

MESABA ON THE MOVE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MESABA

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NEWS UPDATE

Mesaba To Add Fargo and Moline In January

Announcing a number of schedule adjustments for January and February, Robert D. Swenson, President and CEO of Mesaba, said that the cities of Fargo and Moline/Quad Cities will soon land on Mesaba's route system as the airline's 20th and 21st cities. Effective January 15, 1986, said Swenson, Mesaba will begin providing one daily round-trip flight to each of the two cities from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Metro III aircraft will be used to Moline and Fokker F27 service will be scheduled for Fargo.

"The new service has been carefully scheduled to complement and add greater frequency to Northwest Airline's service in these markets," said Rob Swenson in a press announcement released December 16th. "The service will provide a good schedule for both local and connecting traffic to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport." Northwest Airlines currently provides 3 daily round-trip flights between Moline and Minneapolis and 6 daily round-trip flights between Fargo and Minneapolis. Mesaba's new flights are both morning flights, scheduled at times when Northwest does not serve the markets.

Joining the North Dakota cities of Devils Lake, Jamestown and Grand Forks, Fargo will be the fourth North Dakota city served by Mesaba. And it is also a city never before served by the airline. The same is not true of Moline/Quad Cities, a market which Mesaba began flying to three times a day in June of 1986. Mesaba left Moline this past October as a result of the Northwest/Republic merger. Two months evaluation of the market determined

that the market can again be served effectively by Mesaba, according to Phil Swenson, Vice President of Planning.

Rob Swenson said the decision to enter the new markets was based on increasing aircraft fleet utilization and on continuing a planned level of growth for scheduled air service. "Both cities will be good additions to our route system," he said. In both new cities, Northwest will handle baggage, ticketing and ground services for Mesaba. When the two cities come on line in January, Mesaba will be providing scheduled airline service to 21 cities in the seven states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Other Schedule changes

Effective January 15

The addition of round-trip non-stop service to Thief River Falls

A third daily flight scheduled for Sioux Falls

Fokker F27 service added to Grand Forks and Central Wisconsin.

Effective February 1

The scheduling of round-trip non-stop service to Lincoln.

Mesaba Sells Travel Agency

Mesaba Travel, Mesaba's own travel agency in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, officially changed hands on December 15, 1986, as Mesaba Aviation sold the 30 year old travel agency to Cameron Saunders, a local Grand Rapids businessman. A short signing ceremony was held in Grand Rapids to commemorate the event.

The travel agency was founded in 1956 by Mesaba founder Gordon Newstrom. With sponsorship by Northwest Airlines, Newstrom founded the agency so that he "could meet every travel service demanded by his cus-

tomers in those early days." Mesaba Travel, the first certified agency in Grand Rapids, has operated as a full service agency since its inception.

Robert D. Swenson said that the agency was sold because, "it could be more efficiently operated by a local owner/manager with direct day to day contact with the business." The agency generated less than 1% of Mesaba's total revenues and Swenson said that in today's competitive travel agency industry (Grand Rapids, a town of 13,000, has five travel agencies), it made sense for Mesaba to let the agency go to a local owner.

The agency's current staff of two, under new ownership, will stay on to work for the new owners. The new agency will be called Mesaba Travel Agency Inc., and will continue to be located at the Grand Rapids Airport.

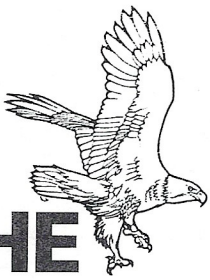
Christmas Party Rings True

In what's become an annual tradition, Mesaba's yearly Christmas Party was a huge success drawing some 300 employees and friends. Everyone enjoyed an evening of visiting, eating and "western-style" dancing to the sounds of "Bandit". Held in the maintenance hangar,

continued ...



Santa appeared at the Christmas Party to see who had been naughty or nice!!!



THE EAGLE'S NEST

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Robert D. Swenson

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays to all of our fine employees. Can you believe how quickly the year has passed by? It seems like only yesterday that our Company began service to Aberdeen and finalized purchasing our brand new fleet of Fairchild Metro III aircraft. And yet, it has been close to a year since all of those decisions were made. I often wonder if time goes by as quickly in other businesses as it does in the airline industry.

Many thanks to all who helped plan and work the annual Mesaba Christmas party. The accounting and support services departments did a great job in decorating the hangar and the party committee members organized a fine event. Also thanks to those that attended and brought all of the tasty food for the potluck supper; it was all very good, I know. Surprisingly, as our annual party has grown, (I can remember not too long ago, holding our Christmas party in Grand Rapids with thirty employees), the atmosphere has managed to stay the same; fun and entertaining.

However, with all of the fun, there always seems to be more work to do. Speaking of which . . . we just announced our January schedule changes which include new service to Moline/Quad Cities and Fargo effective January 15, 1987. To each city we will initially provide one daily round-trip flight; Fokker service to Fargo and Metro service to Moline/Quad Cities. These route additions are in keeping with our long term growth plans in the Midwest. We feel that both cities will be good additions to our new route system.

We are also making a few other schedule adjustments for winter. On January 15, we are adding Fokker service to Grand Forks and Central Wisconsin, in addition to putting a third flight into Sioux Falls with Metro III's. Also, we are scheduling non-stop service to Thief River Falls on January 15, and scheduling an additional non-stop segment between Lincoln and Minneapolis/St Paul on February 1. These changes will allow us to more efficiently utilize our aircraft fleet.

In November, we carried 20,688 passengers on our route system. That number is not bad considering that November is typically our weakest month and that we were only one month into the merger of the RC/NW operations.

As you know, December is a busy month, especially around the holiday season. Please give our passengers that extra special service they expect from Mesaba and remember that with your help, we may be able to break our single day boarding record! My very best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful Holiday Season!



Basketball Team Looks for Players

Mesaba's mens basketball team is established and plays every Wednesday night at the Richfield Junior High at 7461 - Olliver Ave. South in Richfield.

Team member Tom Rathke said that interested players should show up 15-20 minutes before game time and should bring shorts, gray t-shirt and basketball shoes. He also said to bring your best hook-shot as the competition is steep!

The basketball schedule is as follows:

January

7	9:15 p.m.
14	7:15 p.m.
21	8:15 p.m.
28	Bye (There's a win)

February

4	9:15 p.m.
11	7:15 p.m.
18	8:15 p.m.
21	7:15 p.m.

March

Playoff dates to be announced

For more information on the games or the location of the gym, please contact Tom Rathke or Lee Meitrodt at MSP Operations. (726-5759)

Mesaba Hockey Looks For Spectators

With the season almost ended, the Mesaba Hockey team is looking for strong support going into the final games of the season. Refusing to give the team's record, team member Jay Leoffler (Dispatch) said the season has been fun, but that the team would need support in its games to come.

The team plays at the Richfield Arena (located off 66th street between Portland and Nicollet) and their schedule is as follows:

December

21	11:00 a.m.
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January

11	9:45 a.m.
25	11:00 a.m.

March

8	9:45 a.m.
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Playoffs

CHRISTMAS, continued

the decorating department did a great job of "lighting" the dance floor and walls with sparkling tinsel and Christmas lights. The committee even arranged for a drop of 300 balloons to start the evening's festivities.

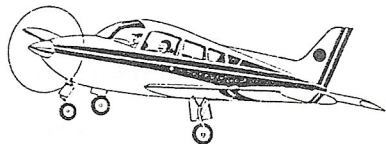
Also in usual fashion, the potluck dinner, starring an entree of Roast beef and Ham, was delectable and complete with many interesting and tasty side-dishes from talented cooks within the Mesaba family. Very little was left to be taken home after the evening was over.

Santa Clause even dropped into the party, late in the evening, bearing a number of small gifts for the various departments who have worked so hard this past year.

For the Minneapolis Operations crew, Santa brought from the North Pole a super duper snow shovel for the long snowy winter ahead. For the flight department he brought a pair of flying goggles to be used on those "often foggy mornings" (Santa said he uses them all the time). And he even brought the dispatch and planning departments a nice pair of darts for help in their short and long term planning arrangements.

With over 50 airline tickets being given away, many Mesaba employees went away with travel plans in their minds. The big winner of the evening was John Grooms (Fokker Captain), who won two international tickets on Northwest Airlines. John said, "It will be nice to take a trip where I don't have to fly the plane." (See related box for other winners).

All in all, the party was a great time had by all. Many thanks to all who helped in the planning, decorating, set up and clean up. And also thanks to those that brought all of the fine dishes for dinner. It was a night to remember!



The Mesaba monthly newsletter is published, written and circulated by Mesaba's Public Relations department. Any comments regarding the contents of the newsletter may be directed to: Newsletter, Comat MSP, XJ.

Christmas Party Ticket Winners

David Warras	Metro
David Weeres	Express 1
Keith Tyler	Midway
Dan Pickerign	Centennial
Mark Hauer	Trans Colorado
Kathleen Bishman	Trans Colorado
John Kunkel	Precision
Mervin Prestebak	Bemidji
Michael Redman	Mark Air
George Gruber	PSA
Steven Fetzek	Fischer Bros
Kip Hodgson	Comair
Richard Jecha	Mall Airways
Joyalce Guericke	Metro
Tracy Knight	New York Hel.
Merrilee Schaff	Mark Air
Dave Delong	Midstate
Craig Olson	Centennial
Linda Lundeen	PSA
Jackie Grothe	Precision
Linda Stephan	Western
Daniel Dady	U.S. Air
Lawrence McCabe	Southwest Air
Bruce McIntosh	Western
Dan Kelly	Southwest
Kelly Dahlberg	Big Sky
Al Hann	Express 1
Doreen Clay	Fisher Bros
Virginia Ruschenberg	Austin Air
Everett Miller	Florida Express
Jeff Christensen	PBA
Roger Tuttle	Britt Air
John Tobin	Piedmont
Charles Fenton	Air Midwest
John Perkins	U.S. Air
Rhonda Devries	Brockway
John Burnett	Midstate
Holly VanZant	America West
Melvin Dierking	Austin Air
Jodie Carlsen	NW - Domestic
Doug Dickson	NW - Domestic
John Grooms	NW - Internat
Charlean Sabo	Western
Craig Carrol	Midway

Mesaba Inflight Magazine Published

Mesaba's new inflight magazine has a new publisher and a new look, as can be seen by the November/December issue. Entitled "Mesaba Northwest Air-link," the publication is being produced by McCarthy Corporation, a publishing firm located in Bloomington. Mesaba signed a four year contract with McCarthy to produce 3000 of the magazines every other month.

The magazines are distributed in the seatbacks of Mesaba's planes.

Read the last issue if you have not already done so and look for the next one to be out in early January.

Welcome New Employees

Mesaba welcomes aboard the new employees hired in November and December.

Full-time

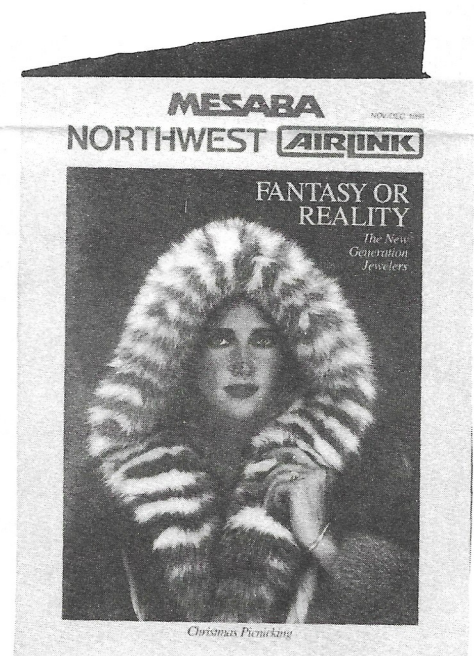
Kelly Dahlberg	CSA, ABR (from part time)
Art Simons	Parts (see Mesaba Closeup)
Kim Malwitz	Commissary (from Part time)
Doris Krook	Maintenance, GPZ
Phillip Baldys	Dispatch
Sandy Weber	CSA, ATY (from part time)

Part-time

Joni Duvall	CSA, ABR
Pam Brucki	CSA, BJI
Rhonda Cates	CSA, ABR
June LaFee	CSA, HON
Tim Anderson	CSA, MSP
Tammy Severson	CSA, MSP
Jeff Slind	CSA, MSP
Joseph Wiatros	CSA, MSP

November Traffic

During the month of November, Mesaba carried 20,658 passengers system-wide. That represents a 101% increase over traffic of 10,244 carried in November 1985.



A MESABA CLOSE-UP

Meet The Purchasing Department

With a phone in one hand and material request form in the other, Manager of Materials, John Burnett, waves to one of the department stock clerks to signal that an aircraft part needs delivery to the maintenance department "A.S.A.P.!" In the other room, Tracy Knight, parts control supervisor, keenly reviews a computer read-out of the latest inventory control list. There are 1500 new parts to review and input into the system. In the back room, a shipment of new parts arrives at the shipping dock. It needs signed for . . .

Meet Mesaba's busy Aircraft Purchasing and Stores Department.

Managing and controlling over 2 million dollars worth of aircraft parts, the Stores department acts as the central storage and control agent over Mesaba's aircraft parts inventory, explains John Burnett. Burnett, whose industry exposure has tagged him with the nickname, "the living legend" (of Parts), said, "Our main function is to purchase and control the inventory that the Company needs to keep the aircraft fleet operating."



Over 13,000 pieces of aircraft inventory are kept in storage at Mesaba.

Also in charge of shipping, receiving, aircraft warranty and a few other sorted areas (there is always something going on in the back room), the Stores department currently has four employees in addition to Burnett and Knight. Pam Pankratz is assistant purchaser, Art Simons works in shipping and receiving, Linda Livingston works with reviewing the stock and Paul Walstrom, who will be leaving Mesaba in the end of December, works with aircraft warranties.

"How much inventory to keep in stock is often a delicate balance of long range planning and short range needs," explains John Burnett. "We keep inventory in stock that is needed in upcoming routine maintenance checks and for most standard maintenance procedures. When maintenance needs a part, they just sign it out and if another part needs to be purchased, we will put another one in stock."

"I can remember calling Hong Kong one night from my living room to find a part for a broken Fokker"

Sometimes, however, an unforeseen maintenance problem will arise that calls for a part not currently in stock. "That is the time," says Burnett, "when you are glad that you have friends in the industry that can get the part to you . . . by air mail!" Indeed, the department communicates daily with other airlines that fly similar aircraft and with aircraft part manufacturers. That ensures swift and reliable transfer of aircraft parts when you need them. Burnett said, "it would be difficult to survive without each other."

And of course, parts are often needed at all hours of the day. Sometimes even late at night. John Burnett recalls many evenings being awoken in the middle of the night with an AOG (aircraft on ground -aircraft part needed) alert call from dispatch or maintenance. "I remember calling Hong Kong one night from my living room to find a part for a broken Fokker," says Burnett.

Jackie Norbury, manager of Maintenance Planning, says a good inventory system is crucial to running a smooth scheduled maintenance program. Norbury said, "We give Stores a 6-week maintenance forecast every week, with

a due date on parts we need." Those parts are then ordered for use in an upcoming maintenance procedure. Some of the larger parts such as props and engines are ordered up to a year in advance. The ordering is done in many different ways.



John Burnett

1971	Fueler/Sweeper	Mississippi Valley LaCrosse, WI Airlines
1974-79	Customer Service Manager	Mississippi Valley Winona, WI
1979-81	Accounting	Mississippi Valley
1981-84	Purchasing	Mississippi Valley
1984-	Manager Purchasing	Mesaba Airlines

Take the facsimile machine, for example. 12 hours a day, different graphs, orders and assorted material is generated from aircraft manufacturers around the country. John Burnett says the machine is a lifesaver, sometimes. That machine, used with the basic telephone and telex machine, enable the department to stay in constant touch with others in the industry.

With someone on hand between 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., the department is typically prepared to handle all situations. On occasion, even private domestic air freight, which is supposed to be delivered to the airport, ends up at shipping and receiving at the Stores Department. Burnett says when that happens, they have to just double as Customer Service operators and just turn it around and deliver it to the airport themselves. But the variety of work never seems to bother the persons in the department. Most of the time, a smile will be found on the faces of those working.

With over 13,300 parts in inventory, the Purchasing and Stores department manages to stay very busy and sometimes, according to a few of the department members, too so. But being in the line of work of keeping invaluable aircraft parts in stock, that is what must be expected.