

Interesting interlining

If you have time, a cruise would be fun

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.

For the greatest variety in ships and ports of call your best bet is probably ITR Interline, Ltd., 39 West 55th St., New York, N.Y. 10019. They have more than 500 cruises on 15 ocean liners available this year at rates providing discounts of up to 65 per cent.

The sailings are aboard luxury liners including: Cunard's Countess, Princess and Queen Elizabeth 2, Holland America's Prinsendam, Rotterdam and Statendam, Norwegian America's Sagafjord and Vistafjord, Costa's Andrea C, Angelina, Carla C, Enrico C, Federico C, Italia and Leonardo da Vinci.

The offerings include three-day weekend cruises from Florida to the Bahamas, two-week Indonesian cruises from Singapore, transatlantic voyages between New York and England or France, Mediterranean cruises from Venice and Genoa, Bermuda cruises from New York, and Caribbean cruises of two to 19 days' duration that start in 13 ports ranging from Boston to Venezuela.

A listing of cruises with details of departure dates, itineraries and fares can be obtained from ITR, address above.

In addition to those exotic ports of call ITR is also offering the leisurely elegance of Mississippi riverboat cruising at interline rates. As with most ITR's offerings Piedmont employees, their families and retirees are eligible.

These cruises, aboard the historic Delta Queen and the new Mississippi Queen, depart every Saturday until December 17 and call at Baton Rouge, Natchez and St. Francisville. The Delta Queen sails November 25 and December 2, 9, and 16 for four day cruises. On November 28 and December 5, 12 and 19 the vessel leaves for five-day cruises. For complete details write ITR at address given above.

Try a different U.S.S.R.

While trips to Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad don't come along everyday, interline excursions

to the other side of the Soviet Union are even more rare. The following Interline Reporter tour includes the Black Sea Resort Yalta: They say Yalta has a balmy, romantic atmosphere where snow is rare even in January. Pink almond blossoms are a familiar sight and sun bathing on the beach is comfortable 200 days a year.

This Interline Reporter tour, in connection with KLM, is a 12-day, 11-night package that includes Moscow, Simferopol (Capital of the Crimea), Yalta and Amsterdam. All this for \$613.00 per person double, except January 2, March 13, March 20 and March 27 when the cost is slightly higher. The KLM transportation is positive space and leaves from New York every Monday evening from December 5, 1977 through March 27, 1978.

The package price includes all transportation, transfers, accommodation in twin bedded rooms with private baths in first class hotels, all meals in the USSR, sightseeing, entrance fees, theatre tickets, gala dinners and a wine tasting party to sample the famous Crimean wines. You will be escorted throughout your stay by an English speaking INTOURIST Guide. For additional information write Interline Reporter Tours, 2 West 46 Street, New York, NY 10036. The tour is open to Piedmont employees, spouses, children, parents and retired employees.

Headed for Hawaii?

If you're going some place in the islands other than Maui you might be interested in Tropical rent-a-car's special offer for airline employees. Features include no mileage charges, free pick-up at all island airports, free tour information and all-island telex reservation service. In addition to the basic charge — a compact is \$10 a day or \$65 a week — you pay only for your gas. The company has offices in Honolulu, Kauai, Kahului, Maalaea, Maui, Hilo and Kona. We assume the toll free reservations number on Tropical's brochure is good from the continental U.S. That number is 1-800-446-8008.

Mexican mark down

Special rates for all Piedmont employees are being offered at the El Presidente Chapul-

tepec Hotel in Mexico City, the first luxury hotel to open there since 1968. Effective immediately, the airline employee rate is 50 per cent off all regular room rates for airline employees and members of their immediate families who share the same room.

The rates from now until December 31 are \$29.30 single and \$33.70 double occupancy, standard accommodations. You deduct 50 per cent of that. You must show proper identification upon check in. For further information on El Presidente Chapultepec, call the toll-free number 1-800-223-1818.

Italy is inviting

News Tours, Inc. and Pan Am are inviting interliners to meet at Il Ciocco. Their three interline programs range from four nights at Il Ciocco for \$174 to four nights at Il Ciocco and three nights in Rome for \$272. Prices include round trip economy air transportation between New York and Rome, round trip first class rail transportation between Rome and Pisa, round trip transfers in Rome and at Il Ciocco and breakfast and dinner daily at Il Ciocco. Several optional excursions are also available. The final departure in this offering is on December 9, 1977. For further information write News Tours, 5915 West Irving Park Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60634.

Christmas is coming

Thinking about Santa's shopping. Caesar Hotels makes it a little easier with the announcement of their fourth annual "Christmas Shopping Weekends." These mini-trips are planned so you can make the most of your shopping budget and get in that extra trip even though not many vacation days are left come November. Until December 15, 1977 you may want to sneak in a week-end in London, Rome, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Madrid or Paris. And if you are lucky enough to have more than a week-end, this year they have new two-city Christmas Shopping Weeks. For a green and red brochure with all details, write Caesar Hotels, Interline Vacations Department, 7733 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

Father-daughter flyers are industry first

Piedmont and Eastern chalked up an industry first this spring when an Eastern captain's daughter donned a Piedmont first officer's uniform.

Denise Blankinship is Piedmont's second woman pilot and one of only 15 female pilots flying for commercial airlines in the U. S. The Company's first woman pilot, Cheryl Ritchie, has been on the seniority list since June, 1974.



BEFORE she actually joined the ranks, Denise went through Piedmont's regular rigorous pilot training program.

AFTER she was officially hired Denise found time to pose for a picture with her Eastern Captain father. Both are based in Atlanta.

The daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Clyde D. Blankinship of Newman, Georgia, Denise graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia in 1973. She majored in home economics but flying was always her first choice. Denise started taking lessons during her freshman year and by the time she graduated, had earned her commercial and instrument ratings. In three more years she had gotten her air transport pilot's ticket. She was working for Tifton Contractors as a company pilot by then. When Denise joined Piedmont's spring pilot class she was among the most experienced trainees with 3,700 hours.

Denise and her father fly out of Atlanta. He is a DC-9 captain and she is a YS-11 first officer. Several news reporters have interviewed them there and say it is hard to tell who is the proudest — Denise, with her very own three stripes or Capt. Blankinship, with his only child in a commercial pilot's uniform.

Denise says her dad didn't "push" her into a

flying career but admits having an airline pilot for a father certainly helped. She says he always told her "Fly only because you love it, not because of the money."

Though no airlines have father-daughter pilot teams, Denise and her dad do fly together in private planes. The family used to have a Beechcraft Baron. Denise says they used to discuss who would be captain.

Captain Blankinship said, "I never won the arguments."

Denise says a lot of pilots, including her dad, look up to her. They're not as tall as she is, 5-feet, 11 inches.

But her best story on being a pilot involves something an older, unnamed pilot told her when she first started:

"Denise," he said, "you'll never make it as a pilot. You don't smoke. You don't drink. And you don't chase women."

Pilot requirements just aren't what they used to be.

