

Inaugural DC-9



Charles Yates, left, president of the Georgia State Chamber of Commerce assists C. E. Woolman in ribbon cutting ceremonies of DC-9 inaugural service from Atlanta.

▲ Delta Air Lines last month became the world's first air carrier to introduce three different commercial jetliners when the Douglas DC-9 Fanjet was placed in scheduled service.

Delta's initial jet-first was the introduction of the Douglas DC-8 in 1959 and this was followed with the Convair 880 in 1960.

The 65-passenger DC-9's inaugural scheduled flight was an Atlanta-Memphis-Kansas City roundtrip. The airplane operated as Flight 791 and last month's operation was for a single day only to dispense with inaugural festivities.

The DC-9 entered daily scheduled service on December 8 and by December 15 the aircraft was serving 20 cities

on Delta's system.

Placing of the twinjet in scheduled service came approximately three months ahead of original plans. The airplane was certificated by the Federal Aviation Agency on November 23, more than two months ahead of the originally scheduled date of next January 26.

Accompanying passengers on the inaugural flight were: C. E. Woolman, Delta's chairman of the board and chief executive officer; F. J. Schwaemmle, director of public relations; Morris Shipley, director of civic affairs; and John Martin and Philip Ellsworth of Hartford, Conn., both of Pratt and Whitney, manufacturers of the DC-9's two aft-mounted engines.



Grady Ridgeway, right, Atlanta Airport manager, talks with C. E. Woolman before the flight gets underway.



Mr. Woolman presents orchids to the two stewardesses serving the flight. Center, Joyce Tillman; right, Charlene Wild.



Crew of inaugural DC-9 flight, from left: Captain C. J. Williams, stewardesses Joyce Tillman, Charlene Wild, K. H. Hill, first officer.



First passengers to fly the DC-9 in scheduled flight receive souvenir flight bags as they board.



Completing the first segment of its first flight, the DC-9 stands before Memphis terminal.



Then it was time to head for Kansas City. C. E. Woolman, Delta board chairman and chief executive officer, cuts ceremonial ribbon.



Deplaning Memphis passengers get warm handshake from Fritz Schwaemmle, Delta director of public relations (back to camera).



Ronald Ferguson, left, vice president of the Aviation Transportation Department of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, welcomes Delta's C. E. Woolman.



In Kansas City, C. E. Woolman presents state flag of Missouri to Jack Headley, Kansas City councilman, left, and Frank Pitfenger, director of aviation for the city of Kansas City. Stewardess Charlene Wild stands by with a helping hand.