

Industry notes

Charlotte is a "money machine"

Douglas Municipal Airport, better known to us as CLT, was recently characterized by the Charlotte Observer as "a magnificent money machine that cranks out \$117 million for the Charlotte economy each year."

This was but one of the findings in the 26th survey conducted by the Air Transport Association to demonstrate the importance of U.S. airports.

According to this study, the Charlotte-owned, self-supporting field contributed \$82.3 million directly to the area's economy in 1976 through payrolls, expenditures and taxes. The calculation assumes each dollar spent generates at least one additional dollar.

The study showed there were 1,342 airport employees working as air traffic controllers, waitresses, ticket agents and weather forecasters. They collect a \$21 million annual payroll. Those jobs support 5,744 people who spend an estimated \$5.3 million a year on food, \$4.8 million on housing and \$2.1 million on clothing and personal care.

ATA researchers estimated the airlines and other airport tenants spent \$16.7 million in 1976 on locally purchased goods and services, paid \$2.4 million in airport payments and \$793,000 in state and local taxes.

The airport is a major transportation nerve center with 190 flights linking Charlotte with 78 cities. In addition to Piedmont, Delta, Eastern and Southern serve CLT.

The ATA study also revealed that nearly 2,000 jobs were created in the Charlotte area in the past three years by companies influenced to move there by the availability of frequent air service.

Most grown-ups have flown

According to the latest poll by the Gallup Organization, 63 per cent of all American adults have flown on an airline flight. The percentage figure represents 94.5 million people and is a 13

per cent increase over 1974, the year Gallup last determined just how many Americans had flown.

Some other highlights from the poll showed in 1977 52 per cent of all airline trips were business trips; of all adults polled 25 per cent had taken an airline trip sometime in the past 12 months; of all adult American men, 67 per cent have flown; 59 per cent of all adult American women have flown. The poll, done for the ATA, is titled "The Frequency of Flying Among the General Public, 1977."

General aviation setting records

Americans are buying more airplanes for business and personal transportation than ever before.

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association says that manufacturers sales 1977 set new records for the sixth consecutive year.

GAMA says in 1977 the industry delivered 16,900 planes with a value of \$1.5 billion. Harry B. Combs, president of Gates Learjet and GAMA board chairman, predicts 1978 deliveries will reach 18,000 planes with a value of \$1.7 billion.

Combs says more than half of the nation's 1,000 largest industrial firms operate their own aircraft, a fleet numbering nearly 1,700 planes or an average of more than three planes per company. General aviation aircraft operate from all of the nation's 13,700 airports. The airlines serve about 400 airports.

Delta among top five

Dun's Review, the financial journal, named Delta Air Lines one of the nation's five best managed companies for 1977. "Delta received the magazine's award for soaring to new heights as the airlines' smoothest run and most profitable carrier," said a Dun's spokesman. The other companies to win the coveted designation for 1977 were Emerson Electric, General Motors,

Beatrice Foods and McDonald's.

Dog teams within 30 minutes

Any commercial airliner flying over the United States is now within 30 minutes of an airport "bomb dog" squad.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration recently announced that the "bomb dog" training program had been completed with the addition of the 29th airport, at San Juan, P.R. Other cities adding dog teams in the past year were St. Louis, San Diego, Seattle, Phoenix and Spokane.

The 29 cities, located in every region, were chosen so the nation would be covered as fully as possible.

There were 77 dogs and handlers trained under a \$400,000 program sponsored by LEAA and the Federal Aviation Administration. Each city has at least two dog-handler teams.

The dogs and their handler spend about 40 per cent of their time on airport work. Then they patrol and do bomb detecting work in the cities where they are based. Some of their regular patrols include banks, stores and bus stations. Airport alerts always have first priority.

The handlers are local policemen, sheriff's officers or airport security men who are sent to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for 20 weeks of training. The program uses only male German shepherds from one to three years old.

The law agency estimates that the dogs may have saved more than 100 lives and prevented millions of dollars in property damage.

USPS relies on airlines

More than 90 per cent of all intercity first class letters now move by air. This is up from 80 per cent just a few years ago. The U. S. Postal Service is relying more on regularly scheduled airline service than on air taxi contract routes.

Interesting Interlining

European capitals offer variety for trips

This column on discount travel information is offered as a service to employees. We compile it from material sent to the Piedmonitor and the interline department. Neither Piedmont nor the Piedmonitor can assume any responsibility for irregularities that may occur in connection with offers that are described.

Caesar offers variety

Caesar Hotels announces a new tour combining France with Germany and Switzerland. The nine-day trip, has departures from Chicago April through June of 1978 and is arranged in conjunction with Air France. The first stop is Paris. From there you'll travel by motorcoach through the Marne Valley and the Vosges Mountains to Colmar, near the French border. Here there will be a typical Alsatian dinner. Leaving Colmar, you'll cross the Rhine into Germany and the Black Forest. In the morning you're on the way to Lucerne. The last night is in Beaune, located in the heart of the French wine-producing area. The tour is priced at \$399 per person, double, for employees, dependents

and retirees. Parents are eligible via TWA for round-trip airfare, hotels with private bath, \$479 per person, double. The tour includes breakfast daily, sightseeing, some special meals, and full transfers. For more information write Caesar Hotels 7733 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63105, (314) 727-1503.

Airfair interline week

You are invited to participate in the first Airfair Week just for interliners in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Arrive any time the week of May 17-24 and stay from two to seven days at the Gentle Winds Beach Resort. Activities will include a daily golf tournament, backgammon, tennis, nightly get-togethers, plus discount coupons for duty-free shopping in St. Thomas. There will be a beach luau on the 18th and 22nd. A farewell get-together on the night of the 23rd includes a trophy presentation for tournament winners. Basic registration fee is \$15 and room rates are as low as \$12.50 per person, double. Send registration fee along with anticipated dates of arrival and departure to Airfair Week, 9800 South Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90045, or call (213) 649-5320 to book your reservations.

Cruise the Caribbean

Visit the ports of San Juan, St. Maarten, Martinique, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua and St. Thomas aboard the s/s Amerikanis. The price of \$355 per person, double, includes seven nights accommodations and all meals aboard ship, shipboard activities and entertainment. Departure date is April 22 from San Juan. For more information, contact Best Interline Tours, P. O. Box 88956, Atlanta, Georgia 30338.

TWA eurofares

TWA is offering round-trip, positive-space transportation to Europe and the Middle East. Employees, spouse, dependent children under 21, and parents are eligible. Eurofare I, \$120, destinations are Barcelona, Lisbon, Paris, Casablanca, Santa Maria (Azores), Dublin,

Madrid, Shannon, and London. London is on space-available basis only. Eurofare II, \$140, includes Geneva, Rome, Milan, Vienna, Nice, and Zurich. Eurofare III, \$160, offers trips to Athens, Tel Aviv, Cairo, and Bahrain. For further details, write Tom Gale, Manager-Interline Sales, Trans World Airlines, Inc., 2 Penn Plaza, New York, New York 10001.

Interested in going western?

The Phoenix Interline Club invites you and your family to a weekend of western fun at Wahoo 2. The second annual Wahoo event is being held April 27-30 at the Pointe Resort in Phoenix. Activities include horseback riding, swimming, dancing, golf, tennis and eating! Registration fee is \$48 for adults and \$20 for children under 13. Hotel rooms are \$20 per night, single or double. For further details, contact Phoenix Interline Wahoo, 7014 North 15th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020, or telephone (602) 944-2594.

Try a tennis clinic

Treat yourself to a tennis clinic holiday in Cannes, France; Montego Bay, Jamaica; San Jose, Costa Rica; or Costasur, Dominican Republic. Prices, from \$309 per person, double, include hotel accommodations, breakfasts, transportation to and from airport, room taxes and service charges, and full tennis program. For complete details, contact Caesar Hotels.

Rome or London

Nine-day packages to Rome or London from \$159 include transatlantic air fare, hotel accommodations, continental breakfasts, half-day sightseeing tour, three days' use of a self-drive car and discount dining book. Rome departures from New York are scheduled every Saturday. London departures are scheduled every Saturday from New York and on specified Saturdays from Washington, D. C. Reservations and additional information can be obtained from ITR Interline, Ltd., 39 West 55th Street, New York, New York 10019, (800) 223-9815.

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