

I think I remember.....Refuse Dumps

The “Argos Dump” as it was called, was located on the NW edge of Argos. It was located on the south side of 16th road (Marshall street) about where the north segment of Argos Community Park is located today. There was a small house located at the entrance to the dump. It was open for use for a number of years.

After the above dump was filled to capacity, a second location opened NE of Argos on the south side of 15th road about one half mile east of south Juniper road. There was a small house located at the entrance to the site. The family that lived there provided some control as to when you could utilize the dump and maybe charged a fee. Most Argos residents either hauled their own debris, or paid others to dispose of their trash. On most days, when a load went into the dump, a quick search of the area maybe provided something that you could use and you hauled that treasure back home. One man’s garbage is another man’s treasure? More so back then...

If any significant digging occurred in either of those locations, both dumps today would provide a significant insight to life in Argos many years ago.

Most farms had a small site utilized for waste disposal by the owners. It was usually a small ravine that could be filled and covered. I think there was a property tax advantage by designating a portion of your farm acreage as “Dump” which provided less tax liability for that parcel. This is still true in some areas today.

With the advent of waste requirements and laws, large landfills such as the one south of Argos were developed and the small parcels disappeared.