

Impressive Gains—

Wien Consolidated Traffic Skyrockets

Healthy increases in cargo and passenger traffic for the first four months of this year are reported by Raymond I. Petersen, airline president.

Revenue passenger miles were up 80.81 per cent over the same period in 1968. At the same time mail revenue ton miles increased 12.92 per cent and freight jump-128.68 per cent.

April alone chalked up passenger miles increase by 102.08 per cent over the same month in 1968; freight ton miles soared by 195.65 per cent while mail revenue ton miles registered an 8.86 per cent, Petersen pointed out.

He said these impressive gains were due to general rising activity in Alaska and North Slope oil exploration; daily scheduled jet service between Fairbanks and Anchorage to Prudhoe Bay for major oil companies.

Quick change of seats and movable bulkheads in the aircraft permit adjustment to accommodate according to the needs of all-cargo, all-passenger or a combination of both for that particular flight, assuring full loads.

There are now four daily B-737 flights between Anchorage and Fairbanks; twice-daily jet schedules from Anchorage to Nome and Kotzebue; daily tours out of Anchorage to Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow for one-or-more day itineraries. There are indications for heavy tourist traffic during the coming three months, he said.

In addition there is new jet service from Anchorage to Bethel and service to Dillingham will begin operations July 1.

"Our third Boeing-737-200C jet was delivered May 29 and immediately put into service," Petersen said, "a fourth one has been ordered. All these aircraft have modifications which permit

landings on gravel airstrips which greatly enlarges the utility of the aircraft in the Alaska bush country and the North Slope."