

Spotlight: The Carver Store

One of the first businesses you encounter when driving into Carver from the north is the Carver Store. It specializes today in convenience foods for locals and commuters passing through Carver or spending an afternoon on the river. Beer and cigarettes, energy drinks, grab & go snacks — the shelves are packed with packaged foods and drinks that are quick, easy to consume and hit the spot.

The current proprietors, John Lee and wife Kristy, are the latest in a multi-generational family that has owned and operated the store since the 1990s. John's parents once handled daily operations. Today it's Jon and Kristy. Their young daughter is often with them in the family owned and operated business.

Over the years, John says, the business has changed. When they first took over the business, river traffic was the main driver. As such, it was pretty much a summer business only. But with the expansion of Estacada and growth in the area, the local parks becoming more well-known, and the

overall increase in traffic on the road running through Carver, business is balancing out and it's a year-round operation.

Longtime residents remember the Carver Store in the 1950s as a market and fuel stop combined with a butcher shop and meat locker in the back. The cold storage was a convenient service for local hunters or farmers that brought their game in to be dressed.



A lot of categories are covered in the store — from necessities like coffee, cigarettes, cold beer or soda, ice cream and pet supplies to picnic condiments to your favorite snack foods.

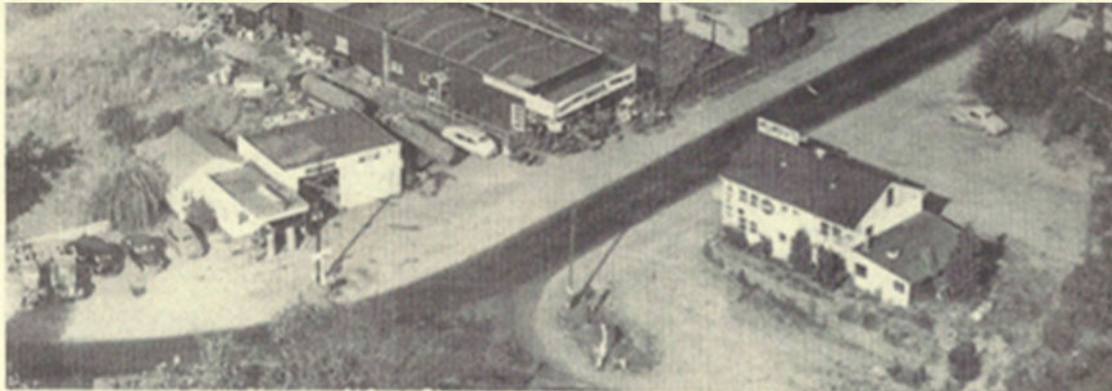


Owned and operated by the Lee Family since the 1990s., the Carver Store has a long history in Carver. Once a full store and gas station, today's focus is on convenience foods and grab-and-go offerings. And, of course, fishing tackle.



CARVER GROCERY & HARDWARE - 1947

Photo by Mr. Pix



CARVER, OREGON - at Highway 224 and bridge junction - circa 1947

Photo courtesy of Ada Durig

A Tale of Two Groceries....

Retail came early to Carver. In May 1916, G.H. McGary had built a store at Carver and was adding a gasoline station. By 1917, the business was prosperous. In 1918 a new grocery and garage was built by McMurry Bros and Davis. And the race was on.

By 1947, The Carver Grocery & Hardware (above) was owned and operated by George J. Herbst. The business sold groceries, meats, hardware, batteries, gas and tires as well as other Richfield products.

The competing gas station, Clifton's Service Station (leftmost building in the lower photo),

was an automotive gas station with sundries and staples. The two businesses were within a stone's throw of each other.

The Carver Grocery was located where the Carver Store sits currently. Several people owned the store over the years. For a while it was called the Carver Co-op. It burnt down in November 1947, shortly after this picture was taken, when the storage tanks caught fire and blew up. It was rebuilt and continued operating.

Clifton's Service Station would cease operating as a grocery and evolve into other types of businesses — more about this business soon!



CARVER GROCERY

Groceries - Meats - Soft Drinks - Ice Cream

Richfield Gas & Oil - Goodyear Tires & Batteries

Triangle Feeds

Phone Redland 1925

CARVER (Rt. No. 1, Clackamas) OREGON



*Seasons
Greetings*