



WILLIAM B. RANKIN II

Manager Quits Job At Smith Reynolds

By Cyril Zaneski
Staff Reporter

William B. Rankin II, the manager of Smith Reynolds Airport for the past seven years, has accepted a job as manager of the Cedar Rapids Municipal Airport in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Cedar Rapids airport commission selected Rankin from a field of almost 100 applicants, said Donald Gardner, the commission chairman. Rankin will take over the Cedar Rapids airport on March 1.

Rankin said that he has recommended that Roger E. Morgan, the chief of the control tower at Smith

Reynolds, be appointed interim manager by the airport commission. The commission may decide on a temporary replacement for Rankin at its meeting next week.

Morgan, 51, is to retire from the Federal Aviation Administration March 1. He said that he is interested in the interim manager's job and would seek the permanent position.

Under Rankin, Smith Reynolds completed a building program last year of about \$20 million. The airport terminal was renovated and the taxiways and runways paved.

Rankin also formed a task force of
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citizens to promote the airport and the commuter service offered there by Sunbird Airlines.

"I've worked very hard here and have been successful in getting the renovations completed and finding some commercial service," he said. "I'm just running out of challenges here."

Rankin has been job-hunting for about a year, since Piedmont Airlines pulled its commercial jet service out of the airport. Smith Reynolds is now served by a commuter, Sunbird Airlines.

"I see my future as being the manager at a major commercial airport," he said. "Cedar Rapids offers an opportunity to go a step larger."

Cedar Rapids is served by three major jet carriers — United, Ozark

and Frontier airlines. It also has four major freight carriers and is the home of Collins Aircraft Radio Corp.

At Cedar Rapids, Rankin said, he will head the construction of a \$50 million terminal.

His salary will be \$37,128 in Cedar Rapids, the Cedar Rapids Gazette said. He was paid about \$31,000 a year here, said Matt R. Long Jr., the chairman of the airport commission.

Long said that Rankin "did an excellent job in Winston-Salem. So naturally, we'll miss him. But a good man is bound to move on to greener pastures."

Kenneth Cox, the chairman of the Smith Reynolds task force, said that Rankin's departure "was one more pothole in the road" for the airport. He said that the task force plans to continue to promote the airport.

Rankin was appointed Smith Reynolds' manager in October 1977 to replace Louis F. McConnell, who resigned. Rankin had been assistant

manager at the airport for three years.

Rankin, a native of Clarksville, Tenn., graduated from Middle Tennessee State University. Before coming to Forsyth County in 1974, he was the assistant manager of the Metro-Nashville Airport in Nashville, Tenn.

Morgan is a native of Clyde. He spent 31½ years in the FAA and has been at Smith Reynolds since 1958.

"Since I'm a mere child of 51, I don't intend to quit working now," he said. "Aviation is my main love, and I intend to stay on and help Smith Reynolds."