

Days of Yesterdays, Esmont Community Center

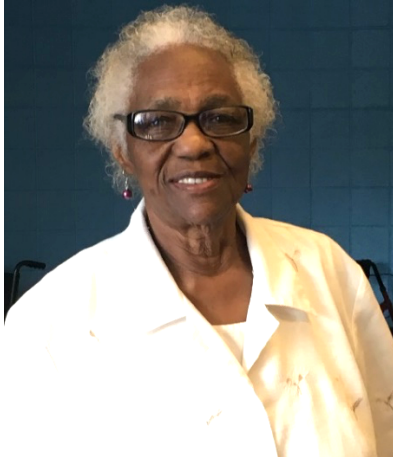
Stories of the elders as told to Laura Piedmont, R.N. and Susan Hastings, R.N.

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Necessities for Country Living

by Anna Boling



To dig an outside toilet, you must dig a hole four by four feet wide and six feet deep. The materials needed for this building are a saw, hammer, nails, plywood, shovels, hoe, square, and a mattock. You build a wooden box to go inside of this hole. This box also serves to support your flooring for the toilet. Extend the floor wider than the hole making the floor to your toilet house about six by six feet to support this building. On the inside of this building you need a seat. This is a square box two feet by two feet with a hole cut in the center. Some people used to use an actual toilet seat on this platform but most did not have the extra seat. The door to the building made it easy to go in and out and provided some privacy. Most people had catalogs and newspaper for use real handy inside too. You'd rub it together to soften it up before use.

We'd use chamber pots in the winter and at night inside the house and then dump it into the toilet. We'd use lime to help dry up the liquids and to help with the smell. At church there would be two toilets... one for men and one for women.

We didn't call them outhouses, as that was usually another outside building for food drying or storage.

I got my first indoor toilet in 1954-55. Before we could have an inside toilet, we had to have a well dug and electric hooked up.