

MEMORIES OF AVRO ARROW
GEORGE J. WEAVER, WESTON, ONTARIO

I first started working at A.V. Roe in 1949 as a maintenance electrician when they were testing the first Jetliner. A pilot by the name of Dan Rogers was in charge of flight testing.

Along the way, I was transferred to the manufacturing of the wing section of the CF100's for four to five months. The test pilot of these CF100's was Jan Zurakowski. As most of you know, the first Arrow test flight was also piloted by Jan Zurakowski.

All employees were allowed to witness this magnificent achievement from the tarmac! For myself, I can honestly say it was the thrill of a lifetime -- the feeling that I had been a part of such a magnificent achievement! These feelings of pride and ownership and accomplishment are indescribable! While the Arrow was being built and tested, across the road was the old Parker Pen Building (which was still a part of A.V.Roe). Here, the Top Secret experimental "Avro Car" was being built and flight tested. It was capable of vertical take-off and hovering!

Looking back, I can truthfully say that being an A.V.Roe employee was the highlight of my career. We had access to all the latest equipment, technology, and machinery -- it was state of the art. The machine used to manufacture aircraft wings was the size of a 900 square foot house!!

On "Black Friday", we were informed of the shut down via the PA system, with the unceremonious announcement that "our services would no longer be required after today." Our reaction was shock and disbelief that such a magnificent Canadian achievement could be scrapped in such a manner!

After closure, I was called back to work at Orenda for 6 weeks to inhibit the majority of the machines used to manufacture Orenda engines. I then found myself pounding the pavement for work, only to find no one was willing to hire former employees of A.V.Roe, as they were certain that A.V.Roe employee call backs were imminent.

One of the saddest days of my life occurred when we were all called in to pick up our tools. I was driving along Airport Road when I noticed a large tractor trailer pulling out of A.V.Roe. The signage on the truck read LAX Scrap Dealer, and sitting at the very top of the pile of the remains of the Arrow, was the nose cone of one of the scrapped CF105 Avro Arrows. I remember it was right on top, looking ready for take-off! Words cannot adequately describe the feelings of dismay and sadness this sight elicited. Even now, I am still left with the feeling...."if only".....

George J. Weaver for
George J. Weaver
143 William Street
Weston, Ontario M9N 2G9

Addendum: As an 8 year old girl, I can remember my daddy working on the A.V.Roe Arrow. I can still remember playing outside with my friends and hearing the roar of the engine testing from Orenda. Little did I realize at the time that I was witnessing Canadian controversy for years to come!

Under normal circumstances, I would not remember a television newscast I saw when I was 8 years old, but I imagine it was the trauma of my dad losing his job, and so I remember this as if I saw it yesterday! It was the CBC TV news, and the reporters were interviewing A.V.Roe employees as they left their jobs for the last time. One lady announced that she had a message for Diefenbaker:

"BE CANADIAN, BUY CANADIAN!"
If only he had listened.....

Patricia J. Morrison, Calgary Alberta

Patricia J. Morrison
Unfortunately, my Dad passed away
on April 16, 2003 @ the age of
75 years, before he had a chance
to sign this.

STATEMENT
EARNINGS AND DEDUCTIONS FOR THE PAY PERIOD SHOWN
▶ KEEP FOR INCOME TAX INFORMATION ◀

PAY ENDING			EMPLOYEE NAME				S	PAYLINE	CLOCK	EMPLOYEE NO.
MO.	DAY	YEAR								
3	21	58	GJ WEAVER				1	01	02	3888
EARNINGS							CR. HERE	= DED. OF OVERPAYMENT		
HRS. WKD.	WAGES		STAT. HOL. PAY.	OVERTIME PREM.	NIGHT SHIFT PREM.	BONUS OR ADJ.	TOTAL EARNINGS			
40	00		93	20			9320			
DEDUCTIONS							NET PAY			
BONDS/HOUSING	UNION/REC.	U.I.	CR. UNION/WELFARE	"A"	INCOME TAX	CL. MISC. DEDUCTIONS				
		60	203		739		8318			

CLASS OF MISCELLANEOUS DEDUCTIONS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. CASH ADVANCE | 7. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DEDUCTIONS |
| 2. GARNISHEE | 8. REFUND TO YOU OF OVER-DEDUCTION |
| 3. TAX DEMAND | 9. TWO OR MORE CLASSES COMBINED |

REPORT CHANGES OF ADDRESS ON BACK OF YOUR TIME CARD. REPORT CHANGES OF INCOME TAX CLASSIFICATION TO EMPLOYEE SERVICES DEPT.



COUNT YOUR MONEY
BEFORE LEAVING PAYLINE AREA.

YOUR ENVELOPE
CONTAINS

AVRO AIRCRAFT LIMITED

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40	00		99	60			9960			
DEDUCTIONS							NET PAY			
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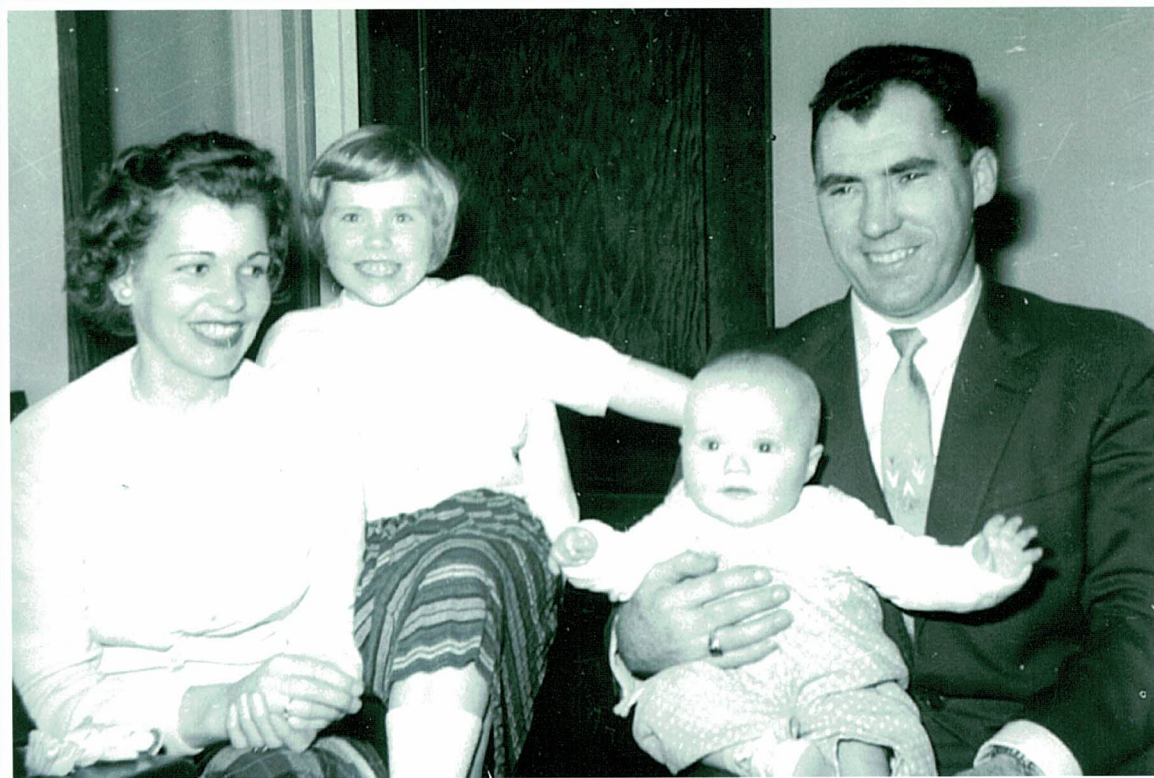
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AVRO AIRCRAFT LIMITED



THE WEAVER
FAMILY:

George
Audrey
Pat
Bruce

Circa
1958