

***Looking Back* Writer's Guidelines**

2011-2012

Dear Contributor:

Thank you for your interest in contributing material to *Looking Back* magazine.

Looking Back tells poignant, humorous and bittersweet stories of the people who lived and grew up from about 1945-1965. Stories should be conversational, but to the point. We accept seasonal stories year 'round. Sock-hops, first dates, family holiday celebrations, high school proms—all are good fodder for nostalgic journeys. We look for true, first person narratives: the happy, the sad, the good and the bad. ***Color photographs illustrating your article will increase its chances of being accepted!***

ALWAYS include where the story took place (city, town, village or region and state), and the year the story took place. I have returned a lot of good stories that did not include this information. Readers want the connection of knowing specifically when and where a story took place, and have communicated that to me many times.

Most major departments in *Looking Back* are produced in-house, but we do accept freelance material for our Around Town department. Around Town features short interesting snippets of life in small towns and cities. Submissions for "Around Town" should be 150-300 words in length and should be about one very specific humorous or interesting incident. We will also accept query proposals *only* on the Happy Trails travel department and the Profiles department.

All 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 500-800 words. 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.***

Please submit only 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 8 weeks. Send your submissions to: ***Looking Back 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 and encourage electronic submissions via e-mail (Editor@LookingBackMagazine.com), but treat them the same as mailed unsolicited manuscripts without an SASE.

Good, clear, interesting **color** photographs are a definite plus. Please indicate with your submission whether or not color 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 photos. Manuscripts should include captions of complete information concerning the photographs you are submitting.

We also sometimes offer contracts on interesting nostalgic color photos with a paragraph of caption material describing what is pictured.

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.

If you would like a sample copy of our magazine, please send \$2.00 and a self-addressed stamped manila envelope to: *Looking Back Sample Copy, 306 E. Parr Rd., Berne, IN 46711.*

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 (i.e.: how my brother and I got caught skipping school one day and faced the consequences...my most embarrassing moment, etc.).

We also publish stories on memorable events, fads, fashion, sports, music, literature, entertainment, etc. Many stories are presented "as told by" by the person who actually had the experience, but never, *never* try to pull the wool over our eyes with fictional manuscripts.

Finally, we do not accept simultaneous submissions or anything with inappropriate themes or vulgar language.

We receive over 300 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!

Sincerely,

Mary Beth

Mary Beth Weisenburger

Editor

Looking Back Magazine