

Robert “Bob” McClure

The following details were submitted by Mark McClure, Bob’s son.

Bob’s initial involvement with Avro was on the Lancaster bombers, though I’m unclear as to his specialized tasks on that aircraft. He was employed at Avro, as a pattern maker and sheet metal fabricator.

Due to his wide array of talents, he was requested to build the bespoke bulletproof bubble '57 Eldorado Biarritz for Queen Elizabeth II’s visit to Canada and Washington in October 1957. Here's a photo of the Biarritz with the Queen and Prince Philip upon their arrival in Ottawa...."



While on the Arrow project my father was primarily involved with the bomb bay and briefly with the front landing gear, to sort out some of the initial design challenges.

As a side task, he was requested to produce the very first scale Arrow desk models for the executives and investors. (see recent photo - these are the very first two ever made).

As mentioned earlier, his wide array of talents likely got him requested to be involved with the bespoke bubble-top '57 Eldorado Biarritz for Queen Elizabeth II, an assignment which he was extremely proud of. For several decades I have searched for the car without success, in hopes of reuniting them before my father's passing ... I still have photos of him building the car in Malton, which I'm sure the current owner / custodian would love to have as important provenance with the car.

He enjoyed many years emersed in a rich history of Canadian aviation projects, with plenty of stories, far to lengthy to discuss here at length.... After leaving Avro, he got his start with Avian Aircraft in Georgetown building the first Gyroplanes, which later evolved into a very sleek executive commuter aircraft.



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