

Blue Island, IL Back in the Day ...

[February 21 ~ Memorial Park Airplane Crash](#)

From The Keyboard Of Joe Gatrell

Not long ago, someone asked for details of the plane that crash-landed near Memorial Park. Here are the details as they appeared in the Sun-Standard. The day was Tuesday, February 21, 1933. Pilot Ray Colton was a contractor who worked for C. W. Helm of Elgin. The company provided information for the weather bureau. Mr. Colton was 18,000 feet over Lake Calumet when the engine of the small plane died.

Mr. Colton later told the Sun-Standard that he was "testing weather" when the engine just stopped. "The temperature was forty degrees below zero and the wind velocity was 80 miles per hour when I started to glide. I headed northwest into the wind."

Lois Sandquist Stewart ~ Hope Uncle Ray was OK and that there weren't any fatalities.

JG ~ "I was slipping along, gradually working myself down. It was like going down a flight of stairs. Finally I saw the lights of a street ahead and chanced it."

JG ~ One of the wings of the plane caught a wire, which prevented a clean landing onto Burr Oak. Instead it took out two posts before coming to rest against another one at the southwest corner of Memorial Park at the B&O Railroad tracks. The tail of the plane was in Burr Oak Avenue.

JG ~ The plane was wrecked, but the pilot was okay. Ray Colton walked to the police station. BIPD responded by sending officers to the crash sight. They were more worried about gawkers and souvenir hunters than anything else. In the meantime, Mr. Colton took a bus to Chicago to get someone to remove the plane.

JG ~ A photo of the plane at the crash site appeared in the February 24, 1933 edition of the Sun-Standard. You can see it on microfilm at the Blue Island Public Library.

Candy Carlson Brenner ~ Wow....my dad's family lived at 126th & Maple at that time! So close to where the plane came down.

Janet Shoemaker-Steele Thanks for sharing

JG ~ Uncle Ray? Lois, you are a hoot.

Doris Weber Aldridge Janet, How are you?

Sharren Davis ~ Finally,, something that went on before I got there.

Janet Shoemaker-Steele Not bad. How are you?