Small Town Living

**An ad for a general store in Loretta, Wisconsin, gives its location as “Across from the phone booth.” *(Reader’s Digest)***

**A small town is a place where there’s no place to go where you shouldn’t. *(Burt Bacharach)***

**When you return to your boyhood town, you find it wasn’t the town you longed for – it was your boyhood. *(Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**As a child growing up in Waukegan, Illinois, Ray Bradbury “soaked up the ambience of small-town life – wraparound porches, fireflies, and the soft, golden light of late afternoon – that would later become the hallmark of much of his fiction,” said the Los Angeles Times. *(The Week magazine, June 22, 2012)***

**Citizens in a small town were understandably confused when two nearby church notice boards simultaneously proclaimed: “Strong drink is your worst enemy” and “Make your worst enemy your best friend.” *(C. Kennedy, in Catholic Digest)***

**A high school student in Grant City, Mo., has come up with a dirt-cheap means of transport. Don Gibson, 18, bought a battered 1994 Geo Metro subcompact, yanked its engine, and put in an electric forklift engine he bought on eBay for $200. The car can go 62 mph and travel more than 30 miles between charges. Charging its 12 batteries costs Gibson around 25 cents, which means he can drive 200 miles for the price of a gallon of gas. “If you live in a small community and you just need to drive around town, this is the most ideal vehicle you could drive,” he said. *(The Week magazine, May 18, 2012)***

**Flipper and friends: Humans have long marveled at the apparent intelligence of dolphins, prompting some to draw comparisons between the sleek sea mammals and Homo sapiens. Now, new research suggests that the two species may have another thing in common: making friends. Scientists examining interactions among bottlenose dolphins in Florida's Indian River lagoon found that much like people, dolphins form complex social networks, spending time with dolphins they like while avoiding others entirely. Male dolphins, in particular, have been seen pairing off to hunt and feed, forming bonds that can endure for upward of 20 years. Scientists also noted that dolphins living in narrower areas of the lagoon seemed to form the closest friendships, suggesting that the shape of their habitats plays a role in how they socialize. "It created a funneling effect," study author Elizabeth Murdoch Titcomb tells HuffingtonPost.com. "Like, they're living in a smaller town. They know each other better." *(The Week magazine, May 29, 2015)***

**A hick town is one in which there is no place to go where you shouldn’t be. *(Alexander Woollcott)***

**A little town is where everybody knows what everybody else is doing, but they read the weekly newspaper to see who got caught at it. In a little town everybody knows every neighbor's car by sight and most by sound. They also know when they come and where they go. A little town is where, if you get the wrong number, you can talk for 15 minutes anyway, if you want to. A little town is where there's hardly anything to do and never enough time to do it. In any town, the ratio of good people to bad people is a hundred to one. In a big town, the hundred are uncomfortable. In a little town, the one is. Small-town gossip tends to cut down anybody who's up, and help up anybody who's down. The small-town policeman has a first name. The small-town teacher has the last word. In the class play, there's a part for everybody. In the town jail, there's rarely anybody. In the town cemetery, you're still among friends. (Paul Harvey, in Grit)**

**The real Mayberry: Mayberry isn’t just a fictional place, said Martha Waggoner in the Associated Press. The small-town setting of TV’s The Andy Griffith Show was inspired by Mount Airy, N.C., a throwback burg that remains home to the Andy Griffith Museum and is celebrating the 52nd edition of its annual Mayberry Days festival September 27-30. Tourism was up this summer following the death in July of Mount Airy’s hometown hero, but visitors have never stopped rolling in for “a glimpse of small-town life and the simpler times portrayed on the show.” They can stay at a bed-and-breakfast located in the actor’s childhood home, tour the city in a squad car like the one Sheriff Andy drove on the show, or “satisfy a sweet tooth” at Opie’s Candy Store, named after Ron Howard’s character. Mount Airy isn’t exactly frozen in time, but it’s close enough. “Because of Andy and our tourism,” says the museum’s director, “we’ve got a Main Street with no empty stores.” *(The Week magazine, October 5, 2012)***

**After I had moved to a tiny village in western New York State, it took a call to the local movie house to learn just how small the place really is. “What time does the feature begin?” I asked. “Picture started five minutes ago,” replied the proprietor. “Oh, I missed it!” “Nah,” answered the owner. “Hurry up on down here and I'll play the first ten minutes over again for you.” (Alan Zaremba, in Reader's Digest)**

**There is no substitute for conscience, unless it's living in a small town. (*Denmark, Wisconsin Press)***

**A small town is a place where you’re no longer a stranger after five minutes, but still a newcomer after 50 years. (Doug Larson, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Press-Gazette)**

**The new mayor called in the police chief of the small town and talked about the area and the size of the force. “How many police officers do you have?” “There’s me, the chief of police, and I have six other officers.” “In a small town like this, surely there’s not enough crime to keep a police force of seven people busy,” said the mayor. “That’s true,” said the chief. “But if we didn’t have seven officers, there would be.” *(The Best of BITS & PIECES, p. 142)***

**In the post office of a prideful small town in New York State, appropriate signs were posted over the outgoing-mail slots. One sign read “Webster,” the town’s name; the other read “Rest of the World.” *(David W. Robinson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**After flying in a spacious 727 from New York City to Chicago, I made my way to the departure gate for my connecting flight to a small town in northern Michigan. The puddle-jumper was a tiny plane indeed. “Do I have a window or an aisle seat?” I asked the clerk at the counter. “Both,” she answered. *(Roger Harvey, in Reader’s Digest)***

**If a small town is where everybody already knows what everybody else is doing, why does everybody read the newspaper? To find out who got caught. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**CONSERVATION: Several days after an operation, the surgeon on the case stopped by to check on his patient’s progress. It was a small-town hospital, nearly everybody knew one another, and the room was filled with flowers. Pausing to sniff them, the doctor remarked, “Well, it looks as if you are going to recover. Folks in this town don’t like to send flowers twice.” *(Mrs. H. Priday, in Catholic Digest)***

**I never realized how small my Vermont hometown is until my mother’s sister came from Rochester, N.Y., for a visit. Aunt Harriet went to cash a check at the local bank. As the teller was handing her the cash, Aunt Harriet asked, “Don’t you want to see my driver’s license first?” “No need to,” replied the teller. “You look just like your sister.” *(Barbara Siegle, in Reader’s Digest)***

**If nobody knows the troubles you’ve seen, you don’t live in a small town. (The American Legion magazine)**

**In our small Vermont town, there is just one video-rental shop. I went in and requested a popular movie. “I’m sorry,” said the clerk, “that video is out right now. But I can look at the file to see who has it. Maybe you could call them up and go over to their house and watch it with them.” (Ed Dahlin, in Reader’s Digest)**

**My job as a bricklayer takes me to many small, rural communities in North Dakota. One assignment was an elementary-school addition in a town of fewer than a thousand people. When I checked into the town’s only motel, a man introduced himself as the owner, operator and manager. As he handed me the key, I asked him if I could get a 6 a.m. wakeup call. “Sure,” he said. “Would you like wind-up or electric?” *(Warren Dietrich, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A small town is a place where there is little to see or do, but what you hear makes up for it. *(Ivern Ball)***

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