

photos by Steve Thompson

# Cascade has landed for good



With a dawn flight schedule, Cascade pilot Jim Shea can relax at his Clarkston apartment by early afternoon.

What started as a fun country airline has landed at the Quad Cities for good.

With the expansion this winter to 10 flights per weekday from Lewiston-Clarkston and Moscow-Pullman, Cascade Airways has stationed 14 pilots and 14 counter and ramp personnel in the region.

Nesting rites have begun for the pilots and ground workers. Some Cascade people are buying houses in the valley while nearly all have sampled regional culture and recreation.

"People don't realize that we have 10 flights in and out of here every day," said pilot Jim Shea Tuesday in the living room of his Clarkston apartment. "We're growing. We live in the valley. We get off the plane with you."

The airline may station more employees in the region, especially at Lewiston-Clarkston because

the valley is blessed with mild weather, according to station manager Richard Rynearson.

"The weather almost always is open here when it's bad elsewhere," he told the Tribune.

Shea, 29, and his flying partner Jim Bridwell, 33, said most Cascade employees have discovered the region's outdoor recreation: hunting, fishing, even river rafting. Passenger service agent Lin Roberts of Lewiston, a former figure salon owner, said she enjoys the city's jogging tracks.

While most of their off-duty activities are confined to the fraternity of airline employees, time is changing that.

All in all, "said Shea, the people around here have just been fantastic. They somehow find out that you fly and that gets them started. One woman invited us over for coffee.



The story is written on baggage claim tickets: Cascade "feeds" larger carriers.