

Good Old Days Writers Guidelines

2014

Dear Contributor,

Thank you for your interest in contributing material to *Good Old Days* magazine. *Good Old Days* tells the real stories of the people who lived and grew up in “the Good Old Days” (about 1935–1960). We like stories to sound informal and conversational, as if you’re sitting around the kitchen table reminiscing with your friends and family. However, we are open to any way you choose to write your story, as long as it is true and falls within our targeted period of time. We accept seasonal stories year-round, from holidays to harvest. We look for real stories—happy, sad, the good, the bad. Humor is always a plus. Most of our writers are not professionals. We prefer the author’s individual voice, warmth, humor and honesty over technical ability. Successful stories tend to stick with one subject or plot (i.e., “how my brother and I got caught skipping school one day and faced the consequences,” “my favorite Christmas gift,” “my graduation dress,” etc.), not simply descriptions of a time or place (ex. “life on the farm” or “growing up in the 1940s”). Some stories are presented “as told by” the person who actually had the experience, but we do not accept fictional manuscripts.

These regular departments are in each issue and open to outside submissions:

- **Good Old Days on Wheels**

In this department we feature transportation-related articles. You may relate funny stories of learning to drive, your first car, trips by train, a coveted bicycle, city trolley rides, etc. Photos are a plus!

- **Rewind**

This two-page spread offers a visual collage of photos, stories, old advertisements, quotes (ex. Things My Parents Used to Say) and other reader-submitted gems. Consult the most recent version of *Good Old Days* to see the specific submissions we are currently requesting.

- **Bits & Pieces**

Brief (100–300-word) memories are presented on this two-page spread. Any nostalgic story topic will be considered; photos are appreciated and encouraged.

- **Picture This**

Readers may submit a single nostalgic photograph with a short, descriptive caption.

- **Special Features**

We also publish an occasional biography, as well as historical stories on memorable events, fads, antiques, fashion, sports, music, literature, entertainment, etc. While this feature is often written by assigned columnists, we will consider other articles as well.

SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

- Manuscripts should be typed (preferably double-spaced) with the author’s name, address and phone number in the upper left-hand corner. Our preferred word length is 600–1,000 words.
- Please submit one manuscript at a time **and enclose an SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) if you want your material acknowledged and/or returned**. If your story is not accepted and you have enclosed an SASE, you will receive it back after the review process has taken place—generally about 6 months. Send your submissions to: *Good Old Days Submissions, 306 E. Parr Rd., Berne, IN 46711*. If you do not enclose an SASE, you will hear from us only if we offer you a contract for your story. We do accept submissions via email (Editor@GoodOldDaysMagazine.com) or fax (260-589-8093), but treat them the same as mailed unsolicited manuscripts without an SASE.

- **ALWAYS** include where the story took place (city, town, village or region and state) and the year the story took place. We have returned a lot of good stories that did not include this information. Readers want the connection of knowing when and where a story took place.

PHOTOS

- Good, clear, interesting photos are a definite plus. Please indicate with your submission whether or not photos are available. You may include photocopies or duplicates of your photos with your manuscript, **but please do not include your originals**. If we need the originals or photographic copies, we will ask for them. While we can accept computer-scanned photographs, they must be scanned at 300 dpi resolution. Include your name, address and story title on the backs of all photos. Manuscripts should include captions for your photos.

CONTRACTS, RIGHTS AND PAYMENT

- If your article is accepted for publication, you will receive a contract agreement with a payment offer and information as to what issue of the magazine your article will appear.
- We prefer to buy all rights, but will negotiate with you on first or one-time rights. ***If you cannot offer all rights, you should specify the type of rights you are offering when submitting your manuscript.***
- If you would like a sample copy of our magazine, please send \$2.00 and a self-addressed stamped manila envelope to: *Good Old Days Sample Copy, 306 E. Parr Rd., Berne, IN 46711.*

We receive over 200 manuscripts a month and can only offer contracts to a limited number. Therefore, we must return a lot of good stories. The mark of a good freelance writer is persistence; be sure to keep trying! Thanks for your interest in *Good Old Days* magazine.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Weisenburger
Editor
Good Old Days magazine