

# More Cascade Growth Planned in 1982

By Jim Schick

Next month Cascade Airways will introduce new and larger planes to serve air commuters of the Northwest. At the same time the air carrier will announce expansion plans into Montana and possibly other states.

The move marks the growth of one of the largest and most successful commuter airlines in the United States into a more diversified carrier.

A demonstrator and training model of the 48-passenger British Aerospace 748 has been in Walla Walla for use in pilot training and training mechanics. Although corporate headquarters for Cascade are located in Spokane, Walla Walla's City-County Airport is Cascade's maintenance and operations base. Seventy of Cascade's 105 pilots are based in Walla Walla, along with more than 30 mechanics and the support people plus the Cascade ticket and sales staff.

Timothy D. Komberec, director of flight operations for Cascade, said the new planes are powered by two Rolls Royce prop-jet engines. The planes are pressurized and the plane includes a galley where drinks, coffee and snacks will be served.

For the first time, Cascade planes will carry flight attendants and the initial 12 are being trained in Walla Walla now. The flight attendants will also be based in Walla Walla. Other flight-attendant classes will be trained here as time goes on.

Komberec said the new planes have 118 cubic feet of cargo space in front and 100 cubic feet in the rear. The first of the new planes will go in service Dec. 15 in the Walla Walla-Pasco-Seattle market; the second will be used on the southern Idaho route to Salt Lake City, and possibly Montana.

The director of flight operations said some new stations will be opening the first of the year.

During the past several weeks, several staff members from British Aerospace have been in Walla Walla working with the Cascade staff. Peter Henley of British Aerospace is in charge of pilot training and flew the new plane recently when several Walla Walla residents were taken on a courtesy flight by Cascade. Henley said the cooperation and friendliness of Walla Walla people has been outstanding during their stay here.

The pilot later gave a private air show in which he put the new plane through some stunt phases, the same as were used during an air show in France some time ago.

Troy Moore, chief pilot for Cascade and a resident of Walla Walla, said the new plane is easy to fly and is very responsive. He said there is excellent visibility and from the pilot's point of view is a welcome addition to the Cascade system. The plane is also extremely flexible.

Cost of the aircraft is about \$7 million and Cascade is purchasing five with three to go in service in 1982 and two this year. The plane carries a crew of two and the flight attendants.

