

Sign of lower prices

The new red and yellow sign isn't the only bright change at John's Gas Bar on the main street in Russell — the lower gas prices are just as attention-getting.

The sign is the result of owner John Wigcheren's switch to another supplier in effort to maintain competitive prices. The red, white and blue oval has come down.

Mr. Wigcheren is now buying

his gas from Drummond Fuels (Ottawa Ltd.), a family firm which has been operating since 1917 and now supplies 18 gas stations.

"I'm a fellow who doesn't want to nab the public. I'm not out to rip them off," he said.

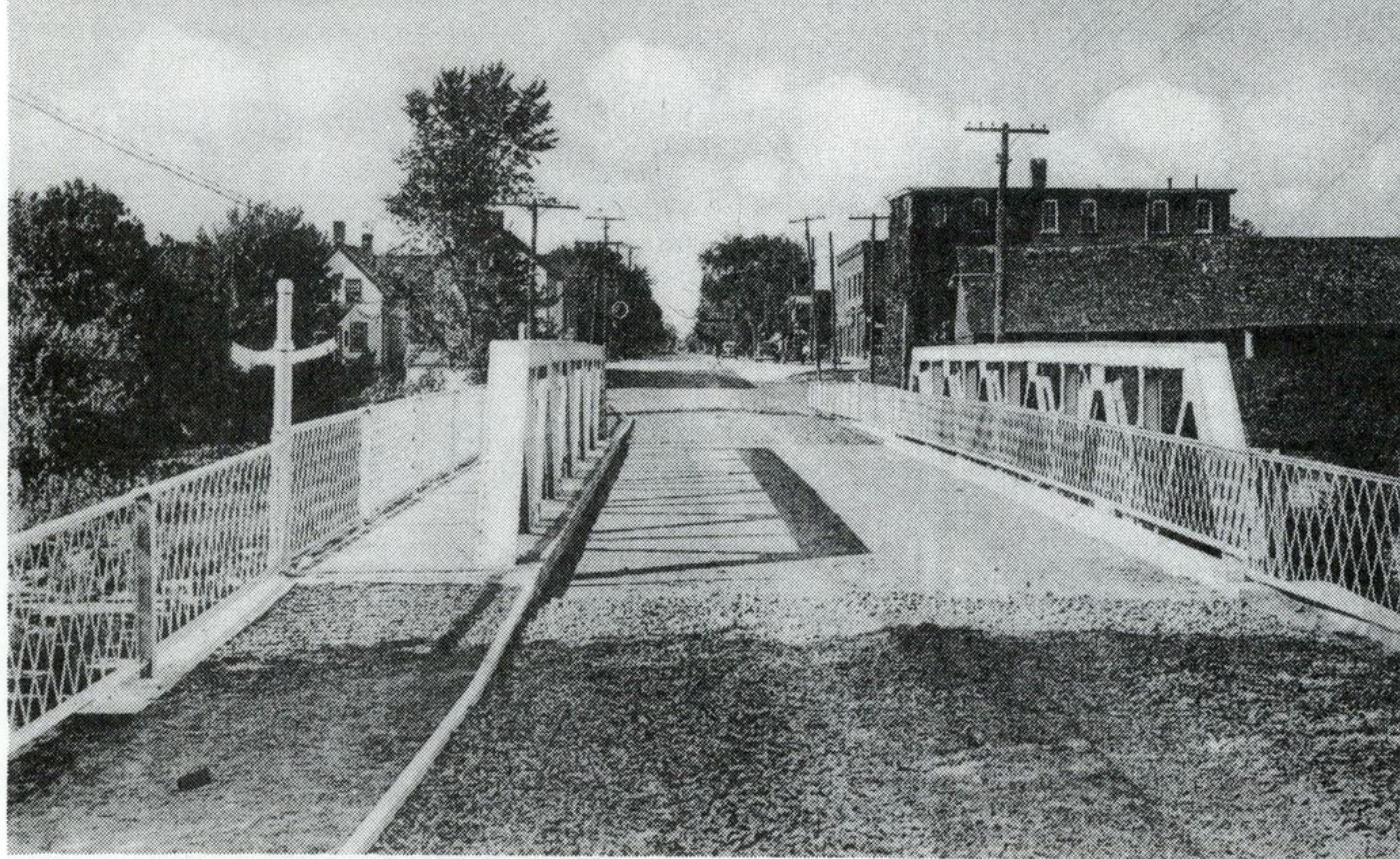
As an independent operator, Mr. Wigcheren has closer control of his gas prices. The gas he now sells is excess purchased by Drummond in bulk from the large companies.

"The gas is the same quality as offered at the big-name stations. It's the same gas," he said.

Compare: 95 cents per gallon for regular 98.9 for regular non-leaded and 99.9 for super non-leaded — three, seven and nine cents less, respectively, than the prices offered under the old company.

"When you have to drive into Ottawa every day like a lot of people, it makes a big difference," Mr. Wigcheren said.

Backtrack



CORONATION BRIDGE

The steel bridge spanning the Castor River in Russell, which these days looks a little worse for wear, was once sparkling new. Originally painted white, the bridge was erected in the late 1930's to replace one of wood and stone which failed to resist the big washout in 1937 (See Backtrack in April issue.) When built, the surface of Coronation Bridge

as it was christened, was the only section of pavement on Concession Street as the photo shows. Also shown is a rambling structure behind what is now Benny's Hotel which some local residents could perhaps identify. (Courtesy Robert and Beulah McNaught)

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