

# Frontier Plane Makes Initial Landing Here

At 12:19 p.m. today, Capt. Wayne Aspinall and his co-pilot, First Officer Warren Heckman brought their DC-3 plane down smartly on the runway at Grant county airport and taxied up to the loading ramp, spotting the door of the big plane at the loading gate like a boxcar at a railroad station.

Across the entrance to the loading area of the newly finished airport was stretched a big piece of paper on which was inscribed: "Welcome, Frontier." Thru this, circus fashion, walked John Lindsey, an official of the airline, and other airline officials followed him thru the shredded paper sign.

There to greet the visitors were a group of Grant county leaders headed by W. J. Upton, chairman of the Grant county airport board. They were at the airport to greet a party of officials of the airline which officially opens regularly scheduled service thru here tomorrow.

After introductions, Miss Freddie Ann Mrotzek, Silver City's air force queen, stepped up and christened the big plane Sunliner Silver City, the name the airliner will carry from now on.

## Special Trip

Among those arriving in this first airlines plane—a special trip from airline headquarters in Denver—were: Ed Gerhardt, Phoenix, regional sales manager; Lindsay, who is passenger sales agent; Mike Cook, Salt Lake City, district sales manager; Edna May, Phoenix, sales representative; Elton Snokes, Denver, superintendent of station operation; John Griffith, Denver, regional personnel supervisor; Donald Stevens, Denver, director of economic research; Mrs. Stevens; Mary Martin and Ann Ault, traffic department assistants; H. P. Barnard, personnel director, and Helen Schulte and Irene Replogle, stewardesses.

Already here was the airline's manager for Grant county, Lamar Belnap. He arrived yesterday to take over operation of the Frontier station here. He will be assisted by two agents, who are to be assigned soon.

## Started In Wyoming

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After the plane was christened, those who met the airline officials took rides over Grant county.

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## Short Ceremony To Greet First Regular Flight

A "quickie" celebration tomorrow morning will greet the first flight of Frontier airlines to make a regularly scheduled run into Grant county. Coffee and doughnuts will be served to those at the airport when the first plane lands at 8:15 am enroute from Phoenix to El Paso.

During that time, the first load of air mail will be put aboard the plane, altho the regular mail will be placed on the west flight only after that.

The first plane will be here for 15 minutes, altho the regular stop is only for three minutes. Frontier has gotten special permission from the CAB to stretch its first stop here to allow time for photographs and any ceremony attendant with the first flight.

Mrs. Merle Briggs will be the first local passenger aboard the airline. She bought the first ticket to El Paso.

## Frontier

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They were followed by other citizens who had gone to the airport for the ceremony.

This evening, the visiting airlines officials are to be guests of local citizens at an informal dinner in the Murray hotel. Persons interested in meeting airlines officials are invited to join the group. It will be a Dutch treat affair.

After dinner, airlines personnel will show films in the Murray ballroom. Everyone is invited. There will be no admission charge. The films will describe the operations of the airline.

## Post Office Gives Contract For Mail Haul

Connections between Grant county towns and arriving and departing Frontier airlines planes will be made by taxis and by an independent contractor handling the mail, it was announced today.

Postmaster Jesse Turner said the postoffice transportation office in El Paso has awarded Lee Grimes, Fort Bayard, the contract to carry mail from Silver City postoffice to the airport near Hurley. Grimes will begin the outgoing run here, then will pick up mail at Fort Bayard, Central, Bayard and Hurley.

Later, connections probably will be made with the Santa Rita-Hanover area. Post office officials here said there may be another contractor given that outlying route, connecting with Grimes' route at Bayard or Hurley.

Conn Brown of the Silver Cab co. said his firm will carry passengers and luggage to and from the airport but will not schedule special regular runs to the field.

Those wishing transportation to the airport, Brown said, should call a cab at least 45 minutes before the departure time of the plane. He said Frontier airlines officials have arranged to notify him in advance of passengers coming into Grant county and cabs will meet planes which have passengers for this area.

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