

# AIRPORT TIMELINE

- 1939** U of MN pilot training program established in response to the threat of a world war.
- 1940-1941** University Airport established on 260 acres at US Highway 8 and County Road J on the farm of Anthony and Catherine Skiba for \$33,000
- 1941** University Flight Services established to provide charter air support for U of MN agricultural extension activities at outstate campuses in Crookston, Morris and Waseca
- 1941-1942** U of MN developed Specifications for Class 3 airport, submitted to the Civil Aeronautics Administration and War Projects Administration in Washington, DC
- 1943** Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) established
- 1946-1947** Flight Services tracked and retrieved balloons for Edward Ney's Cosmic Ray Research Program, sponsored by NASA and the Office of Naval Research
- 1950** MAC and the U of MN acquired 1,200 acres in southern Blaine-section 34, township 31, range 23-on land primarily owned by township farmers
- 1952** New Anoka County Airport opened
- 1959** Waldo Anderson hired as clerk of flight services, became director of flight training in '66, retired in '97
- 1966** Airport named "Janes Field" for Phillip Janes, director of FAA's District Office and later director of the reliever airports for the MAC
- 1976-1996** Charter planes served the University Hospital for its organ transplant program and on-call air ambulance service for the neo-natal unit
- 1989** University flight training program discontinued due to decreased interest
- 1996** University Airport purchased by businessman Greg Herrick-who established the Golden Wings Museum in the University hanger, featuring vintage planes
- 1997-2010** American Wings Air Museum started by Mike Langer and Len Burgers; became mobile museum in 2010
- 2007** Key Air-executive charter service-located at the airport, resulted in expansion of east-west runway 9-27
- 2010** Blaine Airport Promotion Group established to promote interest in flying, education activities and programs
- 2014** The airport supports more than 76,000 takeoffs and landings annually with 403 aircraft based on site

