

Tarcon Family Memories & Stories

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Cindy Tarcon Capra remembers ...

The Outhouse

The smell of Pine-Sol brings me instantly back to my days as a child living in Lugerville. That powerful smell memory is linked to the cleaning of the family outhouse. This wasn't just ANY outhouse, it was a very unique outhouse with historic significance.

When the mill was dismantled the Tarcon family, somehow, ended up with the steam heated outhouse. It had been attached to the cook shanty by steam pipes, intending to give some measure of warmth to the current occupant. Double wall construction made this warmth possible. The inner wall had good-sized holes all over, allowing the heat to enter the inner chamber. Once relocated to our farm it lost its warming capability but still had the pipes protruding from its side.

Squirrels found their way into this unusual, but totally functional building and stored pine cones between the walls. There was always a dusting of pine cone parts covering everything. We simply brushed them off and carried on with business. Summertime, those hot humid days, was the time for the annual cleaning. That was my job. The smell of Pine-Sol still takes me back.

