



The Large Swings and Airplane Ride at Grand Beach in 1941

If you are ever in the vicinity of the Grand Beach Park Office, take a look at the tall trees that are there. You will notice that there is an area approximately 100 feet in diameter that does not have tall trees. There may be some smaller trees that have grown recently,

but it is quite noticeable that there is a large circular area that does not have any old, very tall trees.

This was the area in which the CNoR later to become the CNR, had constructed a large airplane ride. I think there were about eight airplanes. Each was suspended by four large steel cables from the top of a 100 ft. steel tower.

At rest, the airplanes were about two feet off the ground. The steps to enter the aircraft were about 1 foot off the ground. When the operator had everyone seated, he would enter the small building at the base of the tower and start the ride. As the tower turned more quickly the aircraft rose higher until they were flying sideways, about 40 or 50 feet above the ground. It was truly a “simulated” aircraft ride.



Chuck Guarino



What was it like, Papa?

The air industry as we know it today, had not yet arrived, so taking a flight in a “simulator” like this ride was truly exciting. At the peak of the ride, the aircraft appeared to be flying sideways and were more than 40 feet above the ground. The cost for the ride

was five cents, and it lasted about five minutes. Also nearby, towards the lake side of the area, was a huge outdoor checkerboard. The squares in the board were about two feet square. The checkers were made of wood and looked much like a curling rock. There also were larger “check-

ers” to serve as “Kings”. There was a bench on each side of the checker board for spectators. It was a great favourite with both young and the old. Farther along, and towards the lake, were the large swings. There always was a waiting line for people, young and old, to use them.

See you again, in our next issue.

“Papa Chuck” Guarino