


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
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Attorney

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER 2008 Changes....



Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

ALLEGHENY FIXED COST CHARGE

The electric bill you receive in early February 2008 (for January's use) will look a little different. Since 1999, there has been a line item in the Generation section of our retail bills labeled, "Allegheny Fixed Cost Charge." However, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, our wholesale power

supplier, has elected to eliminate the charge and roll it into the "Generation and Transmission Charge." Since both of these are pass-through charges (we charge you the same price that we pay Allegheny), the change is revenue-neutral for us, meaning that your bill remains unchanged!

Billing changes

For many years, the cooperative's goal has been to process our retail bills on the third day of the month. Sometimes it varies a day or two, earlier or later, depending if the third is a Saturday or Sunday. Since the due date is always the 20th of the month, the number of days you have between when you receive your bill and when it is due also varies.

Beginning in January 2008, billing will be done on the last business day of the month. This will provide everyone with a few extra days each month to pay their bill. However, it becomes imperative that everyone submit their meter readings by the 20th or, at the very latest, the 25th of the month.

What happens if I don't submit a reading? The first month that a reading is not received before billing, your bill will be estimated based on previous use. However, if a reading is not received for the second consecutive

month, we will send someone to read your meter and you will be charged a \$10 meter reading fee.

New scholarship available

Bedford Rural Electric is pleased to announce that beginning in 2008, the cooperative will award three \$1,000 post-secondary scholarships. To be eligible, high school seniors must be committed to continuing their education at an accredited post-secondary institution, and the parent or guardian's primary residence must be served by the cooperative. Applicants are required to submit a short, 100-word essay describing why they deserve a scholarship. A committee of cooperative members will select recipients based on scholastic achievement, financial need, and civic and community endeavors.


Further details and applications will be available in mid January 2008. Please check our website, www.bedfordrec.com, or call the office for details.

By the way, a committee is currently forming to evaluate the applications and select the recipients. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact the office at 814/623-5101, extension 146.

Interesting tidbit

According to the ENERGY STAR gift guide, if all households in the United States replaced their standard TV with an ENERGY STAR qualified model, the change would be like shutting down a power plant.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Turn off lights when they are not in use. One 100-watt bulb left burning all night costs about \$25 per year. How many unnecessary lights are burning right now in your house? 



History in a box

Glass negatives discovered in attic reveal glimpses of Pennsylvania's past

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

WHEN Roy Harshberger and his late wife, Norma (Lefty), bought the house at 134 West Pitt Street, which houses "Roy's Drapery Shop," it was both a business and a home.

"We had a growing family and we were always looking for more storage space," Roy remembers.

The attic seemed a likely candidate for that necessity. But upon investigation, Roy found no floorboards — only a few old windowpanes and a box of what appeared to be glass negatives.

"I carried them down the stairs and put them in the bedroom closet thinking I would look at them later," Roy relates.

However, the years passed quickly. Roy was making a living, involved in the

fire company, and served as head of horse racing at the Bedford Fair. The Harshbergers were raising two children and active in the Bedford Church of the Brethren. With little extra time, the box was forgotten.

Eventually, Roy sold the business and moved to a quiet house beside a pond near Belden where he likes to watch the sunrises and the sunsets in all the seasons. He takes photographs and encloses them with the Christmas cards he sends to his long list of friends.

It was there in that quiet house that he finally found time to look through that old box of glass negatives — and

TIME PASSAGES: The wall in the Harshberger basement is filled with the antique photos printed from glass negatives.

was amazed at the history he had uncovered. There were pictures of Bedford, Pittsburgh and points in-between, all taken in the late 1800s. Judging

from the newspaper that was wrapped around the negatives, they had been placed in the attic around 1925. He and "Lefty" had purchased the house in 1961.

No one will probably ever know exactly who the photographer was but it is Roy's guess it was someone in the "Wise" family. There are pictures of J. M. Hedding,



OLD WORLD VIEW: Harshberger's glass negative prints now hang on a wall of Cabin Fever. This one features a scene from Wolfsburg with a covered bridge that is no longer there.

Ben Wilson and the Andrew Wise family. There are numerous pictures labeled, "Schneider the Dog," and several of "Ned," the cat. Another dog, "Toby," also posed for pictures as did one litter of unnamed puppies. One is titled "Mary Beegle, Colin and Frank." Another indicates it is Ed Smith's Daughter.

There was a total of 162 glass negatives, including several that were cracked and broken. At least 50 were taken in the Pittsburgh area.

Roy's son, Bryce, and daughter-in-law, Kendra, live nearby. Kendra is an artist and Bryce, like his father, appreciates art and photography.

"We knew these negatives had the potential to tell a story and thought others would enjoy them as well," Bryce says.

Roy spent a lot of time on the telephone trying to find someone who might print the pictures. However, the timing seemed to be off. With photographers all going to digital, everyone was getting rid of their darkroom equipment. Finally, he found a source in Altoona who would put the glass negatives on a disc, allowing them to be printed from a computer.

Bryce began looking for proper



STREET SCENE:
An old house on the streets of Bedford.

frames for the prints and found them in antique stores, at auctions and on E-bay.

"They aren't always in great condition," he admits. "But, I enjoy putting them back into shape."

Framed and finished, the historic pictures now adorn an entire wall in Bryce and Kendra's basement. Various sizes are also scattered throughout their spacious home.



CAT NAP: "Ned" the cat gets to sleep in style in this old photograph.

For the first time, the pictures were offered to the public at the grand opening of Cabin Fever, a unique, attic find, antique store on Pitt Street in Bedford.

"When you look at the same pictures in a different size or a different frame, it does not seem like the same picture," Bryce says.

Cost of the framed photos ranges from \$50 to \$300. ☀



PIECE OF HISTORY: Roy Harshberger holds a photograph of Wolfsburg from days gone by.

GEOTHERMAL COMFORT

Harnessing the Energy of the Earth...

250th Anniversary "Geothermal Systems"

Geothermal systems offer a safe, renewable energy resource by transferring solar energy from the earth to your home. Open loop geothermal heat pumps use surface and return water wells, while closed loops (either horizontal or vertical) use fluid filled underground vertical, horizontal, slinky or pond piping to transfer geothermal energy. They produce up to 5 times more energy than they consume, resulting in unparalleled energy efficiency and reduced utility bills. Your family will enjoy comfortable, constant temperatures; healthy, clean air all day and night, during both summer and winter, with no more blasts of hot or cold air. Plus, built-in humidity control will even make your basement recreation room humidity healthy.

There are several different types of systems shown on the right. Each one designed specifically for different preferences or situations.

Why choose a Geothermal System?

1. Enjoy both heating and cooling
2. Warm, comfortable air flow from supply ducts
3. More economical than oil, gas, or propane systems
4. Long Life—average 20-25 year span
5. No unsightly outdoor unit to maintain
6. Environmentally friendly—no explosive fuels, flame, smoke, soot or other pollutants
7. Low maintenance—just clean the filter periodically
8. Increases resale value of home
9. Bedford Rural Electric offers a \$350 rebate per ton of capacity installed



Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 "People You Can Count On" Phone: 623-5101
 A Trane® Energy Company www.bedfordrec.com

Contact Us At:



Phone number
814/623-5101

E-mail address
support@bedfordrec.com

Web site address
www.bedfordrec.com

Trading Post

SERVICE: Custom Poultry Butchering. Phone Gerald Mowry, Osterburg 276-3952.

FOR SALE: Fresh dressed chickens. Phone Gerald Mowry, Osterburg 276-3952.

WANTED: Local farmer looking for land to lease in Bedford county area. Phone 484-797-2670.

FOR SALE: 1984 Shasta Motor Home - 26'. 350 Ford Econoline under 55,000 miles. Kitchen w/ oven, stove, refrigerator, and sink. Queen bed above cab. Double bed in back. Kitchen table converts to bed, bathroom w/ shower. Inquire at 623-5364

Emergency Power Needs

During outages, as a service to our members with special needs (specifically members who need continuous electricity for life support apparatus or farming operations), Bedford Rural Electric attempts to prioritize service restoration. If a special need exists, we need to be aware of the situation. Please provide the following details:

Reason: _____

Type of life support machine: _____

Doctor's name (please print): _____

Doctor's signature: _____

Name, address, and telephone number of the person Bedford REC may contact about this form, or in an emergency.

Unfortunately, service restoration may take several days, especially during severe storms. Therefore, we recommend that our members with special needs consider stand-by back-up generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

- First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Second Check with your neighbor, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- Third **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568**
OR Call 1-800-808-2732 during office hours -
Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.

Please give person receiving call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

Alternate numbers ...

Scott Bischof.....	Week of January 7.....	839-4640
Gary Lafferty	Week of January 14	842-9925
Scott Shook	Week of January 21	623-2395
John Karns	Week of January 28	977-5109
Troy Mock	Week of February 4	276-9759
Greg Miller	Week of February 11	839-0037

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford.....	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford.....	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.