

# Wien Installs Flight Information Displays

Wien Air Alaska has added another "First" to its already long list. For Alaska's oldest airline, this isn't a "First Flight" to anywhere, but a venture into modern computer technology. Wien has installed flight information display systems in Anchorage and Fairbanks. For those who don't recognize the name, FIDS are the television screens found in most major airports which list flight arrival and departure information.

The screens most visible to the public are seen at the ticket counter and at Wien's gate area at the Anchorage International Airport. But that's only a small part of the system. Other screens are installed in the cargo areas, maintenance, baggage make-up room, reservations and dispatch. The master "mini" computer is also in dispatch.

Flight information is placed into the computer via a keyboard similar to a typewriter's. A few seconds later, the information appears simultaneously on all screens in the system, informing the public of the proper gate area and arrival or departure information. Not only is the public instantly aware of any changes, but all Wien employees concerned with booking flights, maintaining aircraft, loading cargo or baggage

or selling tickets are kept fully informed.

In Fairbanks, the units are located at the ticket counter, dispatch, baggage room and maintenance.

Built by Motorola and purchased and installed at a cost

of \$35,000, the units are currently running only a test pattern. They will be fully operational on September 15, according to R.V. Dodd, vice president, customer service. Dodd stated that the purchase of the FIDS would "provide the

Alaskan traveler with the most up to date information possible concerning his flights on Wien Air Alaska."

