

# MESABA **ON THE MOVE**

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

JANUARY 1988 • VOL 2 • NO 4

## Annual Christmas Party Is Gala Event

"Deck the Halls" as the saying goes.

Or, as in the case of Mesaba's Annual Christmas party, "Deck the Hangar."

Mesaba's annual Christmas party drew an estimated 350 employees, spouses and friends on December 5th, to Mesaba's General Maintenance Hangar in Minneapolis. The annual event, which is held every December, this year featured for entertainment, "Music Man," a Twin Cities-based D.J. Company run in part by Mesaba employee John Williamson. The entertainment featured the history of "rock and roll" through the 50's and 60's.

The party began with a social hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by a roast beef dinner at 6:30. Music and dancing started at 7:30 p.m. Mesaba employees Dean Amundson and Chuck Howe were the winners of the evening dance contests. Dean and his dancing partner won the Twist event and Chuck, with his partner, were winners of the slow dance competition.

During the pass giveaway this year,



**Mesaba also held its first annual Christmas Party on December 5th for children of Mesaba employees. Santa's visit, which took place on December 5th, drew over 70 little ones anxious to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. Santa gave presents to all of the children present.**

which included over 45 airline passes, several Mesaba employees won grand prizes. Bill Nybakken and June Landeen both won two (2) worldwide passes on Northwest and Ron Parker's name was picked for two (2) domestic passes on Northwest. A complete list of the pass winners appears in this newsletter.

(on page 2)

Thanks to all of the employees who attended the party and all of the persons who helped plan and decorate. Thanks also to all of the airlines who donated passes for the event.

Happy New Year to all.

## Newsletter Looking for Regular Contributors

Mesaba On The Move is looking for employees that are interested in writing for and working on the monthly newsletter. Work in a number of areas is needed:

Feature Stories  
News from around the System  
Photography  
Mesaba Trivia  
Miscellaneous Stories and  
Cartoons

If you are interested in spending a couple of hours each month writing for the newsletter, please contact Doug Fulton, Director of Marketing x230. You need only be enthusiastic and have lots of ideas and energy to be a great asset to the newsletter!

Mesaba On The Move is an employee's newsletter. That means it is for everyone!

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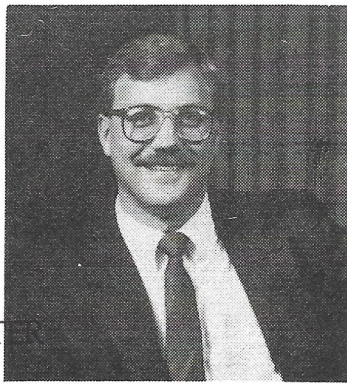
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**THE  
EAGLE'S  
NEST** PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
*Robert D. Swenson*



Dear Employees

Happy 1988 to all of you!

The New Year certainly came in with a big winter bang; first with a string of cold weather and later with a batch of fog. Let's hope these first few weeks are not indicative of the type of weather we will have all year. As always, during these adverse weather conditions, it is vital that we ensure all of our equipment is operating properly, that safety is our number one priority in all that we do, and that our service levels continue to be of the highest quality and reliability.

As many of you know, we have recently taken delivery of an F27 Mark 600 which we have leased from SAAB Aircraft of America Inc. The aircraft, which is already in service, will be used to assist us in maintaining our scheduled reliability in addition to helping us meet our ever-increasing charter bookings. Look for it on our system soon.

With regard to our hangar project, we are continuing to work with the Metropolitan Airports Commission on finalizing our lease and land rate agreements. In addition, we are now readying to put out bids for the project. We hope to break ground in April of this year with a scheduled move in this fall. I will keep you informed as we go forward.

When the weather is cooperating and all of the system is running well, it is easy for us to be a good airline; however, it is when we face difficult weather, mechanical problems and delays in the air transportation system, that we can truly show our passengers we are a great airline. It is your caring and personalized concern for our customers and our service that brings our passengers back. I am proud of the job that you do day in and day out. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Swenson

## List of Pass Winners from Christmas Party

Northwest domestic	Ron Parker
Northwest worldwide	Bill Nybakken
Northwest worldwide	June Landeen
Midcontinent Air	Bill Minor
Mall Airways	Kip Hodgson
Mall Airways	James Peden
Simmons Air	Andrea Peura
Simmons Air	Larry McCabe
Rocky Mountain Air	Carl Meyer III
Iceland Air	John Thompson
Continental Airlines	Chris Keonen
Command Air	Mark Fleming
Metro Air	Steve Glasser
Metro Air	John Rickey
TWA Express	Carl Millican
Air Canada	Gary Schuh
Bemidji Air	Rita Gausen
Bemidji Air	Buck Rogers
Mesa Air	Vicki Windschitl
Precision Air	Dennis Schroeder
Mark Air	Scott Fagelberg
Midstate Air	Doug Henke
Aspen Airways	Mark Newman
Aspen Airways	Mike Redman
Express I Air	Scott Gill
Express I Air	Ann Popp
Express I Air	Doug Hazard
Big Sky	David Pankratz
Pacific Southwest Air	Mike Holiday
Piedmont Air	Gertrude Mejia
Brockway Air	Stacy Carlberg
New York Helicopter	Mitch Hagen
U.S. Air	Paul Montgomery
Britt Airways	Mark Palmer
Comair	Mike Fischer
Sky West Airlines	Anita Johnson
Atlantic Southeast Air	Matt Hoolihan
GP Express	Kim Weber
Air Midwest	Leo Wildes
Wings West Air	Marlin Schaefer
Wings West Air	Nancy Morgan
Southwest Air	Mary Prigge
Crown Air	Debbie Dahl
Florida Express	Paul Morris
America West Airlines	Dennis Strand
\$20.00 Gift Certificate to Green Mill Restaurant (donated by Doug Fulton from winning "Name the Bus Contest")	
Jill Christenson	

**Mesaba On The Move** is published monthly by Mesaba Aviation Inc.'s Public Relations department. The Editor accepts for publication, written stories related to Mesaba and its operations. Also, Fly and Buy, and Mesaba Memos. Send all information to Mesaba On The Move - 6201 34th Avenue South - Mpls, MN 55450

**Mesaba On The Move** is written especially for employees and friends of Mesaba Aviation, Inc. Typesetting is provided by **Great Images**.

# 1987 - A Year In Review

With the passing of another year, it seems appropriate to reflect back upon the past 12 months and look at the progress made in one year's time by Mesaba and its employees...

Here we go!

**January 16, 1987** Larry McCabe and Mike Wind promoted respectively to the positions of Vice President of Airline Operations and Vice President of Ground and Inflight Services.

**January 15, 1987** Moline, ILL and Fargo, ND are added to Mesaba's route system as the 20th and 21st cities. Metro II service to Moline and Fokker F27 service to Fargo.



1987 saw new "Airlink" signs at all Mesaba ticket counters.

**January 21, 1987** Mesaba breaks a two quarter losing streak and reports third quarter earnings of \$132,306 which President Rob Swenson attributes to the Company's October 1, 1986 route realignment.

**February 1, 1987** Mesaba adds a second non-stop flight between Minneapolis and Lincoln, Nebraska. Also, Grand Rapids Airport is re-named "Gordy Newstrom Field" in honor of Mesaba founder and aviation nut, Gordon K. Newstrom.

**February 10, 1987** Rumor mill has it that Mesaba will soon be moving its operations to the Green Concourse. Rob Swenson squelches rumor in February "Mesaba On The Move" by saying Mesaba would, for the time, continue operating on the Gold.

**March 5, 1987** Mesaba hosts annual "Ski Night Out" at Afton Alps. Nearly 30 employees turned out for the event. Lots of falls, but no broken bones.

**March 12, 1987** Kenneth Bronson is named Vice President of Finance for Mesaba in place of Dave Knudson who moved to N. Minnesota to pursue a job nearer his home.

**March 15, 1987** Personnel releases information on new 401K Retirement and Savings Program available to Mesaba employees. Interest in program by employees is high.

**April 1, 1987** Mesaba "Airlink" ticket counter sign project is completed. All cities on Mesaba's system have new "Airlink Signage" in place.

**April 7, 1987** March traffic is reported. Monthly boardings of 32,943 is record for the Company.

**May 1, 1987** Employee Ricardo Sereño and the Line Services Department are featured in the Newsletter "Close Up."

**May 21, 1987** Company reports fourth quarter earnings of \$295,00 and first fiscal year loss in 4 years of \$213,000.

**June 1, 1987** Mesaba adds new service to Omaha, NE and discontinues service to Moline, NE. Also summer schedule is adjusted so that Brainerd and Bemidji get additional service late in the evening. Grand Rapids gets non-stop service from Minneapolis.

**June 30, 1987** Mesaba announces a new boarding record again in June of 35,091 passengers.

**July 7, 1987** Mesaba pilots vote in A.L.P.A. union representation by slim margin.

**July 23, 1987** Mesaba reports record profits in first quarter of \$544,000. Company's "high-volume operating strategy" is reason given for profitable quarter.

**July 30, 1987** Company holds annual meeting. Board Members Hank Lund, Philip Swenson and Bill Ness are re-elected directors by shareholders.

**August 10, 1987** Mesaba's Mens Softball Team wins divisional championship in Airport league. Team coach Tony Launer is quoted as saying the team "finally brought home the bacon."

**August 12, 1987** Company reports another boarding record in July; 35,691 passengers.

**August 21, 1987** Patrick Thompson, former Senior Vice President of Air Wisconsin, named V.P. of Administration.

**August 28, 1987** Long time employee Bertha Reader retires from Mesaba to move to Grand Rapids. Mesaba gives her a YMCA membership in Grand Rapids, which she "uses often!"

**September 10, 1987** Metro #424 returns to action after being out of service for nearly 40 days for maintenance repairs. A welcome relief!

**September 26, 1987** Mesaba holds annual summer/fall picnic at Antler Park. Customer Service team wins annual volleyball championship.

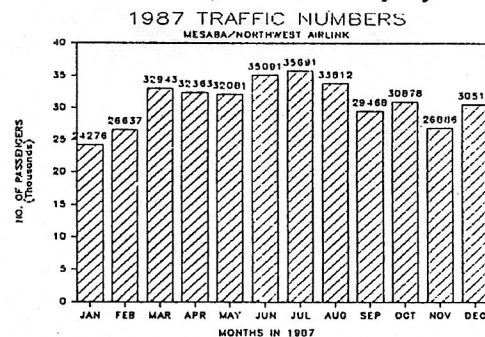
**October 30, 1987** United Way drive is completed and the drawing for prizes is held. Mesaba employees raise \$3,329.00

**December 1, 1987** Mesaba inaugurates 3rd round-trip flight to Grand Forks, NE.

**December 5, 1987** Annual Christmas Party is held. Dean Amundson and Chuck Howe win dance contests.

**December 10, 1987** New engine test stand is completely built and awaits internal instrumentation. The stand is named "Presto Testo," in honor of stand engineer, Mervin Prestebak.

**December 22, 1987** Company sets



Traffic from 1987 is reflected above.

new daily passenger boarding record of 1581 passengers. Beats old record of 1507.

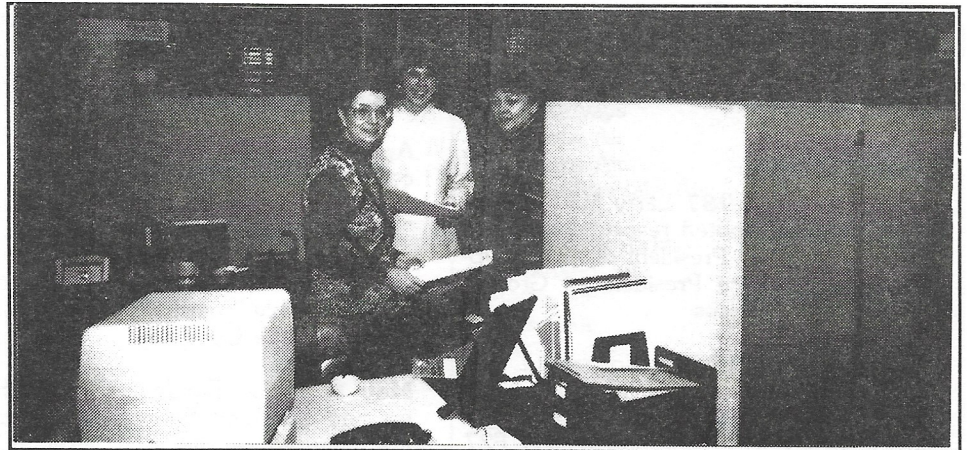
**December 25, 1987** Usual Christmas storm. This year closing Denver and Chicago airports.

# From Around The System

## Personnel Department in New Location

Mesaba's Personnel Department has a new location at Mesaba's general offices. Now located on the first floor of the G.O., the new offices occupy the area previously held by Flight Operations. (Flight operations are now located in the front training room).

According to Alice Ferdinand, Director of Personnel, the department's move was made to better meet the needs of Mesaba's personnel. In addition, effective January 8th, the department will open at 7:00 a.m. on Friday mornings to meet the needs of late shift



*Alice Ferdinand, Director of Personnel, and staff members Anne Popp and Sharon Mugan pose in their new location in the Minneapolis G.O.*

employees and returning flight crews.

All employees are encouraged to stop in the department with any questions they might have.

The following phone numbers may also be used: Alice Ferdinand x222, Anne Popp x228, Sharon Mugan x224.



## Winter Temps Come to Midwest



*Heating units were put in use as temperatures plunged into subzero degree across much of the Midwest.*

Old Man Winter literally blew into the Midwest during the first week of January as temperatures remained below zero around the clock for several

days. In Northern Minnesota and North Dakota, wind chill reached nearly 60 below zero at times. In other areas, 40 below wind chill was common place.

For airlines, the cold reinforced the important need for good service, as passengers streamed into the airports from the chilly parking lots. Aircraft heating units, warm winter clothing and other typical "cold weather" items began to pop up everywhere on Mesaba's system.

After last year's nearly "mild" conditions, this week's activities remind everyone, airline employees and passengers alike, that this is Minnesota, Old Man Winters territory!



# Letters to Mesaba

December 17, 1987

Dear Mesaba:

I have flown from Bemidji to MSP once and from MSP to Bemidji twice in the last 15 days. Your Gate 15 staff are great: BIG CROWDS, FAST WORK, BIG SMILES. One "gal" with curly cascading hair was very personable and proficient. She's the one on the far left.

Happy New Year

David L.T. Knudson  
Anchorage AK

December 9, 1987

Dear Mesaba:

I am writing to tell you how wonderful one of your employees was to me. I only wish that I knew her name! I flew on flight #3233 from Minneapolis to Bemidji, MN on Sunday, Dec 6th, 1987. It was a 9:24a.m. flight, and this gal was working at the check-in counter.

I had been on a shopping trip and arrived at the airport with about five large shopping bags. Once I reached the check-in counter & realized just how much carry-on baggage that I had, I felt horrible & feared that I would be sent all the way back to the main terminal to check it in. I was so pleasantly surprised and relieved when your employee reassured me that she would take care of it, and that I need not worry.

She was very pleasant, and understanding. I hope that you will be able to determine who this young lady is so that you may realize what an asset that she is to you.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Susan Morrison

December 21, 1987

Dear Mr. Robert Swenson:

As Vice Chairman of the Vanguard Division for this year's United Way drive, I want to thank you and the employees of Mesaba Airlines for your outstanding support of this year's campaign. You raised over \$3,329 for our community.

Surpassing our community goal and raising \$36,803,404 required raising slightly more than \$4 million new dollars to offset losses totalling \$1.5 million. Your organization played a key role in this tremendous achievement.

Again, let me add my thanks and appreciation to a list of thousands of people in our community you have helped because of your commitment and support of our United Way.

Cordially,

Arthur H. Buron, Jr. CLU  
President, North Central Operations

## Mesaba Trivia



Send your answers to Mesaba On the Move. Enter and Win Today!! The winner will be announced in next month's issue!!

1. How many passengers did Mesaba carry in 1987?
2. What is the name of the frequent flyer program that Mesaba passengers qualify under?
3. What is the name of the computer reservation system that Northwest and Mesaba will be changing to in February?
4. How can you contribute items to the Newsletter each month? (This one is a freebee). All you have to do is contact the Public Relations office or send items directly to the office).
5. What are the new hours of the Personnel office?
6. Answer yes or no. Are you interested in attending the 2nd annual Mesaba Ski Outing to be held this winter?
7. What city on Mesaba's route system currently boards the most passengers each month?
8. In what city do Mesaba Fokker pilots do their simulator training?

### Last Month's Winners

Answers from December

1. December 1, 1987
2. 30,878
3. T.E.A.M., Inc. 612-648-1129  
800-643-7710
4. Mesaba Christmas Party
5. Tim Rogers
6. Presto Testo
7. MSP-FSD-PIR
8. Lori Lucas

# Employee News

## New Employees

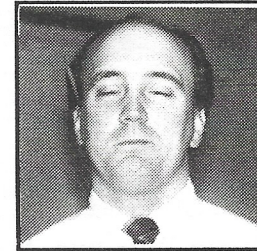
### Full-time Employees

\*Brent Spencer CSA/LNK  
 Robert Wright A&P Mechanic  
 \*Joan DuVall A&P Mechanic  
 \*Mary Jo Miller Flight Attendant  
 \*Laura Stenvick CSA/TVF  
 \*Timothy Hanson CSA/PIR  
 Bradley Smith A&P Mechanic  
 \*Paul Schultz CSA/MSP

### Part-time Employees

Diane Stoffel Flight Attendant  
 Sherron Schaefer Flight Attendant  
 Kari Roubik Special Service Employee  
 Daniel Viner CSA/MSP  
 Joanne Taylor Special Service Employee  
 Christian Hill CSA/MSP  
 Michael Bramhall CSA/MSP  
 Neal Bratland CSA/MSP  
 Randy Bruneau CSA/MSP  
 Thea Mullen CSA/MSP  
 Scott Orf CSA/MSP  
 Patricia Johnson CSA/MSP

## Company Promotions



Tom Talbot

\* From part-time to full-time

## Employee Birthdays

### January

Scott Nephew 16  
 Robin Reph 17  
 Rose Scheuer 17  
 Jennifer Lammer 19  
 Craig Olson 20  
 Kirk Zastrow 21  
 John Ebeling 22  
 John Bishop 23  
 Kathleen Regan 23  
 Daniel Akins 24  
 Anne Poppe 24  
 Michael Chase 27  
 Debora Dahl 28  
 Brent Spencer 28  
 Laura Stenvick 28  
 Bernhard Loegering 29  
 Dennis Schroeder 29  
 Roger Tuttle 29  
 Michael Wozniczka 31

### February

Jay Share 01  
 Douglas Dickson 05  
 Cathryn Haar 06  
 Daniel Hanson 07  
 Joan Duvall 08  
 Jon LaJambe 08  
 Micheal Niccum 08  
 Tim Hanson 10  
 James Nolan 10  
 John Williamson 10  
 Ramona Anderson 11  
 Jill Lafave 12  
 Marlin Roseland 13  
 James Mikolich 15  
 Pam Van Gilder 15  
 Leonard Wildes 15

Nancy Morgan



Tom Talbot was promoted to position of Assistant Chief of Dispatch.

Nancy Morgan was promoted to Customer Service Manager in Brookings, South Dakota.

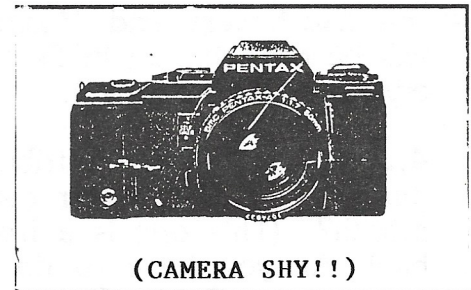
## MSP Agents Of The Month

Linda Riski-Lundeen was chosen as recipient of the "MSP Recognition Award" for the month of November. Dan Koller was selected for the month of December.

Congratulations to both



Linda Riski



(CAMERA SHY!!)

Dan Koller

# AMESABA CLOSE-UP

## SAVE \$\$\$ ON YOUR SOCIAL OUTINGS TODAY!!

The Public Relations office still has a limited number of Entertainment '88 books left for sale at a special price of \$18.00.

Stop by or call today to reserve your personal copy. Call x230 or x238

## PUT AN AIRPLANE ON YOUR WALL

Metro III and Fokker F27 Aircraft photos available through the Public Relations office.

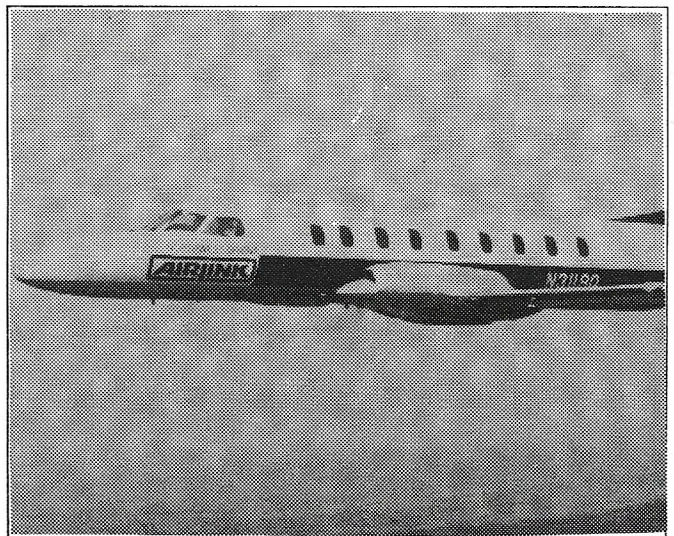
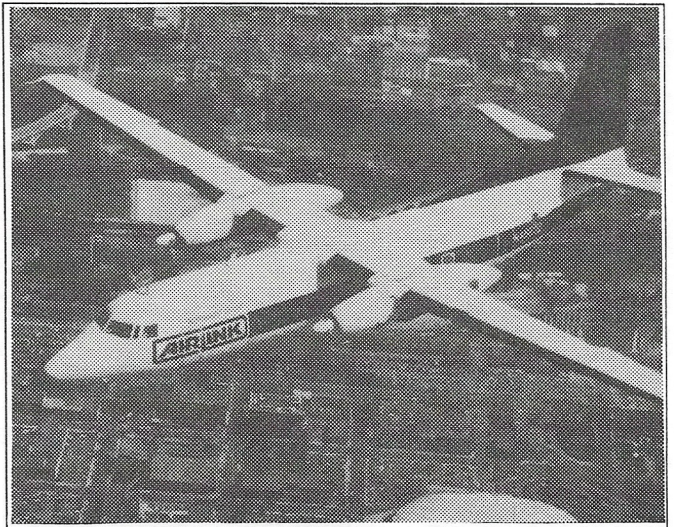
8"x10" Glossy Color  
Price \$3.00/each

Order today.

## Fly and Buy

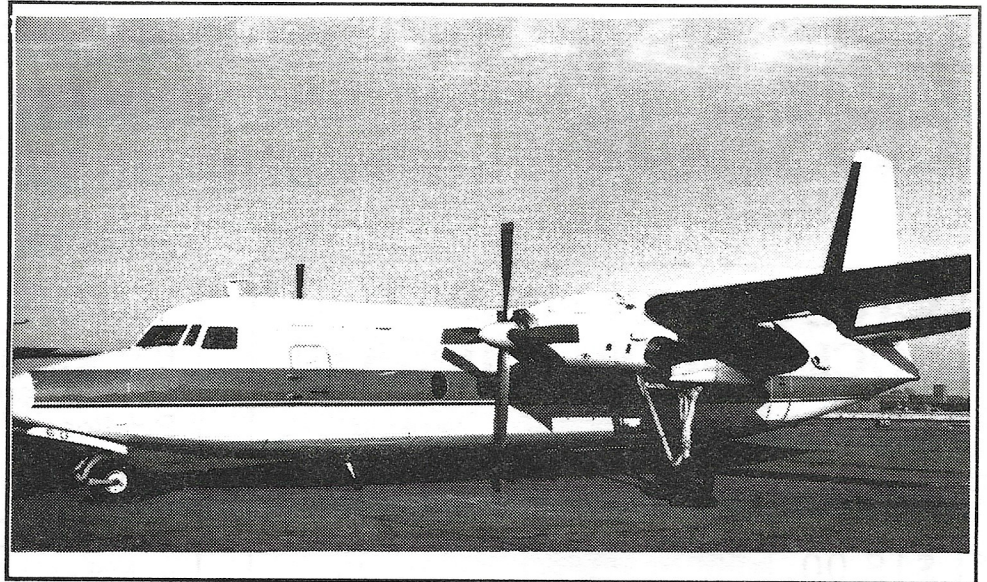
GOT ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SELL  
OR BUY?

Advertise it FREE in the monthly Fly and Buy section of Mesaba on the Move. Send all items on a piece of paper to the Public Relations office by the 10th of each month.



## Mesaba Takes Delivery of F27

Mesaba recently took delivery of a sixth Fokker F27 under a lease agreement with SAAB Aircraft of America Inc. The aircraft, configured similarly to Mesaba's other 44 - 48 passenger F27's will be used both on the airline's current route system and also for Mesaba's expanding charter department.



### MESABA **ON THE MOVE**

Mesaba Aviation, Inc.  
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Minneapolis, MN 55450