

DOCUMENTING BRANIFF AFTER CESSATION - A great amount of time is used to extensively cover the impressive 54 years of initial history of Braniff Airways, Inc. and its associated companies but the company's history beyond cessation of operations in May 1982, is also a fascinating adventure in learning new historical points about our beloved company. Even though Braniff International's air carrier operations ceased on May 12 and 13, 1982, many parts of Braniff International Corporation continued in operation.

Examples of this include, Braniff Realty, which oversaw Braniff's vast real estate holdings such as the Terminal of the Future at Love Field and the arm also owned and leased several Boeing 727s to Braniff Airways, Inc. In addition, Braniff Education Systems classes never missed a single day, while BIC Guardian Services continued to provide terminal security at DFW Airport and other Braniff airports. Braniff also leased space in its DFW Terminal 2W to other airlines and the Braniff International Council Room was open for business to serve these airline customers.

In addition, a full maintenance operation at the 7701 Lemmon Avenue Operations and Maintenance Base that was tasked with outside maintenance contracts and the make-ready for the sale of Braniff airliners that were no longer needed for reorganization also continued after cessation of operations. The BI maintenance facility also ensured that all of Braniff's jets were kept in perfect ready to fly condition during their time on the ground while the reorganization of the company took place.

In June 1982, Braniff's airliners, other than leased units, were placed in the BRNF Liquidating Trust, which was formed to protect the interests of the Airline's senior creditors. The Trust ensured the timely sale of Braniff's needed airliners that would not be used in the reorganization of the corporation. In 1983, People Express Airlines purchased 15 of Braniff's 727-227 Trijets including Ships N426BN through N445BN. A specific requirement of the purchase was that Braniff perform all of the conversion work necessary to bring the aircraft to PE's specifications, which included interior reconfiguration and new exterior paint.

Extensive engineering files were created for each aircraft and all of the work was performed at the Braniff International Operations and Maintenance Base at Dallas Love Field beginning in 1983 with the last aircraft delivered to People Express in 1986 just months before its merger with Continental Airlines.

Braniff Airways Foundation has spent extensive time and resources to document Braniff's era after cessation of operations including its transformation into Dalfort Corporation and its primary subsidiary, Braniff, Inc. Among the files that the Foundation has been archiving over the last several months are the materials that fully document the sale and conversion by Braniff of its former Boeing 727s for People Express Airlines, Inc.

On September 13, 2018, the collection was completed and fully archived and will now be placed in the Post Cessation Section of the Braniff Flying Colors Archives. The collection required the use of five 2 inch archival safe binders and over 1000 archival safe clear protective covers. Two engineering books created for the People Express project by The Boeing Company are also included in the collection.

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