

# Many New Jobs for Helicopters

By Jean Ross Howard

Asst. Director-Vertical Lift Council  
Aerospace Industries Association

Speaking of his firm's helicopter—a Fairchild Hiller turbine-powered FH-1100, John B. Thomson, president of Thomson Industries Inc., Manhasset, N.Y., says "it creates favorable publicity and the image of a modern and progressive company"—in addition to serving as a practical short-haul executive transport.

Today, nearly 500 U.S. industries operate helicopters. These companies represent a wide variety of American business including oil companies, manufacturers, construction firms, banks, radio and TV stations, automobile dealers, public utility companies, ranches, and even such enterprises as bakeries and music stores.

The corporate copter also serves as a "good neighbor" in the community.

In St. Louis, Mo., soon after the Fred J. Weber Construction Company took delivery of its first helicopter in 1964, president Fred J. Weber Jr. wrote to more than 120 city, county and state police and fire departments and other agencies offering the company helicopter in time of emergency. It's been used in routine police patrol, in more dramatic man-hunts and as an emergency medical transport. As a result of his service in picking up highway accident victims, a Fred J. Weber Sr. Memorial Heliport was built at the St. John's Mercy Hospital. Later a second heliport was constructed at the Missouri Baptist Hospital.

In Peoria, Ill., the Peoria Journal Star's helicopter can take-off from a modern (James Bond type) rooftop heliport and cover news events and provide emergency transportation in minutes.

Also, the Journal's pilot, Joe Cordrey, working with the Premature Baby Clinic at Peoria's St. Francis Hospital, pioneered the helicopter as a "premie" transport. A portable, lap incubator,

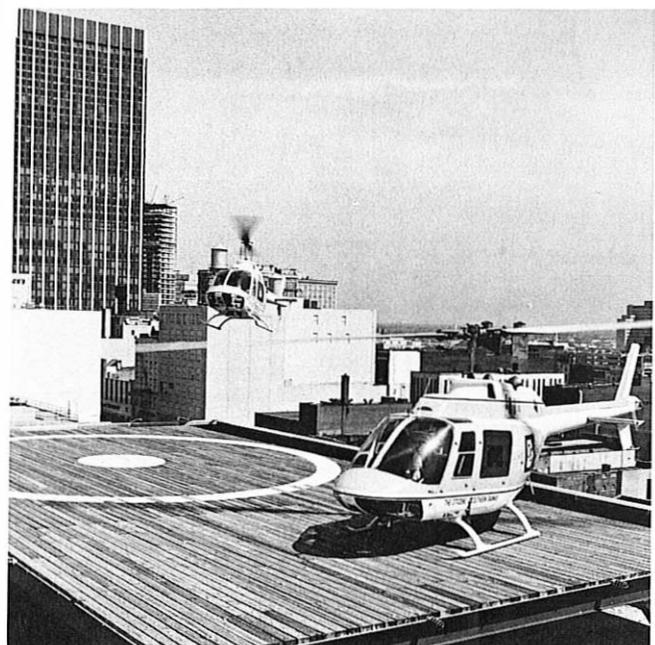
heated by plugging into the copter's cigarette lighter was designed. Now other corporate copters are planning to serve as "premie" transport in their community.

Banks now use helicopters. An outstanding example, the Citizen & Southern National Bank of Georgia, now operates two turbine-powered Bell JetRangers and two Bell 47G-4As. The helicopters serve 40 branch banks in a 50-mile radius of Atlanta. As a result, checks reach the operations building faster and are collected sooner. Work flow is improved. Computers are utilized more efficiently. Bank officials report the daily volume of checks runs in excess of \$100 million.

Typical of the corporate copter's community service is that performed by Meyer Products Inc. (Cleveland, Ohio), with its helicopter. The copter "Sno-Bird II" has been a good neighbor in the community. "Sno-Bird" has given flight demonstrations to aviation classes at local high schools, has flown doctors (with kidneys from a gunshot victim) from a suburban hospital to



Hughes Model 300 herds cattle.



Bell JetRanger is flying armored car.