

Booklet on old Gander Airport

(by Robert G Pelley, 18 October 2017)
<http://bobsganderhistory.com>

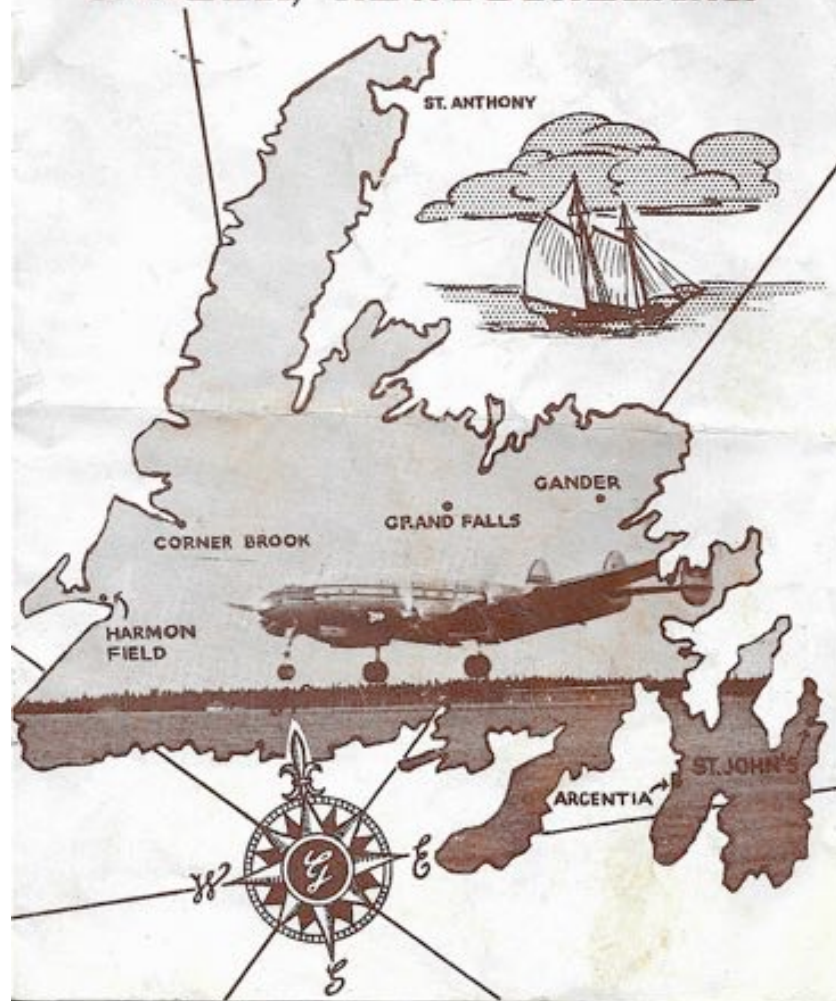
There have been many articles and newspaper clippings describing different aspects of early post-war Gander. This booklet has the advantage of providing a good overview of the situation in one single document.

It describes Gander at a particular moment in time. The booklet is unfortunately undated, but from the description, it would appear to be the pre-Confederation period, after the creation of the first "all-in-one" airport lounge in late 1946, under the coordination of Mr JM (Jim) Eaton of American Overseas Airlines. Before that time, passengers arriving late in the evening were likely to be put in a drafty hangar with simple blankets, almost as though they were soldiers returning from Europe.

Over the years this passenger lounge was subject to other renovations. For example, the lunch counter was replaced, the Novelty Booth was re-situated closer to the ramp entrance and the colour scheme brightened up.

This booklet was published by Guardian Associates of Montreal. While it shows photos and photos already seen on occasion in the Atlantic Guardian, it was written with a slightly different slant. As can be seen in particular from the map, the main focus was to point out items of particular interest to visitors, such as hotels, the theatre, churches and taxi stands.

Welcome to GANDER, NEWFOUNDLAND



Your Guide to Gander



GANDER NEWFOUNDLAND



Your Guide

WELCOME to Gander! Here, whether your stay is one hour long or overnight, you will find everything you need to make the visit an enjoyable one . . . Directly facing you as you de-plane you will notice overhead in huge letters the words "Gander, Newfoundland". Passing through the doors beneath this sign you will find yourself inside the large and well-appointed Gander Terminal . . . At the left are the Airline counters clearly marked overhead so that you can quickly find the one you want for information on plane movements, tickets, luggage, etc. On the right, adjacent to the flags, are the modern, spic-and-span washrooms . . . Straight ahead and at the end of the Airlines' counter is the Novelty Booth, open twenty-four hours for your convenience. Here you can purchase Newfoundland souvenirs, books, magazines, and postcards . . . Immediately to the left of the Novelty Booth is the Post Office and Telegraph counter, at your service at all hours for the despatch of mail and messages. Telegrams are accepted here for any address in the world, and the much-prized Newfoundland stamps are available for postage or collection . . .

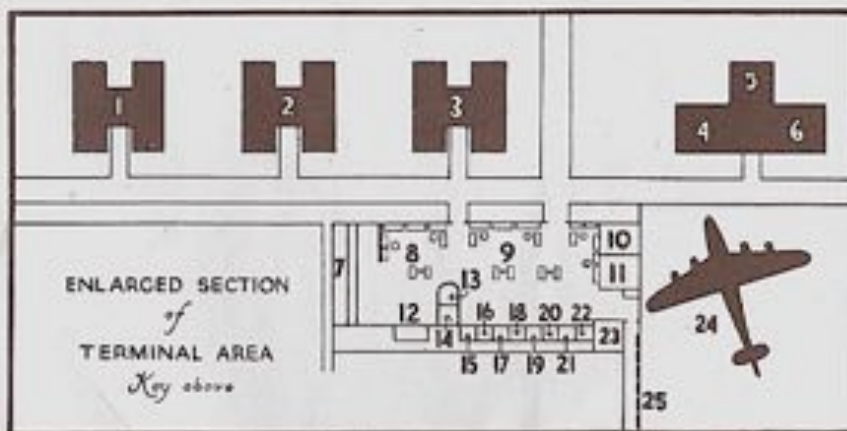
to Gander

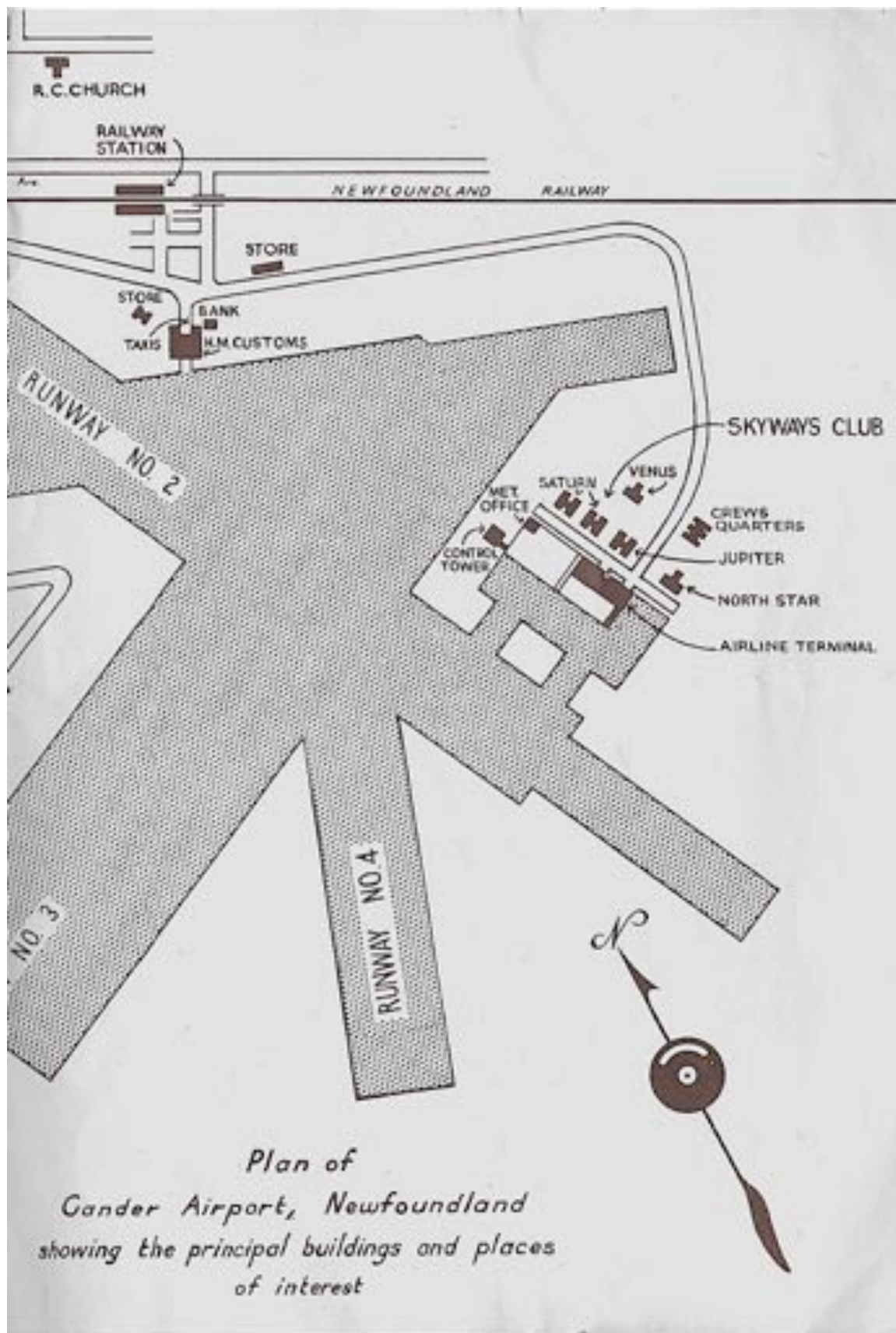
If you'd like a bit to eat and haven't time for a full-course meal, you'll find at the extreme end of the Terminal a quick-service lunch counter where a light meal can be served—sandwiches and coffee, for instance . . . If your taste runs to a drink you have only to step across to the left of the Lunch Counter and order your favourite cocktail or a whiskey and soda at the "Big Dipper". Comfortable chairs and tables are provided for your convenience . . . If you want further information or attention look up one of the attractive hostesses at the Airline counter where you checked in . . . The hostesses will be glad to show you the way to the Terminal Restaurant, in "North Star" building just across the street. Here, at any hour of the day or night, you will be able to enjoy a first-class meal at a reasonable charge . . . Gander, being in the heart of Newfoundland and removed from the cities and towns, does not boast any nearby night clubs or sightseeing tours. But it is a self-contained service and catering unit, and in the smart and up-to-date North Star building you will find, to the right of the restaurant, a lounge-bar where you can comfortably relax while you wait for plane-call . . .



**KEY TO ENLARGED SECTION
OF TERMINAL AREA**

- 1, 2, - Saturn (Accommodation)
- 3, - Jupiter (Accommodation, Offices)
- 4, - Skyways Club dining room
- 5, - Skyways Club bar
- 6, - Skyways Club lounge
- 7, - Terminal lunch bar
- 8, 9, - Terminal lounge
- 10, - Ladies' rest room
- 11, - Men's rest room
- 12, - Big Dipper bar
- 13, - Novelty booth
- 14, - Terminal Post Office
- 15, - Air France
- 16, - Scandinavian Airlines System
- 17, - KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
- 18, - Pan American Airways
- 19, - American Overseas Airlines
- 20, - British Overseas Airways
- 21, - Trans-World Airlines
- 22, - Trans Canada Airlines
- 23, - Customs and Immigration office
- 24, - Parking ramp
- 25, - Passenger entrance to Terminal





*Plan of
Gander Airport, Newfoundland
showing the principal buildings and places
of interest*



IF YOU have to stay overnight at Gander you can get a good rest and sleep in one of the bedrooms at "Jupiter" or "Saturn", located directly across the street from the Terminal. Attendants are constantly on duty at these buildings and you can be sure of being called in good time to make the plane . . . If you find you have time for a jaunt around the great airport you might find yourself interested in street names, such as the one opposite. Remember that Gander was an international base during the war, even as it is now in peace . . . Another landmark you might notice is the hospital, named for Sir Frederick Banting, the famous discoverer of insulin, who met his death in Newfoundland early in the war. Two thousand people live at Gander and the Banting Hospital keeps watch on public health . . . Close to the airport is Gander Lake, popular in summer for sailing and fishing and for hikes in winter. As you come in to land you get an idea of the size and nearness of this great body of fresh water . . . High up in the Control Tower are the men, all Newfoundlanders, who guide your plane to a safe landing on the runway and give you clearance at take-off . . .

GUARDIAN ASSOCIATES LTD., MONTREAL.

DEEP in the wooded borders of Gander-airport are some of the finest radio installations on this side of the Atlantic, staffed by skilled operators who help to underwrite your safety as they keep in touch with the planes and with other stations . . . And in the same hangar as the Terminal is located the Meteorological Office where trained weather men are constantly plotting the charts which determine to a great extent the timing and route of your flight . . . While you eat and rest other trained men are at work grooming the plane for its journey, checking and double-checking the engines and seeing that everything is in order for a safe take-off into distant skies . . . Still another job being done while you wait is the gassing-up of the plane, for Gander is after all a re-fuelling base and ample stocks of the precious fluid are always on hand to keep the planes speeding on their way to New York or London . . . Finally, the call comes and you return aboard your plane to say farewell to Gander and to move on to your destination. We hope you enjoyed your stay and that you will pass this way again soon.

DAVIES PICTURES





As can be seen from the text and especially the map showing items such as hotels, churches, a taxi stand, the railway station and the Globe theatre, this was quite likely Gander's first tourist brochure.