



NEW FH227 Fairchild Hiller Prop-Jets acquired by Wien Air Alaska expand the airline's passenger-cargo capabilities, according to Raymond I. Petersen, president. The first of four such aircraft now is in service over the system. An amplified version of the Alaska-proven F27, the new aircraft will be utilized to service the expanded Wien Air Alaska routes along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and to supplement the F27 and Twin Otters serving other destinations. A second FH227 is scheduled to be delivered later this month, with the remaining two to arrive at thirty-day intervals. Powered by twin 2,300 h.p. Rolls Royce Dart 7 prop-jets, the FH227 is some 30 to 40 miles per hour faster than the F27. The large cargo doors (72" x 92") and expanded cabin space make it compatible to the varied types of freight hauled over many of Wien's outlying routes. Field capabilities allow landings on unimproved airstrips as short as 3,500 feet with reduced payloads. Actual payload with full tanks and seats allow for various configurations of freight and passengers. Since 90% of the FH227's parts are interchangeable with the F27 aircraft now being used, maintenance and logistics are simplified.

Wien Expands Flight Schedules

Wien Air Alaska's new summer schedule is offering more flights than ever before in its 50-year history. According to Ray Petersen, president and chairman of the board at Wien, the increased activity reflects transportation demands attributed to pipeline construction, increased mineral development, settlement of the Native Land Claims, a thriving tourist industry and the natural increase in Alaskans traveling.

Perhaps the most significant increase is the number of flights to and from Deadhorse Airport at Prudhoe Bay. From Anchorage, Boeing 737 jets will cover that 635-mile-stretch a total of 62 times each week, coming and going.

Twenty of these flights will be non-stop both directions. Fairbanks, supply center for the multi-billion-dollar project, will have a total of 40 weekly flights to and from Alaska's North Slope oil center.

Wien Air Alaska is the only federally-certified air carrier serving Alaska's North Slope.

Commuters between Anchorage and Fairbanks will be getting a dividend, too, starting June 1. Wien's Boeing 737 jets will be making that trip 68 times each week, according to the just-published schedule.

An interesting sidenote to this increased Anchorage-Fairbanks schedule is that a half

century ago, Noel Wien made the first flight between the two points in a Hiss-Standard J1 bi-plane . . . carrying one passenger.

The fishing capital of Alaska: Kodiak, has an increased schedule of 30 flights between it and Alaska's largest city. The daily afternoon non-stop jet will be supplemented by a six-day-a-week, non-stop F27 flight in the morning. On Mondays and Fridays Wien will serve Homer from Anchorage and Kodiak on mid-day F27 flights.

Increased schedules also are announced to Bethel and Dillingham, as well as Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow.

Not included in the published mainline schedules are a number of flights each week to points along the pipeline route. These flights will increase as construction activity becomes heavier.

According to Petersen, Wien Air Alaska had anticipated the need for more and faster service between key points, and added a new aircraft; including a recently-arrived Boeing 737 and three FH227's.

The fourth FH227 is scheduled to arrive and be placed in service next month. These additions bring the Wien Air Alaska fleet up to five Boeing 737 fan-jets, four FH227's and five F-27's, as well as a number of turbo-prop Twin Otters and Sky Vans.