


I met Chris Weicht in 1949, he as a cadet at 513 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets, in New Westminster. On several occasions he and several others cadets would meet at my home to discuss airplanes, theory of flight, meteorology, and such things. Chris Weicht is now an Aviation Historian of note; having produced some five volumes of Western Canada aviation. He and one other cadet of that group, Grant Traill, are now retired airline pilots.

Many of the Captains that pioneered the route across the mountains in 1938 were from B.C. such as Captains Billy Wells and Maurice McGregor who flew the first TCA flight on September 1st 1937. Others such as George Lothian, Z. Lewis Leigh, Ron George, Bruce Middleton, Walt Fowler, and Lindy Rood trained the future Captains on this mountainous route that would soon be a part of the new Trans Canada Air Line service, due to commence on September 1st 1939. Of those Captains, only two remain, Captain Jack Jones who signed on with TCA in March of 1938 and Captain Dave Moir who did his first flight with TCA in February 1941.

Chris Weicht tells of the building of that great Canadian airway system and of the days of small unpressurized aircraft with insufficient power to fly above 19,000 feet. How we flew with oxygen masks for several hours as we cruised over the mountain peaks to Lethbridge. These flights could at times be stressful, en route ice and low ceilings in Vancouver could cause delays or cancellations, air turbulence across the mountains was often a discomfort. But as Captain Lindy Rood, who later became Vice President Operations, Air Canada, on occasion would say, "All forms of transportation are superior, including walking, but flying is the fastest."



Captain William L. Marr,
Air Canada, Retired.