

Frank Roberts



Born: ?
Vancouver

Died: 13 May, 2016
Campbell River

Family: Wife Mary
2 children Lynn and John
3 grandchildren

Cowboy

Taxi Driver

Pilot

Island Airlines

Okanagan Helicopters

Raised in East Vancouver, Frank started his adult life as a cowboy in the Skagit, Cariboo and Chilcotin regions. He was an accomplished rider and skilled at breaking in difficult horses. He honed his skills in small town rodeos, where he rode saddle broncos and roped steers. Frank loved his work in the outdoors, rounding up cattle, branding herds and taking them to summer pastures.

Sometime in the late 1940's or early 1950's, Frank decided to change direction and learn to fly. He drove a taxi in Prince Rupert to pay for his flying lessons and, once trained, started commercial flying in North Vancouver Island.

In the 1960's Frank moved to Campbell River to fly seaplanes out of Tyee Spit for **Bob Langdon's** Island Airlines. From there he moved to Okanagan Helicopters, operating out of Kelowna.

Frank was skilled as both a pilot and a manager, and helped many young pilots start successful careers in aviation. He enjoyed and made a positive impact on the dedicated people who made up the coastal aviation industry and the residents and workers who depended on them.

In later years, Frank's eyes began to fail, but before this he was an avid reader and a gifted writer. He died in Yucalta Lodge in Campbell River.

The following is taken from the website 'glimpses of Canadian history'.

A trusted, reliable airplane, the Beaver was and still is loved by pilots, whether with wheels, floats or skis. One Beaver pilot, Frank Roberts from Campbell River, BC, said in *The Immortal Beaver* by author Sean Rossiter, "With a Beaver you can get into tighter spots, smaller bays, higher lakes because of the performance. It's a great old pickup truck." Beavers have hauled almost everything, from military troops and supplies to food, medicine, lumber, and almost anything else one could imagine.

