B.C. Air Lines

Gold River air route begun

B. C. Air Lines Ltd. has started a new direct line between Vancouver and Gold River on Vancouver Island, to service the site of the multi-million dollar pulp mill and townsite of the Tahsis Co.

A new routing and service connecting Vancouver-Port Alberni-Tofino will now provide an air link between Vancouver and Port Alberni on a scheduled basis.

The fishing village and large cannery and reduction plant of B.C. Packers Ltd. at Namu on Fitzhugh Sound will now receive a direct service out of Vancouver as a stop on the regular Vancouver-Ocean Falls run.

To provide for the expanded service, B.C. Air Lines' has added a nine-passenger, twin-engine, Amphibious Grumman Goose to its fleet. This aircraft, together with three 12-passenger, twin-engine, Amphibious Grumman Mallards, will handle the new routes.

The company is also testing the Swiss designed Pilatus Porter under B.C. coastal conditions.

The seven-passenger aircraft is powered with a standard Lycoming piston engine but has been approved for the PT 6 Turbo engine. It has excellent take-off, climb and landing characteristics and is comparable to the Beaver in speed, a company spokesman said.

Fairchild-Hiller are licenced to manufacture the Porter in North America and the tests will provide them with information as to the suitability of the aircraft on operations of this nature.