

Memories by CF-TCC by Peter Larsen, excerpt from Airways magazine July 1999.

I enjoyed Tango-Charlie-Charlie (May 1999) about the Lockheed L-10A Electra and thought you might like some additional information about her past.

I knew CF-TCC in the late seventies and early eighties when she was registered NC3749 and owned by M. P. 'Bud' Clark of Plant City, Florida.

She was finished in overall bare metal with US Army Air Corps markings. Bud flew her annually to Harlingen, Texas, for the Confederate Air Force show and participated in the EAA Sun 'n' Fun Fly-In at Lakeland, Florida. During this time, he kept the aircraft at Lakeland Municipal (now Lakeland Linder Regional), where I rode my bicycle on weekends to help him out.

The faint outlines of the Canadian registration were still visible on the wings then, but they were not the original markings. They dated from 1967, when Air Canada temporarily acquired the aircraft as part of the airline's 30-year anniversary. She was painted as CF-TCC in original Trans-Canada Air Lines markings and toured Canada for the celebration. She was then returned to her then owners, I believe a missionary group in Florida.

I remember spending many weekends at Lakeland airport, assisting Bud with cleaning or minor maintenance on the aircraft, and the ultimate reward for my labor was to ride with him in the right seat when we took her up. I can still hear the blast from the props just outside the window on takeoff.

My most memorable flight was during Sun 'n' Fun when we flew formation with Martin Caidin's Junkers Ju 52/3m 'Iron Annie' and the DC-3 owned at the time by the Experimental Aircraft Association. It was a true thrill and I still remember it very clearly after almost 20 years.

The last I heard of TCC was in 1983, when Bud Clark sold her to Air Canada, and seeing her again in such beautiful flying condition is indeed a thrill.

It was a privilege to be associated with such a rare and exquisite aircraft and its nice to see she has come full circle to her original owners.

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