

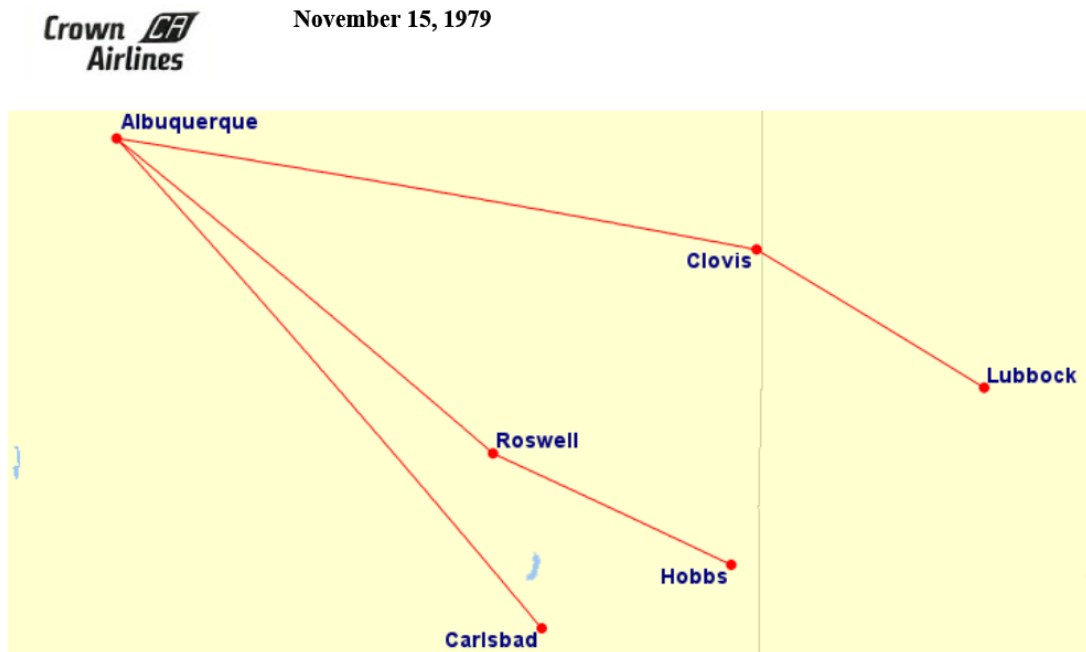


## Crown Airlines

Crown Airlines was a commuter airline based in Clovis, New Mexico. The carrier began operations in 1977 as Crown Aviation operating commuter flights from Clovis to Albuquerque and Lubbock using Cessna 402 and Piper Navajo aircraft. Flights from Clovis to Amarillo were also operated on the carrier's June 13, 1977 schedule but discontinued very soon after. By February 1, 1979 Crown expanded their service from Albuquerque to Carlsbad and Hobbs, New Mexico with four daily flights each after the withdrawal of Texas International Airlines (TI). Crown had been competing with TI at Clovis however TI discontinued service there as well prompting Crown to increase flights. With this schedule, Crown was operating 12 flights each day from Albuquerque. With the Airline Deregulation Act passed a few months prior in late 1978, the federal government set up an Essential Air Service program (EAS) that all smaller cities served by local service airlines like Texas International would be guaranteed to maintain air service and would be paid a subsidy. Crown was attempting to gain the EAS awards for service to Clovis, Carlsbad, and Hobbs however the EAS was awarded to Air Midwest. Air Midwest began service throughout southeastern New Mexico and west Texas on March 1, 1979 causing Crown to cut back on frequency at each market. By the fall of 1979, TI had discontinued their service to Roswell, New Mexico prompting Crown to add new service by adding Roswell as a stop on the Albuquerque - Hobbs flights. Air Midwest, as well as Zia and Permian Airlines, had also added several new flights to Roswell. Crown ceased operations on January 17, 1980 presumably due to the competition with Air Midwest and other carriers on every route they flew. Crown Airlines was not affiliated with Crown Airways that was a commuter airline in Pennsylvania operating on behalf of USAir.



Crown Airlines Cessna 402 at the Albuquerque Sunport.



Crown Airlines route map from 1979.