

a classy send-off from Boeing

Boeing gave Piedmont's senior officers, along with media representatives from several cities served by the airline, a first-class send-off when our first 767-200 departed May 21 for its new home.



Bill Howard, Piedmont's chairman, president, and chief executive officer, accepts symbolic

keys to the 767-200ER from Boeing's executive vice president Phillip M. Condit. At left is

Bill McGee, Piedmont's executive vice president.

Piedmont enters new era of service as 767-200ER lifts off from Boeing

A new era for Piedmont Airlines started May 21 when our first wide-body aircraft—the Boeing 767-200 Extended Range—lifted off from Boeing Field in Seattle. As its powerful General Electric engines sent it into the blue skies of the Pacific Northwest, applause and cheers rippled through the cabin from about 80 Piedmont officers and other employees who had come for the delivery flight.

The liftoff followed a brief ceremony outside the new widebody where Piedmont Chairman Bill Howard and Boeing Executive Vice President Phil Condit signed the final delivery documents. Rows of chairs were filled with Piedmont personnel witnessing the delivery—many of whom had come to Seattle on their own time—and media crews positioned themselves for pictures and interviews.

Although the applause started there, the fun really began in the skies.

Capt. C.D. McLean and Capt. Jim Sifford received a special clearance to maintain a 5,000-foot altitude and treated everyone to a fly-by of snow-capped Mount Rainier. Minutes later, the Piedmont widebody cruised past the devastated north face of Mount St. Helens, where barren hills gave testimony to its volcanic destruction.

After flying past those two landmarks, the aircraft climbed to transcontinental altitude and everyone settled back for the ride. The flight attendant crew of instructors Frances Barts and Maryann Con-

don, and CLT flight attendants Inga Bateman and Bobbie Scott, served a delicious meal and drinks followed by the first film ever shown on a Piedmont aircraft—appropriately enough, "Top Gun."

About an hour outside of GSO, pictures of the 767-200 were distributed and a few people went to the front of the aircraft where Howard and Piedmont founder Tom Davis were seated with other officers. They brought back autographed pictures of the aircraft and, as the idea spread, a line formed as employees got their own mementos of the occasion.

As the plane landed at GSO, employees were seen lining the roof and tarmac of the maintenance hanger, waving at the aircraft be-

fore it left for an open house at CLT. It was an excellent ending for a delivery flight that is already a milestone in Piedmont's history, and it was an excellent beginning for the company's new era of wide-body service.

An original oil painting of our 767-200 flying over CLT hangs in the lobby of our headquarters building at One Piedmont Plaza. Frank Shrontz, Boeing's president and chief executive officer, presented the 48 x 80 inch painting to Chairman Bill Howard following a dinner on May 20 honoring Piedmont.



(L to r) Charles King, manager-maintenance technical services; Joe Archer, manager-line maintenance-CLT; Mike Ross, manager-line maintenance; and

Bob South, customer support representative from Boeing; inspect the 767-200 upon its arrival at CLT.