

Date about April 15, 1969

Mr. James M. Ottley,
4454 Willingdon Avenue,
Powell River, B.C.

Dear Mr. Ottley:

Recently I have been jotting down, as a historical record, the reminiscences of a local man (Maynard Colp) who did a lot of flying around Nova Scotia, especially western Nova Scotia, in the 1920's and early 1930's. This was in the original RCAF, formed soon after War One, and using float planes of one or another kind because of course there were no real landing fields.

This started me thinking about other flights in western N.S. during the 20 years from 1918 to 1938 -- the "years between the wars". I remember my own first experience in the air. This was with a barnstorming pilot named H.S. Jones, who came to Liverpool with a rickety Moth, on wheels. He took a number of the local yokels (like me) for a short flight over the town and up the river to Milton, for \$5 per trip. He operated from the old King farm on the road to Western Head, and in landing and taking off he had to pass between two tall spruce trees near the shore.

← This was in August, 1931

However that's by-the-by. I remember that you built a plane at your home or nearby, and that the plane was flown successfully, although in landing on a beach (Beach Meadows?) the sand was too soft and the plane cracked up. I understand that you had taken a course in flying, at Halifax, and that subsequently you joined the RCAF and served during War Two.

So far as I know, yours was the only plane ever built and flown in western N.S., and for the historical record I would like to have the facts.

First, about yourself. Year and place of birth. Period of employment with Mersey Paper Company as a mechanic. Where you built the plane, and when. Type of plane construction, engine, and engine power. Description of flight. What happened to the plane eventually. Your subsequent service with the RCAF.

This is asking quite a lot, I know, but I think you will be as interested as I am in getting the record straight.

You may remember me as cashier of Mersey Paper Company during the ~~xxxx~~ 1930's.

Sincerely,