

# Martin Olson's plane found after 8 months

The Cessna 206 light airplane which Bering Straits Chairman Martin Olson was flying when he disappeared on Nov. 24, 1980, has been found 26 miles east of Shaktoolik.

Alaska state troopers reported some bones were found on the crash site but they were unable to determine if they were human or animal remains. The remains have been sent to Anchorage for analysis.

The twisted wreckage of the light plane was found in the

hilly wood area on July 10 by Lou Mass of Galena who was flying in the area. Boyruk Ryan of Unalakleet confirmed the plane's ownership short time later.

Martin was on a flight from Shishmaref to Golovin when he radioed that his plane was out of gas and he was going to make a forced landing. Winds were estimated at 80 knots with cloudy skies and snow flurries.

Search parties covered 22,000 square miles during their 11-day effort to find Olson. Their

search was hampered by bad weather that several times forced a complete halt to the search.

Olson had flown his wife, Maggie, to Anchorage for an Evangelical Covenant Churches of Alaska board meeting. She reported that he refueled and flew alone to near Shishmaref to pick up some reindeer meat.

Olson was last heard from at 6:15 p.m. when he radioed another pilot to report that he was out of fuel and was landing.

Searchers speculated that he

may have suffered from lack of oxygen because he appeared disoriented on the radio. One airport employee reported that Olson reported he was near Nome when their electronic equipment indicated he was near Moses Point, some 120 miles from Nome in a slightly different direction. Shaktoolik is about 125 miles from Nome and 140 miles from Moses Point.

Olson, a pilot since 1945 was elected chairman of the board of

the Bering Straits Corp. in May of 1980. He had been on the board of the corporation since "Day One." He has flown eight years for Munz Airlines in Nome.

According to Alaska State Troopers, the National Transportation Safety Board hasn't investigated the wreckage because they are busy investigating several plane crashes that occurred in the state last week.