

MESABA **ON THE MOVE**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION PRODUCED ESPECIALLY FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MESABA AVIATION, INC.

Give to the United Way by Payroll Deduction and win prizes.

See how in this issue - Page 4

A new engine test stand made from a school bus? This month's Mesaba Close-Up explains how you can win by naming the machine. - Page 7

Hunting Opener Busy at Mesaba

Mesaba Implements "Operation Shot Gun"

Someone once said that there are three things you can take for granted in this world; life, death and full airplanes to South Dakota for the first weekend of hunting season.

Indeed, most of the 10 daily flights that Mesaba operates into South Dakota were filled over the weekend beginning Thursday evening on the 15th continuing until the 18th as hunters from all over the country flew into their destination to hunt on the opener. Last year, Mesaba implemented a specially designed operation strategy named "Operation Shot Gun" to better handle the heavy loads. Since it worked so well last year, an enhanced plan was put into effect again for the season opener.

"Operation Shot Gun" is an operation's plan designed to help offset the heavy passenger and baggage loads Mesaba experiences over the busy hunting weekend opener. As part of the plan, a number of strategies are developed. Special baggage and cargo runs are scheduled into critical cities in South Dakota in the event that some baggage might not be able to be accommodated on the scheduled flights. Extra Customer Service Agents are scheduled to better handle the loads. In addition, a special sorting system is designed to help prioritize cargo; dogs and guns first, and then regular baggage. And a transportation and sorting



South Dakota's hunting season brings lots of anxious hunters to Mesaba's gate facility for flights.

system has been worked out to make sure that each passenger has the greatest chance of experiencing the best flight possible.

In addition, this year, inflight services prepared a special "Hunters Survival Kit" of assorted snacks on all South Dakota flights on Friday. Included in the kit was a brochure entitled "Pheasant Hunting Tips" put out by the marketing department which gave travelling tips to help hunters better plan their flights for their return home.

Mike Wind, Vice President of Ground and Inflight Services, said that Operation Shot Gun prepares the operations personnel for an unusually heavy amount of passengers. "We know that each year at this time, we will have a lot of hunters flying on us to specific points on our system. Operation Shot Gun is specifically designed to help lessen the pressure of delayed bags on our customers and our employees."

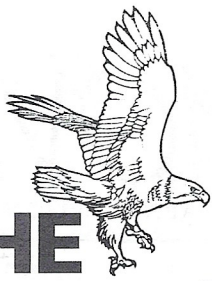
Operation Reindeer is now in the drafting stage.

Airport Carnival A Success

The Metropolitan Airport Foundation's (M.A.F) third annual hangar party fundraiser, held on September 19th in Van Dusen's hangar, was a great success, according to party chairman Searcy Lillehei. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions present on the evening of the event, Lillehei said the carnival attracted over 2100 people.

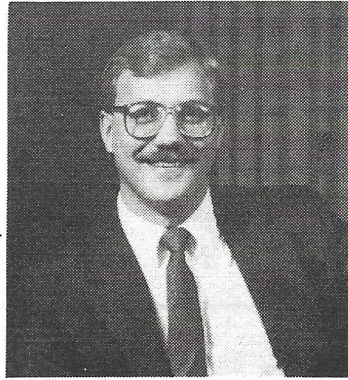
This year's hangar party, the third such event in four years held by M.A.F., was held both in appreciation for the airport community and to raise funds which will be used for additional airport projects. As part of their fundraising strategy, the Foundation

Carnival Continued on page 5



THE EAGLE'S NEST

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Robert D. Swenson



Dear Employees

Greetings to each one of you. It was a pleasure seeing so many of you turn out for our annual picnic in September. Thanks to all those that helped plan the affair and to those that were able to share their time with others in the Company.

As I said last week in a bulletin to our employees, we are pleased to report that we have recently completed the review that Mesaba and Northwest were undergoing with regard to certain aspects of our air-link agreement. This should not have any material effect on our previously released financial results and now that we have the review behind us, we are planning on some further expansion.

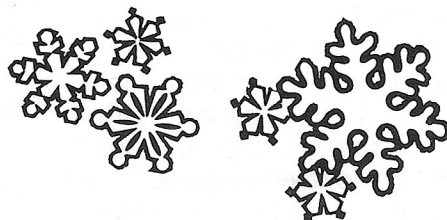
To accommodate this expansion, we are currently combing the world markets in search for possibly two (2) Fokker F-27 200's to add to our fleet of aircraft. If we are able to find the right aircraft and secure proper financing, we plan on integrating the aircraft into our system during the next few months. At this time, we are surveying aircraft in Iceland, Finland, and Australia. I will update you with additional information when we have secured the appropriate aircraft.

All of our full-time eligible employees should have received information on the company's new benefit program, FlexComp Benefits. Please take the time to review the program and meet individually with a representative from the program by the end of the month. This is truly a good benefit program for you and your family. If you have any questions, please call the Personnel department.

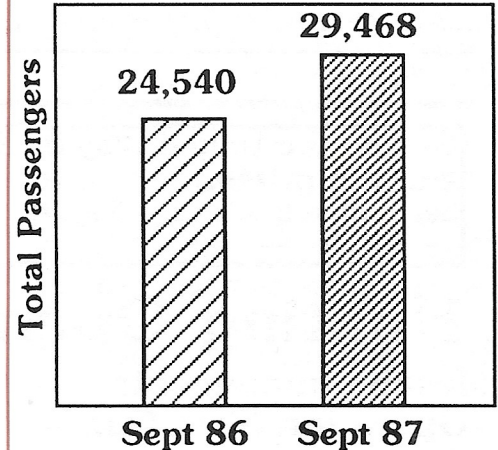
As everyone knows (and can feel), it is that time of year when the weather will again be getting cooler. It is very important for all of our employees to prepare for the cooler months by wearing the proper clothing and by making sure our operations are ready for the cold winter months. Please do your best to ensure that our service is enjoyable, convenient and comfortable for all of our passengers and that you dress warmly.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Mesaba Aviation Traffic



Mesaba Carries 29,468 Passengers in September

Mesaba reported a 20% increase in passengers in September, carrying 29,468 compared to 24,540 passengers in September of last year.

The regional airline's revenue passenger miles in September were 6.4 million, an increase of 30% over 4.9 million flown during the same period one year ago. Available seat miles for Mesaba during the month were 13.0 million, up 10% from 11.8 million flown last September.

Mesaba's load factor during September was 49.3%, up from 41.9% experienced last year.

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News Continued

Picnic 1987

Mesaba's annual 1987 company-wide picnic, held on September 26th, boasted a good employee turn-out this year. Falling on a very pleasant late autumn day, the day was full of activities including

volleyball, football, a face painting for the little ones, and a host of socializing for everyone. The biggest hit of the day was the roasted pig that was featured at the picnic in addition to all of the

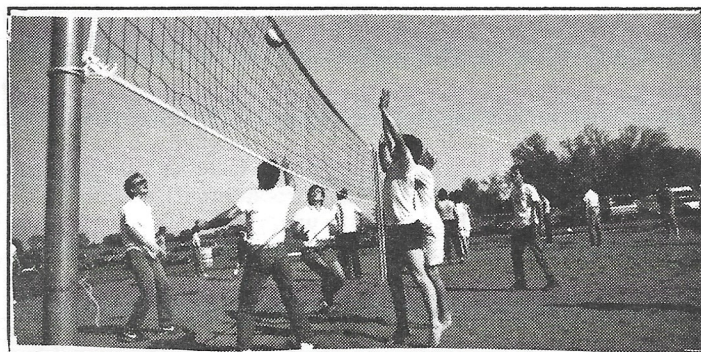
food that was brought by employees. A great big thanks to Andrea Peura for her work in planning the picnic and to all those who participated in the day.



The carving of the main course was performed by Chef Rick Forster of Forster's Farm Meat market.



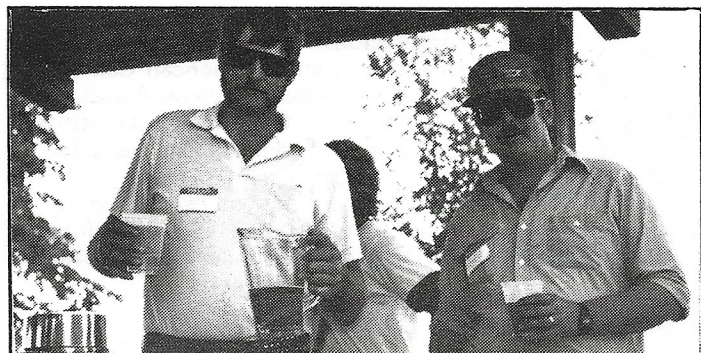
"Strawberry Shortcake" provided entertainment to keep our younger generation occupied.



As a tradition, the volleyball courts were opened for the explosive game between the pilots and customer service agents. Unfortunately, not enough pilots were present to field a complete team. Does this mean the Customer Service Agents win by default?



Shown here enjoying the sunny weather and good conversation are l to r: Janel Schwarz, Cindy and Mark Lund, Dave Schwarz and Holly Loeffler.



Some people did not enjoy the physical sports of the day, but these two found relaxation in guarding the beverage supply. Shown here are: Greg Roisland (left) and Doug Hazzard, both from the Line Services at the G.O.



A large number of Customer Service Agents were able to attend this year's picnic. Above are l to r: Paul Morris (ABR), Tim Rogers (MSP), Joe Wiatros (MSP), Troy Pittman (MSP), John Turenne (MSP), and Dan Powers (MSP).

From Around The System

United Way Participation Could Earn You Free Travel

Mesaba Aviation, Inc. in conjunction with the 1987 United Way Campaign, announce an opportunity for employees interested in helping others a chance to win free travel to places like the Caribbean, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Jamaica, San Juan, and Puerto Rico. All you need to do is participate in the upcoming United Way drive and your name will be placed in a drawing to win one of 15 free prizes. The United Way funds more than 350 health and human care programs in 108 agencies including programs that address child abuse and neglected, the disabled, the elderly and unexpected disaster.

Contributing to the United Way one time or through easy, convenient, practical payroll deduction helps provide needed year around services that are essential to our communities. United Way volunteers identify our community needs and distribute contributions to where the needs are greatest and the impact most effective. Or you can identify a specific organization to benefit from your donation by completing a designation card. For those living outside the five county area, your donation(s) will be sent to the United Way Chapter you specify. Our Goal is 100% participation in payroll deduction.

How can you benefit this many community members - and - fly off to exotic places?? Easy! Here's how: Participate in the United Way Program and multiply your chances of winning.

For each five dollar pledged by payroll deduction for a 12 month period, one lucky chance will go into the drawing with your name on it.

For each pledge card returned, one lucky

chance with your name on it will go into the drawing.

Remember - please sign, date and deliver your card - Comat - to United Way G.O. or give it to your Supervisor. Please turn in your card with or without a contribution.

What will You win? The first chance lucky drawing winner will go anywhere on Midway Airline's System round-trip with a spouse or another eligible airline employee.

The second chance lucky drawing winner will win a Mesaba Golf Cap.

The third chance lucky drawing will win a Mesaba "Buddy Pass" entitling an eligible employee's friend or associate to accompany him/her round-trip on Mesaba's system.

The fourth chance lucky drawing will win a Mesaba shot glass.

The fifth chance lucky drawing will win a set of Mesaba Golf Balls.

The sixth lucky chance drawing will win a Mesaba "Buddy Pass" entitling an eligible employee's friend or associate to accompany him/her round-trip on Mesaba's system.

The seventh chance lucky drawing winner will go anywhere on Piedmont Airline's System (Except London) round-Trip with a spouse or eligible fellow employee.

The eighth chance lucky drawing winner will win a Mesaba shot glass.

The ninth lucky chance drawing will win a Mesaba "Buddy Pass" entitling an eligible employee's friend or associate to accompany him/her round-trip on Mesaba's system.

The tenth chance lucky drawing winner will go anywhere on Midway Airline's system, round-trip, with a spouse or another eligible airline employee.

The eleventh chance lucky drawing winner will win a set of Mesaba Golf Balls.

The twelfth chance lucky drawing winner will win a Mesaba "Buddy Pass" entitling an eligible employee's friend or associate to accompany him/her round-trip on Mesaba's system.

The thirteenth chance lucky drawing winner will win a Mesaba Ball Cap.

The fourteenth chance lucky drawing winner will win a set of Mesaba Golf Balls.

The fifteenth, and last, chance lucky winner will go anywhere on Eastern Airlines in the Continental U.S. or the Caribbean round-Trip with a spouse or another eligible airline employee.

How Do I Enter? Simply complete your pledge card. The drawing will be held at 3:00 P.M., Friday, October 30, 1987 in the G.O. Lunchroom area. You need not be present to win.

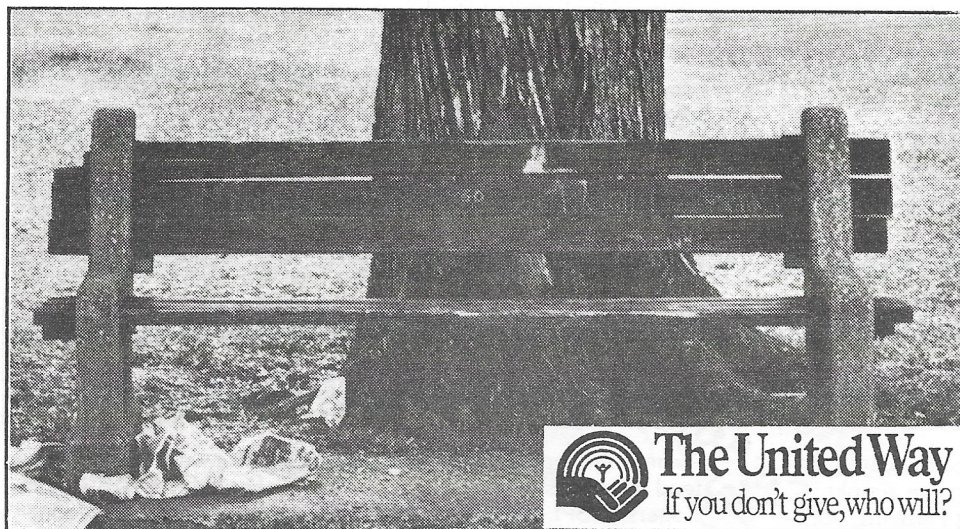
Announcing the winners!! You, your commitment and your contribution will fund a wide variety of health and human care programs which include everything from services to the elderly, to health care to scouting programs to food shelves.

Recent studies indicate one out of four families uses services at United Way Participating Agencies annually. And, your contributions will support the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and American Diabetes Association - Heart Disease, Cancer and Diabetes are the three most common illnesses today.

Because you show you care through your contribution, United Way remains the best Health and Human Care System for each of us to help all of us.

In 1987, we have to ask - if I don't respond to our community's challenges, who will?

If I don't give, who will? Please join the Winners who answer...I will.

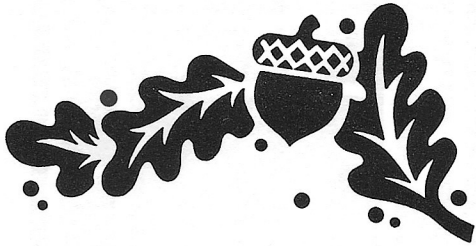


Carnival Continued

sells door and raffle tickets. This year, almost 6,000 raffle tickets were sold in addition to the door passes that were bought. Searcy Lillehei, who works as a part-time staff member for M.A.F. said, "Part of our profit from the party will be added to the beautification project at the airport as well as to support several airport services which are now in place at the airport such as Traveller's Aid and the Serviceman's Center."

A number of Mesaba employees were present at the party this year, which featured live music, food, drinks and a number of carnival games run by the Airport Kiwanis Club.

Tony Pittman, Mesaba MSP customer service agent said, "everyone in our group had a great time. We didn't win any of the door prizes, but we certainly enjoyed the evening."



Mesaba Trivia

Answers must be received no later than the 10th of each month.

September's Questions

1. Who was Mesaba's very first flight attendant?
2. How many passengers did Mesaba carry in September of 1987?
3. What is the name of the metal and welding shop in Thief River Falls that is working on Mesaba's engine test stand?
4. A person may win chances in the United Way drawing coming up soon. What are the two ways in which to have

Customer Corner

24th September, 1987
Mr. R. Swenson President
Mesaba Airlines
6201 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Dear Mr. Swenson:

I am writing to congratulate you on your airline, and more particularly your staff.

During August, I planned to visit Grand Rapids, Michigan for business purposes. However, due to a mix-up in my travel arrangements at my travel agent in Australia, I ended up in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

When I realized the mistake, on arriving in Minnesota, your staff, Bill Downing and Kevin Castle made me feel "at home" whilst Kevin



your name put in the drawing? 5. On what date is the drawing for the United Way lucky chance winners?

6. This is an easy one. All you have to do is think of a good question for next month's trivia contest. Any question will get you credit for this one. It should be about Mesaba.

6. How many days prior to departure does the Pass Bureau require your sending them a request to obtain a Northwest Pass? (hint: Consult your Pass Bureau Pass information book)

7. What MSP agent received September's customer service

booked me out the next day. Kevin then drove me out to the Sawmill Inn, which was booked out, however the owner kindly put a bed in one of the lecture rooms.

This kind of service used to be normal in the U.S.A., however, unfortunately is rare now.

I would appreciate if you could please pass my complement on to those who helped, and I wish your airline every success in the future. I will recommend your airline, and hope to travel with Mesaba in the future.

Regards,

John Hopkin Read
Managing Director
J.R. Management Pty LTD



award?

8. To how many cities in South Dakota does Mesaba provide service?

Last Month's Winners

1. 27,217 Passengers were carried during August 1986. 2. 11 years. 3. San Antonio, Tx. 4. Pittsburgh, Pa. 5. Twin City Co-op Credit Union 6. Operation shotgun. 7. Claudia Hamand 8. Jamestown, Devils Lake, Fargo and Grand Forks.

Jim Nolan (CSA/MSP) was September's Trivia Winner. He receives a check for \$20.00 for knowing that answer. Good luck next month. Others with the correct answer included Lori Durst (MHE), Anne Gadbois (DVL), Mary Priggie (MSP Flight), and Dave Luedke (Sup/MSP).

Employee News

New Employees

Full-time

Patrick Thompson V.P. Administration
 *Jill LaFave Flight Attendant
 *Pat Webster CSA/MSP
 *Robin Reph CSA/MSP
 *Tammy Severson CSA/MSP
 Daniel Sheehan Manager/MSP Gate 15
 *Kevin Daly Dispatch/MSP
 Sharon Mugan Personnel Technician
 Mike DeBusk CSA/LNK
 Michael Arnold Pilot
 Bradley Barker Pilot
 Daniel Burt Pilot
 Michael Elliott Pilot
 Tony Nielsen Pilot
 Thomas Peterson Pilot
 Patrick Rugloski Pilot
 Craig Seppala Pilot
 *James Pignato CSA/MSP
 *Daniel Powers CSA/MSP
 David Pankratz A&P Mechanic
 *From Part-time to Full-time

Part-time

John Richey CSA/MSP
 Gregory Piehl CSA/MSP
 Jim Mikolich CSA/MSP
 Randal Brekhus Line/MSP
 Timothy Hanson CSA/PIR
 Michele Luoma CSA/MSP
 Kimberly Weber CSA/MSP
 David Harmon CSA/MSP
 Matthew Hoolihan CSA/MSP
 Laura Stenvick CSA/MSP
 Daniel Crouch CSA/MSP
 Sandra Holmquist CSA/MSP
 David Tetley Line/MSP
 Jeanne Naslund CSA/MSP
 Richard Ralph CSA/BRD

Company Promotions

Daniel Sheehan has been hired as Manager of Minneapolis Stations. Sheehan comes to Mesaba from Operations at Air Wisconsin.

Brian Thompson has been named Manager of Brookings Customer Service. He had been serving as Senior Agent in the city.

Employee Birthdays

October

Michael Volker 15
 Mark Stockman 16
 Harold Sellie 18
 Robert Oberstar 19
 Richard Perkins 21
 Richard Lawrence 23
 John Mumm 23
 Jay Neely 23
 William Downing 27
 Matthew Allard 30
 Joseph Wiatros 30
 Thomas Reeder 31

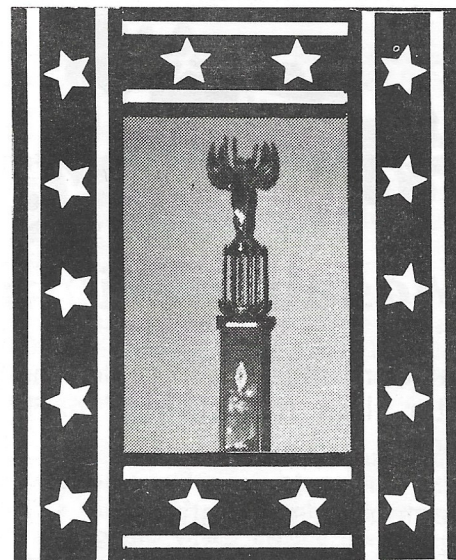
November

John Richey 1
 Darlyn Fuller 2
 Gary Schaack 4
 Bradley Berntsen 5
 Patrick Burke 7
 Marlin Schafer 7
 Chris VanDen Heuvel 7
 Fred Breitling, Jr. 8
 Alan Jacobson 8
 Jeffrey Brown 9
 James Pignato 10
 Theresa Read 11
 Nancy Haider 12
 Bruce Kayser 13

Gallant is MSP Agent Of The Month



Lori Gallant has been named Minneapolis station agent of the month. The monthly honor is chosen by a panel of station supervisors who choose a person whose work efforts have been exceptionally good and who has displayed a fine service attitude. Gallant has been employed with Mesaba since May of 1986, when she went to work in Grand Rapids. She transferred to MSP in December 1986.



Aberdeen receives quarterly station award

Aberdeen is the recipient of Mesaba's second quarter station award, according to Brad Osborn, Manager of Station Operations. The award is given in recognition of exemplary customer service and efficient station operations. Pat Burke, Manager in Aberdeen, said that the station was pleased to receive the award. "We work hard to provide a high quality of service and our people are deserving of the award." The winning station wins a nicely displayed wall plaque and a prize.

A MESABA CLOSE-UP

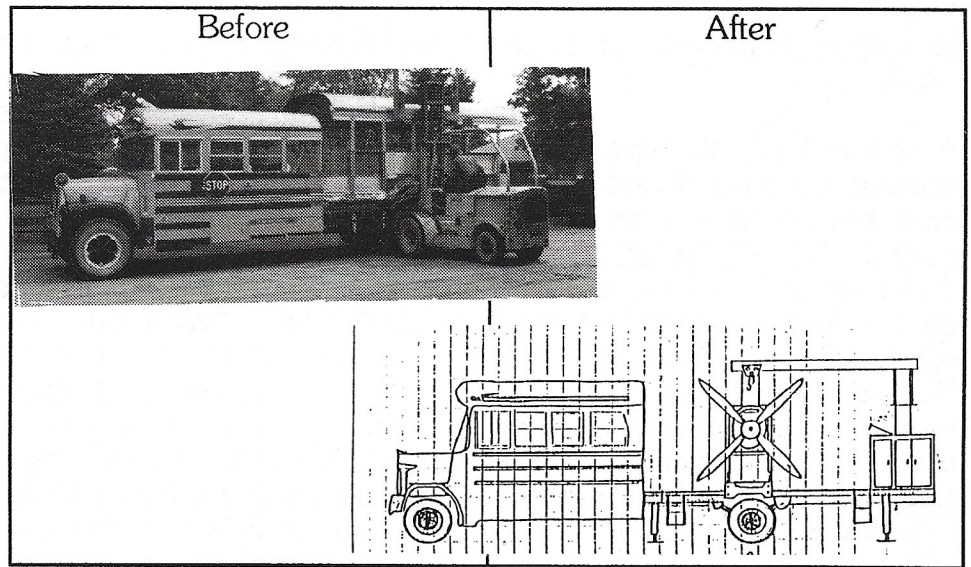
Mesaba Builds Garrett Engine Test Cell

Thief River Falls, MN: What do you get when you take an old school bus, cut it in half, build on 2,000 pounds of metal, add a bit modern technology and some good ole northern Minnesota imagination and ingenuity? Why a transportable engine test cell for the Mesaba Metro III Garrett engines, of course.

The engine test cell is the latest manufacturing development at Mesaba and is being built by Wennberg, Inc., a metal and welding shop located in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. When completed, the test stand will be used by Mesaba's maintenance department to transport and test Garrett engines for Mesaba's fleet of Metro III aircraft. The transportable machine will help Mesaba save time and money by allowing the Company to perform their own tests rather than use an actual aircraft or the tester of another carrier, as is currently being done.

The early stage of development.

The initial idea to build the tester came earlier this year as several Mesaba personnel visited other airlines that had similar testing machines in place. However the decision for Mesaba to build their own



machine did not transpire until early in July. When it was made, the first step in the process was the purchase of a \$1400.00 school bus. The bus, which was driven up to Wennberg, Inc., was sized by the machinists in the shop, and measured for work. Dale Wennberg, owner of the 7-man shop, began working on the project, with Mesaba Line Service Director, Mervin Prestebak, riding as chief architect over the project.

According to Wennberg, the first step in the process was shorten the bus by taking off the last half of its shell, while leaving the back frame of the bus intact. "We really had never taken a school bus apart before," said Wennberg. "But if we had to do it again, from what we've learned, it would be a breeze." After shortening the bus, Wennberg and a group of dedicated workers began building and welding in a base onto the back of the bus, upon which sits a steady stand for the engine, steps from the floor, a hoist to move the engine to and from, and a number of other parts and pieces which will be an important part of the final tester ap-

paratus .

When the engine test stand is completely built, it will be sent to Mesaba's Minneapolis maintenance base where Mesaba's team of mechanics, under Asst., Director of Maintenance, Dan Kelly, will engineer and build in all of the instrumentation and hook-ups devices that will be needed to operate the engine and perform the necessary tests. That process should take place in November of this year.

Building off a good idea

While a number of airlines have similar types of testing stands, this one will be a bit different, said Mervin Prestebak. "We are designing this machine so that it will serve as a transportable unit as well as a test cell. We have seen several similar testing devices, but none have been designed to travel lengthy distances." Mesaba's test stand has a sliding stand which will allow the airline to secure and transport an engine right on the bus unit. When the tests are performed, the stand is simply readjusted

Continued on page 8

to different (travelling) positions.

A test cell of this type is important because it will eliminate having to use an actual aircraft or a similar testing stand located in Wisconsin to do the engine tests. The reason for the tests are simple. Before an engine can be mounted on an aircraft and used for flight, it needs to be tested for any number of different things; power, fuel flow, vibration, etc... The test stand allows an engine to be hooked-up and run up to full power, while maintenance runs tests to ensure the engine is operating properly. The test stand has a power source hook-up and a fuel tank built right into the base.

Jim Juernberg, Garrett engine specialist for Mesaba, said that having their department's own test stand allows the maintenance department to perform most of the tests on an engine without tying up valuable aircraft time or needed man hours. "With our own tester, we will be able to make our own checks and more quickly determine where a problem might lie." Currently, Mesaba sends its Metro III engines to Midstate Airlines, in Central Wisconsin, where a similar type of test stand is used. That procedure can be time-consuming, expensive, and above-all, may not allow the engine mechanics to pinpoint a problem if they are not there.

Soon to be completed

While the personnel involved in the project say its too early to tell just when the test cell will be in place, they are optimistic that it will be very helpful when it is up and operational. About the only question before then is to determine what color the bus and test stand will be painted, and what to call it. Midstate calls their test stand SkyBus 1. According to the marketing department, Mesaba is holding a Company-wide contest to name the bus. All contest names will be judged by a panel of maintenance personnel.

MESABA ON THE MOVE

Mesaba Aviation, Inc.
6201 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450