

# Piedmont Readies Jetliner To Inaugurate New Service

Piedmont Airlines' first pure jetliner — a 92-passenger Boeing 727 — was being outfitted today at the company hangars at Smith Reynolds Airport.

The jet will go into service March 15 on schedules from Winston-Salem to Washington and New York.

It arrived in Winston-Salem from Seattle Saturday with a party of Piedmont and Boeing officials on board.

Tom Davis, president of Piedmont; H. K. Saunders, vice president, operations; W. G. McGee, assistant vice president, sales; Capt. W. A. Tadlock, director of flight operations; Ken Roberts of Boeing, and a number of others were in the party.

## Almost Ready

The liner is ready for service, except for its interior furnishings. These are to be installed by Piedmont Aviation, Inc., the parent company of the airline, which specializes in such work. The company rebuilds planes and engines and does custom interior furnishing for many plane owners.

Piedmont has leased this particular jetliner from Boeing, in order to inaugurate jet service from Winston-Salem immediately.

Six Boeing 737-200 jetliners are being built for Piedmont at a cost of \$25 million. The first of these is to be delivered in March, 1968.

The Boeing 737 is a slightly smaller version, and was designed especially for service on such lines as Piedmont.

Piedmont also has bought 10 new Fairchild F-27B propjet

airliners at a cost of \$15 million, to replace other planes and to handle its expansion. The F-27B is a new version of the F-27 now in use on the airline. It carries 44 passengers.

Delivery of these planes has already started. They are to be placed in service as rapidly as they are outfitted.



Staff Photo by Bill Ray

The first Piedmont jet streaks across Smith Reynolds Airport over a Piedmont Martin 404.