

with fans.

My dad, a creative genius who invented one of the first power lawn-mowers in [Diboll](#), found a way to install a box containing a block of ice so a large window fan would blow across it. But the cool air vanished as soon as the ice melted.

My mother once saw in [Lufkin](#) a pond where goldfish were swimming among water lilies, and persuaded dad to build one for her in our front yard, using large stones he picked up on our vacation trips and goldfish bought at a Perry's store in [Lufkin](#).

It was the only pond of its kind in our neighborhood and any kid caught fishing in the pond faced the wrath of our Mom.

Most sawmill towns had [commissary stores](#) owned by the company. There, paychecks were passed out to the sawmill workers and they walked down the store's porch to cash their checks and buy goods at the company store.

In some mill towns, sawmill tokens--made of wood, cardboard and metal--were used instead of money until they were made illegal by the government.

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