

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – About Lionel Cook

On August 17<sup>th</sup> we were contacted by Linda Cook to advise that Lionel was in serious condition at the University Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. He contracted bladder cancer about a year ago and has been going down hill since. He will not be coming out of the hospital but will soon be moved to hospice and then, of course, pass on. Lionel is 87. When we are advised we will post the date of departure.

Lionel was one of the well known figures in the Canadian aviation insurance scene for over 40 years. After a varied career in the UK – soldier in North Africa, farmer on one of the Channel Islands, junior broker with Heaths - he emigrated from the UK in about 1956 and he joined the then Reed Shaw and McNaught in Calgary. He quickly rose to casualty manager which, as was the custom then, made him aviation manager too.

In the early 60's Lionel took a break and headed on a long sabbatical to drive to South America in a VW bus although the adventure ended in Mexico. With the huge growth in aviation in the 60's and the growth in the book at Reed's, Lionel was set up in Edmonton by Reed's in what was Canada's first really dedicated aviation department in a major brokerage house. The team of Lionel, Bernie Stanton, Jack Foster and Rodney Cann were known to all. As part of that team Lionel was a major supporter and participant in the Alberta Aviation Council and ATAC. Just about everyone in Canada who had anything to do with aviation knew and was charmed by Lionel.

Away from the business, Lionel was active in the Edmonton Yacht Club and maintained his "stay free mini-pad" at Lake Wabamun for many years along with a selection of sailboats – Contender, Laser, Siren and Invitation. He played the piano (badly), painted (well), gardened, (mostly growing rocks) and could hold his own in most any discussion that was remotely intelligent. A man for all seasons one might say.

Lionel retired in Edmonton and was active with a travel booking adventure aimed at cycling in Europe plus all his many other interests.

One of the characters of the business and the world - he will be missed.

As of today, August 18,2006, calling Lionel at his hospital bed is a welcome thing. He is cheery and the call can be fun. He would love to hear from any of the old gang for a reminisce. If you wish to call just sent an email using the Email form on this web site or direct to Bob D'Arcy at rdarcy@dccnet.com or phone him at 604-885-5766.