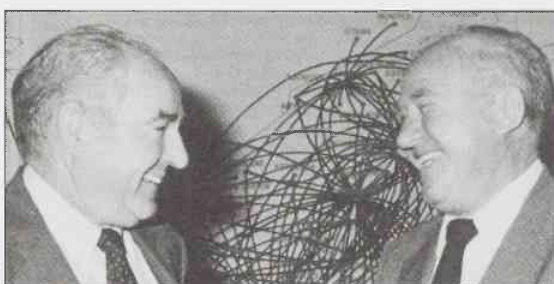




Wilmington Mayor Donald Betz (second from right) congratulates Tom Davis (at podium), Piedmont's founder, on the airline's 40 years of outstanding service to the community. Also on the platform are Tony Seamon (left), president of the North Carolina Travel Council who presented a commendation to Davis, and Tom Pollard, representing North Carolina Governor Jim Martin.



Tom Davis (left), Piedmont's founder, and Bill McGee, Piedmont's president and chief executive officer who began with the company over 40 years ago as superintendent of pursers, were also on the original flight in 1940.



ILM Agent Dick Mahn (left) has been with Piedmont 40 years, 35 with perfect attendance. With him is his brother "Doc" Mahn, maintenance chief at ILM, who has 38 years with the company.

40th Birthday honored with DC-3 flight, parties

Dozens of Piedmont employees—current and retired—came to the hangar at Wilmington. They used rolls and rolls of film posing with one another, or Piedmont founder Tom Davis, or Chairman Bill McGee, or Captain Leon Fox and Captain Harold Dobbins, who had piloted the first Piedmont flight 40 years earlier, on February 20, 1948.

The backdrop for their photos was our DC-3, restored to early Piedmont livery.

As the shutters clicked, everyone in the photo stood a bit taller, and smiled a bit broader smile.

Founder Davis and McGee presented model DC-3s to Wilmington dignitaries and a representative of North Carolina Governor Jim Martin, and received a resolution from the North Carolina Travel and Tourism Council.

Retired Captain Bill Kyle and Captain Gene Sharp, vice president-flight operations, were at the controls as the DC-3 lifted off and nosed toward Charlotte. Roy Raines, retired director-quality assurance, who looks over the maintenance of the DC-3, was a third crew member.

Media aboard the flight did interviews with Davis and McGee on a smooth flight to Charlotte, and Mayor Sue Myrick met the flight on the ramp at Douglas International Airport as numerous Piedmont as well as other airport employees gathered to watch.

From Charlotte, the aircraft took its dignitary-studded passenger list to Winston-Salem where Mayor Wayne Corpening along with Piedmont employees, their families and friends met the flight and toured the DC-3.



Among those on hand for the celebration at ILM are (l to r) retired pilots Roy Hobbs, Carl Martin, Bill Nurnberger, Ed Thurber, "Pappy" Wilkes, Leon Fox, and Bud Almon.



Many employees turned out at CLT for the historic occasion. Laughing with President McGee are (l to r) agents Butch Aughtry, Dale

Beaty, Susie Green, Jeff Braddy, Robert Knox, Debbie Tate, and Sherri Duff.

Remember when

In 1948, Piedmont Airlines first took flight, just eight years after Tom Davis founded Piedmont Aviation, Inc. as a general sales and service operation.

Since that time, thousands of employees have contributed to the company's success, watching it grow into the major entity it is today.

Beginning with the May issue, the **Piedmonitor** will take a look at some of the company's milestones during the past 40 years. In addition, we would like to record some of the happenings that employees remember well. For example, what are the most unusual requests you've ever received from a passenger? Do you remember any off-beat complaints? Are there any passengers who stand out from the crowd and why? Do you have any stories about animals (the four-legged kind) flying Piedmont? Have you handled any cargo or baggage that was unusual? Do you have any other humorous stories to relate that have taken place while you've been at Piedmont?

Send your comments to the **Piedmonitor** Editor, INT, H440, who will compile the information and, during the next few months, feature them along with highlights of the company's history.