

### **Our first airplane ride.**

Pa rented land in Slab Town in the early 1950's.

Slab Town is the historic and unofficial name of that part of the Dayton community that is on the west bank of the Crow River.

It is actually in Wright County; Dayton is in Hennepin.

In the later 1800's a dam sawmill was built across the Crow.

Quite likely that Slab Town came by its name honestly.

There wasn't much farmable land in Slab Town, mostly just one-acre or two-acre chunks.

There was one five-acre, odd shaped piece that bordered the county road.

That largest field was owned by Clarence McAlpine.

The year of this story is around 1954.

Pa rented the Slab Town fields probably from the end of the 1940's until Croteau's bought their farm.

Pa and I visited Clarence's on a bright beautiful spring evening after milking.

Clarence was a WWII veteran and knew how to fly an airplane.

Many vets had learned to fly during the War. In the 1950s private aviation was very common.

Piper Cubs were cheap, and a person put a private strip almost anywhere.

Clarence had a yellow Cub. His landing strip was on Ray Vasseur's farm just across the county road.

Pa's purpose was to talk about crop plans.

When that was done Clarence asked if we would like a ride in his plane.

I think that was Pa's first.

It sure was mine.



Clarence's plane looked much like this picture.

The plane was remarkably light and flimsy to a farm who worked with tractors.

I was not afraid, just amazed.

It was a low and slow flight over our neighbor's farms, Dayton, Elk River, with very slow passes over our farm and homestead.

I could see the barn roofs, cattle in the pastures, pigs in mud, farmers working in their fields, cars and trucks on the road, and people waving.

It was terrific.