



IN ALL OF THE WORLD, SHE IS THE ONLY ONE ...  
FINAL GROUND TRIP OF LOCKHEED ELECTRA L10-E

In all the world, she is the only one of her kind and she is about to begin the homestretch toward her final assembly. The journey has been a long one and has brought her from the east coast to the west and now down to San Diego. Her name is Muriel, and she the last remaining Lockheed Electra L-10E. She is the sister ship to "Lost Star", the L-10E that Amelia Earhart flew on her final flight. Muriel will be leaving her home of the last year in Santa Maria, California and traveling by trailer and caravan down the coast to the Gillespie Annex of the Air and Space Museum in San Diego. Thanks to the generous donation of President Jim Kidrick, curator Terry Brennan and his crew, this hangar will be home for Muriel's final rebuild and assembly.

Aviator Grace McGuire is the proud and passionate owner of Muriel. She bought the neglected remains of this vintage 1935 airplane in the 1980's and began to restore her to original condition. In researching Amelia's flight, Grace visited the South Pacific and made a remarkable discovery that would solve the Earhart mystery. "Amelia and Fred Noonan were given the wrong coordinates and were circling over a point NW of Howland Island."

Sadly, further exploration was cut short at that time because Grace became seriously ill with Lyme Disease. She suffered for over 10 years with debilitating meningitis, blindness and paralysis. Powerful antibiotic treatment, her devotion to Muriel, and her tough as nails spirit have revived Grace to Muriel's cause. It is good to know that the trip to San Diego is the light at the end of the tunnel. Here mechanics are on duty and Muriel will soon be complete. Once Muriel is ready to fly, Grace will attempt the only complete duplication of Amelia's trip. There have been several commemorative flights but never an exact duplication using the same type of aircraft, equipment and crew.

During Muriel's finishing touches in San Diego, Grace will assemble her expedition team, which includes divers, camera and film crew, for a return to the South Pacific to examine and confirm her findings. The findings from this trip certainly will make this historic event even more significant.

With a mystery to solve and history to make, Muriel (named for sister of Amelia Earhart) has a new life just on the horizon.

From August 29 through August 31, the public can watch for Muriel along the freeways south from Santa Maria. This national treasure is no light weight . . . The Highway Patrol escorted 70 foot haulers will slowly and proudly carry the extra wide load along the 101 south, the 405 south to the Interstate 5 south to 805, then highway 8 to 67, and finally exit at Bradley to Gillespie Annex in El Cajon. Grace can be reached at 1-732-530-4498.