

# Fortune Tells Of American Lines' Growth

"Bigger . . . better . . . competent"—those are the words Fortune magazine's December issue uses in describing American Airlines in 1951.

A \$140,000,000 corporation (total assets) that 20 years ago did not exist, American "in 1951 will fly more miles, carry more passengers, take in more money and earn more after taxes than any of its competitors in the air," the Fortune article relates.

"In passenger revenue American has in fact grown bigger than most of its competitors on the ground. This year it will collect more cash from its riders than the New York Central Railroad and will be a close second to the Pennsylvania, largest passenger carrier of them all."

### Short Life Rough.

American now "looks substantial, competent . . . affluent," but its "short life has been rough," the article states, giving a different appearance from "as recently as the three years immediately following World War II" when the company, "like its competitors, yawned in the trough. The trouble was equipment shortages, bad accidents and bad service—American Airlines from 1946 through 1948 piled up losses of \$6,700,000."

Today American, with its 14,000 employes and more than 40,000 stockholders—the largest owning 2 per cent of the stock—is in the black, showing a 1950 profit of \$10,400,000 from revenues of \$118,700,000, and the company "will do even better in 1951," Fortune explains.

### 300 Flights Daily.

Operating 300 passenger flights daily coast to coast and into Mexico and Canada with 145 planes "that make up the only completely modern passenger fleet operated by a domestic line," American on June 30, 1951, was at the head of the "Big Four" U S. airlines on the basis of ton-miles and revenue ton-miles.

"On the record, American is not only the biggest but the lowest cost operator among domestic lines," the article relates.

And C. R. Smith, American president, does not believe the present profitable operations are the result of the war boom.

The turnabout came in 1948, Fortune explains, when American took the kinks out of its scheduling and system of getting passenger reservations, began retiring the type planes formerly used in favor of improved DC-6s, and started pioneering in air-freight business, in which it is now second only to Slick Airways, and introduced the Family Plan to draw more people to air travel.



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

**EARLY CHRISTMAS**—Seven-year-old Donny Chafin, who had Christmas Wednesday because doctors believe he'll die soon of leukemia, sits beside tree and presents he wanted at his home in Burbank, Cal.

## DA Office Orders Slash In Mates, 'Personality'

A 23-year-old woman who turned up here with two love-smitten husbands and a mooning admirer got orders Wednesday to thin out the crowd.

Assistant District Attorney S. G. Johndroe Jr. instructed her to get walking papers for husband No. 2 via an annulment proceeding.

And she was told to give her swooning boy friend the heave-ho.

Then, she was informed, she could return to marital bliss with hubby No. 1, without complications.

Police arrested the charmer, who was twice married and divorced prior to her current mix-up, on suspicion of bigamy.

They acted after the two husbands and the boy friend met in a downtown bar and began comparing notes.

The woman married No. 1, she said, on Feb. 27, 1950, in Reno, Nev., and wed No. 2 in Phoenix, Ariz., on April 7, 1951. She blamed the latter misstep on "too many drinks."

Bigamy charges will not be

filed because no offense can be proven here, Johndroe said.

But what was it that swept men off their feet and made them hear wedding bells?

"Personality," she said.

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# Group to Meet To Plan Trips On Stock Show

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce good will committee will meet at 2:30 p. m. in the conference room of the chamber.

The committee, composed of the president, interclub chairman and secretary of approximately 20 Fort Worth luncheon clubs, will be planning trips to neighboring towns to publicize the show.

## San Antonio Suicide

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 5.—A verdict of suicide was returned Wednesday in the death of Helen Day, 47, San Antonio. Mrs. Day's body was found slumped over a box in a room attached to the garage behind her small frame home Wednesday.

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