

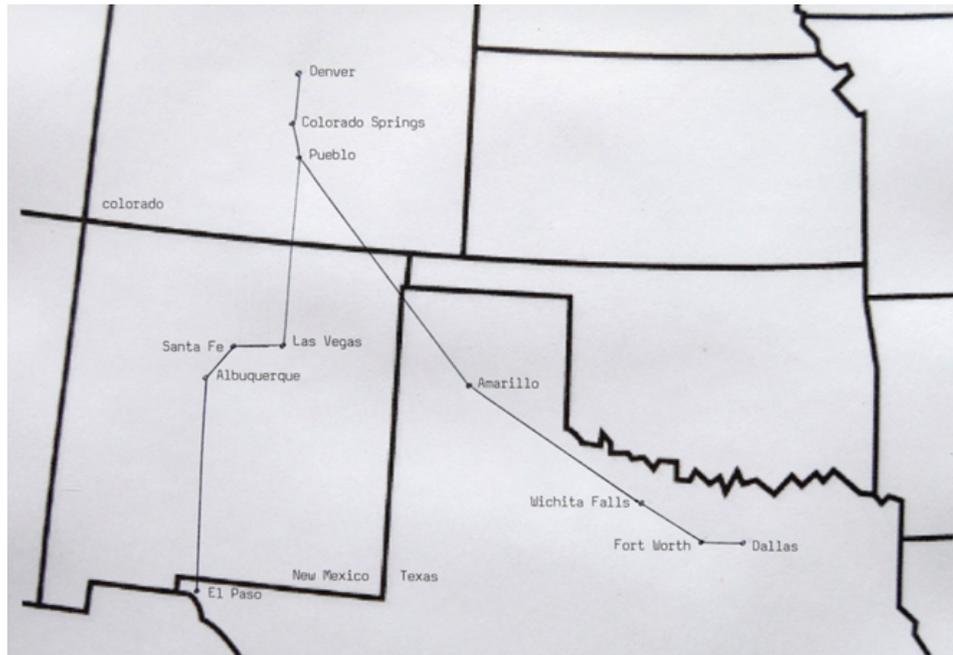


Mid-Continent Air Express “MCAE”

Mid-Continental Air Express was the third commercial airline to begin service to New Mexico in 1929. The carrier was created with the financial backing of Western Air Express and started a north-south route between Denver and El Paso with stops Pueblo, Colorado as well as Las Vegas, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Service began on September 21, 1929 and the aircraft used was a Fokker 8 Super Universal. The leg between Albuquerque and El Paso, TX appears to have been suspended for a short time in early 1930 and Colorado Springs was added as a stop between Pueblo and Denver by early 1931. Western Air Express was operating a Pueblo-Colorado Springs-Denver-Cheyenne, Wyoming route and the operations of Mid-Continent were merged into Western on September 27, 1931. The entire route from El Paso to Cheyenne was then operated as Western Air Express until February, 1934. An air mail contract was then awarded on the route to Varney Speed Lines for the El Paso to Pueblo portion of the route and to Wyoming Air Service for the Pueblo to Cheyenne portion. Varney went on to become Continental Airlines in 1937.



Mid-Continent Air Express Fokker F-8 Super Universal at Santa Fe.



Mid-Continent Air Express route map from 1931.