

JIM MONTGOMERY STORIES

Jim Montgomery, Assistant Manager of Customer Service, credits animal crackers as the reason he has never called in sick in his 39 year career with Frontier Airlines.

Jim has come a long way since his first day as an Agent in 1947. He was hired by Summit Airlines, predecessor of Challenger Airlines, as a Station Agent in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 1950, Challenger, Monarch and Arizona Airways merged to become Frontier Airlines. Over the years, Jim has taken advantage of the opportunities the merger created.

Jim's list of achievements is impressive and demonstrates his dedication to Frontier and his fellow employees.

He was instrumental in the development of the Frontier Credit Union serving on the Credit Committee and the Board of Directors as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board.

Jim reminisced of days gone by. He remembers a time when he was sent to open the Greybull, Wyoming station. When he arrived, he discovered, to his surprise, that there was no ticket counter and no work desks! Using some ingenuity, Jim went out to the highway and knocked down enough road signs to make a ticket counter and some work tables.

Another move took him to Powell, Wyoming in the dead of winter. He arrived during a howling blizzard and couldn't find anywhere to live. So, what did the ever resourceful Jim do? He lived in the furnace room at the station! Jim helped many people during that blizzard. "The blizzard was so bad that when a flight landed, it would stay on the runway because the snow on the taxiway and the ramp was too deep. They had to ferry the people and the cargo back and forth. It must have been quite a sight to see, but believe me, not much fun to work."

In his spare time, Jim works (believe it or not). When he is not working, he is an avid golfer. His most memorable moment was landing a hole in one at the Wellshire golf course in Denver.

With a career as colorful as Jim's, there have been peaks and valleys, but he was never a quitter or complainer. There isn't enough space to write about all the times Jim has lent a helping hand to those in need. But how can you not like a guy whose favorite thing to eat is animal crackers.

-FL Flight Plan, August 1986

FRONTIER HISTORIANS

As a note of interest, there are a few employees here in Denver Station who were here when Frontier was born and will be here as Frontier, apparently becomes aviation history.

JIM MONTGOMERY - Jim began his airline career April 16, 1947 in Cheyenne, Wyoming with Summit Airways which later became Challenger Airlines. Jim initially worked all phases of station operations and was promoted in a short time to Superintendent of Stations. He attributed his "quick start" to none other than United Airlines. UA did most of the ground handling for Summit Airways and Jim got to know the United employees who taught him how to ticket. He also volunteered to maintain their Company manuals. As a result of keeping up their manuals he became familiar with airline procedures and was the resident

“Challenger Expert”.

Believe it or not, when Jim started in Cheyenne, Cheyenne was one of UA’s main bases. Their maintenance, dispatch and airline school were all located there. They had a measly two flights a day to Denver, didn’t even have an exclusive gate, but had to share with other airlines.

-Denver Employee News, July 25, 1986