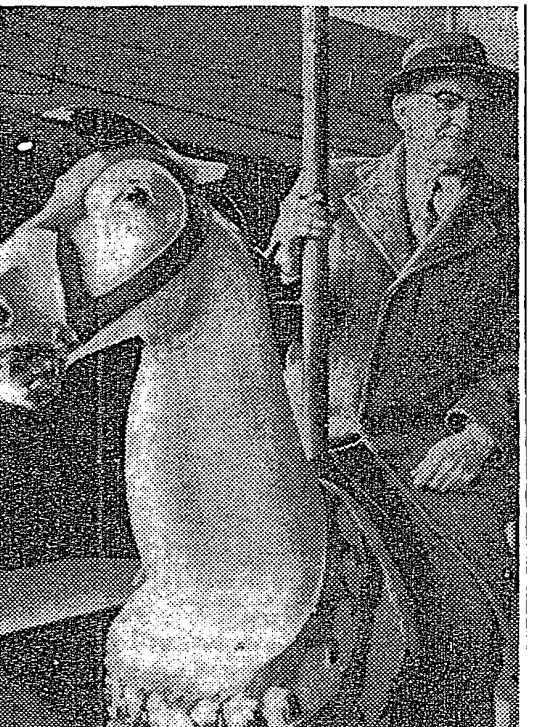
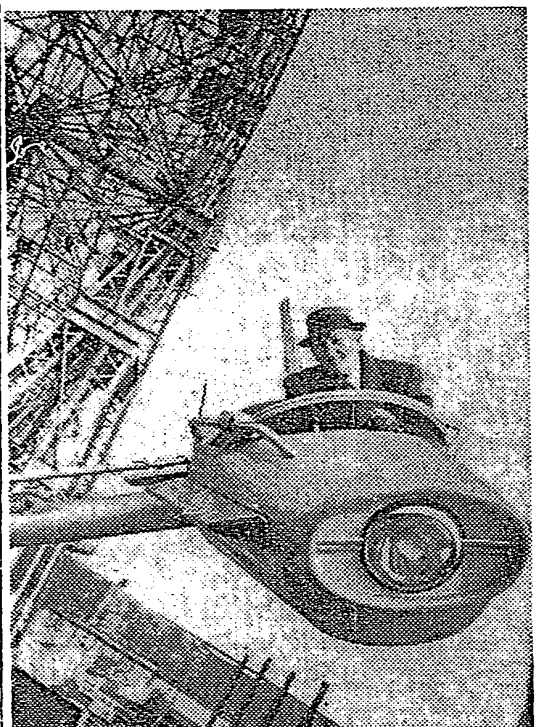


Coney Island Ride Inspector, 62, Begins His 20th Year



William H. Olsen, of the city's Department of Buildings, on a roller coaster yesterday



He checks the new "Satellite Jet" and goes for a spin on a carousel

William H. Olsen is back enjoying his beloved Coney Island rides for the twentieth year.

In the winter Mr. Olsen is a Brooklyn elevator inspector for the Department of Buildings, but during the spring, summer and early fall he keeps an official municipal eye on the safety of Coney Island's 120 amusement rides.

For six days a week this involves looking at, listening to, and especially riding in roller coasters, Ferris wheels, the parachute jump, carousels and other such items. Mr. Olsen is 62 years old but still enjoys the rides as much as any boy.

Some of the Coney Island rides opened last week-end, but the majority of them will

not be in operation until Easter Sunday. Mr. Olsen has to check all of them before they obtain a city permit.

The only new major ride in Coney Island this year is a complicated German thing called the "Satellite Jet." It is a vertical post with twelve arms. At each end of each arm there is a car with seats for two. The whole affair spins at a dizzying pace, the vertical arm tilts, and each car can be controlled by the rider to go up and down.

Before he allowed anyone to get into it yesterday, Mr. Olsen had the operator load 450 pounds of sandbags in each car, and the apparatus was put through its cycle. He then had half of the cars emptied. The machine passed.

In the twenty years that Mr. Olsen has been inspecting the rides at Coney Island not one casualty has been attributed to equipment failure.

He acknowledges that he has two favorites — the Cyclone roller coaster and the parachute jump at Steeplechase Park.

But there is one ride he does not enjoy — the "Loop-a-plane" where cars swing around in a complete loop.

"A woman came out of that once, sat down and called for an ambulance," he reports. "She said that the thing had hurt her."

"So I had to ride it to find out what she was complaining about. All that happened to her was what happened to me—she was scared stiff."