



Photo from Hardie Collection

*North Central's Convair 340's at the south pier in the 60's.*

## THE CONVAIRS ARE BACK!

"The Convaairs are back!" is the word among long-time travelers on Northwest Airlines. These refurbished veterans are setting a standard among local passengers who appreciate the roominess and comfort offered by these rugged examples from another era.

When Northwest purchased Republic Airlines in January, 1986, 13 Convair 580's were a part of the fleet of airliners in the deal. A program of refurbishment of these aircraft included installation of new overhead storage lockers, new

carpeting, new seating and repainting in Northwest's livery with the familiar red tail.

Convair service from Milwaukee includes flights to Green Bay, Madison, Wausau, and Grand Rapids. According to one source many passengers specifically request to fly on the Convair. Many regulars have fallen in love with the airliner's nostalgic appeal, its first class interior, remarkable reliability and its "big plane" atmosphere -especially when compared to other commuter types.

Northwest's fleet of immaculately maintained Convaairs look as smart as the day they rolled off the production line. Converted to turbine power during the 1960's, the modification has undoubtedly extended the service life of the type far beyond the manufacturer's original intentions. As to their replacement, a company official has stated, "We will continue to fly the aircraft until it becomes uneconomical to do so."



Chuck Boie Photo

*Three Northwest Convair 580's loading at Concourse E on a day in June. A Northwest DC-10-40 is in the background.*