

New Bird in town

A new bird has come to roost in Barrow, several months before the usual spring influx of feathered friends. This early birds wears a skin of metal and reaching speeds up to 420 miles per hour, it can streak past even the fastest Arctic Loon. Its species' name is "Cessna Citation" and it joins the nest of the Cape Smythe Flying Service.

As the first jet based in Barrow, the Citation shrinks the hundreds of miles between North Slope villages like a new cotton T-shirt washed in hot water. Carrying a maximum of seven passengers the sleek jet can reach the eastern outpost of Kaktovik from Barrow in less than an hour. Going west it reaches Point Hope from Barrow in about the same time. Either way a half-day trip in a prop plane becomes a jaunt in this jet.

It has a practical range of

some 1500 miles which means you could almost fly down to Anchorage, circle the city and return without having to land. (Some might say that is the best way to see the big city).

A jet with this range stationed in Barrow is more than a convenience. Fully outfitted for stretcher service the Citation means medivac—patients will no longer have to wait for a jet to come from Fairbanks before they can head out for treatment. This cuts the evacuation time in half and could save a life in an emergency situation.

The Citation made its trip to Barrow this spring fresh from the factory in Wichita, Kansas. In Wichita it was outfitted with options that make it ideal for gravel runway operation, such as additional navigation gear and thruster reversers that reduce landing distance requirements. As

Chief Pilot Bud Graham gets out of Cape Smythe Air Service's new bird. The first jet based in Barrow, it can fly at speeds up to 420 miles per hour and has a practical range of 1500 miles.

Chief Pilot of the new bird, Bud Graham, says, "The plane has excellent short field capabilities which is the reason we got it. It is state-of-the-art and nearly failsafe with the best record of hours flown versus

accidents of any plane built."

Graham has already flown the Citation on charter service to Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik and Anchorage and on promotional flights to other spots, such as Atkasuk. For those

interested in a quick trip to almost anywhere, the charter price for the new bird in town is \$1450.00 per hour. Not bad if you remember the old saying, "A bird in the bush is worth two in the city."

