

## Piper Introduces Comanche 260

**P**iper Aircraft Corporation has introduced its new *Comanche 260*. The plane, an improved version of the low-wing, four-place Piper *Comanche 250*, has increased power and speed, completely restyled interior and numerous design improvements, the manufacturer reports.

Now in production at Piper's Lock Haven, Pa., plant, the *Comanche 260* is powered by a Lycoming 260 h.p. engine, which provides a cruising speed of 185 m.p.h., with 75% power, at 7,000 feet. Its range exceeds 1,250 miles with optional 90-gallon fuel supply, or 730 miles with standard fuel capacity. At full 2,900-pound gross weight, the *Comanche 260* takes off in 660 feet, climbs 1,500 f.p.m., and lands at 61 m.p.h.

Interior restyling of the *Comanche 260* includes improvements in window design, cabin seats and ventilation.

Cabin seats that move fore and aft and have adjustable seat backs have been added, along with a large compartment under the front seats. The compartment is designed for convenient storage of maps, flight manuals and personal articles.

A new cabin ventilation system is reported to increase volume of cool air available. This has been accomplished by adding high-capacity air outlets, which can be adjusted for volume and direction of air flow, on the window sill forward of each front seat and above each rear seat. The cabin heating system has been improved with four outlets—two on each cabin wall—which, according to Piper, provides ample shirt-sleeve warmth when outside temperatures are well below zero. A high capacity, two-outlet defroster system also has been added.

Two major improvements in design

of the aircraft have been made. One is a new single-fork main landing gear which is reported to reduce drag when the plane's wheels are retracted. The second is a new flooring installation which permits floor boards to be removed to facilitate inspection.

Dual flight controls are standard on the *Comanche 260*, and the instrument panel is arranged to permit installation of gyro and other instruments for IFR flight. The radio panel will accommo-

date an ADF, and two 1½ radios with dual VOR and ILS.

Thirteen different versions of the *Comanche 260* are available in addition to the standard model. These versions are offered within custom, executive, sportsman and professional operational groups, with a wide choice of radio packages, autopilots, and other accessories.

The standard model *Comanche 260* is priced at \$22,600. ●

Three different Piper automatic flight systems are offered in the new *Comanche 260*. They include the AutoControl II with zero DG heading lock, the deluxe AutoControl II with course selector and the Altimatec II with three-axis autopilot with course selector, altitude selector, automatic altitude hold and automatic electric trim

