

The history of the pumphouse

Mogens Oppegaard moved into Torhov farm with his family in 1938. At that time there were 3 wells behind the barn, 2 wells at the edge of the forrest and 2 wells at the outskirts of the property. All of these wells were used to give water to the farm animals. As the inventive person he was, he decided to get water for the livestock into the cowshed from Losbyelva.

He dug down a pipe from the farm down to the river. At the edge of the river he built a small pump house with a small platform outside. The platform was used to be able to get into the pump house. In the barn, he installed a water tank that could take several thousand liters of water. He isolated the outside of the tank with straw to prevent it from freezing in the winter.

To be able to see when the tank was nearly empty, he installed a contraptration with a weight on the outside of the barn wall, that was visible from the kitchen in the farmhouse. When the weight was showing that the minimum level was reached he started the pump using a switch in the kitchen. Similarly, when the weight showed that the tank was full, he switched off the pump.

The pipes in the pump house were insulated with straw, but in very cold winters sometimes the water in the pumphouse froze anyway. The he carried a bucked with hot water in one hand, and either walked on foot or skied down to the pumphouse with the hot water and thawed the pipes.

As part of the story it was told that he made a very special key to open the pump house. It was hanging in the kitchen and was considered as being a code lock.

