



Ed Anderson

## Abbotsford attractions

Canadian show draws varied participants and 250,000 visitors

**DESCRIBED PERHAPS** a little optimistically by its organisers in British Columbia as North America's largest airshow, Abbotsford drew its usual 250,000 crowd in perfect weather on August 8-10, reports Jack Meadows.

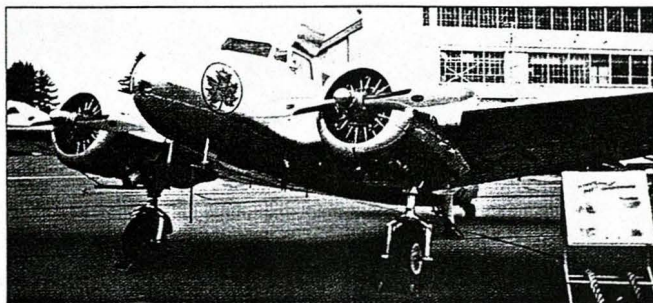
Despite military aviation economies, there was as good a flying display as ever — some 40 "turns" spread over 7hr, with plenty of noise, power, history, skill of individual and formation aerobatics, and even a Stealth Bomber. This year the show

coincided with the biennial Airshow Canada, North America's aerospace trade show, which continues to grow and impress as a world-class event.

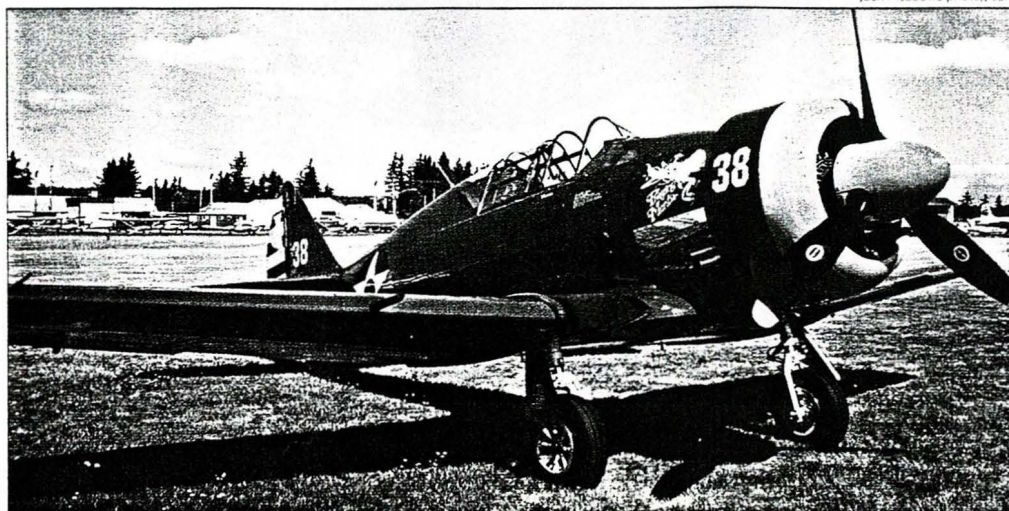
To the hardened airshow-goer, the unexpected small sidelines are often as interesting as the main attractions. At Abbotsford a visiting North American NA-50 fighter of the late Thirties was one such gem. Another was Lockheed 10A Electra CF-TCC from the Western Canada Aviation Museum at Winnipeg: one of the first two aircraft to

equip newly-formed Trans Canada Airlines in 1937, it was taken over by the RCAF for the duration of World War Two (during which I flew it, as 7631, at the RCAF's Central Flying School at Trenton in 1943). Now deservedly cosseted in a heated hangar during the winter, it spends summers on the charity trail, flown by off-duty Air Canada captains to give C\$100 pleasure-flights, the proceeds from which help provide Disneyland holidays for underprivileged children.

**Top**, this full-sized Avro Arrow Mk 1 static replica, begun by Alberta-based Allan Jackson and used for a CBC television mini-series broadcast in January this year, was on show at Abbotsford. **Right**, Lockheed 10A Electra CF-TCC normally resides at the Western Canada Aviation Museum in Winnipeg. **Below**, rare North American NA-50 Preying Mantis visited Abbotsford from the USA.



Jack Meadows photographs



Hangar <sup>ASN 827</sup> STORES

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## Disposals

**World War One** aircraft compass, Type 5/17; genuine World War Two Irvin jacket; seat-type parachute (ex-Bill Bedford). Offers? Mike Beach, tel 0181-892 0409.

**Full-size**, rebuilt, World War One film replicas c/w realistic glassfibre engines; also pair JP undercarriage units c/w wheels & tyres. Tel 01260 253449.

## Wants

**Victor** or **Vulcan** mainwheel tyres & brake units needed, in reasonable condition, for Elvington-based taxiing Victor XL321 *Lusty Lindy*. André Tempest, The Old Star Garage, Harewood Rd, Collingham, Wetherby LS22 5AA; tel 01937 574052.

**Shackleton** Mk 3 main undercarriage wheel needed for WR977 at Newark Air Museum, to enable tyre-filling conservation programme to proceed. External diameter 48in, rim diameter 15in. If anyone has a wheel of such size but is uncertain about its suitability, please still contact the museum's David Leggatt (Restoration Co-ordinator) on 01636 707170 1000-1500hr Monday—Thursday, or Rob Lindsay on 01623 642357, any evening.

**Sponsorship/co-operation** sought for assistance in building Mk I Hurricane replica to taxiing standard, to be donated to a UK museum on completion. Cambridge Bomber & Fighter Society, 13 The Trundle, Somersham, Cambs PE17 3JW; tel 01487 842897; website at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/pfmvc/m/>