

## A Country Boys View

Growing up in Crawford during the Depression and World War II by Gordon Lord

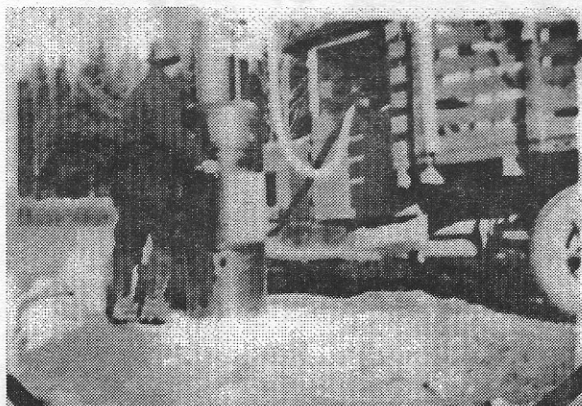
*We continue with Gordon Lord's memories. The first part was in Special Issue #11, September 2005, followed by more in Issue 127, November 2005. We plan to continue publishing these memories throughout 2006. We hope these will rekindle your memories of growing up.*

### SMALL BUSINESSES

There were several mercantile businesses in town during the 1930's. One was on the Arm Road at the home of Walter and Mary Moraisey. Actually they could be called two businesses as Mary had her own, which was located in a small entry room between the kitchen and living room. Everything she sold was from a locked trunk, setting on the floor, which was nearly filled with candy and tobacco products. Candy bars were sold for five cents and were named "5 cent bars." The penny candy was her most popular item which she purchased at Beckett and Co. in Calais, her only supplier.

Mary was an elderly lady, but she always raked blueberries for my Dad and Grandmother and usually would rake more berries per day than any other person in the field. Trying as hard as they could, the young men would usually go home embarrassed by this hard working senior citizen.

Walter also had his own retail business that consisted of a hand pump gasoline tank and a kerosene tank. He also carried a small amount of oil and grease. The tanks, located between the house and barn, were difficult to see from the road. There was no reason to have them on the highway as his customers were local and they all knew his location. I remember when five gallons of gasoline cost \$1. I believe at times it was less. I have seen history publications from that era, when gas prices were as low as ten and eleven cents per gallon. They may have been near Texas or Oklahoma area when there were oil wells operating. *(Article continues on page 4)*



*At left we have Adin McKeown pumping gas at McKeown's Store in October 1928. On the right is William Cushing on his way to McGeorges' Crossing with a load of Christmas trees for rail shipment to the Boston market. Big trucks on the Airline are nothing new. This load would have gone down the #19 Road to reach the siding at McGeorges' Crossing on Route 191. This picture is dated November 1928 and features the same truck as on the left. These images are from Gordon Lord's collection.*

Joseph Lord		To
McKernan's store		Dr.
1934		
Aug. 24	10 5 gals gasoline	1.00
"	5 qts Oil	1.00
Sept. 18	2 saw Plates	1.80
"	1 ax	1.75
"	2 files	.36
"	1 qt. oil	.20
25	2 axes	3.50
"	2 Saw Plates	1.80
"	4 Files	.72
"	1 saw gage	1.25
28	1 bag B. State flour	1.25
"	10 lb. bag sugar	.60
"	2 bags salt	.60
"	1 box pepper	.10
		<u>\$15.98</u>
Sept. 29	Cr. By Cash	10.00
Oct. 1	10 5 qts Oil	1.00
"	1 Oil can	.25
"	2 pkgs. Macaroni	.30
6	6 Files	1.08
"	2 Saws and Frames	5.70
7	2 " " "	0.70
"	3 Axes	2.25
9	9 lb. Kettle Comp.	1.10
11	2 bags B. S. flour	2.50
"	1 lb. Coffee	.20
"	1 box Cleaners	.10
"	1 Chimney	.13
"	2 bags salt	.60

