GOOD-OLD-DAYS

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MEMORIE

WORKING AT OUR SAWMI

I am past 90 years old and wa
March 15, 1878. Do I have a tw
I was born near Salem, In
Washington Co. Lived there u
was about eight years old. Th
father moved over in Jackson C
We were farmers and rented un
when we bought a 100-acre fa
$250.00 Later we bought forty
for $150.00.

I went to school in a on
building. Our recitation bench
split-log puncheon. I finishe
eighth grade when I was 14 yea

My father had a threshing
His first was treadmill power
four horses to run it. Next he
steam engine of the Gar Scott
It wa drawn by horses four
engine and two to the
ton. Later he bought a sawm
I was the teamster at fifteen
old. I hauled logs and lumb
drove four horses with one
don't know why, but if the
any business trips to make, he
sent me.

I had two brothers older than
two younger at home and one
west. I had four sisters. There
children in our family, and w
in a one-room log house with
to kitchen.

I remember father sent me
two-day trip horseback riding
mare, and on my trip I heard a
very much like the exhaust of
gine. Shortly, I saw what it wa
ing clover. It was one of the
gasoline engines ever made, an
were demonstrating it. I di
know what it was, for there w
steam boiler to it.

I stopped, tied my horse to
fence, and went up to see it and
it worked without a boiler for
so I asked no questions but w
my way. When I got home I had
all about it, and they all but m
er laughed at me. Said I was
things, which I was, but they
real to me, and the boys could
it that way. Later it came out
it was and I had the laugh on
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Now There's A Good Old Days Town!

TAX FREE 'URBAN RENEWAL' FOR MARATHON, IOWA

"Good Old Days" magazine has sparked a lot of interest in the scenes and atmosphere of the days that used to be. Now there's a small Iowa town devoted to the same nostalgia.

An 'urban renewal' project that doesn't cost the taxpayers a cent is unusual. It's doubly unusual when, instead of modernizing the appearance, it is deliberately changed to the motif of the good old days.

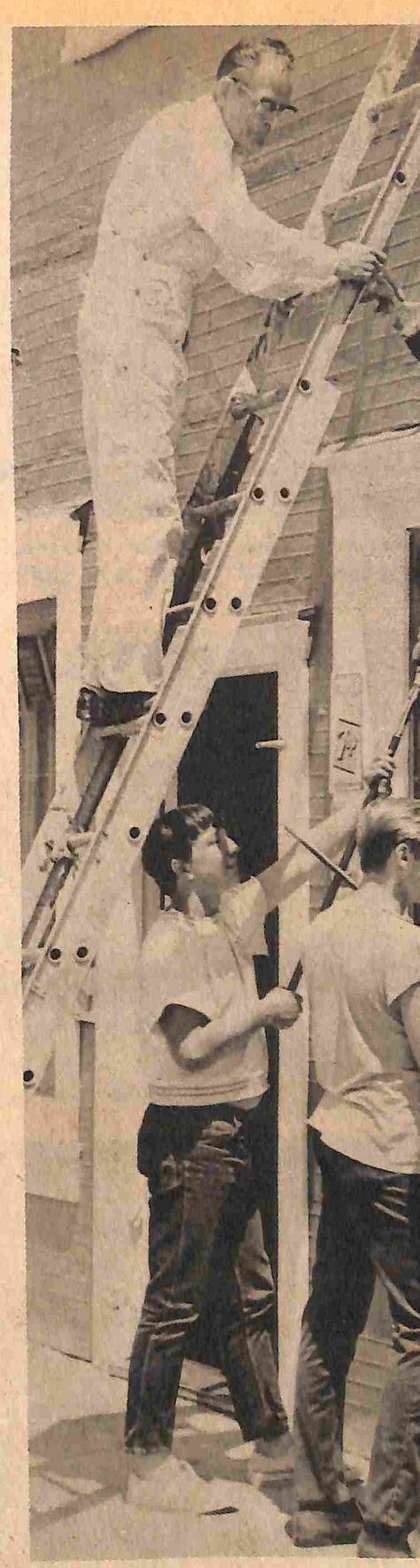
It all began when Gordon Kammarmeyer painted the front of his Top Hat tavern a rustic brick red. Russell Stevens, who had been reading Good Old Days magazine, looked out of the window of the Samuelson Grocery and said, "It would be an improvement if every place of business would do that. I have a mental picture of what this street would be if changed back to the style of the good old days."

Jean (Mrs. Harlan) Samuelson agreed. She had been reading Good Old Days, also. "We'll paint after the Fourth of July," she promised. Later she talked with Sam Hartley, owner of the Hartley hardware and he was caught up in the spirit of the venture. A citizen's meeting was called in the Marathon city hall. The place was packed because word had spread.

"Good comunity spirit," said banker Norris Olney Jr., to Mayor Leo Meyer and the latter agreed.

One of the men present told of the difficulty in attracting industry to a town of 650 population. "But there is something we can do." he said. "We can see that each store front is re-painted and re-named in the style of the good old days. It will make Marathon the most unusual town in this area."

When asked for a show of hands



Don Shepard (left) and his son, Di
prepare to paint the front of The
McGowan (center) of Marathon sw

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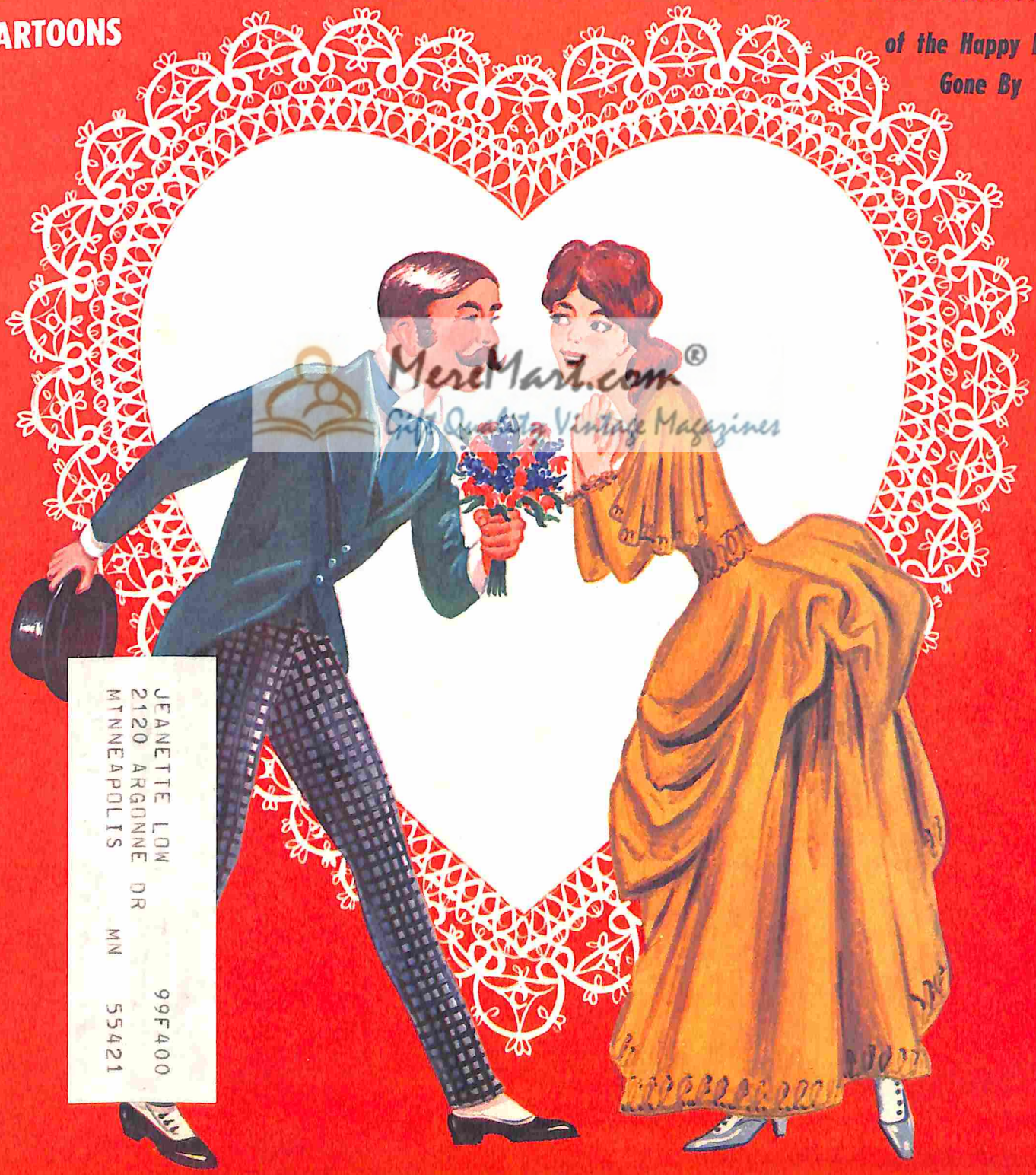
35c "The Magazine of Happy Memories" FEBRUARY 1969

FEATURES: LETTERS • STORIES • PHOTOS • POEMS • SONGS • ILLUSTRATIONS • CARTOONS

of the Happy Days Gone By



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