

Patti's Privy

By Martin Van Zant

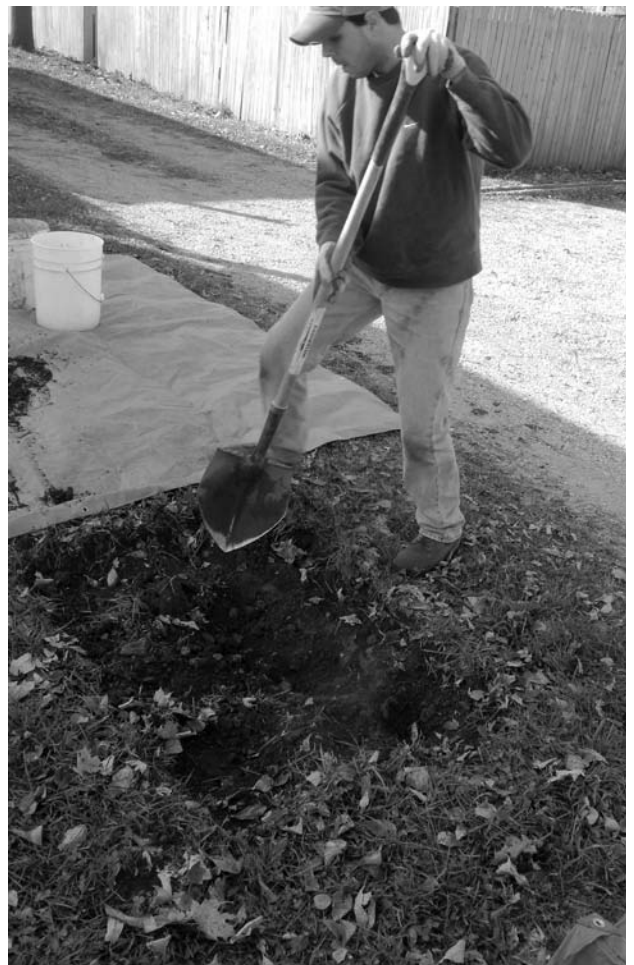
It was a late November day, and Richard and I wanted to get out and do something. I said why don't we dig a hole; sure, he said. He and I had been talking with this lady over in Forgetaboutit, about digging. We had already dug her cousin's privy, which turned out to be good, but that's another story.

Patti was the ladie's name and she was the nicest lady ever. She would wash out every bottle and piece of china that would come up. She was funny, had a lounge chair pulled over to the hole so she could watch. It was a nice day out, one of those chilly in the morning but really nice by mid afternoon.

Patti lived in a row house that had a really small back yard. We starting probing and right off the bat we found one, then two.



We opened the first one which had a gravel layer right on top, perfect. I start by laying the tarp out adjacent to the hole. Richard was cutting the sod off and getting ready to plunge. We had a nice rectangle ready to dig. Well down we went, scoop after scoop. The thing only probed out to about 6 feet. We were at three feet with not very many shards. Oh, Patti thought we were crazy. Finally, a 1915 Coke bottle popped up – all that work for a COKE! Little did we know it would be the best find. Since neither of us collect Coke bottles we decided to sell it and split the dough. The “COKE” sold for \$130 which was very surprising for us. Well turned out to be the only bottle in that hole. I couldn't believe it and at the time was a little

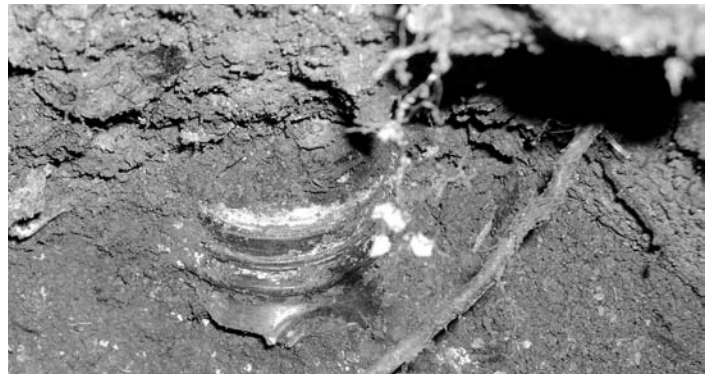




disappointed. Then I remembered we still had number 2.

The number two privy was about three feet down the line from the first one, about two feet from the alley. We started the same way by laying on tarps out. Since we filled the last hole in and had a little hump, we laid the tarp right on top of the mound. The weight from the dirt of the next hill made the hump go down.

This hole had a few more items and was definitely older than the last. We got into a layer about three to four feet down, with all kinds of shards along the way. There was a blue sponge crock lid (broken), a green Piso's and some local Pharmacy bottles. Then closer to the bottom, a couple local crown top pop bottles. Couldn't have been too much



older than the Coke pit. We found a couple fruit jars, the best being a Mason 1858 from Tigner, Ind. or somewhere close to that. Oh, there were also a few ketchups and slicks (non-embossed bottles). I have included several pictures from the excavation. While we were packing up the goodies I grabbed a probe and thought I might try a couple more spots. BAM # 3. That's what I'm talking about. It was too late in the day to start that one, as Patti was worn out. Patti's holes turned out to be a lot of fun. We will return to finish, but that's another story. Patti was a great host and I'd like to thank her for allowing us privyologists to do our job.