# AT YOUR CONVENIENCE SHIRLEY PIPPIN



Chemical Closet Price £3 - 18 - 6



The Vantour Lavatory with Double Lid & Pail Price 21/-

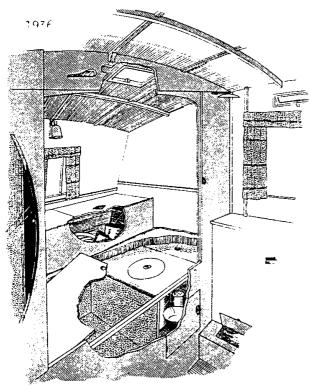


As long as people have traveled, the problems of sanitation have been with us. Popping into the bushes was obviously not ideal - something better had to be done'. A motor caravan of 1904 had a WC inside the drivers seat, with curtains around the cab to provide privacy. Other caravans of this period also had WC's fitted - some made to fold away when not in use. Generally speaking, inside toilets were very rare in early caravans and only started to become a feature in the late 1930s.

For many years a small tent, probably of canvas, was the norm, with a seat inside under which one dug a hole. This was topped up with the earth removed as it was used. To this end, manufacturers supplied these toilet requirements as extras. My 1927 Eccles still has its folding oak seat and toilet tent. The latter, it was advised, should be set up in trees nearby—out of sight if possible. In 1926 a Flatavan had a toilet room with a flush lavatory - an overhead tank supplied the water. In the late 1920's Bertram Hutchings put an emergency toilet called a Vantour in a Lady Nimble. A Piggott caravan made in 1921 had a lavatory compartment with seat and a hole in the floor to register with a hole in the ground.

As late as 19^9, built in toilet rooms still provoked revulsion in many caravanners, even though they were made with double walls and well fitting doors to "avoid offence. Bob Earl refused to put one in his luxurious Carlight Colonial of 1959 and the Siddall Sunset (1937) had a toilet room with a door only to the outside thus keeping most of the drawbacks of a toilet tent. A 1937 Cheltenham had a centre toilet room which was semi-circular in shape to minimize its obtrusiveness.

The Essex Monarch of 1934 had a toilet room acoustically insulated and with a sealed door, whilst the 1935 Car Cruiser Rally Four had a central compartment washroom with a slide out commode. The 1956 Raven Viking had a toilet room with both inside and outside doors and which was made to extend outwards from the side wall. Also in 19^6 a Fairway caravan was designed with a slide out toilet room. It had doors into the 'van and to the outside, but there were problems in making a sliding section weatherproof and light, yet strong enough to pull out and retract easily. Fairway also supplied a lavatory hut with some models. Together with its folding seat, it could be packed away in an outside locker.



(Above) The child's bedroom in from is kept away from the end wall by a locker, and there is a sealed chemical closet beneath the bed. This compartment can be fully enclosed by means of the double-fold wardrobe door.

Wrekin had a folding outside toilet room from the mid 1930s as well as a fold out kitchen. The Lolode of 1936/37 had a gimbal-mountpd chemical toilet for use on the move without splashing. (You were allowed to travel in a caravan in those days).

Gradually products improved, attitudes changed and by the middle of the 1950s few manufacturers marketed a caravan for serious touring without a toilet room.



Collapsible lavatory seat with canvas case Price 20/-

Chemical toilets in the early days suffered from poorly sealed lids. Most manufacturers refused to believe that splashing out was possible. Only Bertram Hutchings had a toilet specially made with a clamped down, rubber lined lid. It wasn't until 1950, when Elsan faced competition from Racasan, that better toilets were designed.

# SANUTRENE SANITARY EQUIPMENT

Solves your greatest problem once and for all. Sanutrene Fluid is odourless, non-poisonous, quite harmless to the skin, and will not corrode the metal.



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FFICIENT Chemical Treatment is absolutely essential for Caravan and Camp Sanitation.

The ELSAN Chemical Closet has stood Closet has the severest test of any sanitary system—maintaining

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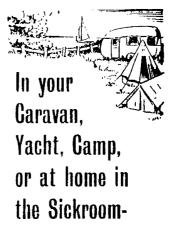


Awarded 7 Medals Royal Sanitary Institute



RACASAN LTD · ELLESMERE PORT · CHESHIRE

The first toilet fluids were designed to destroy the bacteria. Caustic soda was used in the 1930's by Austral but it attacked the metal pail (and the caravanners in some cases). The coal tar derivative such as creosote was better, with oil added to form a seal on the surface, but the splashing mentioned earlier was a problem. The Electrosan used no chemical, relying on electrolytic action powered from a battery. Sadly, it caused severe corrosion and it wasn't until the late 1940's when Pacasan introduced a formaldehyde-based fluid, that many of the problems of burying the treated sewage or tipping into a sever on site were overcome.



sanitation need be no problem. Your Elsan gives utmost hygiene, if you use CARAVANOL Chemical, made by the makers of Elsan. Modern science has produced this extra-powerful chemical which kills all germs. Odours are banished. Nothing unsightly, because CARAVANOL forms an opaque seal over the contents.

# 'CARAVANOL'

for EXTRA Protection

**ELSAN** 

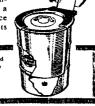
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## You CAN take it with you

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# Sanutrene **ELECTROSAN**

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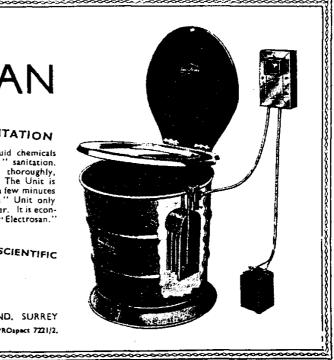
The inconvenience of handling and storage of liquid chemicals is obviated by the introduction of "all-electric" sanitation. Sanutrene "ELECTROSAN" works silently and thoroughly, killing all odour and germs without mess or stain. The Unit is compact and modern in design and can be fitted in a few minutes to any type of chemical closet. The "Electrosan" Unit only requires a 6 volt battery and a small amount of water. It is economical, clean and SAFE. You can FIT and FORGET "Electrosan."

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197, LOWER RICHMOND ROAD, RICHMOND, SURREY Telephone: PROspect 7221/2.



**1947** 

#### - AND HERE IS THE RACASAN 'CARAVAN' TOILET

Hygiene Hint No. 1

"SPACE" fragrant aerosol reduces the spread of infection and destroys unpleasant odours. Handy finger-tip dispenser (ideal for Caravans) 6/6, Household Size. This RACASAN Model fastens firmly to the floor by a neat quick release device which allows remous of the complete toilet in a few seconds, when required. A tight-fitting inner lid with lesk-proof rubber gasket prevents spillage when towing.

Price complete—5 guineas.

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↑ 1955



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Made of Green Willesden-proofed Cloth. Size:
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16. complete control of the waterproof carrier measuring of the proof of diam.
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ELLESMERE PORT

**1951** 

This idea doesn't seem to have been very popular. Perhaps it collapsed too many times when in use.