

Wichita scores 1st Pl 'boarding'

Wichita, Kansas, wants Piedmont in a big way.

That's why a large billboard reading "Wichita" appeared recently on Liberty Street in Winston-Salem, just a short distance from our corporate headquarters.

"We just thought it would be a way of keeping our name in front of Piedmont as they go through some decision processes over the next few months," Larry Danielson, vice president of economic development for the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, told a reporter for the

Winston-Salem Journal.

"It's no secret to Piedmont that we in Wichita are very actively seeking additional air service, and we know Piedmont Airlines is a growing and healthy airline. And we would like to see them have a presence in our city," Danielson said.

Wichita has been wooing us for more than a year. Senator Robert Dole, R-Kansas, has popped in twice to see Bill Howard, our president and chief executive officer, and Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum, R-Kansas, has also



made a pitch to Howard for Piedmont to serve the city.

Will the pressure work?

Wichita will just have to wait and see. But you can bet with tactics like these, this city will get a lot of

consideration as we plan our future growth.

PIEDMONITOR

volume 37, number 3

April 1986

New careers open as PI-UR meld

When Piedmont announced the acquisition of Empire Airlines last October, Bill Howard, Piedmont president and chief executive officer, made it clear that each Empire employee would be offered a job within the merged organization.

For some Empire employees, that will mean a substantial change in their job functions, and, in some cases, the prospect of a move to a new location. For others, job responsibilities will remain much the same. But whether employees stay in their present position or move into new careers, they are quickly adapting to a new way of corporate life.

Here's a look at six of Piedmont's newest employees, and the changes in their careers.

Reinhard Bohling, a lead mechanic, has worked at Empire's Utica maintenance facility for nearly five years, and he will continue in this position after the acquisition is complete May 1. Bohling, a native of the Saranac Lake/Lake Placid region in northeastern New York, presently lives in the Utica area with his wife and daughter. He represents the vast majority of the Empire Maintenance Department who find the merger means for them improved work schedules, higher compensation, and a greater long-term career opportunity.

Reinhard Bohling,
lead mechanic, UCA

"I'm looking forward to the changeover," Bohling said. "We'll have the ability to expand into different aircraft."

Diane Blank, a "native New Yorker," has worked for Empire as a passenger service representative at LGA since October of 1980. Blank said that she has enjoyed working with her group, and, "I hope the Empire family will grow within the Piedmont organization."

Since Empire and Piedmont operations have been combined at

LGA, the Empire ground agents are now involved with 55 daily arrivals and departures as opposed to eight.

"We are working harder and we are busier throughout the day with the greater number of flights," Blank said. "Because of the shortage of space at LGA, the Piedmont/Empire operation is handled through gates at separate concourses. This is something which will be corrected soon, but it makes working at LGA more challenging."

She added: "Piedmont offers an

opportunity to vary the routine and to learn additional and more specialized jobs."

F28 Captain Richard Trepiaak, who started with Empire in the right seat of a Navajo in 1978, has moved through the ranks of Empire's fleet of Metro IIs and now flies in the left seat of the F28. How does he feel about the merger?

"I'm excited about it," Trepiaak said.

He is looking forward to flying larger aircraft, better schedules, higher compensation, and improved job security with a major carrier. Although Trepiaak will continue living in Rome and work out of the UCA-SYR base for now, his smile widened as he spoke of the possibility of relocating to a Southern base, perhaps five to six years down the road.

"I certainly would like upgrading to a Boeing, not to mention being nearer to all those great golf courses," he said.

Trepiaak also commented on the way Empire employees have handled the transition period saying, "I'm proud to be working among professionals who make this transition period so smooth and efficient."

Bonnie Adey, a general sales agent at Empire's Reservations Center in UCA for the past three years, feels that reservations has had the easiest transition of all the departments.

Adey, a native of Rome, NY, who



continued page 4