

# Cawthon Old Country Store Still Has Hospitality

By LEE MORENO  
 "How about a plug, sonny!"  
 "Care for a cone, candy, cigar . . ."  
 Yes, the Roark store at Cawthon still features that old hospitality that is hard to find in today's hustle bustle world.  
 Carroll and Russell Roark came to Cawthon in 1921 when they were 12 and 14. They built their store about 35 years ago on the site of the old Cawthon saloon.  
 "In those days we still had a dirt road, no electricity, no gas,

no running water and no telephone," Russell says.  
 Today the old general store has electricity but no gas or telephone. Russell and Carroll depend on an old well for water and a woodburning stove for heat and cooking.  
 The Roarks still display salted bacon in an open container.  
 "We have no problem with flies," Carroll observes.  
 Russell carefully explained the workings of their old tobacco cutter.

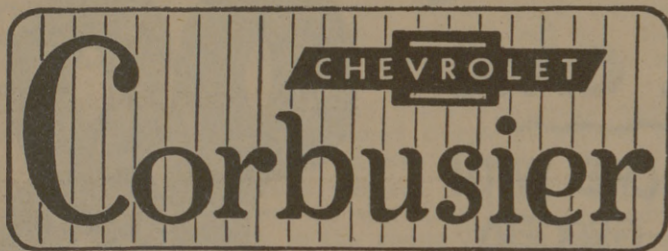
"Tobacco used to come in long narrow plugs. A customer would simply ask for a 5¢, 15¢ or 25¢ plug and we would simply lop off the piece."  
 Cawthon, once the scene of large meat shipments and large cotton farms, is located about 12 miles southeast of College Station. There used to be a depot, post office, saloon and meat market here. Nothing remains of Cawthon today except the old store owned by Russell and Carroll Roark.



**HAVING A BIG TIME**  
 Russell and Carroll Roark are indeed a talkative pair who don't mind having their picture taken. Their store is situated where the old Cawthon saloon used to be. They say that the town also used to have a depot and a meat market.



**THE TOWN OF CAWTHON**  
 This old general store owned by Carroll and Russell is all that remains of the town that was once Cawthon, Texas. The railroad that was pulled out last year. The Roarks still use an old wood burning stove for cooking and heat.



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P. S. Bring this letter with you and take your choice of **two free offers** with each new car: either a **set of pure vinyl floor mats** to match or **deluxe wheel discs.**



**OLD TOBACCO CUTTER**  
 Russell Roark describes how in the old days chewing tobacco came in long narrow plugs. "Customer would simply ask for a 5¢, 15¢, or 25¢ plug and we would simply lop off the piece." (Photo by Elias Moreno, Jr.)



**NO RUNNING WATER**  
 The Roarks depend on this well for their water supply. In the background is picture of the esque old store with firewood stacked on the porch.