

Remember when ...
Monday, Sept. 18, 1995

Pumping gas no easy task with old pumps

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parked near the door ready to go at any time of day or night.

Two pumps sat near the curb in front of the garage, providing Leland with his first job.

"I wish I had a nickel for every gallon of gas I pumped. That was hard. There was a handle that came up out of the pump."

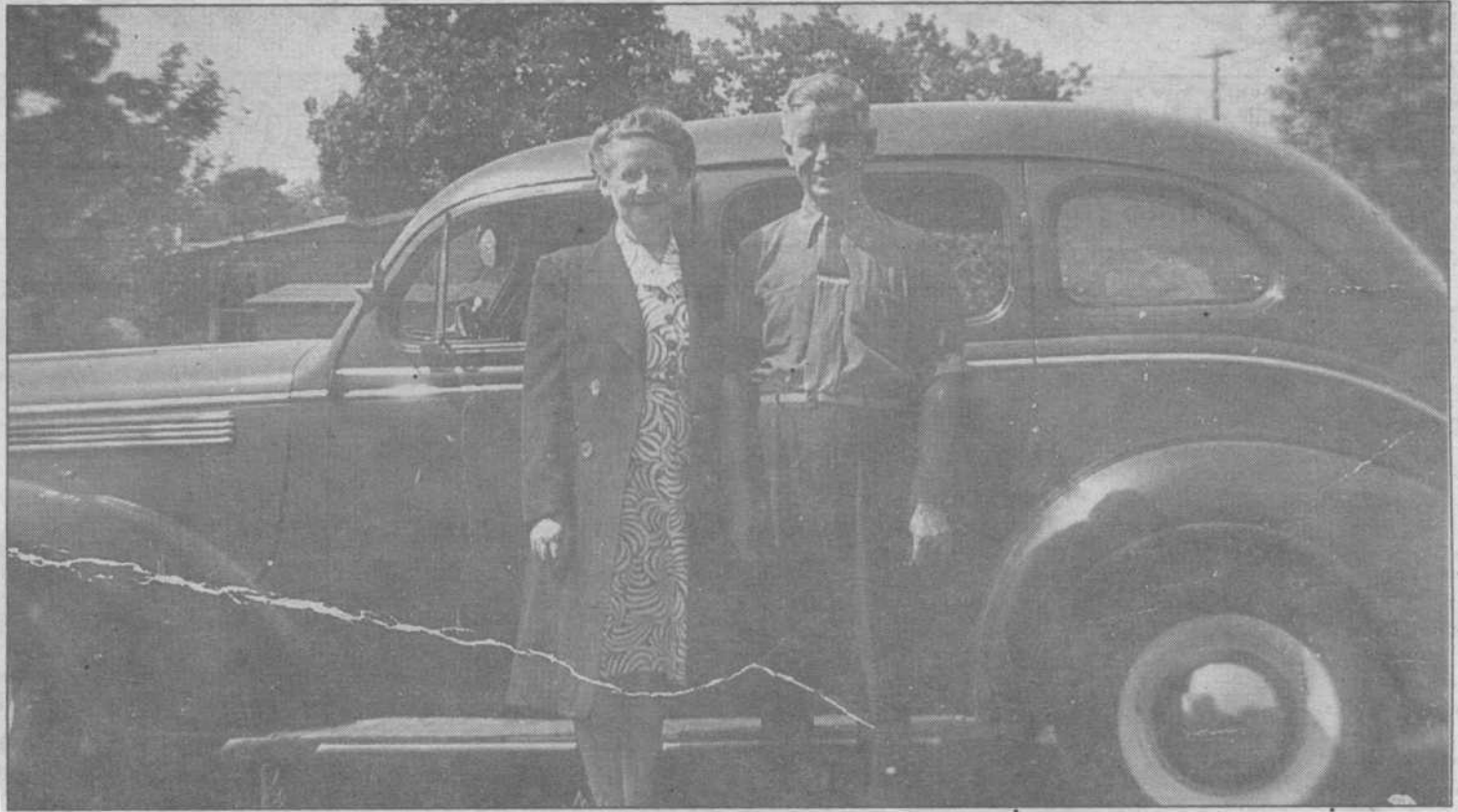
The handle wasn't light and had to be pumped until gas rose to the glass globe that sat atop the pump. Then the gas could be pumped into the car.

Also at the station were two air compressors for tires and service work was done on cars and trucks. Fred Leland was a self-taught mechanic. His daughter, Marguerite Drake, remembers he often worked on cars at their South Street home for family and friends.

Alfred and Marguerite think their father first learned about mechanics while working for Robert Weddle, owner of the Robert Weddle Company.

"Down on the river there were great big boats. Weddle, he was a man of means. Dad, before he got into the car business, he was chauffeur for Weddle," Alfred recalls.

"From Weddle's, Dad got into garage work because he had to go up to the Grand Trunk Station (when) the cars came in. But, they had all the wheels off them. They had to jack them up to get the wheels on them and they'd drive them



Fred and Minnie Leland stand in front of their 1938 sedan.

Leland's Service Station

Cont
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Marguerite Drake