

When the Norseman was New

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Skylines Express Flier Gives Reporter First Taste of Air Travel - Plane is All-Canadian Achievement
By Gus Garber

It is a far cry from the days of the legendary Norsemen who pioneered in navigation in their primitive craft to the Norseman CF-BDF - which took this observer for his maiden voyage in the air yesterday.

Through the facilities of the Skylines Express Limited's newest seaplane, which incidentally, was also making her maiden voyage to northern Quebec and Ontario's gold fields. It was this writer's unusual experience of breakfasting in Montreal, travelling almost 800 miles to and from Kirkland Lake, Ont., with several stops en route, and returning home in time for dinner.

Always skeptical in regard to travelling above terra firma we can now go on record as a confirmed air traveller. It is only through such an experience as we enjoyed yesterday aboard the sleek Norseman, fresh from the assembly lines of Noorduyn Aircraft Limited that it is possible to realize the safety and efficiency of travelling by air.

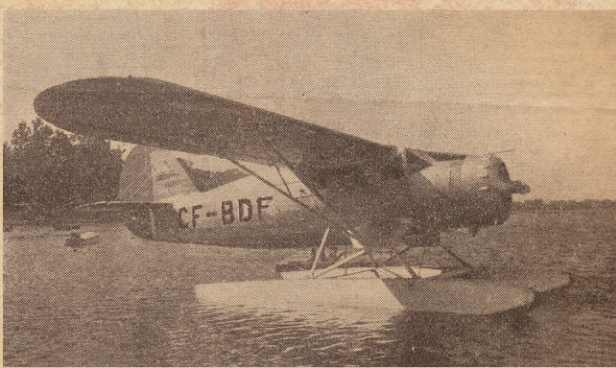


An innovation in CF-BDF is the complete absence of glass. Lucite, a methacrylic shatter-proof, composition replacing the customary glass windows. This composition has a higher transparency than glass.



In such great demand are Norseman planes that Mr. Noorduyn confessed the company hasn't a single plane of its own. "We are forced to use customers' machines for demonstrations," he said.

Norseman Is Symbol Of Speed And Efficiency



Newest addition to Skylines Express Limited's fleet of passenger planes for northern Quebec and Ontario service. The Norseman CF-BDF, made its maiden trip from Montreal to Kirkland and intermediate points yesterday, with a cabin-load of newspapermen. The sleek silver-grey seaplane is shown above at Longueuil, Que. The new nine-seater went into commercial service between Montreal and Val d'Or, Rouyn and Kirkland Lake this morning. The plane was designed and constructed by Noorduyn Aircraft Ltd., at St. Laurent, Que.



CF-AYO on November 11, stripped of wings and floats and ready to leave Cartierville for the test flights at Pointe Aux Trembles. Photo courtesy of Jack Sears



CF-AYO, converted to skis, and painted in the colours of its first owner, Dominion Skyways. Photo taken at Cartierville on Jan 8, 1936 by Jack Sears.

