

The Giddings News

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GIDDINGS BOY PARACHUTE JUMPER

Thurston (Crackers) Carlisle who has developed into a professional parachute jumper this year is here for a few days with his mother, and will do a jump at the fair grounds July 4 when the Firemen stage their barbecue. He made his first jump March 12 at Brownwood when one of the members of the flying circus was unable to make the jump. He did so well at the job and liked it so much that he has been making a jump each day and two on Sundays until a few days ago when the stunt flying season closed.

Thurston says he likes to step off into space at the average height of about 3,000 ft, ranging from 2,500 to 4,000 ft. altitude. He prefers to step off rather than have the parachute pull him off because there is less danger of the parachute becoming tangled in the tail of the airplane. Most of the jumps, however, are made by the parachute pulling the jumper from the plane. He makes his live drop with at least 200 ft. clearance below the plane before he opens his parachute. The U. S. Dept. of Commerce demands that each jumper carry two parachutes, one an emergency which is strapped to his shoulder and is pulled from underneath the plane as he jumps off.

Thurston says he never gets dizzy in the air and has a peculiar feeling as he steps off, but is soon in the drop which is thrilling and full of interest every second of time. He sometimes gets rough bumping when striking the ground and has had the breath knocked out of himself, but never was injured. The air currents sometimes prevent opening up the parachute readily. He had a parachute to rip once with him, but he landed without using his emergency parachute. The pilot of the airplane directs the taking off of the jumper. He has to test the air for cross currents, for "holes" in the air, for pressure, and also be responsible for a good landing place. The jumper acts only on orders of the pilot when to get out of the plane and then when to step off.

Thurston will perform at the Firemen's Barbecue July 4 at the fair grounds. See the Giddings boy in his thrilling take-off.