



RARE KODACHROMES OF SURPLUS MILITARY AIRCRAFT BEFORE THE ADVENT OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RESTORATIONS



Another Duck at Fullerton that was photographed on 30 January 1955 was Columbia-built J2F-6 N1214N. Built as BuNo 33549, it is thought this Duck was stored at Cal Aero Field, Chino, California, before being put up for surplus sale. The plane stayed in the southern California area for many years. With the start of the Warbird Movement, the Duck was purchased in 1978 by John C. Seidel and put into a "sort of" military scheme that was becoming popular during the 1970s. Acquired by Kermit Weeks, the aircraft was heavily damaged in Hurricane Andrew and has since been rebuilt. Painted as the *Candy Clipper* and displayed at Fantasy of Flight, Kermit states that, "the Duck is probably my favorite aircraft to fly. I just love that plane."



Another view of N1214N showing the large cowling that identifies the Columbia-built J2F-6 series. During the 1950s, not much thought was given to keeping the surviving Ducks in pristine condition and this is evident by the amount of oil and exhaust staining on the central float. The few Ducks on the civil register were mainly used as workhorses and we will have a complete listing of civil Ducks in an upcoming issue along with lots of rare photographs.



For whatever reason, Fullerton Airport in southern California became "Duck Central" during the mid-1950s. At least three Grumman J2F Ducks were based at the field during that time period. They seem to have had an affiliation with an aircraft maintenance company based at the field. In this photograph, we have an unidentified civil Duck finished in what we think is movie paint. Photographed on 1 November 1955, the Duck is seen receiving maintenance and the temporarily applied studio paint is flaking off the airframe. We think the aircraft was involved with Paul Mantz and being used for a movie of the time period.