

Tina Sweet - Neighbors in the Storm

I was just thinking about how often we lost our electricity due to snowstorms in Beckett. And fortunately, we were always warm enough since the house was heated with a wood stove. And when the power was out, we'd melt the snow in a big pot on the stove, and that way we had water so we could make tea or hot chocolate or soup or spaghetti.

But what I found so intriguing as a kid was that when we melted the snow, we could also flush the toilet, so that was pretty important. In one particular storm, we lost our power for almost two weeks, and at that time we were going to school in Dalton, which I think the school was closed for the first four or five days of this.

And then it reopened 'cause most of the other seven towns in our district had gotten their electricity back, but of course not Becket and Washington, so we were taking sponge baths and doing homework by candlelight. Our neighbors at the time were Walt and Iris Dean and Barb and Buster Sullivan. We'd lived next to them for years, and both families had a gas stove, so they would bring over a hot meal now and then, and we'd all gather in our warm kitchen and kind of ride out the storm. So this one story is just a tiny snippet of what went on and really what still goes on in Becket, people taking care of each other.

So on behalf of the generations of Sweets that have ever called Becket home, thanks everybody.