



## **THE MOONLIGHT INN**

*The “Moonlight Inn“ at Victoria Beach will always have a very special place in my memories. Around 1931 or 1932, my father was a locomotive fireman with the CNR on the regular Victoria Beach run. Often he took me with him on his run to Victoria Beach. I was a youngster about 10 or 11 years old, and I found it a very exciting adventure which began at the old CNR roundhouse area in Fort Rouge and ended at The Moonlight Inn, at Victoria Beach.*

*My father used to arrange for me to use the brakeman’s seat, which was just ahead of his. It was a narrow area, with the locomotive boiler-head on my right and the cab window on my left. But, it gave me a wonderful view of the track ahead from another small window at the front.*

*After leaving the “UNION” station in Winnipeg, and making train stops at West Transcona, Grand Marais, Grand Beach, Hillside Beach, and Albert Beach, we would finally arrive at Victoria Beach.*

*After the passengers disembarked at the station, we turned the locomotive on the “Y”, which was located where the tennis courts now exist. Then, we left the locomotive with a “charge-hand” who looked after it until we began our return trip to Winnipeg. We then went to the enginemen’s bunkhouse, which was located just south of the Victoria Beach General Store.*

**Chuck Guarino**



## **What was it like, Papa?**

*We always visited “THE MOONLIGHT INN” after each trip. It was the major meeting place for all the cottagers. It was also one of the first buildings along with the railway station that had been built at Victoria Beach. The “Inn” had several rooms that could be “rented” by visitors. These were located on the upper level of the “Inn”.*

*There was no electricity or phones available. To send a message to someone in Winnipeg, one had to have the operator at the railway station send a “telegram”. Because there was no electricity, the “INN” was illuminated by “kerosene” lamps. The “INN” had a great kitchen, where food was prepared on a “wood-burning” kitchen stove.*

*The cuisine was excellent, and the camaraderie was wonderful. There was no road into Victoria Beach and the roadways as they exist today, were not available. The cottagers had to follow single, well-worn walking trails to their cottages. I truly treasure the memories of visiting “**THE MOONLIGHT INN**” after each trip that I made with my dear old wonderful father.*

*I sincerely look forward to seeing you again in our next issue of “**What was it like Papa?**”*

**“Papa Chuck” Guarino**