

PIPER, TEX. A&M TEAM UP PRODUCE NEW DUSTER

Piper and Texas A&M University have put their respective heads together to design and produce a radically improved sprayer-duster designated as the PA-18-A. Powered by a 150 hp Lycoming engine, this airplane gives spectacular performance, particularly on pull-out close to obstructions.

With aerial crop protection becoming more and more widespread, the new PA-18-A will have a tremendous market potential. Look for lots of sales for this airplane.

NEW BUILDING PROGRESSES

Piedmont's new office building is showing plenty of signs of progress. Last week's Spring weather brought the steel erecting crews on the job, and now the building is rising out of the ground.

Meanwhile work continues on the hangar. Most, if not all of the concrete footings have been poured, and that portion of the construction area looks like a forest of reinforcing steel. Next month's Piedmonitor will probably carry the first photos of our new home. Be on the watch for them.

OLD - TIMER LEAVES

ABDICATIONS IN FAVOR OF STORK

Mary Irvin Reavis, one of Piedmont's senior secretaries, has gone on an indefinite Leave of Absence beginning April 22, taking time out to be a Mama. Universally liked, Mary Irvin's friendly smile will be sorely missed around here. Her place as Mr. Saunders secretary is being capably filled by Mrs. Frances Hand, a very attractive addition to the Operations Staff. Good luck and best wishes to both of you.

STATION WAGON

Something a city fellow who moves to the country buys so the country people will know he is from the city.

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INDUSTRY NOTES

UNITED AIRLINES has ordered an additional \$42.5 million in new aircraft, bringing their airplanes on order to a total of \$64.8 million. Additional order is for 15 DC-7's and 11 DC-6B's. Aircraft will be delivered in 1957. . . TRANS CANADA has ordered another Super Connie, as President Gordon McGregor said additional Super Connies and Vis counts will be ordered "Shortly". . . NATIONAL has applied to CAB for an extension of its Route 39 (Miami-New Orleans) beyond New Orleans to Mexico City, also asked for non-stop authority between each point on Route 39 and the Mexican capitol. . . EASTERN announced preliminary passenger figures for first quarter of 1955, showing 1.67 million passengers. April 1 was biggest day in EAL history, with 24,349 passengers boarding the Great Silver Fleet. . . HANDLEY PAGE "HERALD" (See Feb. Piedmonitor) prototype is well underway, with fuselage complete and wing mounting due next month. . . PACIFIC NORTHERN is showing considerable interest in Convair turbo-prop airplane, is also considering Viscount. Convair seems to have the edge due to its greater range. PNA's purchase plans admittedly hinge on CAB action in the highly controversial States-Alaska case, but meanwhile has leased three 749 Connies from Delta C&S to augment its DC-4 fleet. . . CAB will hear oral arguments in the Large Irregular Air Carrier Investigation on July 7. . . CAPITAL AIRLINES target date for inauguration of Viscount service is currently set for July 1, but the first aircraft will be in Washington well before that. An elaborate "courtesy flight" program is scheduled prior to inauguration. . . TWA PRES. RALPH DAMON is convinced that their decision to plug the air-tourist market was wise. First-class traffic for 1954 maintained the same level, and the increase of 43% in available air-tourist seat miles resulted in a 34% increase in passenger miles. . . FAIRCHILD AIR-CRAFT Fokker F-27 program is gaining steam from progress of permanent certification bill. The DC-3 replacement is scheduled to fly in Holland this summer, and prototype is to come to U.S. after original flight tests. CAA has been asked to begin studies of the F-27 to determine whether there will be any difficulty in certificating it for U.S. use.

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SERVICE AWARDS

Overlooked in October: John Rehder-INT, (5 yrs.)

JANUARY: Mary Reavis, INT, (5 yrs.); Ernest Hurt, INT, (5 yrs.); L. J. Lambert-INT, (10 yrs.); Palmer Alexander, INT, (5 yrs.); Marvin Stokely, ORF, (5 yrs.); James Butner, INT, (5 yrs.); Elizabeth Ramey, INT, (5 yrs.); George Lavrinc, ORF, (5 yrs.); Clarence Hester, INT, (6 yrs. 7 mos. - returned from Mil. Ser.)

FEBRUARY: Don Johnson, INT, (5 yrs.); Julian Riggs, INT, (5 yrs.); Bennie Walker, IMN, (5 yrs.); Joseph Gibson, IMN, (5 yrs.); Chester Hughes, ORF, (5 yrs.); Arthur Chandler, Sr., INT, (10 yrs.); Paul Lyons, INT, (5 yrs.); Marvin Baugess, INT, (10 yrs.).

MARCH: Robert Hawkins, INT, (5 yrs.); Grant Jeffries, IMN, (5 yrs.); Floyd Stickney, ORF, (5 yrs.); Sam Murchison, AVL, (5 yrs.); Joseph Gurganus, CLN, (5 yrs.); Hop Hee Dunn, INT, (5 yrs.).

APRIL: Charles Wiesener, INT, (5 yrs.); William Robbins, INT, (10 yrs.); Dorothy Church, ORF, (5 yrs.); Ralph Dampier, INT, (5 yrs.); Clyde Vaughan, LYH, (5 yrs.); Charles West, INT, (5 yrs.); Wilbur Blackmon, INT, (5 yrs.); Donald Mac Pherson, RIC, (5 yrs.).

STORK CLUB

Howard Cartwright, INT Maintenance, a son, Lee West, born March 22.

Bob Lakey, INT Engine Shop, a son, Roland Winfrey II, born January 19.

Jack Brandon, INT Ticket Counter, a son, Robert Michael, born April 7.

Bill Mathis, Maintenance, a daughter, Patricia Ann, born April 12.

INT NEWCOMERS

Mrs. Lorene Mitchell - Switchboard
Mrs. Essie Hill Cox - Communications
Mrs. Frances Hand - Sec. Capt. Saunders

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