

# Cascade expansion rests on certification

Greatly expanded facilities here for Cascade Airways is included in plans of the airline as it seeks a new status or its Northwest operations.

Presentation of its plans for federal airline certification were explained here Tuesday by Cascade's president, Mark M. Chestnutt.

Members of the Walla Walla City Council, Walla Walla County Commission, Walla Walla City-County

Airport Board and the Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce attended.

"Solid support" of the firm's plans was indicated, according to Chestnutt.

Chestnutt said Cascade is in the process of asking the Civil Aeronautics Board for the certificate of public convenience and necessity.

He said the airline, which presently

headquarters its maintenance operations in Walla Walla City-County Airport, would likely build new hangar facilities with the approval of certification.

Chestnutt said a new hangar "two to three times that of the present facility" would be built.

The present hangar handles about five planes, he said.

New facilities would be in addition

to the present buildings, he said.

Besides added facilities here, the airline would also be adding bigger aircraft, more frequent scheduling and possibly some lower fare costs with the certification, Chestnutt said.

The larger aircraft would also be the pressurized type, he said.

The certification would enable Cascade to increase its current payroll of 90-100 employees with a

payroll of \$920,000 a year.

"We would be able to put more people here, both in maintenance and flight crews, and give the community more cash flow with the certification," Chestnutt said.

The certification sought by Cascade would be similar to that of major airlines of the nation, with modifications to fit its size of operations and its aircraft, he said.

Cascade started its commuter-type operations in Walla Walla in November 1971 with 20-30 people on the payroll.

"We can't operate any longer as a commuter," Chestnutt said.

"We need the certification because of increasing passenger loads.

"Through November, there has been an increase of more than 60 percent in passengers over 1976."