



## MY FATHER "PAPA JOE" WAS AN ENGINEER ON THE GRAND BEACH RUN

One of my earliest memories of Grand Beach was the large gathering of campers that met each of the trains arriving from Winnipeg.

Usually, trains ran directly from Winning to Grand Beach without making stops. Occasionally, some trains made a "flag stop" at West Transcona. Trains made a stop only if there were passengers waiting on the station platform to entrain for Grand Beach.

The station consisted of a remodelled railway boxcar with a gravelled loading platform.

The main reason for the many campers at Grand Beach meeting the arriving trains was to obtain "stubs" from the passengers getting off the trains. On the other hand, many of the arriving passengers would not be returning to Winnipeg on that day, and it gave them a chance to sell their return portion of their tickets (the "stubs"). While they waited in the large station area at Grand Beach, their eyes were constantly focussed on the "red railway water tank" at Grand Marais. The arriving trains were first seen as they rounded the gentle curve on the east side of the "red water tank".

While the train was stopped at Grand Beach, there was a lot of hustling between the arriving passengers, who wanted to sell their "stubs" and the campers who wanted to buy them in order to return to Winnipeg.



Chuck Guarino



## What was it like, Papa?

Arriving passengers had little or no problem in selling their "stubs" to the waiting campers.

While the train was stopped at Grand Beach, the trainmen attached a special train whistle at the rear of the train, in preparation of backing up to the passenger loading platform at Grand Marais. The Train Conductor stood in the vestibule of the rear coach, and intermittently sounded the shrill train whistle to warn people that the train was backing up. If necessary he could stop the train with a pull on the emergency cord.

The train backed up to the station platform at Grand Marais, which was just about opposite to where Doris's General store is now located.

While the Grand Marais passengers were disembarking, the trainmen lined up the switch to Victoria Beach. There were regular stops at Belair, (Green's store), Hillside Beach, and Albert Beach. Occasionally, the train stopped "on flag" at a scout camp which later was renamed "Lester Beach". My grandchildren and great-grandchildren often ask "Papa how do you know about all this? Then I tell them how lucky I was to have had a father "Papa-Joe", who had been an engineer on the Grand Beach run and took me along (to ride in the engine) on many of his trips.

See you in our next issue.

"Papa-Chuck" Guarino