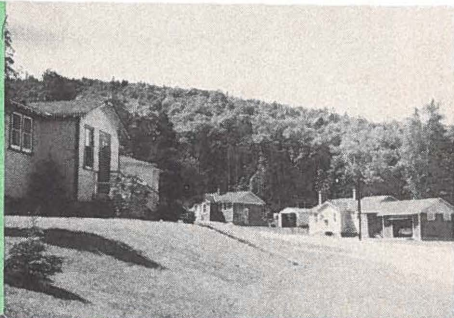


# A Good Place...

*Archive L-22*

**to Live**



**to Work**

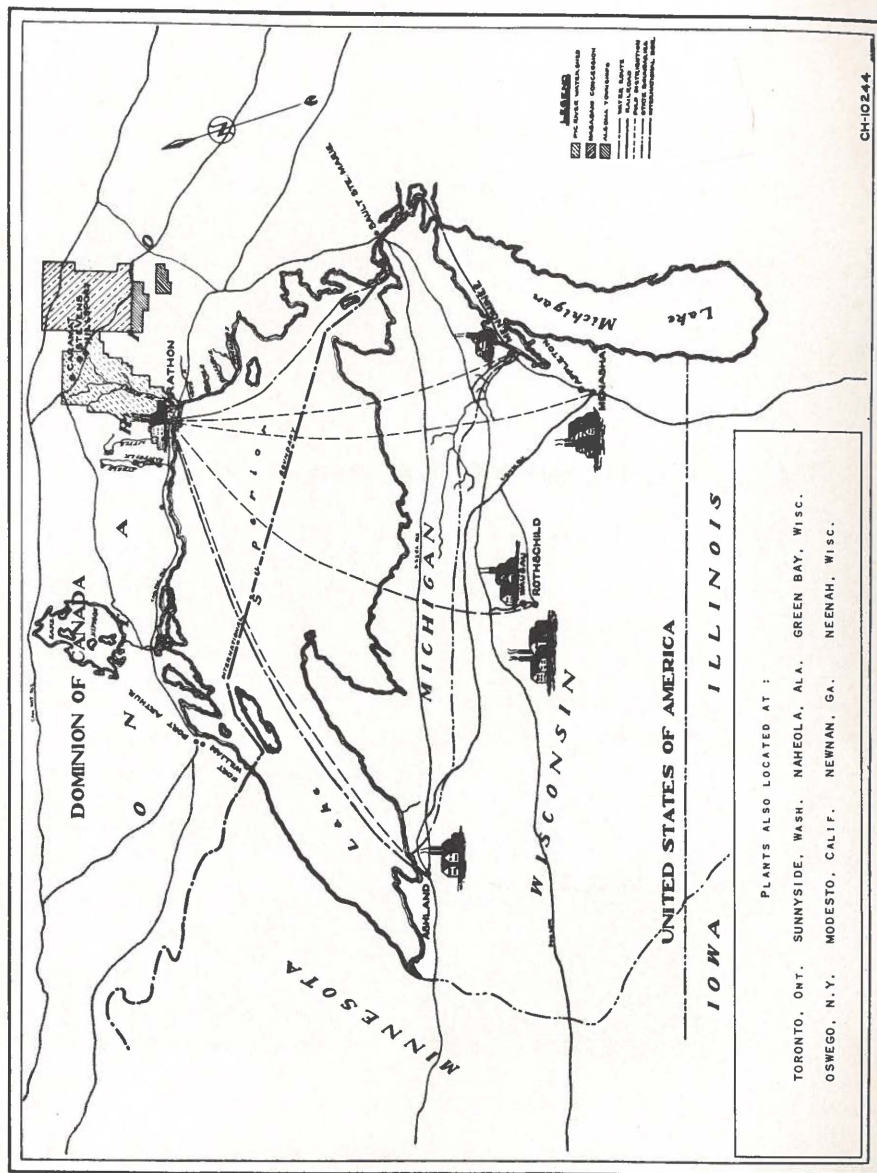


**to Play**

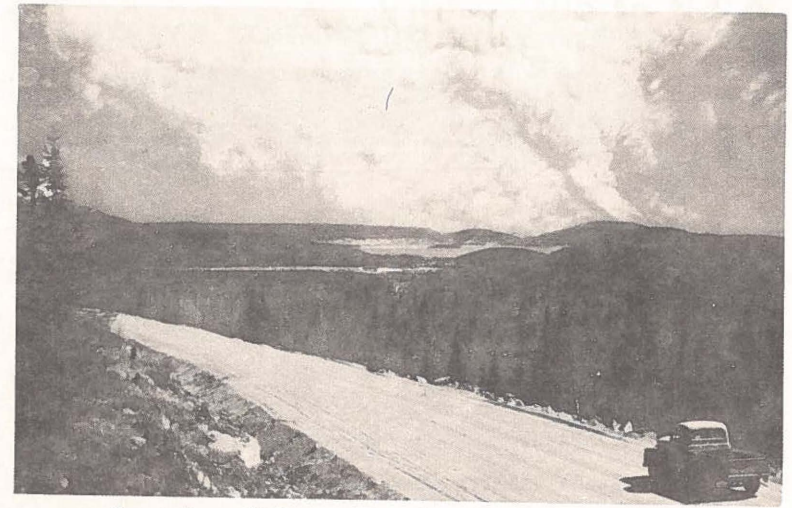


# MARATHON

**ONTARIO**



Sketch map showing location of Marathon, Ontario in regard to plants of the parent corporation.



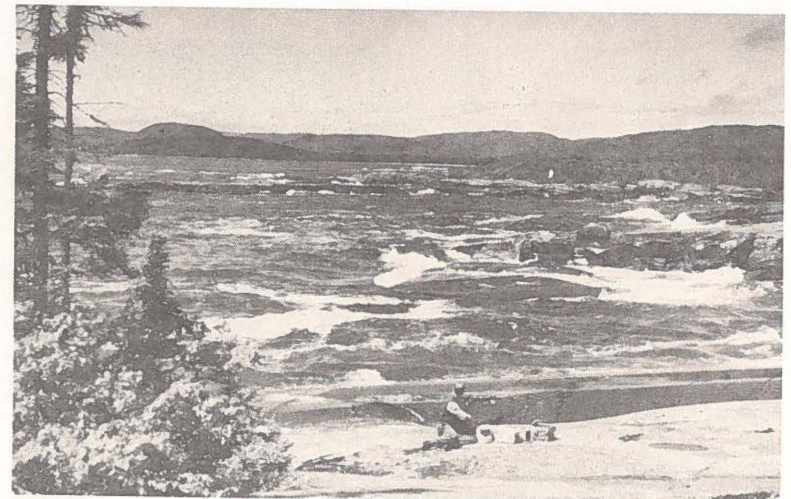
Scene from Highway—Town in distant centre ground.

## Where and what we are:

The Town of Marathon, Ontario, is situated on the north shore of Lake Superior, approximately 200 miles east of the lakehead cities, by road or rail.

Favored by nature with a setting of rarest beauty, the surroundings remain, to a great extent, unspoiled and unchanged since they were first seen by man.

Our town, designed as a self-contained community with provision for expansion, has a population of 2,500. The immediate area enjoys very moderate temperatures, with winter seldom seeing anything lower than 20 below zero, while summer highs are usually in the 80's.



Waves rolling into Bay of Marathon Harbour

## A bit of our history



**Mount Peninsula Shields the Mill in Winter.**

The first known record of the area surrounding Marathon is on a map drawn in 1650 and which, is now in Paris, France.

The site of the present town of Marathon was chosen by William Van Horne as his main supply base when constructing the C.P.R. in the early 1880's due to the harbour's depth and protection. In the construction of 200 miles westward, 12,000 men, along with 15,000 horses were used. These and their replacements all lived or passed through Peninsula, as the town was then named.

During the Second Riel Rebellion in 1885, history was made by moving troops from Ottawa to Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., in eleven days, using the partly finished railroad from Peninsula to Red Rock. Then began a period of steady decline in the fortunes of Peninsula, until it became a veritable ghost town.



**Since Time began fast-flowing streams have fed Lake Superior.**

## When we came and why we're here

The present program, begun by Marathon during the Second World War, brought a new lease on life, as well as a new name, to the almost forgotten little village of Peninsula. In a little more than a decade it has grown from a few log cabins to become the thriving industrial town of Marathon, with over 600 modern buildings.

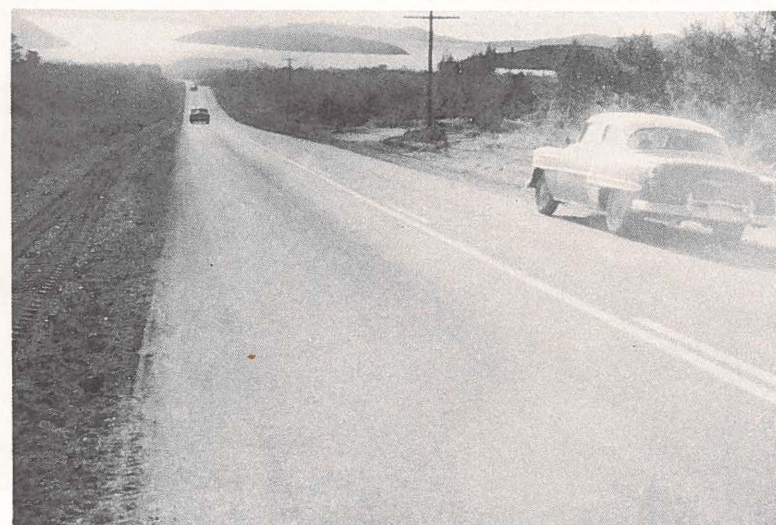
Construction was started in 1944 by Marathon Paper Mills of Canada Limited, now Marathon Corporation of Canada Limited, in what was then classed as unorganized territory. Designed as the focal point of the Pic River Timber Concession, the project represents a capital investment of close to forty million dollars.

Formation of the Improvement District of Marathon, by provincial legislation, in 1948, brought to an end our status of "unorganized territory."

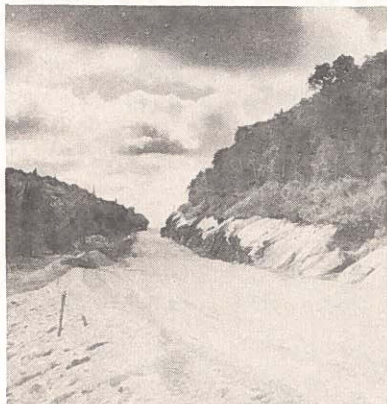
## How we got here

Marathon is served by the Canadian Pacific Railway, by boat on Lake Superior, by planes equipped with wheel, ski, or pontoon, and by the TransCanada Highway. The section of the TransCanada Highway from Marathon West, is now rated one of the best sections of highway in the Province of Ontario and takes the traveller through some unexcelled scenery.

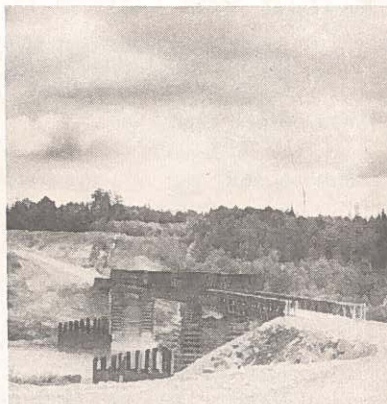
Now blacktopped, it is a good answer to much of the criticism which has been levelled at highway construction in the province in recent years. The feat of building it through the rugged terrain, west of Marathon, is one of which any government may well be proud.



**Black-topped highways and beautiful scenery greet the traveller.**



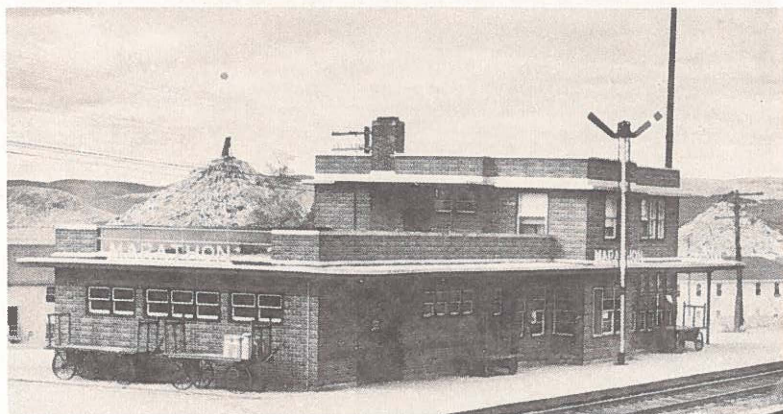
To the east the TransCanada Highway is under construction.



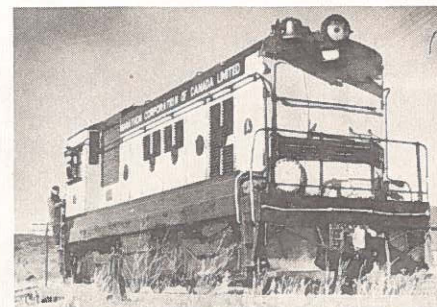
Bailey bridge at Pic River detour east of Marathon.

The TransCanada Highway outlet to the east is under construction, with work being pushed by government agencies and contractors alike. When opened, this will complete the motoring pleasure of the residents, who now operate over 500 private vehicles, one for every five persons in town, man, woman or child. Temporary bridges are in use at many points on the TransCanada, but work on the permanent structures is well under way, and the area will boast one of the highest and also one of the longest bridges of the highway, when work is done.

Over the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway an immense amount of freight and express moves to and from Marathon, along with a heavy passenger traffic. Close to 300 tons of freight and express are received daily, while about 400 tons are shipped out. The railroad maintains extensive yards and freight shed to accommodate the business, as well as a modern station building.

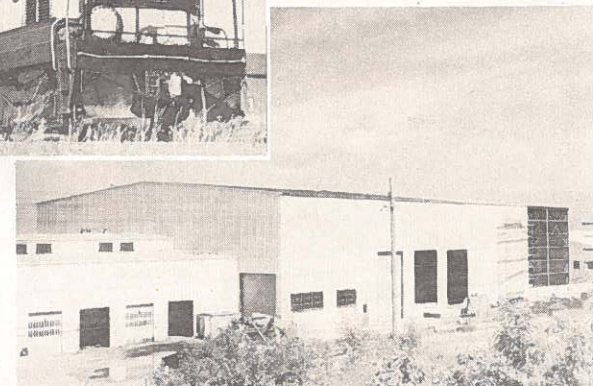


The C.P.R. Station.



Yard Diesel Switching Engine.

Part of the Garage accommodation for the Company's fleet of trucks and heavy equipment.



Marathon Corporation maintain its own switching engine for use in conjunction with railroad shipments. A large fleet of trucks and heavy automotive equipment is also maintained and cared for in modern garage buildings.

Wheel or ski equipped aircraft land on the two 3,500 foot runways at our airport, while pontoon equipped aircraft land in the sheltered waters of Marathon Harbour or of adjacent Hare Lake.

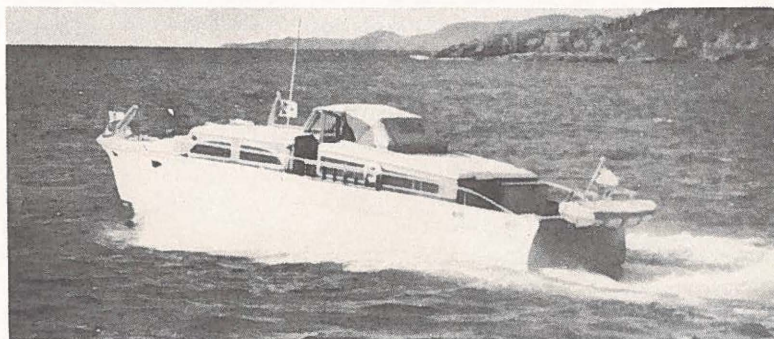
The town boasts one of the few heliports in the country and it is quite often a busy place with many helicopters dropping in, on forestry, mining, or hydro business.



The Airfield

Many aerial visitors drop down on the Heliport.

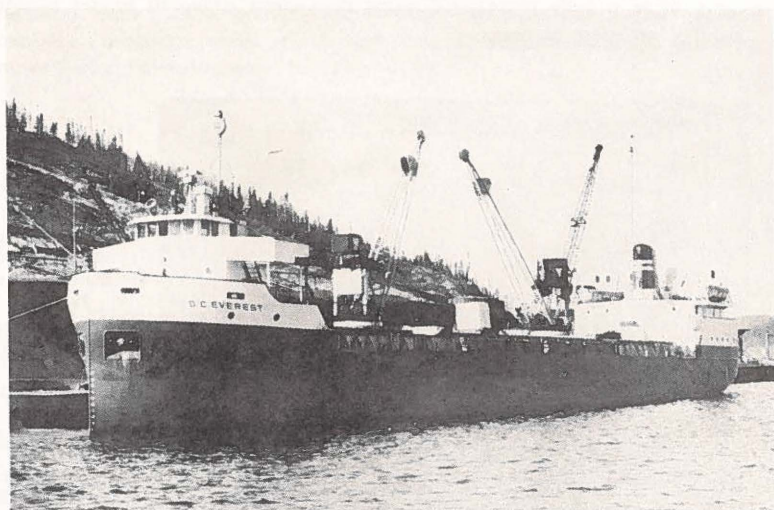




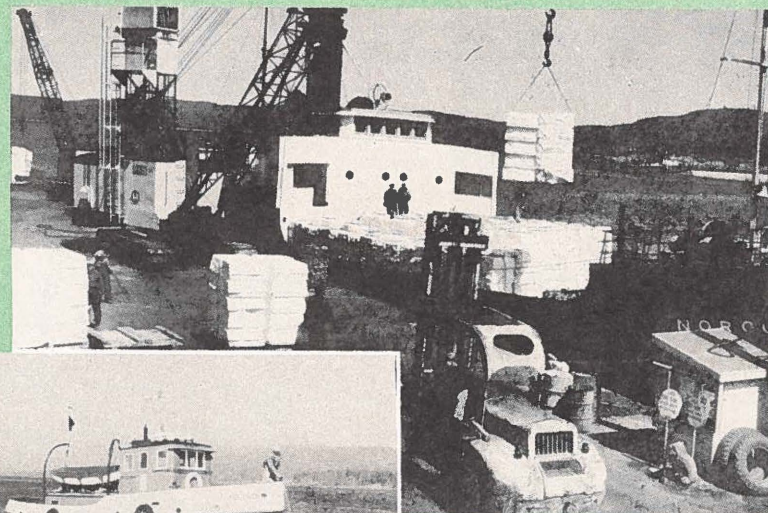
**M/V Puckasaw.**

Lake Superior plays a big part in the lives of everyone in Marathon. Over its broad waters comes most of the pulpwood and other raw materials used in the mill. Oil boats and coal boats, bearing fuel for the stream plant and town, are frequently at the docks. Outward bound, Marathon's own fleet carries much of the product of the mill to Canadian and American ports. The M/V "D. C. Everest" and the S.S. "Norco" of the company fleet, are known in many Great Lakes ports, where they deliver shipments of our high grade bleached sulphate wood pulp sheets.

To care for the many operations on the lake, which are necessary to keep the mill running, a large fleet of tugs is maintained, and the M/V "Puckasaw" also plies the waters of Superior on Company business.



**The M/V D. C. Everest.**



**Loading the S. S. Norco.**



**The Tug Polygon.**



**The Tug Allagash.**



**Utility Boat Cancel.**



**The Tug Peninsula.**

## What we work with:

The primary raw material of the operation is, of course, pulpwood, most of which is produced on our own Pic River Timber limits, and floated downstream to the mouth of the river, where it is taken in gigantic rafts to the mill.

Nothing goes to waste in the operation. Railroad ties and much building lumber comes from suitable logs which are rafted to the mill and carefully sorted there. Sawmill operations are carried on right in the woodyard and even the bark, which cannot be used for pulp, finds its way into the huge bark press and thence to the bark-burning unit which supplies an appreciable amount of the steam needed for the operation of the mill.

Down the Pic River comes most of the Pulpwood used at the mill.



**Pulpwood comes up the Jackladder**

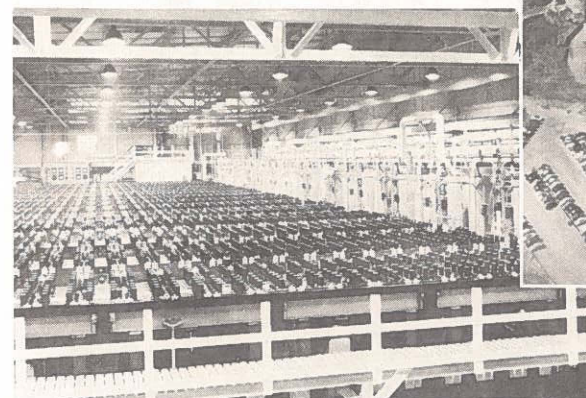


**Ties come from the sawmill.**

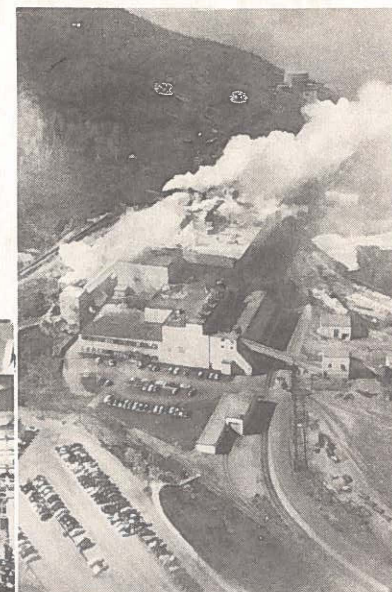


**Mill Woodyard and Pond.**

## Where we work:



**Cell room of the Chemical Plant.**



**Aerial shot of the Mill**

Construction of our mill was started in 1944.

It now produces well over 125,000 tons of high grade bleached sulphate wood pulp sheets each year. The daily average is over 350 tons, while a record day's run in excess of 450 tons has been established.

Most of the products of our mill eventually reaches the consumer in the form of food packaging.

Facts not fully appreciated by the general public are that we operate our own power plant, chemical plant, lake shipping facilities, and many town facilities and thus employ a large number of persons who are not directly connected with the manufacturing process.

While we do not make a completely finished product, it is such a refined product that it commands a much higher price than many other lines of paper, such as newsprint.

Our product brings to Canada anywhere from \$15 to \$20 million in U.S. funds each year, depending on the market price.

There are approximately 800 employees on the payroll, including mill and town, with our payroll running well over \$3,000,000.00 per year. All branches of labor are organized into labor unions under the A.F. of L., including office and hotel staffs.

A chemical plant, the only one of its kind in the western hemisphere, was completed in 1952 and has a normal production of 30 tons of chlorine per day, along with caustic, sodium sulphide, and hydrochloric acid, for use in the production of our pulp.

## We know we'll keep working:



**Boy Scouts and Girl Guides join in annual tree-planting project.**

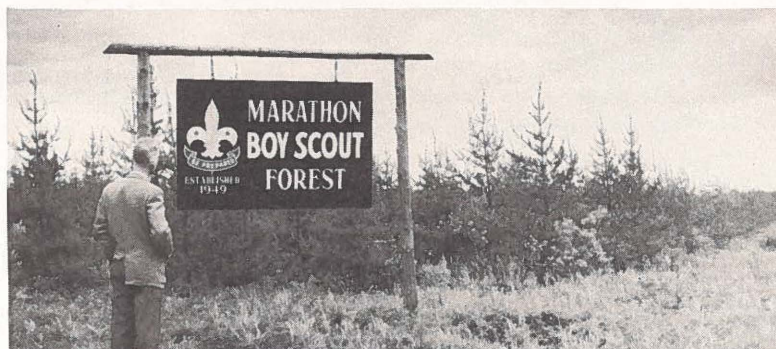
Careful management of the harvest of the forests is the keynote of the Marathon operation.

Long range planning calls for the cutting of the limits to be done in such a manner that crops will be guaranteed for perpetuity.

Every possible step is taken to produce favorable conditions for natural reforestation of areas cut over.

Areas which do not appear to lend themselves to natural regrowth are planted with young trees, to supply the pulpwood required in later years.

Each year our boy scouts and girl guides join with company employees in a great reforestation project. The Marathon boy scout forest is now rated one of the best in Canada.



**The work of earlier years is now showing results in the Boy Scout forest.**

## Where we live:

Marathon's residents live in 500 fully modern dwelling units, which include individual homes of various size and type, row houses, and apartment suites. Hotel and dormitory accommodation is provided for over 500 single employees.

Two new sub-divisions have recently been created, with sewer, water and electric power being laid in to 42 lots in one and 100 lots in the other.

About twenty-five per cent of the homes are now owned by the residents themselves, with many more planning to build in the near future.



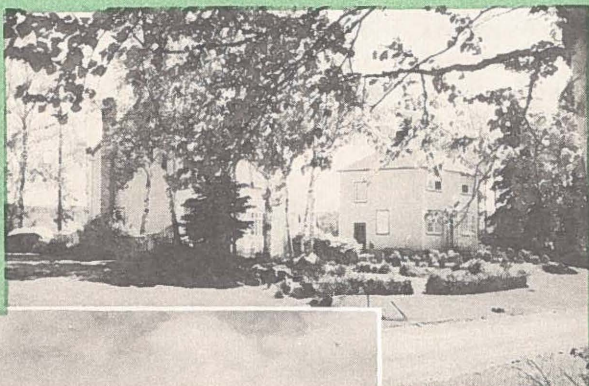
**Dormitories provide accommodation for many of the single employees.**



**A Birds-eye view of part of the town and mill.**

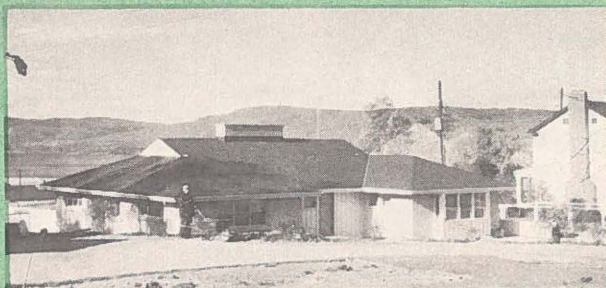
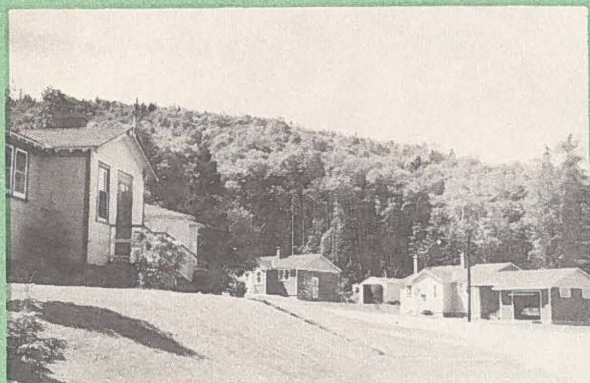
## What our homes look like:

Beautiful grounds are maintained by many residents.

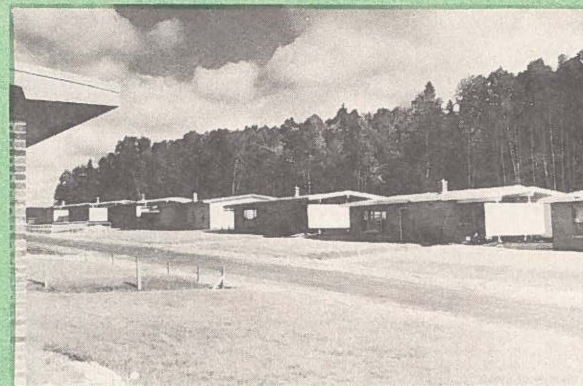


Bungalows and one of the larger homes.

The Manager's new Split-level home.



The soft green of Signal Hill provides a backdrop for Croy Court homes.



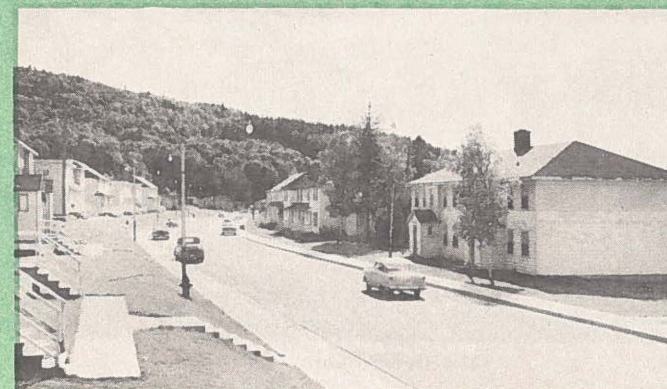
Ranch type homes in Northgate sub-division.

Homes on Sund Avenue in new sub-division.



The new Dagsrik Apartment House.

Part of the Mobile Home Park.



McCullough Street Apartment homes.

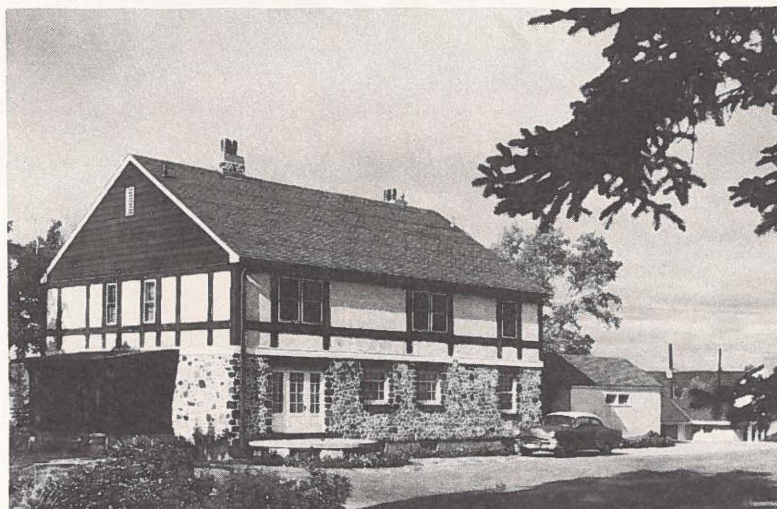


**The Everest Hotel.**

## Where our visitors are accommodated

The Company operates a sixty-room hotel with all modern conveniences. The hotel operation includes dining room, 300-seat cafeteria, coffee shop, beverage room, barber shop, beauty parlor, laundry and dry cleaning establishments.

The guest house looks out over the beautiful Marathon harbour and here each year many visitors make their headquarters.

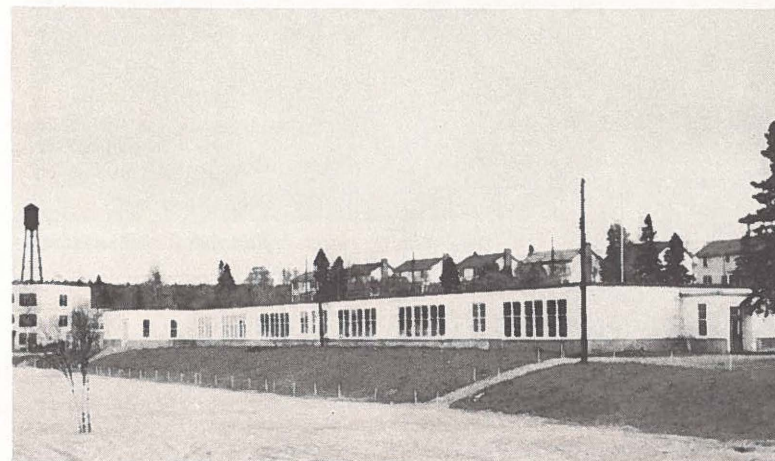


**The Guest House.**

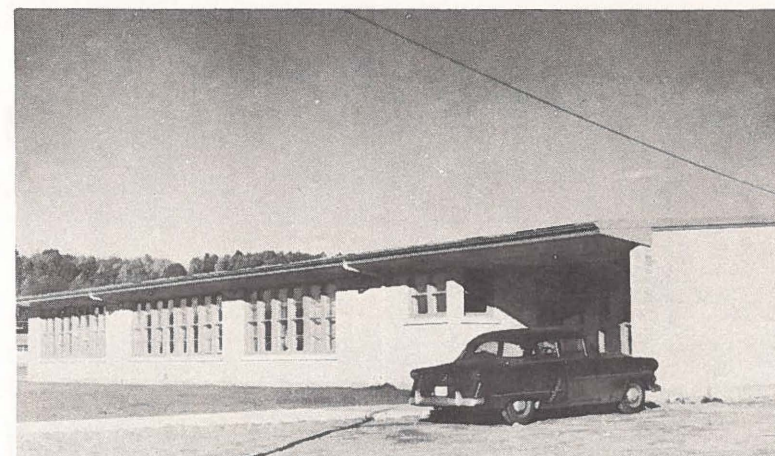
## Our version of "The Little Red School House"

When the children of Marathon go out to gain a working knowledge of "the three R's," their accommodation is a far cry from the little red schoolhouse of yesteryear.

Kindergarten, two public schools and a high school are conducted in modern well-lighted school buildings, containing 18 public school rooms and 5 high school rooms.

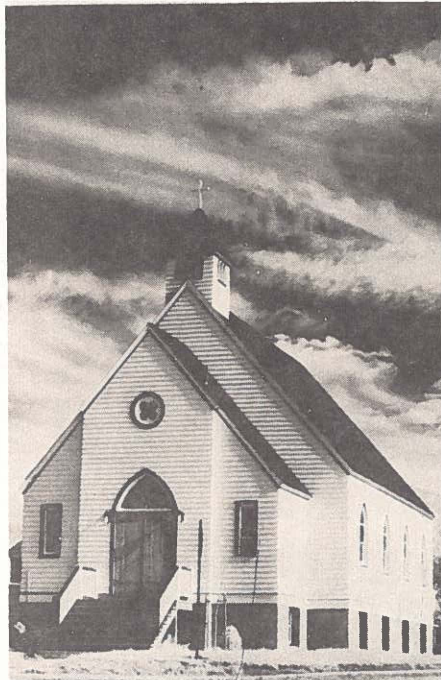


**Alexander Public School**



**Marathon High School**

## Where we worship:



Trinity Church.

There are two churches in Marathon, one a community church for all Protestant denominations and one for Roman Catholics.

A notably fine spirit of co-operation exists between the two.

Destroyed by fire in 1956, the reconstruction of Holy Saviour Roman Catholic Church was undertaken in the spring of 1957.

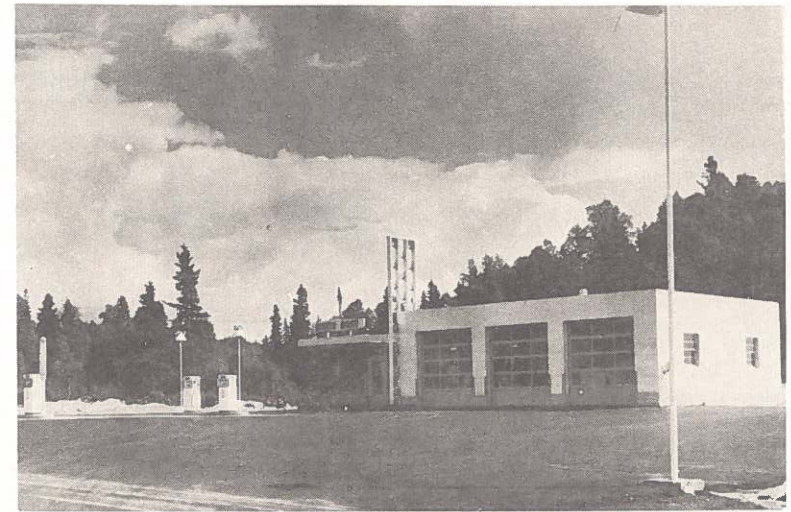
## Our Banking facilities:

The Toronto-Dominion Bank serves the residents of the area, offering a complete banking service in its modern bank building.



The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

## Our Garages and Service Stations:



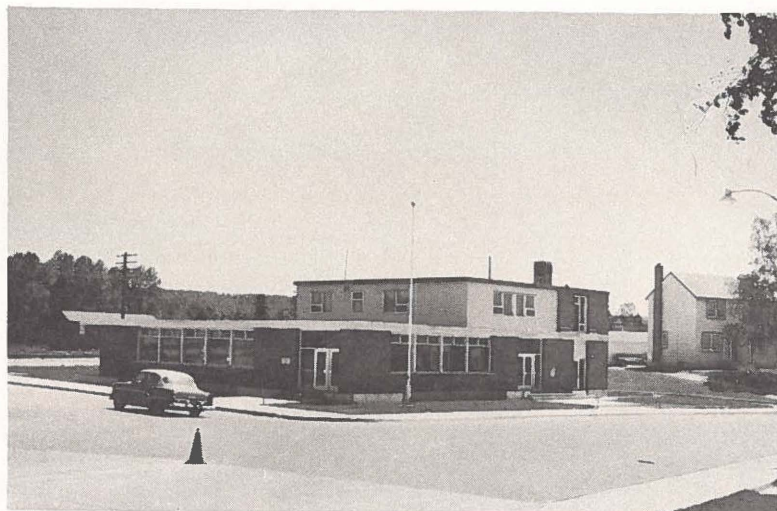
George Gee Sales and Service. White Rose Service Station and Garage.

Two modern garages fill the needs of the motoring public, offering all service station facilities, automotive repair, body work and painting.



Chisholm Motors. Garage, Service Station and Auto Body Shop.

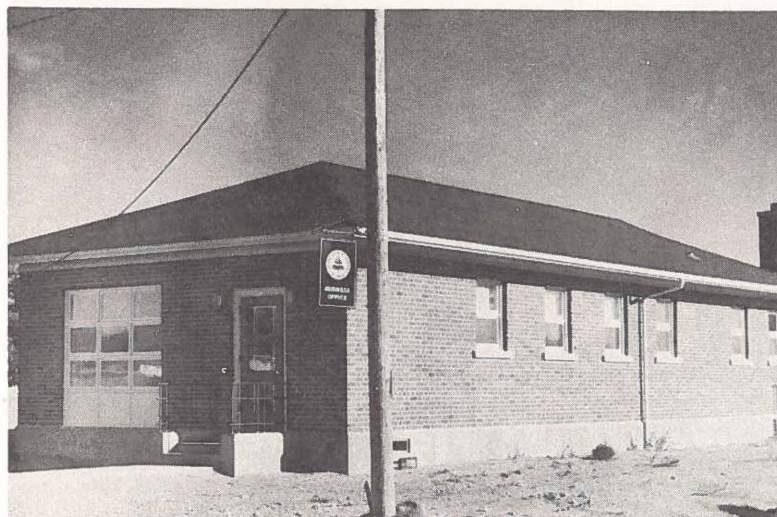
## Our postal and telephone service:



**The Fine Post Office Building.**

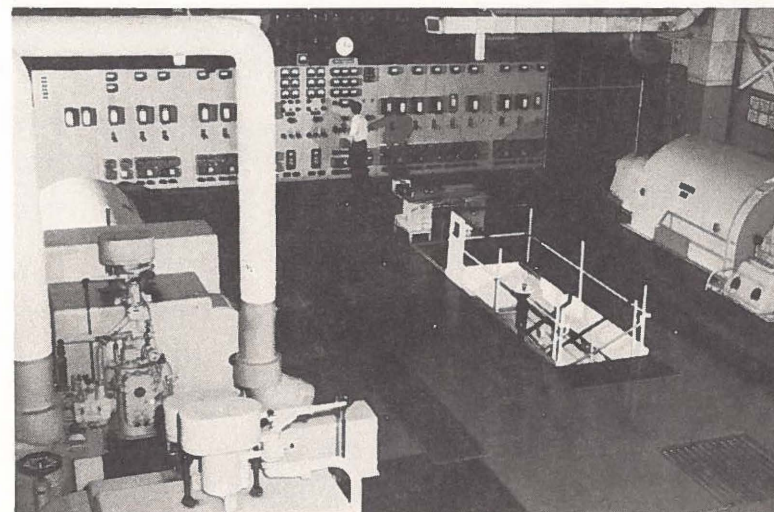
The up-to-the-minute post office building might well be envied by the residents of communities ten times as large. Street boxes are maintained and an extensive box lobby is available for subscribers.

The Bell Telephone Company operates a toll centre from its Marathon office, handling calls to all parts of the world for Marathon, White River, Manitouwadge, Schreiber, and Terrace Bay.



**The Bell Telephone Company's New Building.**

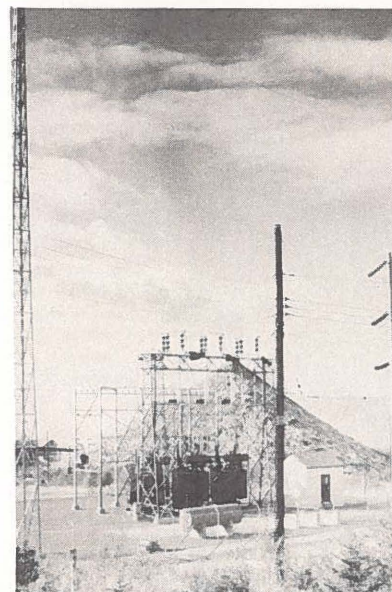
## Our power and TV services:



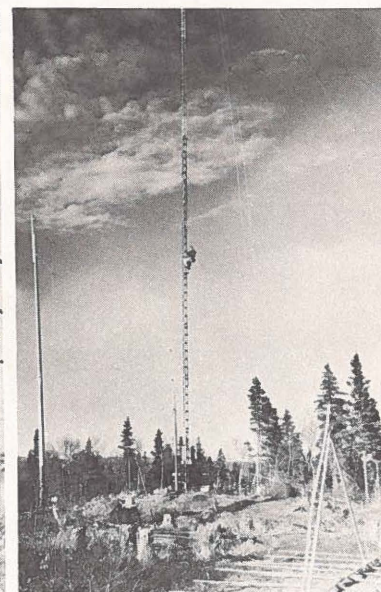
**A corner of our Turbine Room.**

Marathon still generates most of its own power for both mill and town. In 1956 Ontario Hydro power became available to the mill and is used in part of the operation.

No effort has been spared to make television reception available to the residents and good results have been obtained in this regard.

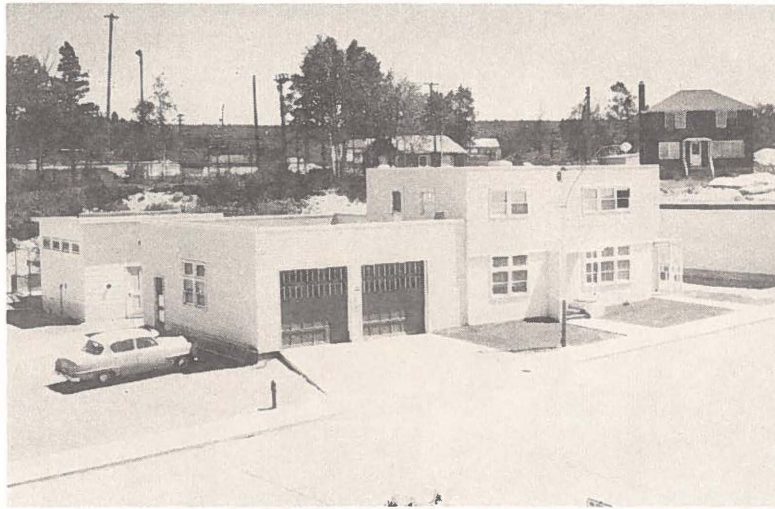


**The Ontario Hydro Electric Installation.**



**The T.V. Tower on Signal Hill.**

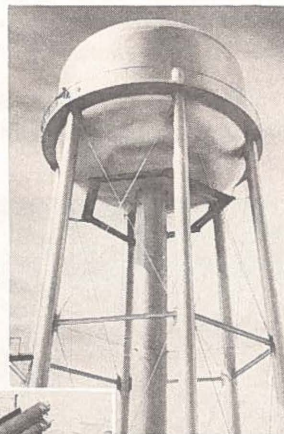
## Our police, fire and water services:



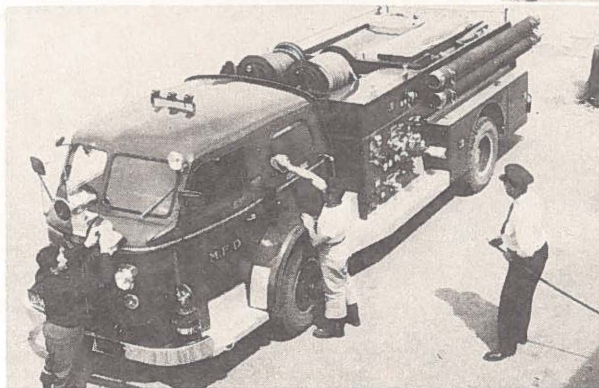
**Fire Hall, Police Station and Municipal Offices.**

The town of Marathon has its own police force, which, like its volunteer fire brigade, enjoys a fine reputation for the efficient protection given the residents.

An ample supply of excellent water is pumped from our deep wells, water so pure that despite constant testing it seldom requires any treatment.



**The Massive 208,000 gallon Water Tank is a town landmark.**



**The ultra Modern Fire Engine is kept spick and span.**

## Our health services:



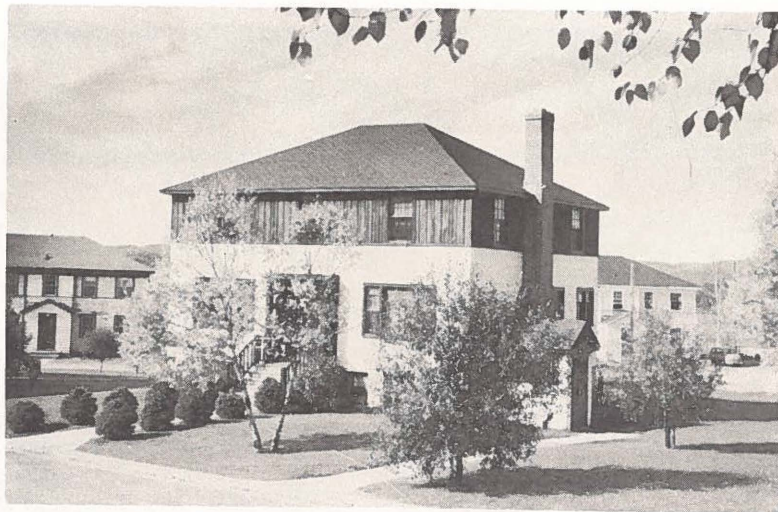
**Wilson Memorial Hospital.**

The twenty-bed Wilson Memorial Hospital is equipped and staffed to care for the health needs of the town in the most efficient and up-to-date way. Many of the residents from other parts of the district have had good reason to rejoice in the service provided in Marathon's hospital, with its fine operating facilities, and surgical, medical, and nursing services. Dental accommodation is also available.

Marathon's residents have received the benefits of one of the most complete Salk polio vaccine coverages in the province, as a result of the efforts of the Medical Officer of Health and the Municipal Board of Health.



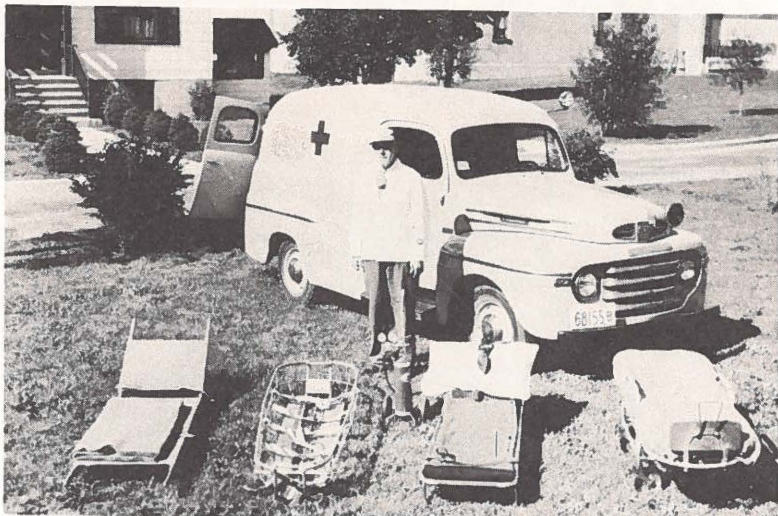
**Every child and many adult groups in the community received Salk Polio Vaccine.**



**The Nurses Residence.**

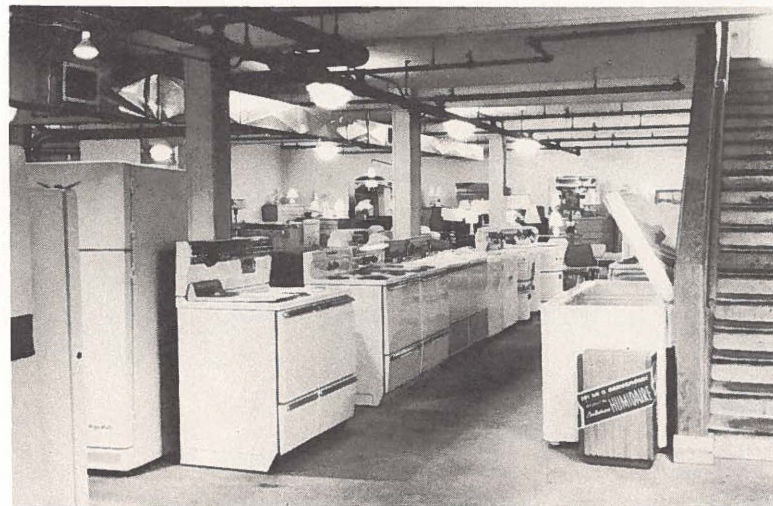
The nurses residence of Wilson Memorial Hospital is well appointed and offers every comfort to the members of the nursing staff when off duty.

The ambulance is ready for emergency calls at all hours of the day or night and is fully equipped, as is the first aid department maintained at the mill.



**The Ambulance and Equipment.**

## Where we shop:



**Chapples Electrical Appliance Dept.**

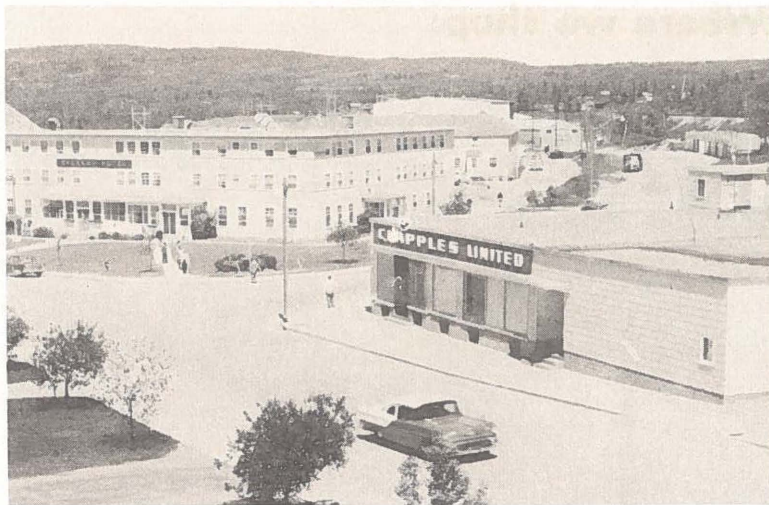


**The Lingerie Dept.**

A well laid-out junior department store caters to many of the shopping needs of the community. Merchandise of every kind is displayed by means of the most modern fixtures. The store operates a food department on the self-service principle and also maintains a neighbourhood food store branch.



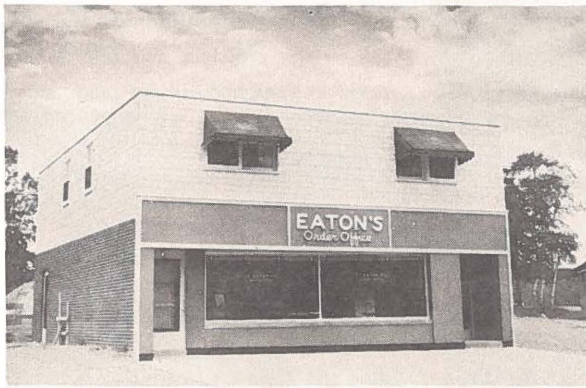
**Chapples Household Furnishings Dept.**



**A portion of Chapples Limited Department Store.**

In addition to the department store, two of the large mail order firms maintain order offices here. Several small retail outlets specialize in various lines and a large shopping centre is planned for the future.

Other public buildings include: Government Liquor Commission store, Brewers Retail & Wholesale warehouse, shoe repair shop, photo studio, and Ontario Department of Lands & Forests ranger station.



**Eatons Order Office.**

**Simpsons-Sears Order Office.**



## Service activities:



**The Marathon Armoury**

The Federal Government's Marathon Armoury houses the activities of a unit of the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment (M), with its Pipe Band. A very active Cadet Corps is affiliated with this unit. Use of the facilities of the building has been extended to the strong, local branch of the Canadian Legion.

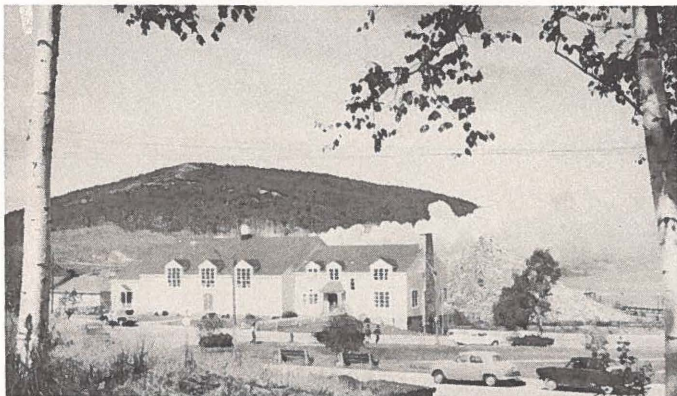


**Cadet Corps inspected by visiting General.**



**The Pipe Band at the Armistice Service.**

## Our recreational facilities:



**The Recreation Hall.**



**Interior of the Theatre.**

**The Rod and Gun Club Lodge.**



**The Strand Theatre.**



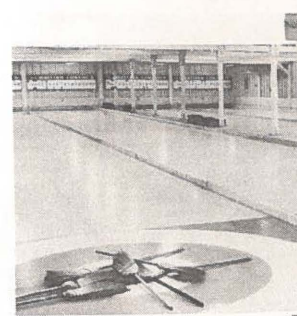
Hard indeed to please is the person who fails to find activities to meet his or her taste in Marathon. Dozens of organizations maintain busy schedules for their members and add much to the life of the town, and there are also many recreational and cultural activities open to the general public.

In addition to the many recreational clubs, the following organizations are active: Home & School Association, Canadian Legion with Ladies Auxiliary, Moose Lodge with Ladies Chapter, Scouts and Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies, Church Clubs, Credit Union, Rod and Gun Club, Community Association, and Public Speaking Group.

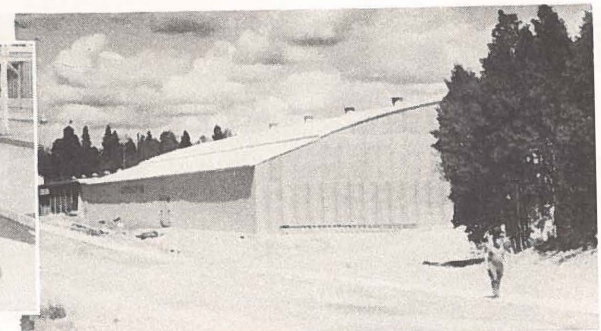
The recreation hall, an extensive building, contains reading lounges, auditorium, meeting rooms, badminton courts, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, and of course provision for dancing, both modern and old time. Classes in crafts and hobbies are conducted and a well-stocked public library is located in the building.

The theatre, which seats 520 persons, brings to our town the very newest films, with three program changes weekly.

## When King Winter reigns supreme:



**The Curling Club.**



**The Memorial Arena.**

With the arrival of winter, ice sports come into their own. The curling rink, with its four sheets of ice, accommodates a large men's club, a ladies club, and a junior curlers club, and Marathon's annual bonspiel is attended by curlers from points hundreds of miles away.

Ice hockey, pleasure skating and fancy skating are feature attractions in the Marathon Community Memorial Arena. Hockey is deservedly popular, with leagues ranging from tiny Pee Wees to Intermediate players who can meet the best in Canada.

An excellent ski run, complete with tow, has been constructed on the slopes of one of our mountains and accommodates beginners as well as advanced devotees of this sport.



**Our Figure Skaters start early.**

**Hockey is tops in popularity.**



## Our summer playground:



**Fishing to please everyone.**



**Quite often the ladies catch the prize winners.**

Fishing and hunting rate high in popularity as summer recreational activities. Archery is fast gaining stature as a major interest and shooting clubs for shotgun, rifle and revolver attract many participants.

Our heated swimming pool, built as a joint effort of the residents and the Company, the former doing the work voluntarily and the latter supplying the material, is a popular spot during warm summer days.

Tennis, baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse are all sports which draw good support, with track and field appealing to the student groups. Basketball is gaining a strong hold, with local teams offering tough competition to all comers.

Extensive picnic grounds are open to the public and the Rod and Gun Club lodge and Boy Scout Camp offer their special privileges to their members.



**A fine, heated edition of "the old swimmin' hole".**



**Little League Ball is Big Time.**

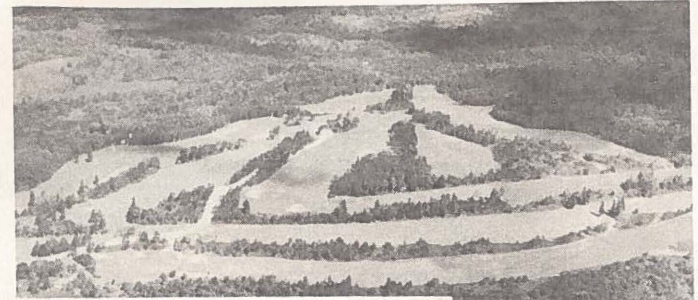
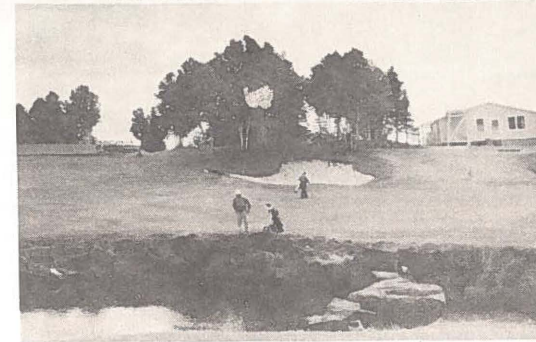


**Tennis by day or night.**



**Soccer by players from many lands.**

## We're mighty proud of our golf course



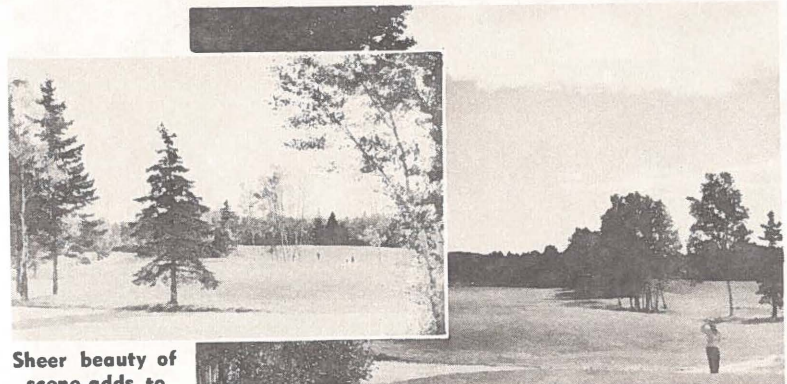
**The Peninsula Golf Course from the air.**

**It's a Sporty Course.**

Just ask anyone who has played golf on Marathon's Peninsula Golf Course and you'll have the answer why we're proud of it.

Carved out of the heart of the woodlands, under the direction of the famous Stanley Thompson & Associates, it has proven to be everything he claimed for it.

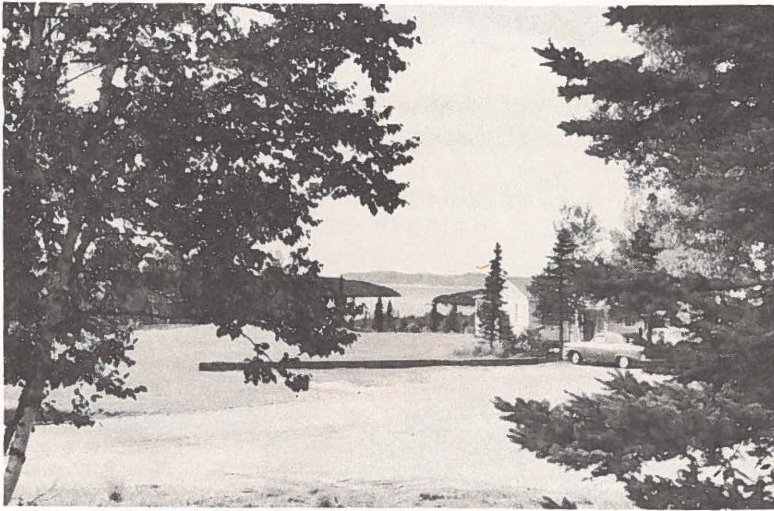
The Stanley Thompson group was responsible for the construction of some of the country's great golf courses, including the Banff Springs Golf Course and the St. Andrews Golf Course. When Mr. Thompson selected the site of the Peninsula course he stated it had everything he ever hoped to find for the layout of a sporty course.



**Sheer beauty of scene adds to playing pleasure.**

**Looking down one of the fairways.**

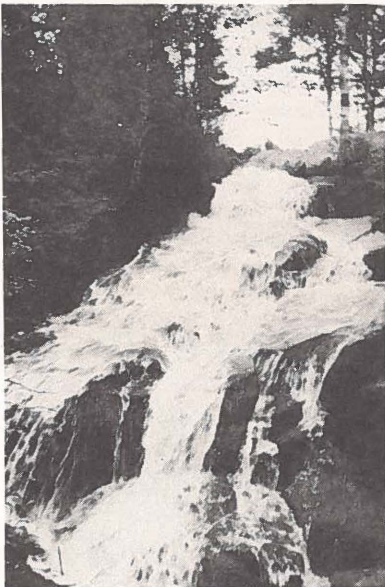
## Nature, too, smiles on our golf course:



Scene from the Clubhouse.

Before we leave the subject of the golf course it is meet to comment on the beauty of its setting. Look out from any tee, from any green or from any point on the fairways and a vista of beauty greets the eye.

The course is operated by the Municipality, with its affairs being guided by the Board of the Improvement District and the Marathon Municipal Recreation Commission, the body which advises the local government on all matters pertaining to recreation.



The Falls at the Clubhouse.



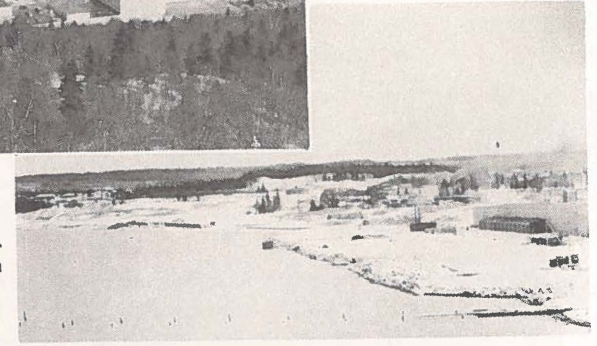
Scene below the Clubhouse.

## We glance backward:

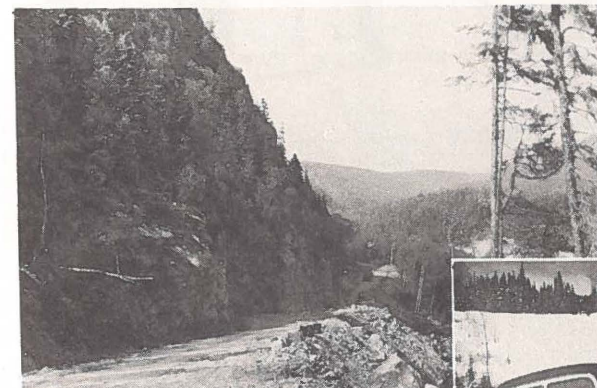


The passing years have seen many changes.

Piers from old rail-road docks still in evidence as the mill grew.



To the pioneers of the town it seems only yesterday that the first heavy equipment landed and started clearing operations for the building of the town of Marathon. Little more than a decade ago quiet, wooded lands were to be found where now stands a great industry, with all its many modern facilities. Changes to stagger the imagination have taken place with the passing of the years and continue to take place as season follows season. Those who have lived here for any length of time grow used to such things, those seeing them for the first time marvel, but find it hard to visualize "the old days."



The opening of the first highway link was a great event.

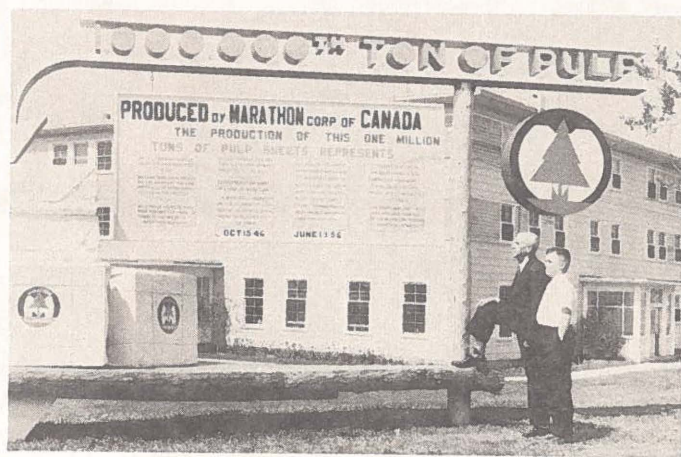
A trip to Heron Bay was an experience.



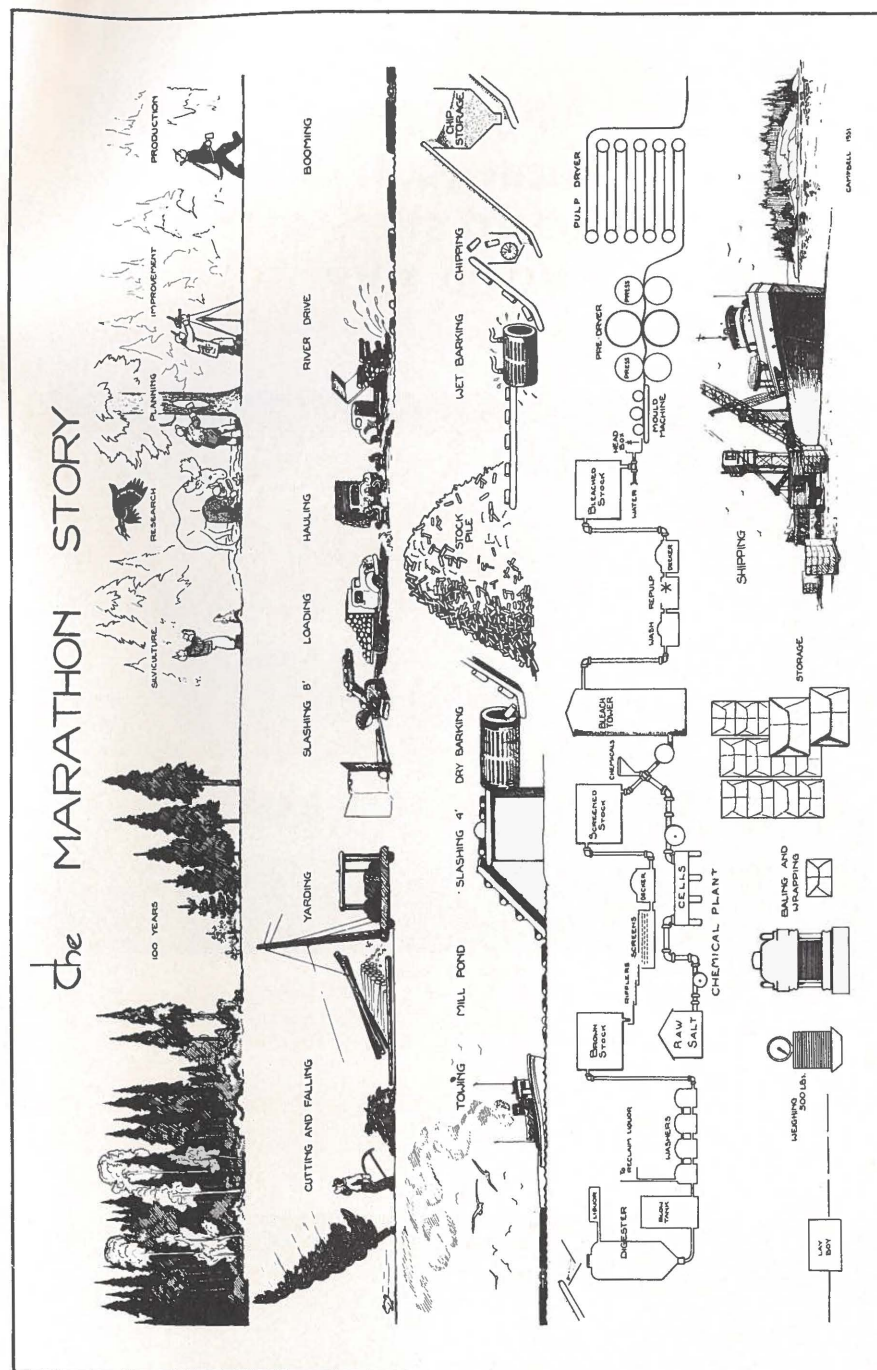
**Spring View.**

In June 1956, in the tenth year of its operation, the mill produced its one-millionth ton of pulp. In the same year many employees completed ten years of service with the Company. Marathon has become home to a great number of people, not just a place to work. They are working on the second million tons and looking ahead to the millions to follow.

Knowing this, the people of Marathon face the future with confidence!

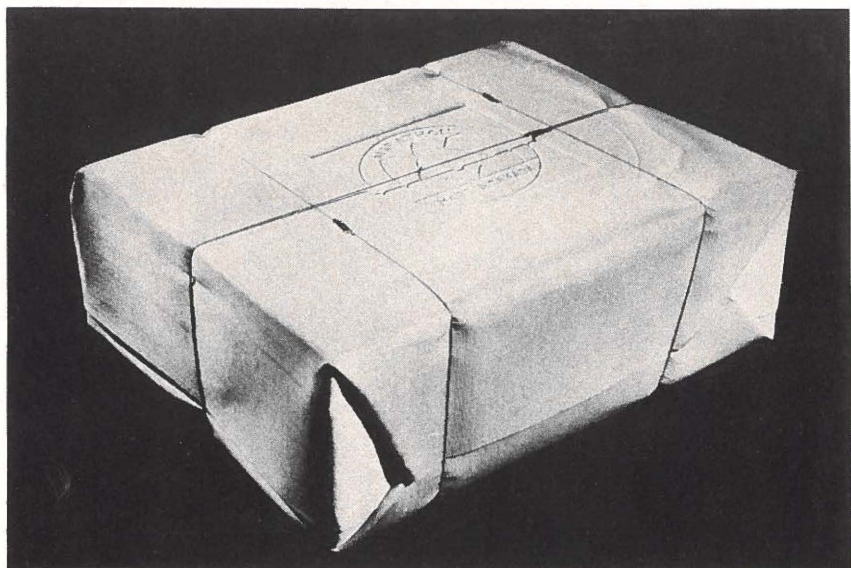


**1,000,000 tons by June 1956.**



**Sketch depicting pulp manufacture**

**PRODUCING  
HIGH GRADE  
BLEACHED SULPHATE  
WOOD PULP**



**Bale of pulp**

*All Photographs by Glenn Douglas*

**MARATHON CORPORATION OF CANADA LTD.**  
**MARATHON, ONTARIO**