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Judy Nelson has collected an Edgerton Tobacco Days button from every since its beginning.
(Edgerton Reporter photo/David Esau)

The business of tobacco

anywhere else. In addition to people mentioned above, there were others who always seemed to be close to the business, if not in it, including Joe Leary with his cigar factory, Lou Towne, a lawyer, Ed Ellingson and Joel Thompson, livery stables, Wm. Guttery, hotel operator, Wm. Pomeroy, seed dealer, and Henry Johnson, insurance. Also notable was Tom Westlake, blacksmith, who made the Westlake case hooks used by all warehousemen.

Before World War I when there was little other industry in town it would have been hard to find a household that didn't have someone working, or that had worked in and around warehouses. Hundreds of

wives and mothers added to the family income by stemming or sorting tobacco. Even the wives of some of the prominent men in town had sorted tobacco in their younger and less prosperous days. It was a dusty, dirty job that paid only a few dollars a week but I never heard anyone complaining about it.

With only a few exceptions the warehouses were more or less uniform with a basement and two floors. The sorting and packing was done in the basement and the first floor contained the office, receiving and shipping operations with some storage; and the second floor was all storage. They all had hand power, rope pull, and elevators, and the building was

heated with a large jacketed hand-fired stove. Some had a heat duct to the office or the office was equipped with a stove. Otherwise the buildings were unheated, and there are not many colder places than a warehouse with the receiving or shipping doors open in wintertime.

At one time Edgerton claimed to be the largest shipping point of tobacco direct from growers in the country. This may or may not be true, but I do know that train loads of tobacco have been shipped out of here at times in late April so as to be in transit on the first of May which was personal property tax assessment day. If it wasn't there it couldn't be taxed.

Local man collects John Deere tractors

By Jeff Brown
Reporter staff

Marty Pomplun has transformed his one-bedroom apartment at Edgerton's Elm High Drive Apartments into a John Deere shrine — green and yellow 1/16-scale die-cast tractors and farm implements, some still in their boxes, crowd the dining room table, the couch and another table set up in the corner of his cozy living room.

Pomplun, who as young man drove John Deere tractors while working on Randy Zee's farm outside of Footville, said he began collecting model tractors soon after his father died in 2000. That's when Pomplun inherited an Ertl Precision Classic John Deere Model 8520.

For a short time the 8520 was the only tractor in his collection. "I said 'There's no other tractor, it just sits there by itself,'" said Pomplun, gesturing around his apartment. "So I started buying them, two at a time, three at time, and this is how many I got, and I'm not finished by no means yet."

Pomplun's collection includes a model of a grain drill, a model of the largest combine currently manufactured by John Deere, a model of a tractor from the 1950s with a two-row grain picker attachment, and a model of an iron-wheeled tractor made in 1933.

Pomplun doesn't have access to the internet, so he buys models by mail order. Pomplun said he's bought most of the models from sellers in the Midwest, including sellers in Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska, although one of the models he bought from a seller in Pennsylvania.



Marty Pomplun poses with a portion of his collection of John Deere 1/16-scale tractors.
(Edgerton Reporter photo/Jeff Brown)

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Best Wishes to Edgerton during
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