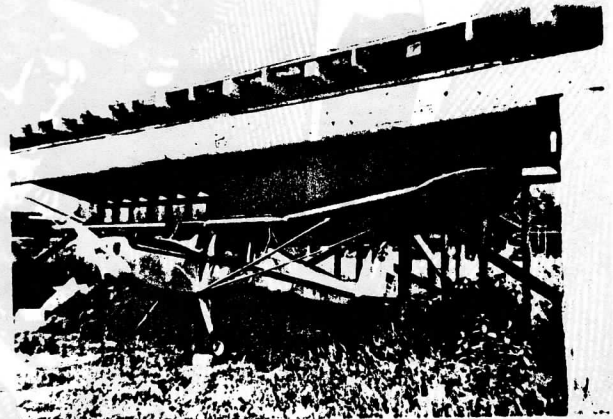


Club Secretary Jerome Harrison is cleaning the windscreen on the club plane. He was usually the first one to the Club on weekends and saw that the aircraft was ready for use by the members on those busy days in 1954.

CF-ECP was ground looped during a check out flight of a new member. No one was hurt but the plane was laid up for weeks until Insurance claim was settled. Later the Cessna was sold with the plan to buy a Cessna 170 4 seater, but the ballance of the cost could not be raised.



CF-ECP shown "For Sale" in 1985 for \$7,500. The Club purchased the aircraft 2nd hand in early 1950's for \$2,200!

This was borrowed money and it took a lot of time to pay off the loan.

JOHN W. FRASER  
NFC PRESIDENT  
1954- 1955



This photo was used in an article in the local paper describing the operation to destroy the German dams at the time the motion picture "The Dam Busters" was playing in North American theatres

John was very personable and a most energetic, hard working man for the Club and the sport of flying. The Club prospered under his leadership.

He went on to help form a private company that would offer an aircraft maintenance base and flying school at Cassidy Airport. The name "Nanaimo Airport" did not stick until many years after these events.

The company "Cassidair Service Ltd." changed hands and John started flying as part of a new job with a log broker. He was accidentally killed in a Piper Super Cub float plane while checking log booms along the Sechelt coast. Sadly missed by all who knew him.

Jerome

son.

John W. Fraser (deceased) served in the RCAF aircrew during WW 2 and was a member of the famous RAF 617 Squadron, known as the "Dam Busters".

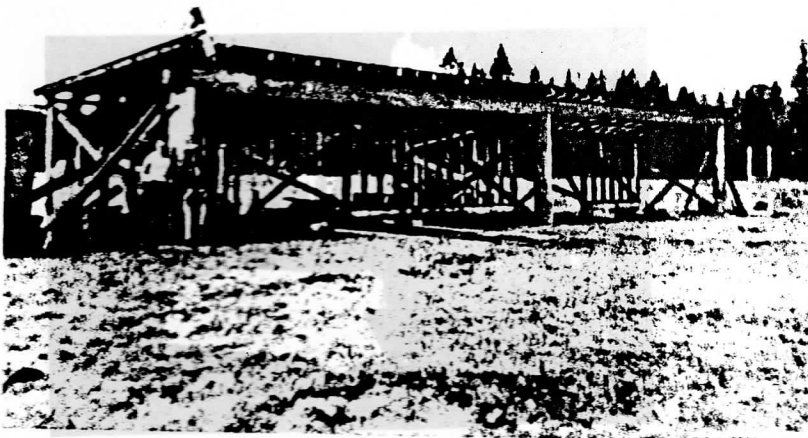
During the raid on the dams, John was the bomb aimer in the second Lancaster (M for Mother) over the target. Their plane was hit by flak and set on fire as it approached the dam and their was bomb dropped. The pilot (John Hopgood) pulled up to gain altitude and ordered the crew to bail out. Only John and the tail gunner escaped; both spent nearly 3 years in a German P.O.W. camp.



John Fraser and wife Doris, standing with a nephew (name ?) beside the Club's Cessna 120 CF-ECP/ In background, a Beecraft Bonanza owned by the Mayo Lumber Company and flown by Reg Mayo.--J. Harrison

NFC Club House behind this Fairchild Cornell that "lived" at Cassidy for some months. It was a former RCAF training plane and as I recall was up for sale. The Cornell aircraft were suspect for airworthiness due to their all wood war-time construction.

--Jerome Harrison



This "T" Hangar was built by Club volunteers with a lot of 'found' materials to protect the aircraft and one space to rent. John Fraser is sitting on the roof while Cliff Syme and John Hebert are standing below.

This photo taken at one of the numerous Friday night Club parties. Many members are present as are their wivies and some guests. Recognized are Bob Malpass & Wife; Jim & Lorraine Bonar; John & Doris Fraser; Taimi Hindmarch, John Blackham; Doreen & Cliff Syme; John Hebert.--J. Harrison



The Club office was used as the bar...various BYOB's are stood on the shelves. Lots of hilarity and hangar flying at these events. One night John Blackham and Frank Wilfert raced their cars around the runway and taxi strip! Blackham won that night but there was no rematch.

--J. Harrison



John Blackham was a flying instructor from the Aero Club of B.C. who came over to train new pilots through our Club. Here he is presented with a sample of his favourite gargle during the Wings Banquet. Pete Hanna is the presenter, nearby is Doug Robinson. Seated at the head table at the rear of photo, Des Kearney, Superintendent of Air Regulations for B.C., as honoured guest who presented the new pilots with their Private Licenses.

--- J. Harrison

Frank Wilfert Jr. presents John Blackham with a proper gift from the Club in recognition of his efforts to increase membership through his training courses.  
(1954 Wings Banquet)

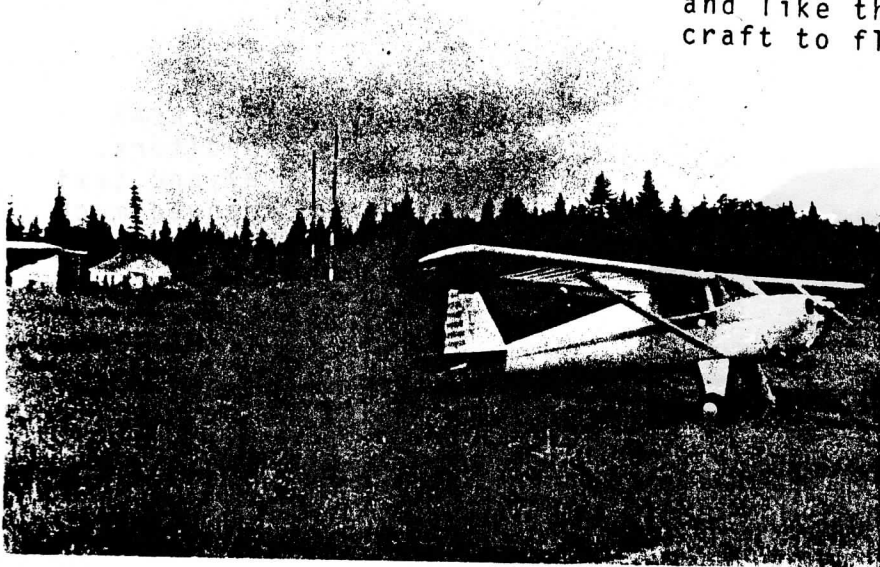
---J. Harrison



WINGS BANQUET NOVEMBER , 1954  
 President, John Fraser and wife  
 Doris. This occasion was  
 their wedding anniversary, and  
 also Doris would be presented  
 with her Private Pilot's licence  
 that evening. --J. Harrison

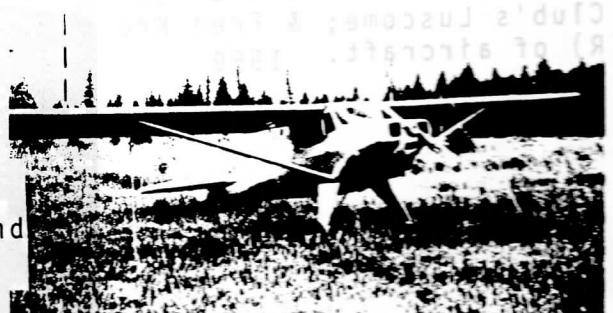


CF-IDT a Luscombe 8E was all metal  
 and like the 8C, was a nice air-  
 craft to fly. ---J. Harrison



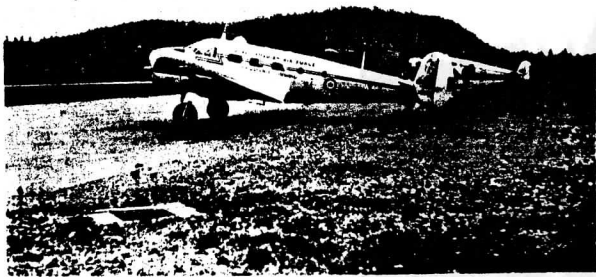
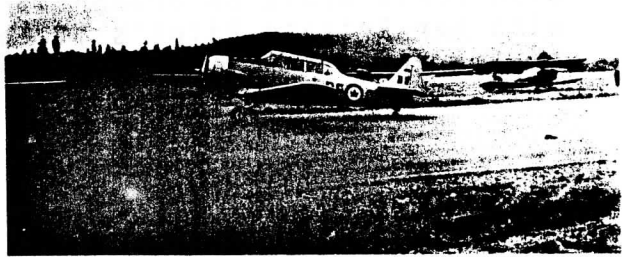
Club Member John Fraser  
 John Morris as President  
 Club's Luscombe 8E  
 (R) of aircraft.

This Luscombe 8C (CF-DRO) was used  
 by the Club after the Cessna 120 and  
 a Luscombe 8E. ---J. Harrison 1959



A visiting RCAF Harvard during a local airshow sponsored by NFC. The Tiger Moth in the background, one of the pair owned by Harry McCracken. Last owner Ron Cook of Nanaimo. It was damaged beyond repair due to a heavy wind storm some months earlier.

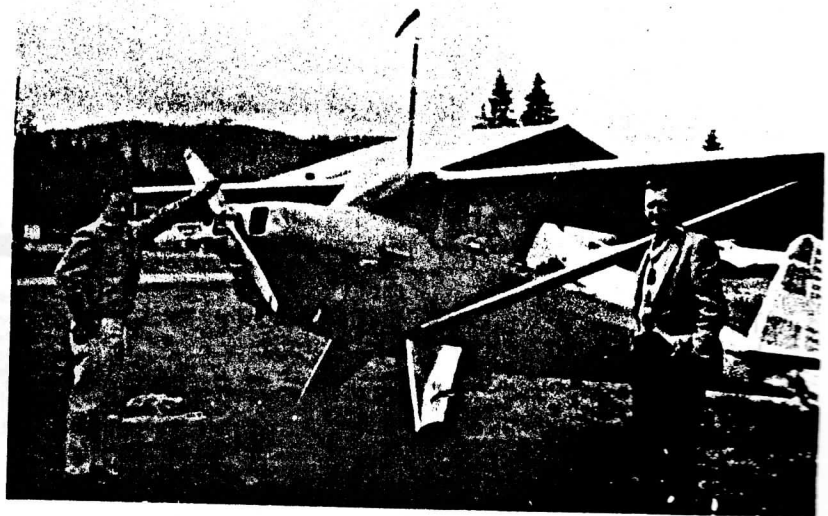
AUG. 24, 1953 J. Harrison



These were visiting RCAF Beechcraft 18 EXPeditors. The visible runway and taxi strips had not changed much from the time the airport was built in 1942-43.

--- J. Harrison

Club Member John Parker (L) John Morris at control of Club's Luscome; & Fred Kro (R) of aircraft. 1959





JUNE, 1959 NANAIMO  
FLYING CLUB MEMBERS  
in front of their  
clubhouse.

L-R Front: H.B.  
"Bus" Matthews;  
John Hebert; Dave  
Garbutt;  
Back. Pete Hanna;  
Wm. H. Power;  
Ralph Hatheway;  
(last President of  
this segment of N.F.C.)  
Albert Wong; Unkn-  
own; Fred Krog; &  
Unknown.

Rear: Cliff Syme.

(Last of Photos  
donated by Jerome  
Harrison--I. Erhart)

MARY MATTHEWS with her  
deceased husband, H.B.  
"Bus" Matthews Honourary  
Life Membership.  
Feb., 1985



45

One of Harry Mc-Cracken student pilots. Jim says he was never a NFC member but did attend some good parties at the Club in the '50s.

*When community groups needed to raise funds, they always knew who to call*



Nanaimo Daily Free Press  
Friday, November 19, 1993

**JIM BONAR** in 1952, with the two-seater plane he later crashed into Long Lake.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



# Mr. Ways & Means

By RICHARD DUNSTAN  
Staff Writer

**B**Y RIGHTS, you shouldn't be reading about Jim Bonar now — except maybe in our daily history column.

Forty-one years ago, three experienced local doctors took one look at him in the emergency ward and wrote him off.

He'd just crashed his new Cessna 140 two-seater plane on takeoff from Long Lake as he headed out to sell marine supplies up and down the B.C. coast. Massive chest injuries moved his heart over, collapsed his lung and left him bleeding internally.

"They said he couldn't live, but he fooled them," says his wife, Lorraine.

Dr. Jack Cooper, now retired to Arbutus Ridge but then just two months into his career, didn't agree with his elders. He worked around the clock to pull the burly salesman through, and a few months later Mr. Bonar was back in the air — in a new plane.

It's a good thing for Nanaimo. Over the years Mr. Bonar has helped raise thousands of dollars — he doesn't know how many thousands himself — for community projects, including Nanaimo Travellers' Lodge, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 256, and the Nanaimo Community Foundation.

"I don't know how to look after money for myself," he laughs, "but I know how to make it for other people."

Born in Nanaimo in 1919, Mr.

Bonar grew up in Michel, near Sparwood, where his father was a coal mine manager, and later in Vancouver. He didn't get back to Nanaimo until 1948, after winning the Air Force Cross for service as a wireless air gunner protecting Canada's west coast during the Second World War.

He returned to town as a travelling salesman for marine supplies, first by boat and later by plane.

He covered the entire coast as far as Alaska, selling fish canneries and other customers everything from paint to anchors, and was Canada's first flying salesman.

He quit in 1960 — "I haven't flown since. I'd had a bellyful," he says now — and helped found a sporting goods business which soon spread province-wide. He chucked that in 1969 for an Indian art company, which he sold in 1984.

Selling, you might guess, is in his blood.

"You don't have to be an expert at any given thing as long as you go after it right," he says. "It's enthusiasm that really counts."

"If I was out of work and needed money, I'd go door to door selling shoelaces. I'd do all right."

It was when he joined Branch 256 in 1960, shortly after its formation, that his community work got rolling. He was made ways and means chairman — "that's the guy that makes money for them" — and his ways and means included a cabaret, bingo, and the hugely successful Vancouver Island Outdoors Show.

As a travelling salesman, he has

spent 44 years in the Associated Canadian Travellers, and he was ways and means chairman there too. When the group raised more than it needed for Travellers' Lodge, he and others rolled in over into the community foundation to support worthy local causes. He has served three terms as president.

He's also a founding member of 808 Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association, and helped raise funds for a building for the air cadet squadrons the wing sponsors. He's a former auxiliary RCMP member, and as a businessman he sponsored youth sports teams.

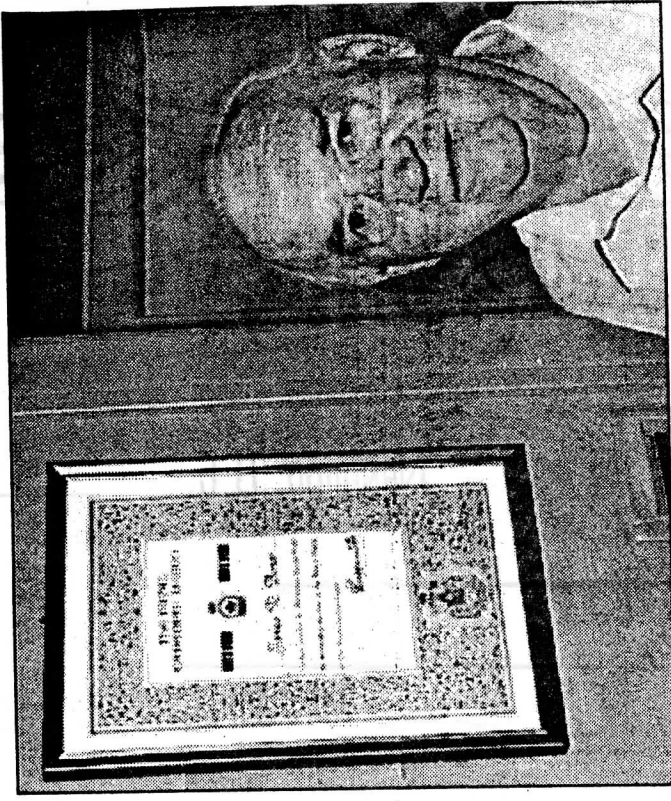
Why all the work?

"I don't know," he says. "I find it hard to say 'no.'" Longtime friend Doug Greer puts it more generously.

"There isn't anybody in town that's more community-oriented," says Mr. Greer, who has been his lawyer and his Legion comrade. "He typifies the average really good guy who carries on quietly and does an effective job. He's a good organizer — he seems to know how to go about getting people to work with him."

"I guess you feel you've done something, you've helped somebody," Mr. Bonar says. "You never really get close to the people, as if you were a social worker. You give the money and you never see it again, but you know you've done some good."

At 74, Mr. Bonar is taking life a bit easier than he once did. He works mornings as "gofer" for his



**"You don't have to be an expert at any given thing as long as you go after it right"**

*- Jim Bonar, with Meritorius Service medal he was awarded by the Legion*

son, Leigh, who operates Nanaimo Harbour Chandler. "There's a lot of BS around there," he says. "It's a lot of fun. It gets me out of bed and out of the house."

Afternoons are for his garden or woodwork, and evenings, at last, are mostly his own, though he's still on the board of the community foundation and the Travellers.

"I used to be out almost every night," he says. "A couple of years ago I said to hell with it, I'm meeting out. I want to come home at night and read the paper."



Yes, the "good old days" rates but one must remember wages were just as low.

NANAIMO B.C.

SEPT 1954

Mr. John Morris

Nanaimo, B.C.

RATE \$ 5.00 PER HOUR

No. 23

TERMS

DATE	A/C	TIME	DR.	CR.	BAL.
					\$ 1.65
Aug. 1	CF-ECP	Balance from July			
8	"	10:30 - 10:45	:15 \$ 1.25		
8	"	12:30 - 12:50	:20 1.65		
		Rec'd cash for July		\$ 1.65	
Sept. 6	"	18:55 - 19:30	:35 2.90		
12	"	12:50 - 13:15	:25 2.10		
19	"	18:40 - 18:55	:15 2.00		
25	"	15:55 - 16:20	:25 2.10		
25	"	16:20 - 16:30	:10 .85		
19		Rec'd. cash (O.LeVive)		2.00	
19		" "		2.90	
			12.85	6.55	6.30
<b>AMOUNT DUE</b>					\$ 7.95