

ADDIE RORY, M. J., AND BILL TADLOCK around 1914. (Photo courtesy of M. J. Tadlock)

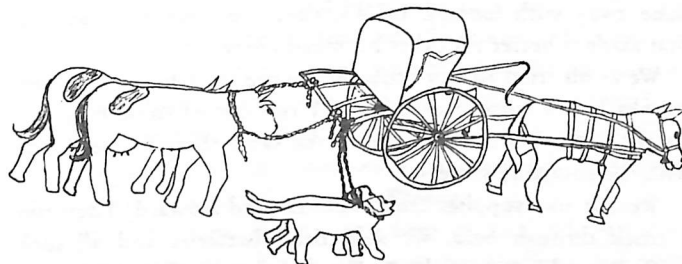
## M. J. Tadlock

I was born in Monroe, N. C. My daddy was Bill Tadlock and my mother was Addie Rory Tadlock. My people were farmers. My mother used to help her father cut cross ties to sell to the railroad. She was quite a woman.

Granpaw Tadlock lived here in Lando. He just moved from mill to mill and ended up here. My first visit to come down here was when my mother told us when we'd laid by our crop, we'd come down here. We did and that was in 1920 in July. We come down on the train and Mr. Simon Ramsey met us in Edgemoor in a old copper head Ford. We had to go in by Rodman. That was a time when the bridge was washed out.

Then in 1923, I came here again. Grandmother and Grandfather had told us about Lando while my father was a guard on the chain gang in Monroe, and we wanted to come. So, Mr. Charlie Hammonds, he give us all a job. He was the card room boss. So my family moved to Lando. They sent our furniture on a truck, but we had an ole' grey horse and a buggy. So me and my brother Horace drove the horse and buggy and come

'cross the Van Wyck Pass with two cows and two dogs. We'd take turns, one'd drive the buggy and the other one'd walk behind and drive the cows. We got here about one o'clock at night. The old cows had give out up above Edgemoor and we had to go back and get them the next day. We left 'em up there where Earl Houghman lived. Edna Mitchell lives there now.



It was a lot different when we moved here. It was about three times as many houses then. We moved down in Happy Holler by Mr. Will Hernandez. He's still livin' there now. I think he's been in that same house 'bout 65 years. I was about 11 or 12 when we come here.

Livin' conditions was better here. The houses were nicer and things were cleaner. Daddy had been workin' for \$55 a month. He went right to work in the card room here and made better.

I married in November '41 and left here in the first of '42 to go to the shipyard. Daisy was workin' at the mill too then. But we still wasn't makin' much money. So I decided to get out. I had worked about 20 years in the mill in mule spinnin'. I worked 'bout 14 years in one alley down there. So I left here and went to the shipyard and stayed a couple of years and come back and went to runnin' a garage down here and then bought out a grocery store right there where Temmer lives. Mr. Miller had a store here then where the Youth Center is now and the company had a store too. Horace had built a little place down there 'bout 12x20 when they shut down the mill and laid him off. Yep, he took \$18 and built him a store.

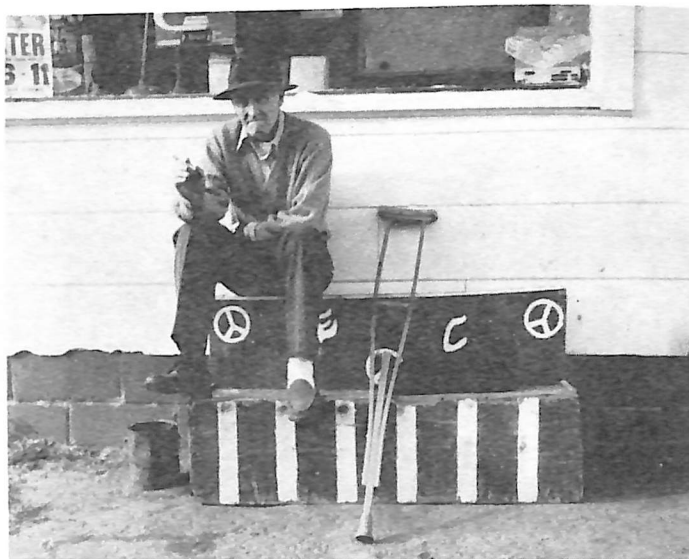
I rented that store in '46. Horace had it from '37 'til then. Then I built here in '49. They didn't have much transporation, and the roads were bad, so most people that lived here bought here. I had saved my money to buy the store. You could get credit, but it was hard to pay it back. I bought this land from the Atkinson estate. I've got 14 houses and the store now. Just a little at the time, as I got the money, I'd build more.

We moved in this store May 6, 1949, on Daisy's birthday. We lived down here under the store for two years and a half. This was a beer joint when I bought it from Mr. Brooks. It was about 18x20. Then Brooks went 'cross the creek with his brother-in-law and went to runnin' a store over there. I tore down the old store and built this store and apartment too. I had a friend come down from Rock Hill to look at the store when I bought it, cause I was gonna' add on to it. He said, "It ain't worth buildin' to. Just tear it down." I said, "I ain't got no money, boy." I had all my money out in automobiles. I said, "All I got is about three or four hundred dollars." He said, "Tear it down." And he built this store for me. He went to Ross' and signed a ticket for me to pay the bill back in 90 days. And I did.

The mill company had the advantage over the other stores. They had these loonies and you couldn't spend 'em nowhere else but in the company store. So they had business pretty well sewed up. So my brother used to buy loonies so he could take a few loonies in his store. But when I got the store, they'd done away with loonies. In '45, they took 'em all away and that made it better for other businesses here.

We've all tried to work together in the store business. When Brooks had a store over here, if I run out of something, I'd go get it from him and he'd do the same thing to me. Same with the company store.

We got our supplies from Thomas and Howard. They run a truck through here. We sold tires, batteries and all such stuff. We sold dry goods. We'd get 'em out of Spartanburg.

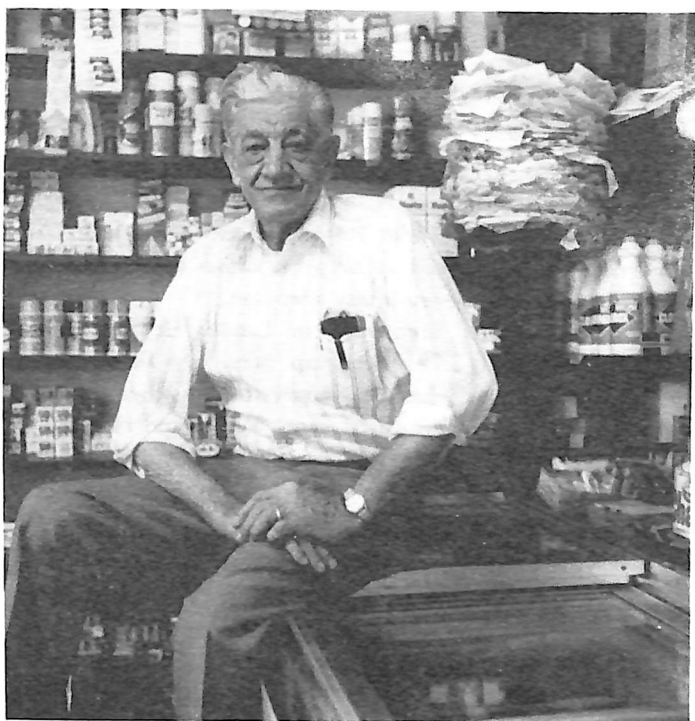


*"SPECK" MOSLEY, a familiar face at Tadlock's.*

Salesmen come through here from there sellin'. We got our meats from Hormel out of Charlotte and we sold a lot of meat.

I used to lend money and I used to sell a lot of automobiles in '46. I never will forget one time I checked and I had \$28,000 out in automobiles and not a penny insurance. But I just said to myself, "I didn't have nothin' when I started, so . . ."

You've heard 'em say, "If you ever drink that Lando water, you won't ever leave." Well, that's the way it is. This has been a little "stickin' together" town. Everybody'd help the other one out. Always lookin' out for the other fellow. ■



*MAE TADLOCK: "This has been a little 'stickin' together town."*