



Bonanza Air Lines

Bonanza Air Lines was established in 1945 and based in Las Vegas, Nevada. The carrier flew routes within Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and into Mexico from their hubs at Phoenix and Las Vegas. Per the January 4, 1959 Bonanza timetable, the route map indicates that Bonanza had applied for a Las Vegas-Grand Canyon-Gallup-Albuquerque route but this route never came to be. At the time Bonanza was operating all Douglas DC-3 aircraft. Bonanza did briefly serve Albuquerque during the summer of 1966 on an emergency basis when the mechanics for Trans World Airlines (TWA) were on strike. As TWA was the backbone airline for Albuquerque, the city was crippled without its service. From Albuquerque, Bonanza flew late night flights to Phoenix and Las Vegas using Fairchild F-27 prop aircraft and Douglas DC-9 jets.

In 1968, Bonanza merged with Pacific and West Coast Airlines to form Air West and two years later was bought out by Howard Hughes and renamed "Hughes Airwest". After airline deregulation in late 1978, Hughes Airwest announced plans to serve Albuquerque from both Salt Lake City and Tucson however the carrier decided against its service before it started. In 1980 Hughes Airwest merged with Republic Airlines which in turn merged into Northwest Airlines in 1986. Northwest began serving Albuquerque in 1992 and would merge with Delta Airlines in 2010. Delta had already been serving Albuquerque since 1983. The original Bonanza routes and hubs were mostly discontinued in the early 1980's leaving very few remnants of Bonanza to be reflected into Delta Airlines over 40 years later.



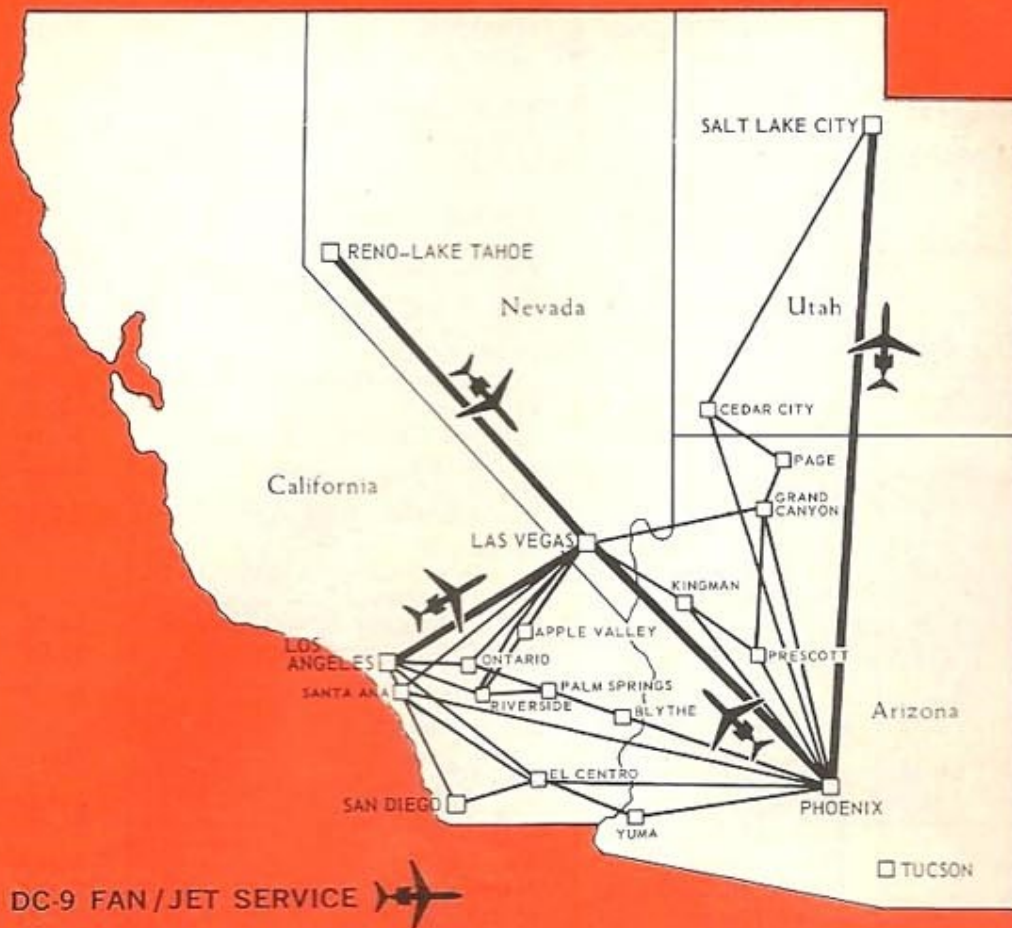
Bonanza Air Lines Fairchild F-27.



Bonanza Air Lines Douglas DC-9.

BONANZA AIR LINES

SYSTEM ROUTE MAP



Bonanza Air Lines route map from 1966 at the time emergency service to Albuquerque was provided.