

# BOOK REVIEW

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## Cessna Sensations:

A Collection of Vintage Photographs



**Review by: Thomas and Elaine Huf, Kingsley, PA**

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John Cilio, a has just published a wonderful book full of rare photographs of Cessna aircraft, starting with the Airmaster in 1937 and ending with the Cessna 411 in the mid-1960’s. The photos depict the original paint schemes and detail the meticulous interiors that were in vogue at the time. The period suitcases in the baggage compartments; the proper hat on the hat shelf – these photos are like a time-capsule, capturing each component of personal air travel. Even though some of the photos were from early promotions, looking at them through John’s presentation breathes a new life into the advertisements.

His photographs of the 1949 Cessna 195 on skis; the 170 on floats in 1949; and the Florida contractor in 1947 who flew his Cessna 140 over 3,423 miles while touring Havana, Cuba and Mexico in 4 days. Lovely photos with interesting captions make this a book you can’t put down. Looking at the rare vintage photos in this book brought back buried memories – there I was flying corporate 310’s at age 25, and this book took me back to a time when I thought I had the best job in the world.

Also featured in the book were two other Cessna’s of interest since I flew them as a corporate pilot: the Skyknight (320) and a beautiful 411 I ferried from Wichita to New York in 1967. As a present owner of a 1944 Cessna T-50 (military UC-78), I especially enjoyed the photos of the wartime production line in Wichita, Kansas. Almost 5,400 were produced before production stopped in March of 1944 – this airplane transformed Cessna into the major manufacturer of quality airplanes.

Since my wife has owned and restored a Cessna 170 and 150, she found the book delightful – in fact, she finished reading it before I did. Legendary production test pilot Mort Brown is also showcased, as are many documents and charts depicting what flying was like during those years. Anyone who has flown or owned a vintage Cessna, or has been contemplating restoring one should have this book as a valuable reference.

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More about the reviewers:

Tom owns and flies a Cessna T-50. You will see Tom fly the T-50 at Geneseo's 1941 Historic Air Group (1941 HAG) and enjoys taking up the staff photographers. Elaine owned and flew a 1948 straight 170, a 1949 170A and a straight-tail 1961 C-150 at different times. She flies L-birds (a 1941 Stinson 10A - L-9B; 1947 Aeronca 7BCM - L-16A) at the same show. Tom is a retired airline captain and Elaine was a police officer for 27 years and fly off their farm in NE Pennsylvania identifier PS50.