

Daring Young Bird Man Electrified City With One of Most Dangerous Flights in the History of Aviation

BEACHY'S TRIP YESTERDAY WAS HAZARDOUS ONE

"The most daring and dangerous flight ever made in this country, if not in the world," is the way Glenn H. Curtiss characterizes the aerial trip made by Lincoln Beachy yesterday afternoon over the City of Bridgeport.

That the young aviator's life was in jeopardy every second while he was in the air over the streets of Bridgeport, no one can doubt. The flight



(Photo By Staff Photographer)
LINCOLN BEACHY

is absolutely unparalleled in the history of aviation.

There are a thousand contingencies that may arise, to stop the motor of an aeroplane, or to prevent it from working properly. If any one of these emergencies had occurred while Beachy was hovering over Bridgeport, he would have been lost. There was no possible place for him to alight.

When Glenn Curtiss flew from Albany to New York, he did not take the risk that Beachy took yesterday. When Charles K. Hamilton flew from New York to Philadelphia, he was not exposed to the danger. In each case the aviators were passing over country dotted with open meadows, or over water, in which they might easily have alighted, had anything gone wrong with their motor.

But it was different in Beachy's case. For fully three-quarters of his aerial trip he was passing directly over a closely-built city, and to alight would have been almost surely a fatal crash.

Beachy's flight yesterday was entirely impromptu and never would have been allowed, had Glenn Curtiss suspected that the young aviator was planning it.

It was a fitting introduction for the opening of the Bridgeport Aerodrome, and for the first day of Bridgeport's great aviation meet. The 1,000 spectators inside the enclosure went wild when they saw him start off for the city and gave him a great reception when he returned and alighted, after some hair-raising glides and dips.

Mr. Beachy started from the aviation grounds with instructions from Mr. Curtiss to make a few circles around the field. Once in the air he couldn't make his fingers behave, and started off grandly in the direction of Bridgeport.

To the crowds at the aviation field he soon became the merest speck in the distance, but a tremendous uproar from the factory whistles showed that Bridgeport was welcoming its unexpected aerial visitor.

Picking out The Stratfield, the biggest building in the city, Beachy made a circuit around it and sailed over the principal business streets while Bridgeport gasped in amazement. The aeroplane was sailing beautifully and looked like an immense bird in the sky. Beachy guided his machine over the water front and then started back for the aerodrome at express train speed. He concluded his performance with a hair-raising series of volplane glides and alighted. He had been in the air 16 minutes and covered about 12 miles. His greatest altitude was 3,000 feet.

On alighting he kept the whole length of the field between himself and Curtiss.

"I hate to hear what he'll say to me, when he gets me," said Beachy, with all the glee of a schoolboy who has played a clever trick on the master.

Asked if he had heard the whistles, Mr. Beachy replied in the negative.

"The engine was making so much noise I couldn't hear much else," he said, "but when I was passing over Bridgeport I did hear a funny sound. I thought that something was going wrong with the motor and I turned around and looked back at it once or twice. That must have been the whistles."

"It seems so natural for me to fly over a city that I just can't help it," added Beachy; "I used to do it all the time in my dirigible. Bridgeport looks beautiful from up above."



(Photo By Staff Photographer)
BEACHY IN FLIGHT