

Uncle Dudley's Column

**JAMES E. AUSTIN,
Master Guide And Trapper**

For the first 25 years we were in business at Carnarvon we enjoyed the patronage of some eight or ten customers from the Brady Lake and North Bobcaygeon Road. I would estimate that about 20 per cent of our turn-over originated from this source.

Later, the powers that be decided the Peterson Road was of no value and it became impassable for any vehicles. Happily this condition is now remedied.

Among those customers, James Austin of Brady Lake was probably the most loyal. His farm, situated at the westerly end of Brady Lake, made a long trek to any market inevitable and we were about two or three miles nearer than Minden Village. There was a large family to support and the means of earning ready monies was quite limited, but James Austin never applied for municipal or other aid until he became eligible for the Old Age Pension, and no Canadian had earned this more than James Austin.

He told me once of a deal he made with Grimm Evaporator of Montreal: he bought a machine from them on time, payable over a period of three years — the price as I recall it was \$85.00. He made an excellent product and we bought many the gallon in the early years of the century at \$2.00 per gallon, and he made this product each season for a good many years. His chief income came from trapping and the stock sold from his farm holdings. In his later years he put in a small mill and with his boys he took out a small cut of lumber for quite a few years.

He had often asked me to spend a day or two in the bush of Hindon Township, where one of the last stands of pine was still intact; at last came a day when I made it, and it was a wonderful day. He knew Hindon Township as an ambitious student knows his books and the terrain of this area was an open book to him. The regular rounds of the wolf pack calling regularly at all stations in route was known to him. The wily otter which might be on Pauls Lake that day and away on Black River 24 hours later was also a friend of his.

In the great hereafter these outdoor men — Austin, Sawyer, Boice and on and on — by their integrity, loyalty and genuine honesty left us a heritage we would do well to conserve. I salute them.

Peace be with them.