

## Station Spotlight

# It's A Great Place For 'Go-getters'

Go to the area served by the New River Valley Airport, stand in the center of it, shout "I have a community project," and in 15 minutes flat you'll have 100 volunteers ready to do the good work.

If there's one word which could be used to describe the people of the communities surrounding the airport, it's "enthusiasm," and Piedmont Airlines has witnessed and been affected by this enthusiasm ever since the company's association with the area began.

Service to the New River Val-

ley Airport (NRVA) was authorized as part of the Piedmont Area Case, and began the latter part of June, 1962. The service and the physical facilities of the airport were the result of sustained work by eight political subdivisions — Giles County, the City of Radford, the Town of Dublin, the Town of Pearisburg, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, the Town of Christiansburg, and the Town of Pulaski — and took years to accomplish.

### Seven Flights

Piedmont now serves NRVA with seven flights a day, and Station Manager Milt Ward recently reported that passenger boardings from June 25, 1962, through March 10, 1963, totaled 1,890 passengers, a safe margin above the five passengers a day needed to maintain service under the "use-it-or-lose-it" system.

Airport officials feel that with Piedmont in operation there, the future holds excellent prospects for the growth of scheduled air transportation. John Goldsmith, attorney for the NRVA Commission, feels it can be accomplished mainly by educating people to the presence of air service.

### Great Potential

"I think the airport has a potential in the near future of at least 30,000 flights a year," said Mr. Goldsmith. "The biggest problem is going to be the population of approximately 175,000 people the New River Valley Airport serves. Up to this time our population has been living pretty far from an air terminal which has had regularly scheduled flights. Piedmont has done



Located between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, the area surrounding the New River Valley Airport is covered with green forests and rolling fields and pastures. The above is a view of Draper Valley, seen from the Pulaski Wayside on U. S. Highway 11 near Pulaski.



Station Manager Milt Ward juggles flights, schedules, and passengers. Air freight and express shipments there even contain a goodly helping of rats and mice.

fairly well so far with a surprising amount of air freight and express out of the airport.

"Our problem will be to educate the public here to the point that the same percentage of people will use the airport here as people in other areas use their airports."

To be so new, the airport itself has done quite well. When plans were being drawn up for its construction, building and aviation experts assured the Commission that the facilities would be adequate for at least five years. Now, less than a year later, the terminal's seams are beginning to bulge a little and an immediate expansion has been planned.

### New Rooms

It will include conversion of the terminal's present conference room to a small restaurant, the addition of a new conference room, offices, and more space for Piedmont and air express and freight.

Besides industrial sites and civic vigor, the area offers many interesting sidelights. For instance, in Radford is Radford College, known as one of the fastest-growing colleges for women in Virginia, and near there is Virginia Polytechnic Institute, one of the South's finest colleges, where some of tomorrow's businessmen, scientists, and engineers are being trained.

Recreation facilities are available at Claytor Lake, which features an immaculate white sand beach and 108 miles of shoreline. In addition, brochures say there are "professional baseball under the lights, modern theatres, smooth highways, and growing churches."

### Good View

For scenery buffs there could be no finer place, for the valley is located between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, and everywhere there are rolling hills and green pastures to delight the eye. There is good reason for all the pastures, incidentally, since livestock and dairying contribute about 90 per cent of the gross farm income, and ambulatory beefsteaks and butter dot every slope.

Industry has a big say in area economy, and produces such diverse products as ammunition and explosives at the Radford Arsenal, sulfuric acid, furniture,

mirrors, and hosiery in Pulaski and Pulaski County, and textiles at the Burlington Mills finishing plant in Dublin.

### Mucho Rats

And speaking of Dublin, let it not be forgotten that the town has one product which can be matched by no other — rats and mice. Used in scientific research, the animals are grown at the Dublin Laboratories, and are shipped out to research centers by Piedmont air freight and express at an average of 2,500 a week.

A talk with three Pulaski officials — Mayor C. V. Jackson, Town Manager Tom Nolen, and Chamber of Commerce Executive Manager George Hillsman — disclosed Pulaski's latest industrial project and one in which the area takes great pride.

It concerns, said the officials, "Project Decision," initiated by the Appalachian Power Company. In a recent development bulletin, the power company explained the project this way:

### Project Decision

"Appalachian initiated Project Decision in 1961 with a shell building in Abington, Va. In the program, Appalachian conducts surveys of communities in its two-state territory of western Virginia and southern West Virginia. From the finds in these surveys, top-ranking communities are offered the shell buildings. Appalachian makes the original investment in the building, including the site costs, and the community puts in escrow an equal amount, which is repaid to Appalachian after completion

(Continued on Page Six)



Checking in a flight, Agent Glenn Walters waits in the operations corner of Piedmont's PSK facilities.



Agent Ron Price keeps teletype messages up-to-the-minute. (Chief Agent Glenn Shanks was on vacation and not available for photographs.)



A front view of the Pulaski County Courthouse. The archways fronting the building are made from stones which formed the entrance to the Jamestown World's Fair in 1907.



The Piedmont counter at PSK is small but attractive. Here Agent Dan Love checks in out-bound passenger Robert T. Kinder.