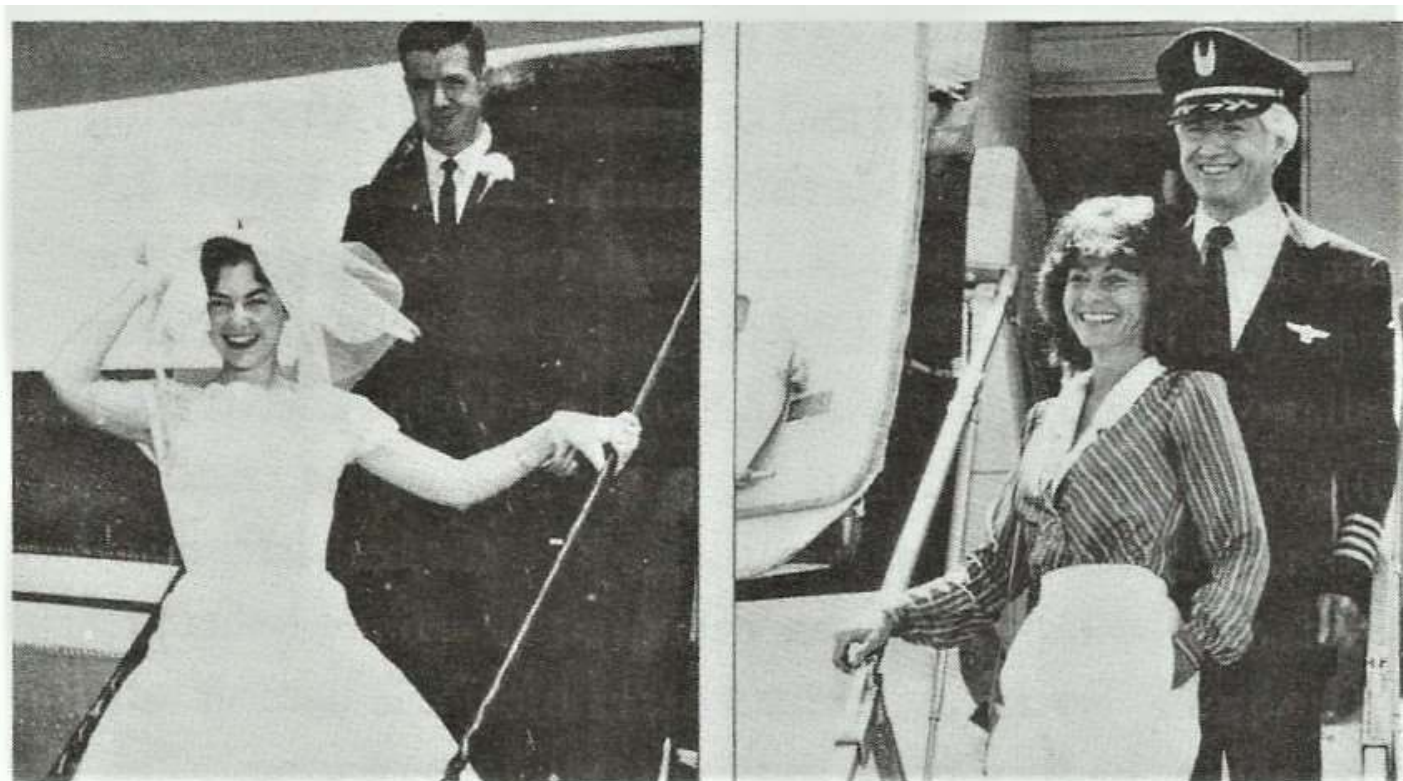


WEDDING BELLS HIGH ABOVE DENVER

FLYING AT 3,000 FEET ABOVE DENVER, COLORADO, Captain Dick Hoffman and First Officer Marion Tongish eased the throttles back until the manifold pressure read 20 inches on the gauges. After slowing the DC-3 to its minimum speed they began a gradual descent over the city. The 15 May 1959 turned into a superb morning for this memorable occasion: the airborne wedding of Frontier Captain Pete Lamkin and his beautiful bride, Frontier Stewardess Janet Curry. Captain Chick Stevens recounts the wedding.



Captain Lamkin first saw his future bride at the Alamosa, Colorado air terminal while waiting for an exchange of passengers and cargo. Upon asking the agent who the good looking gal in the lobby was, he was informed that she was a new stew based in Denver. Pete thought Jan was the prettiest girl he had ever seen and he didn't want to waste any time. Stepping out from behind the ticket counter to make her acquaintance he tripped over the weigh-scales and sprawled face down on the terminal floor. As he nonchalantly regained his feet and dusted himself off, he could hear the last boarding call for his flight and rushed to the airplane to assume his cockpit duties.

Back in Denver, Pete checked the stewardess schedule and bid the same schedule the beautiful stew would be flying for the month of July. After flying together as crew members for six days, Pete knew she was for him and asked Jan to marry him. She accepted.

Since it was the DC-3 that had brought them together, Jan thought it would be nice if the Grand 'Ole Lady would lend her presence to the wedding party. Captain Lamkin had reservations regarding the weather and other unforeseen problems; he was especially concerned with the publicity such a wedding might generate. They hoped to make this a reverent occasion with only family members and a few close friends. A Methodist minister refused the invitation to perform the wedding ceremony because of all the unknowns, but the chaplain from Lowry Airfield was happy to oblige.

On the morning of the wedding, the weather refused to cooperate and spread scud and low ceilings over the Colorado landscape. Rumors had been leaked to the Denver Post, and the Post contacted Frontier, but Frontier feigned complete innocence. The wedding was moved up one hour to avoid any unexpected guests.

The front row of seats in the cabin were removed, and, with the wedding party all aboard, Captain Hoffman (whom Pete had enjoyed flying with) and Tongish (Pete's room-mate) requested clearance to climb on top of the cloud layer. As the wedding party climbed into the blue sky they noted that the clouds below were fast breaking up, and the air had become as calm as a soft summer morning. Captain Hoffman reduced the power and when the cabin sounds of the Grand 'Ole Lady became less noisy, the chaplain called for reverence, and the ceremony in the sky commenced high above Denver.

After serving as a charter pilot and instructor for Monarch Aviation in Grand Junction, Colorado, Captain Lamkin hired on with Frontier in 1956 at the age of twenty-two. He checked out as captain on the DC-3 at age twenty-five. Pete served Frontier as a check airman and later became manager of flight training for propeller driven aircraft. After serving Frontier for many years in the training department, Pete followed his heart and went back to flying the line.

Captain Lamkin and Janet are now retired and Janet has become a successful artist, and shows her work in various galleries throughout the west.

*-EXCERPTED FROM "THE GOLDEN YEARS OF FLYING"
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