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October 2015

Capt. Robert W. Mudge Correspondence

Robert W. Mudge

Capt. Mudge

Richard E. Jones

Northeast Airlines

Hilda McLeod

Maine State Library

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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MUDGE, ROBERT M.

March 27, 1970

Captain Robert M. Mudge
c/o Branden Press
36 Melrose Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Captain Mudge:

ADVENTURES OF A YELLOWBIRD sounds like an exciting and extremely interesting book, and we anticipate seeing a copy.

Because it is, of course, relative to Maine, we write about the Maine Author Collection, which is, as perhaps you know, a permanent exhibit of books about Maine subjects, and books written by Maine persons. We attempt to gather biographical and critical material about our authors, and we do not know whether or not you are a Maine native; but certainly Northeast Airlines renders your account of Maine interest.

Most of these volumes (over three thousand) are inscribed presentation copies, and naturally we hope that you may agree with us that ADVENTURES OF A YELLOWBIRD would be a most agreeable addition to the collection. We should be happy to be able to add it to the other Maine books.

You have our warm good wishes for the success of your book.

Sincerely yours

hjm

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection



LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02128/617-567-8300

April 14, 1970

Mrs. F. W. Jacob
Maine State Library
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your request for Capt. Mudge's book, "Adventures of a Yellowbird." We have enclosed a copy of Northeast Airlines' biography and have forwarded your letter on to Capt. Mudge for the personal information you request.

We appreciate your delightful interest and hope you will enjoy this addition to your library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard E. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard E. Jones
Director of Public Relations

REJ/bc
Enclosure

cc:

May 7, 1970

Mr. Richard E. Jones
Director of Public Relations
Northeast
Logan International Airport
Boston, Massachusetts 02128

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you very much for the gift of
ADVENTURES OF A YELLOWBIRD for the Maine
Author Collection.

The story of air travel is rich in
anecdote and drama, and we are glad that
Northeast has been captures in these pages,
and that the Maine exhibit may boast a copy.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Chicken To Yellowbird

ADVENTURES OF A YELLOWBIRD. By Robert M. Mudge. Branden Press. \$7.50.

PORTLAND International Jetport can hardly be seen today without at least one of Northeast Airlines' sleek DC-9 Yellowbirds on the apron in front of the new terminal. It's a far cry from August, 1933 when two Stinson trimotors landed at the old Scarborough Airport, taxied up to the single hangar through the grass, and unloaded all the equipment to set up the general offices and maintenance shop of Boston & Maine Airways, predecessor of Northeast.

It seems incredible today that two ten-passenger planes could carry everything needed to set up an airline, or that Clarence Belinn could buy all the stepladders and tools needed for \$164.00! Here is nostalgia and local history and local people all wrapped up in a story of days not so far away that many of us can still well remember. The index abounds with names that are most familiar — Phillips and Orcutt Payson, Lawrence Whitmore, Captain Milton Anderson and Hazen Bean.

But Captain Mudge, a Northeast pilot himself, has done more than write a very readable history. He has written of the excitement and glamor of these early days of flying, particularly in the fog-bound coast of Maine. How far this airline and aviation in general have come in 35 years is graphically illustrated by the hair raising tales he relates.

Can one imagine today the consternation caused to the passengers if they knew that arrival at their destination was contingent on a right turn at a certain large red farmhouse? And even more, the shock to the 1933 pilot if that farmer painted his farm white and no one saw him doing it!

Captain Mudge tells many exciting stories of Northeast's flying through the years, particularly the Lake O'Connor rescue in Canada, later made famous by Ernest Gann in his book, "Island In The Sky," Gann was one of the rescue pilots in this saga of Northern Canada.

While writing this exciting biography of an airline, Captain Mudge never lets us

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forget the specter of financial collapse that always hung over Northeast. He manages to bring as much excitement and drama to the financial crises of the early sixties, when Northeast was only hours away from death, as he has to the flying scenes.

We have here a book that will fill many gaps in recent Maine history. More than that, we have the story of an airline and its people who would not fail, who fought the weather and the cold, the government and the banks, their big competitors and their enemies to bring the jet-age to Maine. It can not help but bring life and excitement to your next trip on a Yellowbird.