



Snohomish County, Washington StoryLine

July 2007

Seattle's Playground - Located just 12 miles north of downtown Seattle

Dreams Take Flight

**For
Immediate
Release**

News tips and story ideas from Snohomish County, Seattle's playground-located just 12 miles north of downtown Seattle

From barnstorming bi-wing "Jennys" to the next-generation of super efficient commercial aircraft, Snohomish County's Paine Field is home to a rich and diverse collection of flying machines that excite the imagination. A decorated World War II B-17 bomber veteran recalls his combat experiences.

Coming to Life – the Boeing 787 Dreamliner

With ever-rising fuel prices, increasing airport usage fees, and growing demand from passengers and shippers, the Boeing Company answered the call by designing a new, super efficient aircraft called the 787 Dreamliner. The first plane is scheduled to roll off the assembly in Everett on Sunday, July 8, 2007 (7-8-07).

Shortly after the program started, All-Nippon Airways placed a record 50-plane order in April 2004. Since then, Boeing has received 568 firm orders from 44 customers from six continents of the world, making this the most successful launch of a new commercial airplane in aviation history.

New production technology and processes will reduce costs such as manufacturing a one-piece composite material fuselage section eliminates 1,500 aluminum sheets and 40,000 - 50,000 fasteners, and creates a 20% increase in fuel efficiency.



MODEL AIRPLANE RACES

Soaring Ahead - Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour

Visitors can learn about and view the Boeing production process via guided tours through its plant (the largest building in the world by volume with 472,000,000 cubic feet) and see 747, 767, 777 and 787 airplanes in various stages of assembly.

After the tour, visitors can touch the "skin" of the 787 Dreamliner at the Future of Flight Aviation Center. The complex features hands-on exhibits, videos, graphics and interactive stations – giving kids of all ages the opportunity to learn about the principle features of powered flight. Includes a "design-your-own-aircraft" station and a multi-passenger XJ5 Simulator ride experience.

For more information about the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour, go to www.snohomish.org/thingstodo/attractions.



Curtiss P40C "Tomahawk"
FLYING HERITAGE COLLECTION

Rare Warbirds of the Past Find New Nest at Paine Field

The Flying Heritage Collection, featuring rare World War II aircraft acquired and restored to flying condition, will move to its new expanded home in Everett's Paine Field in Spring 2008.

Collection spokesman Michael Nank said, "The new location will allow us to share the Collection and its mission with many more people – making Paine Field a prime aviation destination to local and visiting aviation enthusiasts in the Northwest."

Current restored flying aircraft include the Supermarine "Spitfire" Mk.Vc; Polikarpov I-16 Type 24; Curtiss JN-4D "Jenny"; North American P-51D "Mustang"; Polikarpov U-2/PO-2; Curtiss P-40C "Tomahawk"; Fieseler Storch Fi 156-C2 "Storch" and Republic P-47D Thunderbolt. The recently finished Hawker Mk.XIIIb "Hurricane" is slated for its debut late this summer.

At the end of the flying season (see schedule below), the Collection will begin the move from its Arlington Airport facility to its new "roost." While some of the aircraft will be flown to Paine Field,

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others may be partially disassembled (especially the larger pieces) and transported via truck. A public opening date is still to be announced.

The mission of the Flying Heritage Collection is to collect, restore, fly and preserve combat aircraft and artifacts representing technological, ideological, political, and economic views of aerial conflict in the 20th century, with emphasis on World War II. Former Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen began acquiring and preserving these rare aircraft in 1998.

Flying Heritage Collection Fly Dates

Please note that the schedule may change due to weather or operational considerations.

7/14-15	NWEAA Fly-in, Arlington Airport
8/11	Arlington Airport
8/25	Arlington Airport
9/1	Arlington Airport

For more information about the Flying Heritage Collection, go to www.snohomish.org/thingstodo/museums.

“A B-17 Bomber Gunner’s Life” – A Firsthand Account

In February 1943, a lanky kid from Kansas was called up by the draft board to defend the United States against Germany during World War II. Flying Heritage Collection docent Art Unruh still has that letter along with the Silver Star and the journal he faithfully kept each day. He published the journal in 2000, a book called, “The Shadow Casters”, now in its third printing. “When you put 1,000 B-17s in the air on a sun shiny day,” said Art, “you get a lot of shadows on the ground.”

But it would be nearly a year later before Art would be assigned to the 32nd Bomb Squadron of the 301st Bomb Group and leave to see action. But he did fly in 50 bombing missions out of Italy to vital targets in seven European countries.

“Most people don’t know this,” Art said. “The chances of making it through all 50 missions was only 27%. We lost more B-17 men than all the men in the Pacific. That’s because each bomber had ten men. On my last mission we had seven planes, only two came back. Five went down in the first eight minutes so 50 men gone that

quick.”

Today, he tells his stories to children at school assemblies and as a volunteer at the Flying Heritage Collection, located at Arlington Airport. “That’s my candy store.” The 84-year-old decorated veteran beams as he gazes at the restored WWII and Cold War-era planes and the ones awaiting parts. “I’m the oldest guy out here. I’m thrilled to tell my stories as much as people are to hear them.” Here, he recounts his experiences sitting in the ball turret upon a bicycle seat, with knees bent passed his shoulders for up to four hours at a time, manning the gun and shooting at enemy aircraft.

What was it like? “Scary...noisy. But all the time you’re in the air, you’re busy shooting at the enemy fighters and you don’t think about things until you get back on the ground and see how butchered up your plane is. That’s when you fall apart.”

Art said with emotion, “I was fortunate. I got to come back to the States and grow up. But for my buddies who didn’t, my flag goes up for them every day of the year.”



North American P51D “Mustang”



Art standing next to a Ball Turret similar to one he sat in for hours.

Aviation-themed Events in Snohomish County:

9/6-10/25 *Art of Flight*
Artists of various media explore the concept of flight
Opening reception: 5 – 8 p.m.
Arts Council of Snohomish County

9/21-23 *2007 Summer Championship Series model airplane races*
Produced by Pylon Racers of Puget Sound (PROPS)
Friday – practice and registration
Saturday & Sunday – heats start at 9 a.m. at Arlington Airport

For more information and events, go to <http://www.snohomish.org> and click on “Events.”