

Nostalgic Memories

Announcement that The Globe and Mail has taken delivery of a twin-engine amphibian Grumman Mallard ship—a grand ship of the very latest design — gives this writer an attack of nostalgia. His memory turns back to the days of the original—"Flying Newsroom," a DeHavilland twin-engine Rapide, in which he visited many out-of-the-way mining spots in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba nine years ago. The last trip was started at Minaki in July, 1937, thence to Rice Lake, Manitoba, eastward to other lakes, including Beresford, Red Lake, Confederation, Long-Legged, Golden Arm, Rowe, Uchi, Casummit, Old Woman, Pickle and many others. Set down at Pickle Lake for three days by fog, we later made it to Sioux Lookout on orders from Toronto that the plane was needed for a fishing trip. Never will that 800-mile homeward flight be forgotten. From Sioux to Port Arthur in the finest of sunny weather, over Silver Islet and Lake Superior—skimmed at elevation of 500 feet—to Sault Ste. Marie and down the Georgian Bay coast to Lake Huron, cross country to anchorage at the foot of Bay St. Under the careful piloting of Capt. Jim Crang and the mechanical care of Don Murray, the twin-motored beauty was brought in without a scratch on her, though every lake we visited had been a new adventure. Within a few minutes after tieup but a twisted tangle of steel remained—a sacrifice to fire from a static spark on the metal nozzle of the refueling hose. Desks, maps, silver-mounted typewriter — on which most of this writer's work was done in the air—went up in a twinkling of the eye, with the personal belongings of pilot and mechanic, who dived off a wing into the lake. The loss was around \$30,000. That was on Aug. 21, 1937. One who travels by air over long distances, as we did, looks upon the plane that carries him as a living thing and its destruction as a real personal loss. But the experience gained on those never-to-be-forgotten trips was without price. Perhaps there will be a chance to take another in this new, grand ship of the air. At least we hope so. Anyway, here's luck and happy landings to the Grumman Mallard. May she fly well and true.