



The NEWS Photo, Joe Young

Ray Gross, on duty at his old-time service station near Daleville.

Drive Into Ray's Marathon And Fill Up On Nostalgia

By JOE YOUNG
Staff Reporter

DALEVILLE, Ind. — It looks like a filling station right out of the 1930s because that's exactly what it is.

Ray Gross, 46, is the operator of this one-man Marathon service station built in 1937 on Ind. 67 outside Daleville.

With the exception of the prices, the station is basically the same as it was then.

With its well and outdoor plumbing, it has survived the Great Depression, World War II gas rationing, gas shortages and the Blizzard of '77.

It is believed to be one of the oldest continuously-operated Marathon stations in America.

It is one of several stations Marathon — at one time Linco — built in the 1930s. It may be the only one surviving.

Gross, who has operated the station the last 15 years, says it used to be open seven days a week.

Now he is open Monday through Saturday, 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. He sells gas and oil with a few other items — milk, bread, soft drinks, cigarettes and chewing tobacco.

CB Buddies

The walls of the small wooden building are lined with snapshots of CB radio enthusiasts, many of them

truckers. Gross has a CB set and helps pass the "slow time" talking on his radio.

Most of his Marathon business is by credit card. Many of the other items are bought by local residents and truckers.

Some of the truckers he chats with stop by for chewing tobacco and cigarettes.

Youngsters, and even a few oldsters, are amazed at the "one-holer" outhouse and the pump which brings fresh, cool water into the small wooden-frame building.

Occasionally, Gross will help someone by fixing a flat tire, but his oldtime filler-upper is no competition for the nearby modern service stations.

In fact, Gross does not know how much longer his one-man operation will continue.

Marathon has installed modern pumps, but about everything else at the station is about the same as it always has been.

INDIANA POLIS NEWS

JUNE 22, 1983