

# Wien Consolidated Airlines Plane Threatened at Ft. Yukon

The Fort Yukon flight to Fairbanks was delayed for two hours at Fort Yukon due to a threatening call received at the Wien Terminal.

A series of events lead up to this. The Fort Yukon Senior Dog Mushers Spring Carnival was a successful event. Vernon James and the Three Deep, a well-known group from Fairbanks entertained for two evening dances. They were well received and had a good turnout.

The following day a disagreement arose concerning a verbal contract between the manager of the band, Mrs. Paul Harper, and the chairman of the spring carni-



THE THREE DEEPS — The band, Vernon James and the Three Deeps are shown getting off the Wien Consolidated Airlines F-27 at the town of Fort Yukon. The bizarre event is probably the first of its kind in the bush.

val, Miss Nancy James. Mrs. Harper refused to pay the Senior Dog Mushers of Fort Yukon the agreed upon ten per cent of the gate.

Attempts were made by Miss James throughout the day to settle the dispute. Finally the carnival committee contacted the Magistrate of Fort Yukon, Nels Moore.

Miss James and the carnival committee went to the Wien Terminal to meet with Mrs. Harper where she and the band were under the protective custody of the State Trooper, George Bornet.

Miss James and Mrs. Harper and the magistrate met privately in the terminal office, but no agreement was reached. Mr. Paul Harper, who had made arrangements with Miss James, could not be reached at that time.

The band pre-boarded the plane under armed shotgun escort by Trooper Bornet. Mrs. Harper was likewise escorted to the plane.

A crowd of approximately 100 people plus thirty-three passengers looked on quietly.

Shortly before boarding call, a telephone threat to the safety

of the aircraft was received by the station agent. Captain Williams refused to continue the flight.

Captain Williams ordered the band to de-plane and a meeting with the band, Miss James, and the carnival committee was held under the wing of the F-27.

All baggage, with the exception of the bands, was inspected by the Wien employees due to

the threatening call. The majority of the passengers were Alaskan natives.

Mrs. Harper, Vernon James, Nels Moore, Miss James and the carnival committee met in the Wien office and a settlement was reached.

Captain Williams then allowed the band to board the plane once again, under armed escort, and the plane departed.



ESCORTED — Mrs. Paul Harper is being escorted by Trooper George Bornet. Note shotgun at Bornet's left.

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