



Pioneer Airlines 1977-1986

The second Pioneer Airlines to serve New Mexico was a commuter airline based in Denver, Colorado. This carrier began operations in 1977 as Pioneer Airways with flights from Denver into Wyoming, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The name was changed to Pioneer Airlines in 1980 and the carrier began service from Denver to Santa Fe on March 1, 1981 with Beech 99 aircraft. Service from Denver to Farmington began in early 1982 with some flights making stops at either Gunnison or Pueblo, Colorado. Some Denver-Santa Fe flights began stopping at either Colorado Springs or Pueblo as well. Pioneer had also introduced Swearingen Metroliner aircraft on all of its new flights. For a short time in early 1982 Pioneer operated flights on a Denver-Santa Fe-Farmington route providing intrastate service between Santa Fe and Farmington however all Farmington service ended by September 1, 1982 at which time new service from Albuquerque to Colorado Springs, Durango, and Cortez, Colorado began. The carrier returned to Farmington on June 1, 1983 with six flights per day from Albuquerque adding to the 15 daily flights already operated by three other carriers in this market. One flight continued from Farmington to Denver stopping in Durango and Cortez. The flights from Albuquerque to Colorado Springs began stopping in Santa Fe on this date as well. Pioneer's service to Albuquerque and both

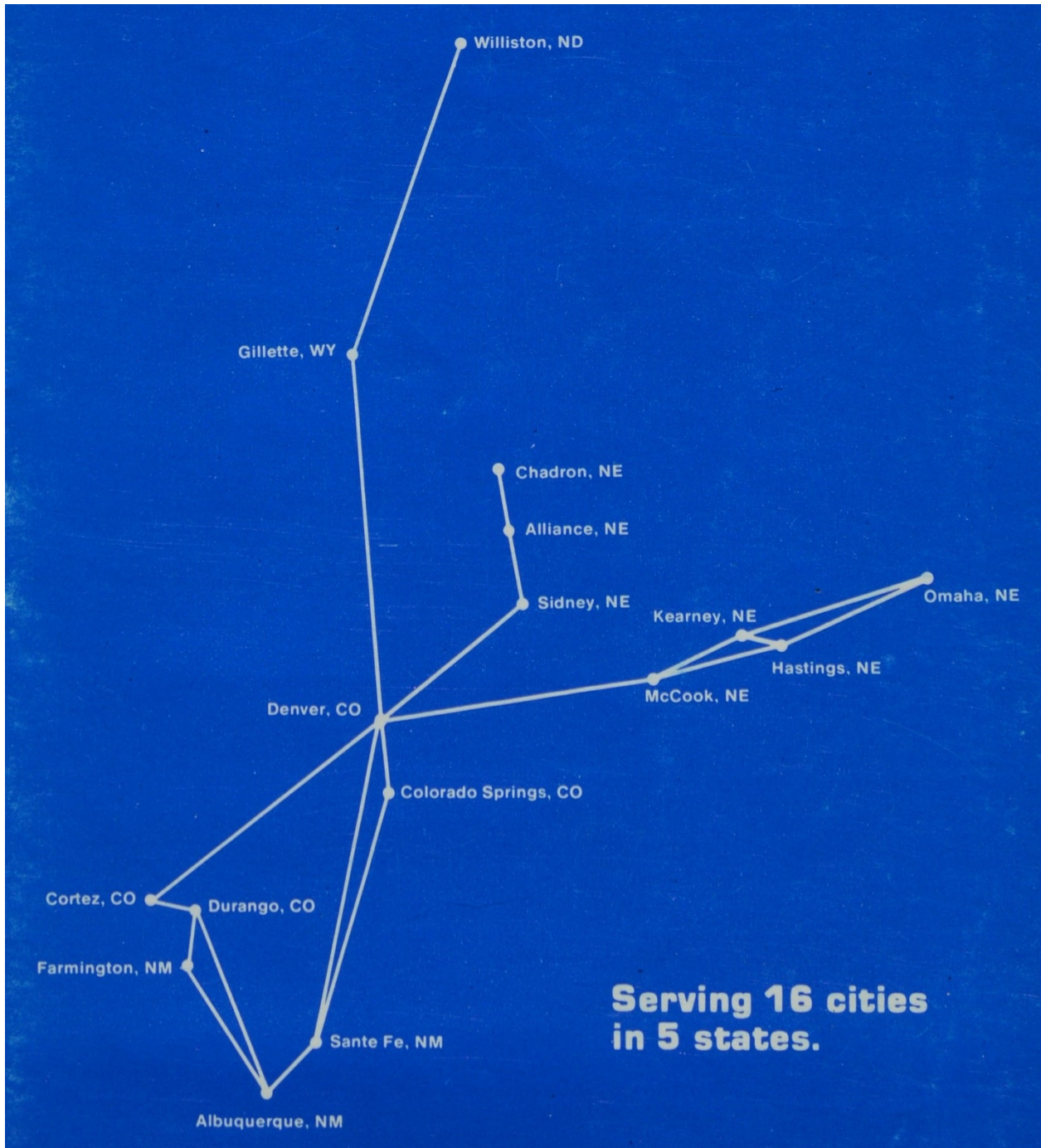
callings to Farmington were short lived as all flights ended in August, 1983. The carrier continued to serve Santa Fe and went on to become a Continental Commuter feeder carrier on behalf of Continental Airlines at their Denver hub in October, 1983. The Santa Fe-Denver flights continued operating under the Continental brand through July, 1985, stopping in Alamosa, Colorado during the latter months. Pioneer ceased all operations in May, 1986 after losing its affiliation with Continental Airlines.



Pioneer Airlines Beechcraft 99.



Pioneer Airlines Swearingen Metroliner with Continental Commuter titles.



Pioneer Airlines route map from 1983.