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PIEDMONITOR

News about Piedmont. The Up-And-Coming Airline.

F-28 gives PI big fleet To serve small markets

Piedmont Airlines has reached agreement with the Fokker Aircraft Corporation to purchase a fleet of 12 F-28 twinjet aircraft, and taken options on eight more. The aircraft will first go into service on Piedmont routes in early Spring of 1984.

Although not new, the aircraft will be virtually remanufactured by Fokker before delivery. Unlike purchases of aircraft from other airlines, Piedmont will receive full support services from Fokker comparable to the purchase of new aircraft.

President Bill Howard said the 65-passenger twin-jets will enable

Piedmont to continue all-jet service to smaller communities on Piedmont's system, and free six B-737 112-passenger twinjets now serving smaller markets for development of high density routes, particularly at Piedmont's fast-growing hubs in Charlotte, Dayton, and, now, BWI.

"We are probably more deeply involved with service to the smaller communities than any other major airline in America," Howard said. "The F-28 will enable us to continue this commitment and give us the flexibility to serve thin

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President Bill Howard signs agreement for F-28s with Stuart Matthews, president, Fokker Aircraft USA, Inc.

Henson newest member of Piedmont Family

Piedmont received approval this month from the Civil Aeronautics Board to acquire Henson Aviation, Inc., as a separate but wholly-owned subsidiary. Henson is the fifth largest airline among U.S. commuters or regionals.

Under terms of the agreement, Piedmont will acquire the common stock of Henson Aviation, Inc., based in Salisbury, Md., in a series of five stock purchase transactions over a four-year period.

"Henson is nationally recognized as one of America's best managed commuter airlines, with an outstanding record of good, reliable service," said Bill Howard, Piedmont president and chief executive officer.

"Even more vital to Piedmont is the fact that Henson is the largest commuter operator at BWI and has an impressive reputation all across the Mid-Atlantic region," he said.

Henson has over 50 flights a day

at BWI and, on October 30, schedules for the two airlines will be coordinated for optimum opportunities.

similarities

Piedmont and Henson have much in common. Both sprang from similar roots as general aviation companies and, despite growth, have remained loyal to their home communities and historic service patterns.

Since deregulation, Henson, like Piedmont, has grown dramatically. In 1978 the airline boarded 257,000 passengers. Last year boardings increased to 650,000. The airline now flies approximately 16,000 miles every business day, the equivalent of five flights from New York to London.

Henson's beginnings

Richard A. (Dick) Henson, founder and president of Henson

Aviation, Inc., has always been in love with flying. After graduating from high school, he set out with \$375, bought a 25 percent interest in a bi-plane, and hired an instructor to teach him to fly. After about six hours of instruction, he soloed.

In the early 1930s, Henson became a test pilot for Fairchild Industries, then a small firm making a two-place, 25-horsepower airplane. At the same time, he leased Hagerstown Airport, a grass field with no runways, and began operating it with the help of a single mechanic. That airport became home base for Henson Aviation.

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Photo by Lou Davis