



THE POPULAR TWIST OVER ride purchased 35 years ago, will not be operated this year due to a deteriorating floor and old seat belts. The Twist Over was purchased from a Wichita company.

— Floyd Lotker photo

# The Looper has brought fun

By MARYLOU OLSON

Among the many wonderful memories Floyd Lotker has about the Decatur County Fair is when the Decatur County Amusement Authority purchased the Looper ride (Twist Over) in the fall of 1973.

He said he was serving as president of the Decatur County Amusement Authority when the carnival opened for the first time in August of that year. Besides the

Ferris wheel, it also boasted kiddie cars and swings, made by Bill Matchett, concession stands and family games on the midway.

The idea for the home-owned carnival came about after a group from Oberlin went to Hydro, Okla., to visit their carnival, which had been in operation for 15 years and was run by volunteers.

After the group returned, plans were made for a home-owned carnival in Decatur County.

The first ride was the Ferris Wheel and later the swings Merry-Go-Round, made possible by a \$15,000 donation from Ward Sauvage, the Octopus and the Looper were added. The train was later donated by Harry and Betty Schrammel, after it was built in Strasburg, Colo.

The Looper or Twist Over ride has brought fun and laughter to all ages over the past 35 years, Mr. Lotker said. However, due to the many years of use, the floor of the ride is dete-

riorating and the present Amusement Authority has determined that due to safety hazards, the popular ride will be closed.

The successful purchase of the Looper came about when Floyd and Dottie Lotker were in Wichita visiting relatives and learned that Chance Manufacturing had a ride on their lot for sale. The amazing part, said Mr. Lotker, was that the owner said they had \$7,000 or \$8,000 wrapped up in it, but told them

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