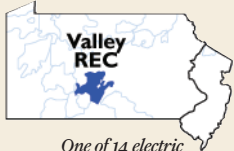


**Valley
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Huntingdon district will soon change locations



by **Edward A. Dezich**
President & CEO

LAST MONTH, Valley Rural Electric Cooperative purchased the former Shaner Energy building on Station Road, located just off Fairgrounds Road near Huntingdon.

Our plans are to use the 13,500-square-foot facility to house our Huntingdon district as well as our engineering and technical services and purchasing and

warehousing operations.

For nearly two years, we have been actively looking to vacate our original facility on Standing Stone Road near Huntingdon. It was determined by the board — with the help of an outside building consultant — that it would be more cost-effective for us to find a new location for all of the personnel and equipment there.

Along with renovation and expansion issues, the current building's location makes it difficult for our line crews to maneuver large trucks and equipment through town.

So when the former Shaner Energy building recently came on the market, your co-op board and management carefully considered the feasibility of the site.


We couldn't have hoped for a more ideal setting! The facility has ample office space for our personnel, some bays for our trucks and warehouse space. However, we will need to build some

additional garage and warehouse structures to accommodate poles, equipment and vehicles.

Moving to the new location will also solve many of the district's current transportation complications. Our crews will significantly reduce their travel time by gaining better access to two main arteries, Routes 22 and 26 (south).

In addition, our engineering and technical services and purchasing and warehousing personnel will only be a mile from corporate headquarters, which includes customer service, information technology and other administrative functions. To ensure maintenance and operations projects run smoothly, these departments must communicate on a daily basis, often in person.

The Huntingdon district's new facility, which consists of a 5-year-old building situated on seven acres, was purchased for \$749,000. We plan to move personnel in as early as this fall. The current facility on Standing Stone Road will most likely be sold in the near future.

We are confident this move will help us increase our efficiency and more effectively serve our members in the Huntingdon district. Of course, we'll continue to keep you informed as plans unfold. Please rest assured that we will do everything in our power to make the transition smooth for our membership. Our job is to look out for you and your future needs. 



DIGGING FOR DEALS: Flea market shoppers browse the wares at Big Valley's Belleville Livestock Auction, held on South Penn Street Wednesdays year-round.

Traditions & Treasures

Livestock market at Belleville still draws a crowd

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
*Communications Specialist,
Member Services Department*

EACH WEDNESDAY, as soon as the first rays of dawn cast their shimmer on the dewy pastures of Kishacoquillas Valley, the typically sleepy streets of Belleville spring awake with activity.

The powerful hum of diesel trucks, with trailers of livestock in tow, mingles with the clip-clop of horses' hooves against pavement. Local merchants hurriedly set up outside displays while bumper-to-buggy traffic builds on Route 655, all headed for South Penn Street.

Big Valley's Belleville Livestock

Market, more commonly referred to as "the sale," is open for business.

It's barely 7 a.m. and the Hayloft Restaurant above the sale barn is hopping. Farmers, who have already had their fill of breakfast, talk business — and a bit of bull. Amish men in loose-fitting pants and single suspenders chatter in the gruff, rhythmic tones of the Pennsylvania Dutch.

One floor below, sellers herd livestock into stalls. Outside, early shoppers browse flea market tables and funnel into the produce auction barn.

It's a scene that Eugene (Gene) Glick has witnessed since he was a boy. His

father, J.H. "Yonie" Glick, helped start the business along with his cousin, Jeff Peachey.

"Dad and Jeff were partners," Gene explains. "They started holding auctions once or twice a month here in the 1930s. This was Jeff's farm at the time. Horses were the big thing then."

Interestingly, from 1943-1946, Yonie held auctions in Juniata County rather than Belleville, largely due to a falling out between him and his cousin. Rumor has it that Jeff developed a strong affinity for alcohol and it ultimately affected his business dealings.

"I guess you could say my dad and

Jeff eventually just agreed to disagree,” Gene sighs. “So Dad traveled to Mifflintown every other week to sell.”

“I was about 12 years old at the time and I remember we had to stay there overnight. I slept in a manger,” chuckles Mark Glick, Gene’s older brother.

In 1946, Jeff sold his farm to auction shareholders, and the Belleville Livestock Market, Inc. was established as a year-round weekly attraction.

Since its inception, the Glick family has remained an integral part of the business. Gene is the livestock market’s current owner. Mark is head auctioneer. Gene’s wife, Peggy, works in the office. Their son, Brian, is company vice president and barn manager, and son, Steve, is “ring man,” handling all the cattle. Gene and Mark’s two sisters, Rebecca and Ada Yoder, help run the produce auction.

Over the years, Gene says the “hot” livestock and sale items have come and gone. But even with the ebb and flow of the agricultural market, the sale has largely maintained both its clientele and its charm. In fact, President Jimmy Carter visited the sale twice while on fishing trips in the area, making a speech from the auctioneer’s block on one occasion.

Much of the sale’s draw is attributed to the volume of Amish and Mennonite customers, many of whom are farmers



and most of whom who were born and raised in Big Valley. Their simple, country lifestyles closely mimic those of days gone by, adding to the nostalgia for visitors.

“We always say that Wednesday is an Amish holiday here,” Gene mentions with a smile. It’s one of the few times of the week when members of the Amish community are permitted to leave field work and house chores behind to head into town.

“We’re the only place around where a ringer washer can still fetch hundreds of dollars,” Mark points out.

The various flea market wares at the sale naturally entice crowds. Hardware, dishware, flatware ... hats, purses, shoes ... Amish-made quilted potholders, garden flags, flowers, vegetables, deli meats and cheeses, jars of jelly, tools, toys, hand-painted signs inscribed with phrases like “Keep It Simple” and “Bless this Mess” ... Shoppers rarely leave empty-handed. Of course, sprinkled among the oddities and commodities are food vendors who make sure no one buying or selling goes through the day hungry.

Locals claim that although all the “stuff” piques customers’ curiosity, it isn’t necessarily what keeps them coming back.

“People trust the management; it’s just that simple,” claims Percy Yoder, a retired farmer who has been attending

AUCTION BLOCK: Amish and “English” (non-Amish) buyers climb manure-stained steps to secure their seats in the auction barn stands. At 1 p.m., Mark Glick’s voice signals that business is about to begin. Pigs, cows, horses, goats and sheep are among the livestock sold weekly.

the market since its humble beginning. “They know that if there’s something wrong with that horse or cow, they’re gonna tell you about it before you buy it. The buyers and sellers know they’re dealing with honest people.”

“My father always believed in the sale, and there was good foresight from the beginning,” Gene remarks. “Our goal has always been to get hard-working farmers a good price for their goods and to do it the right way. We provide a service to this community.”

Fortunately, Gene says he doesn’t see the sale slowing down anytime soon.

“Throughout the years, we’ve thrived even when other events like this went out of business,” he continues. “Although we’ve recently seen a slight decline in our farthest-traveling vendors — we think it’s due to fuel prices — we haven’t taken much of a hit anywhere else. We’re gonna keep it up as long as we can.”

And for all of the people leaving this week’s sale with bags on each arm, full stomachs, empty pockets and smiles on their faces, that’s something they’re definitely happy to hear. 🌞



PREFERRED PARKING: Due to the volume of Amish customers, rows of hitching posts line much of the market’s perimeter.



NOT THE LAZY LIFE: Greg enjoys bicycling more often now that he's retired. He rides about 20 miles three to four times a week.

Henry 'hits the road' after 39 years at co-op

GREG HENRY fondly remembers his first day with Valley REC.

"It was 1968 and I was at Clark's Garage. I was approached by the service crew about doing some temp work. I stayed on and was hired full time the following year as a laborer for \$1.86 an hour."

Greg didn't expect that first day to turn into a 39-year career, but he doesn't regret it. In fact, he describes his recent transition to retired life as bittersweet.

"I miss interacting with the members on a regular basis. But I don't miss always worrying about the lights going off," he chuckles.

After his start as a laborer, Greg moved up through the lineman ranks. He took over as outside operations supervisor at the Hustontown district in the early 1990s and was subsequently promoted to district manager. In 2006, he was chosen for the position of manager of operations at the corporate headquarters and stayed there until his retirement Feb. 14.

Greg has done a little bit of everything throughout his career at Valley, from service calls to staking, data entry, inventory and material purchasing. But he says working on the lines has been the most satisfying because "... you see things happen; people start with no electricity and, when you're done, they have it."

A native of Fulton County, Greg graduated in 1965 from Forbes Road High School. He worked odd jobs in the area until April 1966, when he enlisted in the Army. He spent two years at Fort Richardson, Alaska, where he says he "drove trucks and delivered parts." He was honorably discharged in April 1968, after fulfilling his two-year commitment. He returned to Fulton County, where he worked for two years at the Sears service department and garage in Chambersburg.

Greg married Erma Peck in 1970. The couple has three children: Lonnie, Mike and Jamie, all of whom reside in Fulton County. He and Erma also have eight grandchildren: Cortnee, 17; Brittany, 16;

Jared, 15; Samantha, 7; Zachary, 4; Olivia, 4; Owen, 2; and Will, 2.

Greg's father, Raymond, is deceased. His mother, Dorothy, just turned 80. He has two sisters, Trudy of Shippensburg and Sheila of Fort Littleton.

Greg is a member of the Clear Ridge United Methodist Church, where he serves as treasurer. He is also a trustee for the Clear Ridge Cemetery Association, and holds the title of "Tail Twister" at the local Lions Club. In addition, he is a member of the Plum Hollow Hunting Club.

In his spare time, Greg enjoys hunting, woodworking, bicycling and spending time with his family — particularly his grandchildren.

Although he seems busier now than ever before, Greg says he misses many things about the co-op.

"I would have liked to get involved with some of the new projects coming up," he admits, "But I felt like it was a good time for me to pass the torch. I know my position is in very capable hands."

Greg's experience and positive attitude will be missed by everyone at Valley. For his decades of dedicated service, we wish him good health and great happiness in retirement. 🌞

YOU can help cool future power costs.

Our future electric rates are partially based on how much power you use on hot, humid weekdays between 1 and 6 p.m. this summer. When you hear an announcement from your local electric cooperative about doing the "Electric Shift," try these simple steps:

- Set air conditioners at 78 degrees or use fans instead.
- Close curtains and blinds to keep things cooler in your home.
- Operate washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves and other major appliances in early morning or evening.
- Minimize the number of times you must open your refrigerator and freezer.
- Cook with an outdoor grill or a microwave oven.
- Turn off any non-essential lights.
- Run pool pumps at night.

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