

FATHER. THE HOUSE WE LIVED IN WAS A MADE OVER BARN. THE KITCHEN CONSISTED OF A GAS STOVE WHICH WE USED IN THE SUMMER. WE HAD A COAL STOVE WHICH HAD AN OVEN. WE USED THIS STOVE IN THE WINTER BOTH FOR COOKING AND HEAT. WE HAD NO CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM. THERE WAS NO WATER LINES IN THE HOUSE. WE HAD A SPIGOT IN THE YARD. IT HAD A VALVE DEEP IN THE GROUND SO IT COULD BE SHUT OFF IN COLD WEATHER SO IT WOULD NOT FREEZE. WE HAD TWO BUCKETS OF WATER SITTING ON A CABINET WITH A DIPPER FOR DRINKING AND OTHER USES. ON ANOTHER CABINET BY THE KITCHEN DOOR, WE HAD ANOTHER BUCKET WITH WATER FOR WASHING OUR HANDS AND FACE. WE WOULD PUT THE WATER IN A BASIN WASH THEN DUMP THE WATER IN ANOTHER BUCKET ON THE FLOOR. WHEN IT GOT FILLED, WE WOULD DUMP IT IN A DITCH ALONG SIDE THE HOUSE. WHEN THE WIND BLEW IN THE WINTER TIME, THE LINOLIUM WOULD LIFT OFF THE FLOOR. LATER AS I GOT OLDER, I NAILED CARDBOARD UNDERNEATH THE FLOOR. WE LIVED MOSTLY IN OUR DINING ROOM. WE HAD A GRATE FIREPLACE THERE. LATER WE CLOSED IT UP AND GOT A HEATROLA. AT NIGHT IN THE WINTER, ALL THE FIRES WOULD GO OUT AND ALL THE BUCKETS OF WATER WOULD BE FROZE. IN THE WINTER I WAS AFRAID TO GO TO BED. MY PAF WOULD ALWAYS COME HOME LATE AND DRUNK. HE WOULD FIRE UP THE STOVE AND FALL ASLEEP. I COULD SMELL THE HEAT. I WOULD COME DOWNSTAIRS AND SEE THE PIPE GOING TO THE CHIMNEY, RED HOT. I WOULD TAKE SOME ASHES FROM THE BOTTOM ~~OF~~ THE STOVE AND THROW ON THE FIRE THIS WOULD SLOW IT DOWN. ALSO IN THIS ROOM, WE DID OUR SCHOOL WORK, ATE OUR MEALS, MOM SEWED, HAD QUILT FRAMES AND SEWED. WE PLAYED GAMES ON THE TABLE. WE HAD GAS LIGHTS TO SEE. THEY WERE SIMILAR TO THE COLEMAN LIGHTS OF TODAY. ELECTRIC WAS PUT IN THE HOUSE WHEN I WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE. THERE WAS ANOTHER ROOM A LIVING ROOM. WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO IN THERE EXCEPT ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS. CHRISTMAS OR WHEN WE HAD COMPANY. THIS IS WHERE WE GOT OUR BATHS. EVERY SATURDAY WAS BATH DAY. WE HAD A GALVANIZED TUB. THE OLDEST ONE STARTED FIRST. WE KEPT ADDING HOT WATER UNTIIL THE LAST ONE GOT BATHED. I WAS NEXT TO LAST. UPSTAIRS WE HAD THREE ROOMS NO LIGHT ONLY A KEROSENE LIGHT WHICH SAT ON THE FLOOR IT SORT OF LIT UP ALL THREE ROOMS. ~~WHEN~~ IT RAINED, WE HAD TO MOVE THE BEDS AROUND TO TRY TO FIND A PLACE WHERE THE ROOF WAS NOT LEAKING. IN THE WINTER ,WHEN IT SNOWED, THERE WOULD BE PILES OF SNOW UNDERNEATH THE WINDOWS. THERE WAS A THUNDER MUG IN EACH ROOM IN CASE YOU HAD TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AT NIGHT. OUR BATHROOM WAS AN OUTSIDE TWO HOLER. IN THE SUMMER THE UPSTAIRS WOULD BE CRAWLING WITH BEDBUGS. THE DOWNSTAIRS WITH ROACHES. IT SEEMED THAT NOTHING MOM DID WOULD GET RID OF THEM. THEN ALL AT ONCE THEY VANISHED. FOR OUR FIRES, PAF WOULD FIND WOOD FOR STARTING THEM. HE WOULD GO TO THE BIDDLE MINE ACROSS THE TRACK AND PICK THE COAL FROM THE SLATE DUMPS. A LOT OF PEOPLE DID THIS. WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO BUY COAL VERY OFTEN. HE WOULD FILL BURLAP SACKS THEN AFTER SCHOOL, ALL THE BOYS WOULD HELP BRING IT TO THE HOUSE. HE COULD NOT LEAVE IT THERE IT WOULD GET STOLEN. OUR SNACKS AT NIGHT WOULD BE ROASTING POTATOES OR APPLES ON TOP OF THE COAL STOVE IN THE KITCHEN. WE HAD A CURFEW THE FIRE WHISTLE WOULD BLOW AT NINE OCLOCK. WE HAD TO BE HOME. THE GAMES WE PLAYED AT NIGHT ON THE DINING ROOM