

MAIL TEST RUNS BY HELICOPTERS TO BEGIN TODAY

The first Chicagoland helicopter air mail pickup delivery service will begin about 2 p. m. today when three army helicopters fly off Chicago airport on routes that will link the field, the main city postoffice, and 41 communities in this area. The planes and crews are on loan to the postoffice department from the army air forces.

Each of the helicopters will be carrying air mail brought into Chicago at 1:45 p. m. in a United Air Lines' flying postoffice plane from Washington and Cleveland. As soon as the mail is placed aboard the helicopters they will depart—thus enabling them to make deliveries with time savings that will range from three to 12 hours over normal surface transportation.

Sullivan to Accompany Mail

Gael Sullivan, second assistant postmaster general who has sponsored the experiments in helicopter deliveries here and in Los Angeles, will arrive in United's Fairchild packet postal plane. He will board one of the helicopters and accompany the mail delivery from the field to the roof of the downtown postoffice building. After brief ceremonies there Sullivan will be flown to the roof of the Merchandise Mart for a secondary ceremony.

For today's inaugural service not only the so-called "shuttle" run between the post office roof, the Merchandise Mart and the airport will be flown, but also the northern, western, and southern routes for one round trip.

M. H. Ackerman, postal inspector of Atlanta who is in charge of the project for his department, said that today's schedules are as follows: Departures for all the helicopters will be about 2 p. m. with the shuttle 'copter due to arrive at the postoffice roof about 2:05 and the Merchandise Mart about 2:20.

Arrival Times Listed

From the Merchandise Mart the shuttle plane will head for Berwyn arriving about 2:45; Oak Park at 2:52; Park Ridge, 3:01; Glenview, 3:09; Evanston, 3:18; Wilmette, 3:26; Winnetka, 3:31; Glencoe, 3:37; Highland Park, 3:42; Lake Forest, 3:50; Waukegan, 4:01; Libertyville, 4:14; Barrington, 4:30; Palatine, 4:39; Arlington Heights, 4:47, and Des Plaines, 4:56.

The southern schedule calls for the helicopter flying this route to arrive at Blue Island at 2:09; Harvey, 2:16; Whiting, 2:30; East Chicago, 2:37; Gary, 2:47; Hammond, 2:56; Lansing, 3:04; Chicago Heights, 3:14; Joliet, 3:37; Lockport, 3:46; Lemont, 3:55, and Argo, 4:11.

The western route includes pickups at La Grange at 2:06 p. m., Maywood, 2:15; Elmhurst, 2:24; Villa Park, 2:29; Glen Ellyn, 2:37; Wheaton, 2:42; West Chicago, 2:50; Elgin, 3:04; St. Charles, 3:18; Geneva, 3:25; Batavia, 3:33; Aurora, 3:45; Naperville, 3:59; Downers Grove, 4:09, and Hinsdale, 4:16.

Nickel Air Mail

(Story in adjoining column)



Pat Palmer (left) and Lois Oliver, United Air Lines stewardesses, helping advertise the 5 cent air mail postage rate which goes into effect today.