milk
- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon



Sift flour and baking powder and set aside. In large mixing bowl, cream 2 cups sugar, beaten eggs, and oil. Add milk alternately with sifted dry ingredients and mix until well blended. Pour half of the batter evenly into two greased-and-floured bread pans. Mix 4 tablespoons sugar with the cinnamon and sprinkle over batter in the two loaf pans. Cover each with equal amounts of the remaining batter and bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes. Cool in pans on rack for 10 minutes before removing and cool completely before slicing. Makes 2 loaves.

## PULL-APART BACON BREAD

- 12 bacon strips, diced
- 1 lb. loaf frozen bread dough, thawed, or a loaf of your homemade bread dough
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or vegetable oil, divided
- 1 cup (4 oz.) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 envelope (1 oz.) dry Ranch salad dressing mix



Fry bacon in a skillet over medium heat for about 5 minutes or until partially cooked; drain on paper towels and then dice. Roll out bread dough to 1/2-inch thickness and brush with 1 tablespoon of oil. Cut dough into 1-inch pieces and place in a large mixing bowl. Add diced bacon, mozzarella cheese, and dry Ranch dressing mix and remaining 1 tablespoon of oil. Toss gently to coat. Arrange pieces in a 9" x 5" oval on a greased cookie sheet, layering pieces as needed. Cover and let rise in a warm place for about 30 minutes or until doubled. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Cover with foil and bake 5-10 minutes longer or until golden brown. Serve warm. Yields one oval "loaf." Add soup or a salad for a quick, easy, seasonal supper or serve with your favorite egg dish for breakfast.



# CLASSIFIED

## Here's My Ad:

Yes, I want my message to go into more than 145,000 households in rural Pennsylvania. I have counted \_\_\_\_\_ words in this ad. (FOR ADS IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS, ADD 20 PERCENT TO TOTAL COST.)

☐ I am an electric co-op member. Attached is my *Penn Lines* mailing label from the front of this magazine. I enclose \$20 per month for 30 words or less, plus 50¢ for each additional word. The total payment enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please run my ad during the months of \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I am NOT a member of an electric cooperative. I enclose \$70 per month for 30 words or less, plus \$1.50 for each additional word. The total payment enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please run my ad during the months of \_\_\_\_\_.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

Additional words: \_\_\_\_\_ (use separate sheet if needed)

NOTE: You must pay for special heading requests, even if the heading is currently appearing in *Penn Lines*.

Only the following qualify as free headings. Please check your selection: ☐ Around the House ☐ Business Opportunities

☐ Employment Opportunities ☐ Gift and Craft Ideas ☐ Livestock and Pets ☐ Miscellaneous ☐ Motor Vehicles and Boats  
☐ Nursery and Garden ☐ Real Estate ☐ Recipes and Food ☐ Tools and Equipment ☐ Vacations and Campsites ☐ Wanted to Buy.

FOR SPECIAL HEADINGS NOT LISTED: Indicate special heading you would like, and add \$5 for co-op members, \$10 for non-members. Insertion of classified ad in *Penn Lines* serves as proof of publication; no proofs are furnished.

SEND THIS FORM (or a sheet containing the above information) to *Penn Lines* Classified, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY Telephone: 717/233-5704. NO classified ads will be accepted by phone.

**ATTN: Checks/money orders should be made payable to PREA/Penn Lines.**

Attach address label here  
(or write in complete label information)



## CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE

**MONTH DEADLINE**

**November 2005 . . . September 21**

**December 2005 . . . . October 20**

**January 2006. . . . . November 18**

All ads must be received by the specified dates to be included in the corresponding month's issue. Ads received beyond the deadline dates will automatically be included in the next available issue. Written notice of changes or cancellations must be received prior to the first of the month preceding the month of issue. For information about display rates, continuous ads, or specialized headings, contact Vonnie Kloss at 717/233-5704, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association.

### AL'S DISCOUNT STONE CO.

Painting—Waterfalls—Walls—Planters—Homes—Fountains—Fencing—Siding—Pre-cast Veneer—Stone—Brick—Gutters—Siding—Shingle Roofing—Tear Downs—Remodeling—Cleaning—Firewood—Stone Retail Sales—Yards—Hauling. Cochran 814/425-3753 or 814/724-6334.



### AROUND THE HOUSE

COUNTRY COOKING Volume 2 — \$8, including postage. RECIPES REMEMBERED Volume 3 — \$12, including postage. Both of these cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks. Volume 1 of "Country Cooking" is SOLD OUT.

SAFES for home, office, and guns. Fire and theft protection. Excellent warranty. Delivery and installation available. Many sizes to meet your storage needs. Call Laird's 717/308-7173, evenings 717/259-7173, or e-mail: lairds7173@msn.com.

FISH FOR SALE — Catfish, Koi, Goldfish, great for ponds and water gardens. Scott Smith 814/450-0605.

### AUTOMOBILE/TRUCK

BOB McCORMICK FORD, your award-winning small town dealership. SPECIAL discounts and financing in sales, service and parts for electric co-op members. Please call for details. BOB McCORMICK FORD, 65 South Main Street, Hughesville, PA 17737. 570/584-2166.

### AUTO PARTS

LOW MILEAGE ENGINES. Best Prices, delivery included! CARFAX mileage verification and 199-day part warranty. Wade's Auto Parts 800/709-9233 Member BBB www.wadesautoparts.com.

### BACK ACRES HOT TUBS

Our unique, high QUALITY SPAS are customizable and upgradeable to meet all your therapy needs. Call 800/899-0352 for FREE educational DVD packet or schedule a professional location inspection.

### BASEMENT WET?

I can make your basement dry, no matter how bad the water problem. I've waterproofed basements all over the state. I have hundreds of satisfied customers. References given gladly. Free estimates, all work guaranteed. Call collect or send ad with your name, address, phone to: R. L. Winter, Basement Waterproofing, R. D. 1, Box 1057, Three Springs, PA 17264. 814/448-3900.

### BUILDING SUPPLIES

STEEL ROOFING AND SIDING. Discount Prices. Corrugated sheets (cut to length) 48¢ per square foot. Also 2nds, heavy gauges, odd lots, etc. Located in northwestern Pennsylvania. 814/398-4052.

METAL BUILDINGS — 24 x 40 x 8, \$9,900 installed. 30 x 40 x 8, \$11,900 installed. Includes one walk door and one garage door. All sizes available. 800/464-3333. www.factorysteelbuildings.com.

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INC 500 International Christian-Based Healthy Living Technologies Company. Looking for Managers and Dealers, P/T or F/T, working from home. Six-figure income potential. NEW NUMBER 800/404-9034.

PIANO TUNING PAYS. Learn at home with American School of Piano Tuning home study course in piano tuning and repair. Tools included. Diploma granted. Call for free brochure: 800/497-9793.

Your own CANDLE BUSINESS. Sell high quality scented candles with your own name brand. Run fundraisers, home parties, craft shows, wholesale. Immediate startup with little or no money down. Honest, real opportunity. Call 570/746-1662.

### COLLIE DOG

COLLIE PUPPIES registered. Sable/white and tri-color. Full white collars. Shots and wormed. Bedford County. 814/793-3938.

### CONSULTING FORESTRY SERVICES

ALLEGHENY FORESTERS & CONSULTANTS. Timber Sales, Appraisals, Forest Management Services and Plans. FREE Woodland Evaluations in PA and surrounding states. Professional foresters working for you. 814/353-0369.

NOLL'S FORESTRY SERVICES, INC. performs Timber Marketing, Timber Appraisals, Forest Management Planning, and Forest Improvement Work. FREE Timber Land Recommendations. 30 years experience. Call 814/472-8560.

CENTRE FOREST RESOURCES. Maximizing present and future timber values. Forest Management Services, Managing Timber Taxation, Timber Sales, Quality Deer Management. FREE Timber Consultation. College educated, professional, ethical. 814/867-7052.

HECEI CONSULTING FORESTRY. Timber Sales, Appraisals, Custom Logging, Forest and Wildlife Management Plans. Serving PA, NY, and Ohio. Professional forestry since 1975. 814/337-3638.

ROSEWOOD COMPANY — We buy standing timber and timberland. Long-term management by Professional Forester. Careful logging ensures your forest is sustainable. Free woodland inspection. In business over eighty years 717/349-2289.

### ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE

LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL with an ETS heater. We have 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 kW units and thermostats in stock. Install yours now for special off-peak electric rates. We also stock complete wiring supplies for all your electrical needs. Call for information: 814/226-0900. Clarion Electric Supply Company, Clarion, PA 16214.

### EYE CARE

Do you want an EYE DOCTOR who cares? If so, Diana Donch, O.D. can provide eye exams, glasses, contacts, magnifiers, and/or vision aids. Call for an appointment 814/425-3937.



## FAMILY AND REUNION PORTRAITS

Photographer will TRAVEL TO YOU. Take advantage of Pennsylvania's scenic beauty! No family too large or small. Portraits to cherish for generations. Portable studio service also available. Michael Barbus Photography, 814/241-1104. mbarbusphoto@adelphia.net.

## FLAGPOLES AND FLAGS

20' ANODIZED ALUMINUM Sectional Pole, \$150; 20' aluminum one-piece tapered flagpole, \$420. Other sizes available. Easy installation. Prices include shipping. Mastercard/Visa. Flagpoles & Flags, 419 Lemmon Road, Markleton, PA 15551. 814/926-3709.

## GIFT AND CRAFT IDEAS

COUNTRY COOKING Volume 2 — \$8, including postage. RECIPES REMEMBERED Volume 3 — \$12, including postage. Both of these cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks. Volume 1 of "Country Cooking" is SOLD OUT.

The PERFECT GIFT FOR HER. Graduation, birthday, Christmas. Handcrafted solid wood jewelry chests — cherry, walnut, oak. Weaver's Woodcrafts, 325 Whitmer Road, Shippensburg, PA 17257. 717/532-4801 or visit [www.craftmall.net/weaver](http://www.craftmall.net/weaver).

## HEALTH

PURE EMU OIL — \$9.50, shipping \$3.50. All natural! Arthritis, burn, muscle relief. Pet shampoo, hand & body cream available. Eppley's Emu, 3117 E. Mud Pike Rd., Berlin, PA 15530. 814/267-5061. [www.singinghillpa.com](http://www.singinghillpa.com).

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Tired of all those medicines? Still not feeling better? Do you want to feel better, have more energy, better digestion, less joint stiffness, healthier heart/circulation and cholesterol levels? Find out how to empower your own immune system? start IMMUNE-26 today! It's safe, affordable, and it works. Call 800/557-8477: ID#528390. 90-day money back on first time orders. When ordering from Web, use Option #3. [www.mylifeforlife.net/believeit](http://www.mylifeforlife.net/believeit).

## HEALTH INSURANCE

DO YOU HAVE THE BLUES regarding your Health Insurance? We cater to rural America's health insurance needs. For more information, call 800/628-7804 (PA). Call us regarding Medicare supplements, too.

## HERBALIFE®

LIFTOFF — A new kind of Energy Drink. Engine running on empty? LIFTOFF effervescent energy drink is the perfect mind-body boost! Herbalife® developed a proprietary energy blend that does more than fight fatigue — LIFTOFF helps you stay focused for improved concentration. Call today for a free sample: Bruce & Apryle Davis 814/587-2164.

## HERITAGE FAIR

Camp Blue Diamond, Route 22 to 305, Petersburg, Huntingdon County — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 8:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m. Silver Anniversary Celebration with foods, arts, crafts, demonstrations, Brethren life and history displays, children's activities, petting zoo, horse rides, classic car/tractor show, entertainment, quilt and basket auctions, and more. No admission fee. Free parking with shuttle. Friday evening meal, concert, worship. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts. Sunday morning worship. For more information call 814/667-2355.

## HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM

LAMP POST HOMESCHOOL STORE offers family friendly Christian curriculum, Free Catalog! 800/326-9273. 1741 Tallman Hollow Road, Mountoursville, PA 17754. Online homeschool catalog and information: [www.lamp-postpublishing.com](http://www.lamp-postpublishing.com). E-mail: [LampPostP@aol.com](mailto:LampPostP@aol.com).

## INSURANCE

CAMPS, SEASONAL, FARMS, Dwellings, Businesses, and an industry-leading investment department. Davis, Gregory and Kyle Insurance and Investments. T/A DGK Insurance Inc., P.O. Box 337, Factoryville, PA 18419. 800/242-4337.

## LAWN AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT

SALES — SERVICE — PARTS. Reliable repairs on all makes and models. Compact Skid Steers, Mowers, Chainsaws, Tillers, etc. We sell Boxer/Kanga, Dixon, Hustler, Grasshopper, Toro, Shindaiwa, and more. HARRINGTON'S, 5825 Conover Rd., Harney, MD. 410/756-2506.

## LIVESTOCK AND PETS

WHITETAIL DEER for sale — No permit needed. Fawns, bred doe, trophy bucks. White deer, PA, Michigan, Canadian bloodlines. Guaranteed trophy buck hunts August-March. No license required. For details call 814/328-2911 or visit: [www.whiteoak-whitetail-hunting.com](http://www.whiteoak-whitetail-hunting.com).

HORSETRAILER RENTALS — day, week, weekend, etc. Reserve yours now. We also sell pine shavings — large bales — get yours today! Call for details. 814/839-2315. Firefly Enterprises Inc., Alum Bank, Pa.

Registered HEREFORD and RED ANGUS BULLS and Females for sale year round. Total A&I, breeding program for calving ease, thickness, growth and good dispositions. Twin Ponds Farm, McVeytown, Pa. 717/899-7787.



Quality MINIATURE DONKEYS. Herd sire is 31" tall. Various colors and prices. Very lovable, gentle and friendly. Also, Registered Dwarf Nigerian Goats. Quality bred. 814/333-8255 or [maplewood@alltel.net](mailto:maplewood@alltel.net).

## LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING Christian long distance company has lower rates! 5.9¢ a minute, 24/7, no fees, no gimmicks. Thousands are saving with blessed hope. Call 877/594-6403 or visit [www.lowrate4me.com](http://www.lowrate4me.com).

## LUMBER

CUSTOM-SAWED LUMBER — Hemlock, pine, oak, etc. Band-sawed and/or kiln-dried. Framing and sheeting lumber in stock. Delivery available. C.B. Hardwoods, owner, Fred Cleland. 814/654-7845 or 814/654-7087. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Kiln-dried SASSAFRAS LUMBER — Inch thick. #1 common and better. \$1.50 per board foot. Confluence, Pa. 814/395-5084. 8 to 10 p.m.

## MAPLE SYRUP

STEVEN'S PURE Maple Syrup, Liberty, Pa. Plastic from 3.4 ounces to gallons. Glass containers for gifts and collectors. Maple Sugar, Maple Cream, Maple Candy, Maple Bar-B-Que Sauce, Maple Salad Dressing, and Gift Baskets for any occasion made to order. Wholesale or retail prices. Toll-free 866/413-9957 or e-mail: [buymaple@epix.net](mailto:buymaple@epix.net).

## MEAT PROCESSING SUPPLIES

MEAT GRINDERS, CUBERS — All butcher supplies for home processing. Send \$2 for catalog: The Home Processor, 4500 Ledan Rd. Ext., Gainesville, GA 30506. Call 770/535-7381 or visit our Web site: [www.home-processor.com](http://www.home-processor.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

BECOME AN ORDAINED MINISTER, Correspondence study. The harvest truly is great, the laborers are few, Luke 10:2. Free info. Ministers for Christ Outreach, 6630 West Cactus, PMB 107, #B-107, Glendale, AZ 85304. [www.ordination.org](http://www.ordination.org).

LARGE BARN for storage or other compatible purpose. Edinboro area. \$500/month. 301/854-2162.





## MORTGAGES/REFINANCES

YOU COULD BE SAVING HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS! REFINANCES, PURCHASES, DEBT CONSOLIDATIONS. LOWER YOUR INTEREST RATE AND PAYMENTS! PAYOFF YOUR HIGH INTEREST RATE CREDIT! BE DEBT FREE! VETERANS, ASK ABOUT OUR VA STREAMLINE PROGRAM! CALL PERRY LEAVEY, TOLL FREE 877/944-REFI(7334) OR 717/359-4966. PROFESSIONAL MORTGAGE CONSULTANTS.

## MOTORCYCLE/SNOWMOBILE/ATV

YE OLDE CYCLE BARN headquarters for SUZUKI motorcycles and ATVs with ARCTIC CAT snowmobiles, ATVs, and YAMAHA snowmobiles, a complete clothing and accessory line along with trailers and factory-trained technicians at special discounts for electric co-op members. Call for details. YE OLDE CYCLE BARN, Route 405, Hughesville, PA. 570/584-3842.

## MOTORCYCLE-SNOWMOBILE INSURANCE

For the best INSURANCE RATES call R & R Insurance Associates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 800/442-6832 (PA).

## MOTOR VEHICLES AND BOATS

1955 FARMALL CUBTRACTOR with two plow blades – sickle bar – cultivators. Very nice condition – engine purrs, no rust, \$2,500. 100 year-old barn wood – cheap – must disassemble. 570/549-2028.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAVINGS

RX PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAVINGS — Save 30 – 80% on popular medications. No fees, dues, or drug cards to buy! Shipped to your door. Plavix, Celebrex, Lipitor, Zocor, Fosamax, Paxil, Zoloft, Nexium, Effexor, Mobic, Advair...hundreds more! New generics available, too! 90 day supply! Ex: 90) Lipitor 20mg only \$180... call for free brochure 877/487-6337 or visit online at [www.usmeds.org](http://www.usmeds.org).

## REAL ESTATE

TIOGA COUNTY ACREAGE — Hunting tracts, camp sites, wooded tracts adjoining state land, farmettes, retirement home sites. From 4 acres to 400 acres. Send for our free list of top quality properties. Wm. P. Connolly Real Estate Co., RR 1, Box 24-R, Liberty, PA 16930. 570/324-3000.



Farm and Land Specialists. My 31 years full-time experience will get your property SOLD. Call me before you list. Larry Price, Broker, CENTURY 21 Price Real Estate. Licensed in PA and Ohio. 800/836-0790.

I LEND MONEY for Home Purchase, Refinance, or Debt Consolidation! Bankruptcy, Credit Challenges Okay!!! Call Bob Sipos at 888/735-0809 Extension 108.

RAYSTOWN LAKE — Secluded 8-acre building lot on private mountain peninsula with view. Includes new well, new 4-bedroom size septic system, underground utilities, and gated driveway. Close to boat launch. Excellent hunting along creek. \$99,900. Smaller and larger parcels also available. Call for more information. Telephone 814/641-7357.

VILLAGES FLORIDA — New 2-bedroom, 2 bath. Golf, swimming, dancing cards, bocci, baseball, plays, movies, tennis, etc. October, November, December \$1,400 @ month. January, February, March \$2,200 @ month. #27-28. Call 814/255-1006.

FOR SALE — Beautiful 190 acre farm and house. Fifteen minutes south of downtown Bedford. Great hunting, timber ready. Call owner 410/549-3520. Must see!

## RECIPES AND FOOD

COUNTRY COOKING Volume 2 — \$8, including postage. RECIPES REMEMBERED Volume 3 — \$12, including postage. Both of these cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P. O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks. Volume 1 of "Country Cooking" is SOLD OUT.

"SEAT of the PANTS COUNTRY COOKING," \$12 including postage. Filled with three generations of great flavorful, easy, and fun recipes. Payable to: Kallie Shaw, 201 Sugar Branch Road, Troy, PA 16947.

## SHAKLEE

Vitamins – Herbal Formulas – Beauty Products – Safe/Biodegradable Cleaners – Water & Air Purification. Published Clinical Research/Unconditional Guarantee. Purchase only OR Build a Business ... YOU decide. 800/403-3381 or [journaturalchoices@shaklee.net](mailto:journaturalchoices@shaklee.net) or [www.shaklee.net/journaturalchoices](http://www.shaklee.net/journaturalchoices).

See what a difference it makes...

Advertise in Penn Lines Classifieds

## TAXIDERMISTRY

Learn Taxidermy full time or weekends. A full 13-week course or attend every other weekend. Birds/Game-heads/Mammals/Fish, Habitat Bases. NORTHWOOD SCHOOL OF TAXIDERMISTRY, INC., P.O. Box 575, Stoystown, PA 15563. 814/893-5386. [www.northwoodtaxidermy.com](http://www.northwoodtaxidermy.com).

## TIMBER

STANDING TIMBER or TIMBERLAND in Northwest PA, Eastern Ohio or Southern New York. Free appraisals. 25 years experience. Fred Cleland Lumber and Logging. 814/654-7845 or 814/654-7087 days. Evenings 814/967-4209.

## TREE TRIMMING/REMOVAL

TOM'S TREE SERVICE - Tree Trimming/Removal - Storm Cleanup - Stump Grinding - Land Clearing - Bucket Truck and Chipper - Fully Insured - Free Estimates - Call 24/7 - 814/448-3052 - 814/643-5545 - 26 Years Experience.



## TROUT FISHERMEN

TROUT FLIES. Personally hand-tied and reasonably priced. Large number of patterns available. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for list to: J. Emerick, P.O. Box 94, Buffalo Mills, PA 15534.

# BUCKLES



by David Gilbert

## VACATIONS AND CAMPSITES

GETTYSBURG — New, modern, non-smoking luxury suites, daily/weekly. Spectacular 10-mile panoramic view of the mountains and valleys overlooking route taken by the Confederates on the way to Gettysburg and the battlefield of Fairfield. Situated in the mountains and only 6 miles to the Gettysburg Battlefield and the ski resort. Call 717/334-4276. Pictures available via e-mail at: [verlinden@superpa.net](mailto:verlinden@superpa.net).

CONTEMPORARY COTTAGE for rent in Birmingham, Pa. Two bedroom with bath, full kitchen, dining and living room. Easy ride to State College or Altoona. Near Little Juniata. Relaxing deck and yard. 814/684-7806.

TWO CAMP SITES. Hook-ups available. No tents, campers only. Ten minutes to Shawnee Lake, 45 minutes to Raystown Lake. Seasonal, full time. Not campground. Bedford County, quite peaceful area. 814/733-4150.

ST. MAARTEN TIMESHARE — 76 years left on 99-year lease. Prime winter weeks. We really enjoyed it every year. Now you benefit because we need to sell. Call for details. 570/746-1662.

## WANTED — NATURAL STONE

LANDOWNERS in the State College/Huntingdon area interested in selling stone suitable for interior/exterior veneer and large/unusual shapes for landscaping purposes. Bright/colorful stone from higher elevations preferred. Phone 724/733-4131 for details.

## WANTED TO BUY

CASH FOR OLD small gas engines equipped with spoked flywheels. Need not be complete or running. Call evenings AFTER 7 P.M. collect. 412/431-0928.

STANDING TIMBER and/or TIMBERLAND in Northwest PA, Northeast Ohio, and Southwest NY. Custom logging and select cut management plans available. Call 814/720-8662 for free appraisal.

WE PAY CASH for minerals and oil/gas interests, producing and non-producing. 800/733-8122.

## WORK CLOTHES

GOOD CLEAN RENTAL-type work clothes, 6 pants & 6 shirts to match, \$34.95. Lined work jackets, \$9.95. Satisfaction Guaranteed! Send sizes with check or money order plus \$8.95 S&H to: Valt's Wholesale Co., P.O. 208-E, Darlington, SC 29540. MC/Visa orders 800/233-1853. Visit our Web site: [www.usedworkclothing.com](http://www.usedworkclothing.com).

Celebrate  
Our Nation's  
Constitution  
on  
September  
17



# Thoughts from Earl Pitts, Uhmerikun!

I was drivin' home from work the other day — the same road I drive every ding-dern day a' my life — an' I saw somethin' that's been right there in front a' my face the whole time but I never seen before. A country road lined with broken-down, rusty, off-kilter mailboxes. In fact, numbers were missin' on most and a lot a' doors were hangin' on one hinge.

I exclaimed, "Have some pride people!" An' I ain't sayin' that cause I just put up a new mailbox. Yeah, it's real sweet, too. One a' 'em green, adjustable-height, hard-plastic jobs. I call it the Cadillac a' mailboxes where even your junk mail arrives first class. It's got a back door an' accessories I still don't know how to work.

What made Earl Pitts spend his money on a new mailbox, you ask? See, when 'em high school seniors go wild graduatin', they take out my mailbox each year. Mailbox baseball they call it — tee-ing off on my mailbox with a baseball bat as they drive by like it was a big, fat hangin' curveball. Yeah, seniors rule all right — until I catch 'em.

Well, every year after graduatin' ceremonies let out I end up walkin' down the road to find my mailbox that has been batted around pretty good, and nail it back on the post. Well, after 'bout eight years of this here nonsense, there wasn't much left to nail to the post no more. That's why I got a new one.

Course, I coulda took the cost a' the new mailbox, divided it by 83, an' sent a bill to every member a' the class of 2005. But I'm not vindictive an' small like that. Or am I?

Wake up, America! Tell you what I will do. I'll sit low in my ditch by the mailbox next year with my own ball bat. You take out my mailbox an' I'll take out your windshield. Nobody's touchin' my Cadillac! Bring it on, Class of '06!

My wife Pearl wants to remodel our bathroom so we headed to one of those big superstores they got in town. Have

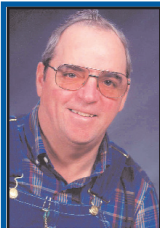
you had a chance to see the bathroom of tomorrow? Dang! I mean, it used to be all you needed was a toilet, a sink, an' a tub. No more.

First, take your tub. Now, I like an ol' fashioned tub where if you hurt your back you could slide down in the water and you knees would pop out. You'd lay there, with the faucet at your feet and keep the hot water comin'. It wasn't fancy, but it got the job done. But your tubs today — well, I've seen smaller backyard swimmin' pools. They got jets an' whirlpools an' built-in seats an' heaters. Maybe it's just me, but I don't want a bathtub you need a ladder to climb into.

An' they got these showerheads as big as garbage can lids. They're called rain showers cause they're 'sposed to run on you like rain. Which is strange, cause when it rains you run inside. If I wanted to shower in the rain, I'd stand outside naked with a bottle a' Prell and soap-on-a-rope an' wait for a thunderstorm.

An' don't forget these space-age toilets — some cost up to \$5,000! They got models that come with remote control. Hit one button an' it flushes. Hit another an' the seat goes up. Hit yet another, an' the seat gets warm on a cold winter's mornin'.

Wake up, America! I don't wanna brag, but Pearl an' I walked out of the store with everything we needed to upgrade the Pitts family bathroom — a new, wood-grain toilet seat. For that other stuff, we gotta hit the lottery first.



## Tales From the World's Worst Farmer

by Lewis Baumgartner

The weatherman said sunshine should prevail for at least the next five days so I mowed 35 acres of alfalfa. In the end, I lucked out and got the hay baled with nary a raindrop in sight.

Of course, I didn't realize how much time I really had. It's now going on five weeks without a measurable rain at my place. I guess I should cut hay again. If mowing alfalfa won't bring rain, we're really in trouble!



It finally happened. One of my hay barns burned down Sunday morning. Years ago I used it as a farrowing house and I was always sure that some day a heat lamp would catch it on fire.

I was home when the inferno started. I smelled something burning, glanced at the barn, and saw little puffs of smoke coming out of each end. I jumped on the tractor and raced down to the site, but I only had the hay fork on the back and could not get any hay out.

While my wife, Janice, called the fire company, I put the front-end loader on. But by then it was too late. When I got back to the barn it was fully engulfed in flames. I lost about 60 big round bales of the best alfalfa and orchard grass hay I've ever had. And no insurance!

I'm certain the blaze was caused by spontaneous combustion. When I first got to the barn, I looked inside and saw fire on top of the hay. The hay was pretty dry when I baled it and it had been sitting in there for about six weeks, so I had quit worrying about it.

I always thought it would be nice to have a dry, concrete slab to feed my cows hay on during winter. Since the fire, I now have the concrete slab where the barn once stood, but no hay!

*Lewis Baumgartner, the self-proclaimed "World's Worst Farmer," resides at "Ragweed Ranch in Cockbur County." He can be reached at [lewis@worldsworstfarmer.com](mailto:lewis@worldsworstfarmer.com).*





I seen this very sad story that said kids don't play outside no more. Yeah, can you beat that? Most kid stuff these days goes on indoors, with video games an' the computer an' what not.

School's back in session now, but I can tell you from what I saw over the summer that kids INDEED are inside all a' the time. We might as well start lettin' 'em suck their thumbs again!

I can't speak for the ladies, but back in my day summer was valuable outdoor guy time. Me and my buddies never went indoors—during the whole summer. My mama would bring us samiches to eat—outside. We had a pup tent in the backyard to sleep in. We played Army, hide n' seek, an' cowboys an' injuns. We had bikes an' we had baseball. If we didn't have enough kids for a game we only needed three for Pickle in the Middle. We had a fishin' hole, we had a swimmin' hole, we built forts, we climbed trees, we practiced with firecrackers and BB guns, we run with our dogs, an' we done things on monkey bars that kids today could only dream 'bout.

Yeah, today, they got video games where you can pretend you're in the Army, pretend you're playin' baseball, pretend you're buildin' forts, an' pretend you're fishin.' An' one more thing—pretend you're havin' fun.

Wake up, America! My advice to boys today—get your sorry, geeky, Poindexter butts off the couch an' get outside. You'll never be real men until you know the joys of chigger bites an' poison oak.

I'm Earl Pitts, American.



*Daily social commentary from Earl Pitts — a.k.a. Gary Burbank, a nationally syndicated radio personality — can be heard on the following radio stations that cover*

*electric cooperative service territories in Pennsylvania: WANB-FM 103.1 Pittsburgh; WARM-AM 590 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton; WIOO-AM 1000 Carlisle; WMTZ-FM 96.5 Johnstown; WQBR-FM 99.9/92.7 McEhattan; and WVNW-FM 96.7 Burnham-Lewistown.*





# I Do Like Spiders and Snakes

While the chorus of Jim Stafford's humorous 1974 Top 5 hit "Spiders and Snakes" proclaimed, "I don't like spiders and snakes," this month's photo selections show that a lot of people really do like them — and toads, too.

If you capture a great shot or two on film this month, make sure to share them with your fellow *Penn Lines* readers. Your entry could win one of five \$75 year-end prizes in our 2005 "Rural Reflections" contest.

To be eligible, send your snapshots (no digital files, please) to: *Penn Lines* Photos, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, please include your name, address, phone number, and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business, or seasonal residence.

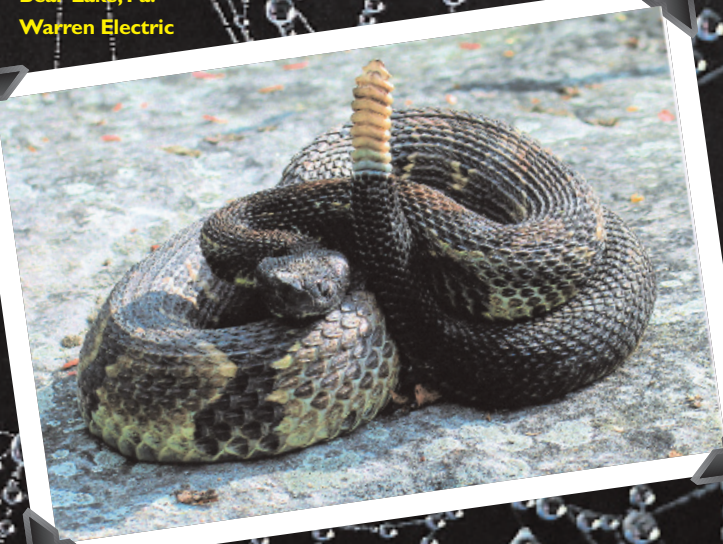
Susan Heller  
Orrstown, Pa.  
Adams Electric



Ronda Albert  
Trout Run, Pa.  
Sullivan County  
REC



Cory Turben  
Bear Lake, Pa.  
Warren Electric



Jennine Dorse  
Ulster, Pa.  
Claverack REC

