

F.R. (FLOYD) GLASS

Floyd Glass was born on a farm near Kerrobert, Saskatchewan in 1916 and received his public school education there. In 1933, because of drought and the depression, his parents moved the family to Prince Albert where his father started a creamery business. He finished his high school and then took courses at the Ontario Agriculture College. He worked at the family creamery until the start of World War II.

Early in 1940 every commercial pilot in Canada was asked by the Canadian Government to join the R.C.A.F. Prior to this time Mr. Glass had become interested in flying and, after purchasing an airplane for \$450, he obtained a private and commercial pilot's licence. With the R.C.A.F. he was a British Commonwealth Air Training Plan instructor until 1945. In his spare time he did some bush flying in northern Saskatchewan.

At the end of the war Mr. Glass returned to Prince Albert. He now very much enjoyed flying and decided to make it a career rather than returning to the dairy business. He became a pilot and roving field officer with the Saskatchewan Dept. of Natural Resources. The government provided an aircraft for his travel throughout the north.

During the next three years a fleet of ten aircraft was acquired to carry out government work. In 1947, following his recommendation to the Minister of Natural Resources concerning the need for a commercial air service, Mr. Glass was delegated to set up Saskatchewan Government Airways. This new company was to provide scheduled and chartered flights throughout northern Saskatchewan, and Mr. Glass was appointed General Manager.

In 1950 Mr. Glass resigned from Saskatchewan Government Airways in order to look at other opportunities. He did some flying on the west coast for two years but, with the uranium boom in Saskatchewan, an excellent opportunity seemed to exist right back in the country he knew best. He formed Athabaska Airways Ltd. and commenced operations in February, 1955.

Since this date, Athabaska Airways has grown and prospered. Starting with one float plane, the present day fleet comprises 25 aircraft and 10 helicopters. Charter bases have been established throughout northern Saskatchewan. The company is involved in Charter and schedule passenger service, freight handling, survey work, oil exploration, forest fire suppression, hardrock drilling support and medical evacuation. In 1989 a scheduled service was established between Regina/Saskatoon/Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan. Two new 19-passenger aircraft were purchased for this service.

In 1990 Athabaska Airways received the Samuel McLeod Award for Job Creation and Investment, in 1991 the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Excellence Award for Investment, and in 1992 the firm was inducted into the Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame.

In 1992 Mr. Glass was awarded the Samuel McLeod Legacy Award for outstanding performance in business, and was made a Life Member of the Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce.

Although Mr. Glass has flown over 30,000 hours, he still finds it a thrill. Today he has more time to do as he pleases, which means working on his 3,000 acre farm near Prince Albert, or developing his 800 acre island in the Bahamas.

Inducted into the
Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
June 1993