

# CAREERS IN AVIATION THRU STEM? THE AIRPORT IS A GOOD PLACE TO START

COMBINED WITH YOUR CLASSROOM PROGRAM IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH

## GET THE GEARS TURNING

ASK US: [WWW.ANEairport.org](http://WWW.ANEairport.org)

ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT

BLAINE AIRPORT PROMOTION GROUP

TOURS AVAILABLE K-12

A registered 501 c(3) organization

## FROM TIMBER BARON TO A BETTER AIRPLANE



The Ojibwe name for “Mesabi Range” in Northeastern Minnesota is “Misaabe-wajiw” meaning “Giant Mountain”. The geographic history of the region is of the convergence of three rivers and white pine timber.

Timber resources were being purchased through the Homestead Act so lands were being acquired by large and small timber operators. Wilhelm Böing and W. C. Yawkey of Detroit, Michigan were among a very small group of investors that hoped to make a profit from the vast timber region in the heart of the Hibbing District. Their purchases included all mineral rights as well as the timber.

In 1888 a geology study of the Hibbing District revealed a solid body of iron ore two miles long, half a mile wide and valued in the millions of dollars.

Willhelm’s, son, William E., changed his name to Boeing when he left Yale in 1903 and went west to try his hand in the timber business at Grays Harbor, Washington and established the Greenwood Timber Company. As his father did in Minnesota, William purchased more timber rights to add to the family inheritance.

William was fascinated by an aircraft he saw during an 11 day event at the 1910 Los Angeles International Air Meet that featured several fliers including Glenn Curtiss, Charles Willard, Lincoln Beachey and French pilot Louis Paulhan. The Wright Brothers did not participate in the event but made headlines with their successful U.S. Court case against Louis Paulhan regarding patent infringement of their aileron design used on the Paulhan airplane.

William Boeing was promised a ride by Paulhan during the air meet but Paulhan left after only three days denying William his flight.

William continued to look for any opportunity to fly. During a visit to Seattle’s University Club, William was introduced to U.S. Navy Lt. Conrad Westervelt. They discovered a shared interest and passion for aviation. On July 4, 1914, pilot Terah Maroney brought his Curtiss floatplane to Seattle’s Lake Washington where he gave rides and airshows during his year-long stay in the Seattle area. After several rides with Maroney, William Boeing and Conrad Westervelt agreed that they could build a better airplane. They designed and built their first plane and on June 15, 1916 the first test flight of the first Boeing plane, a seaplane/biplane named the Bluebill, B&W Model 1 was tested bringing into existence the largest aerospace company in the world.

On July 15, 1916, Boeing incorporated Pacific Aero Products and consolidated most of the company’s work at the Heath shipyard where he could test his airplanes. He paid for the construction of a wind tunnel at the University of Washington in exchange for the university’s establishment of a curriculum in the new science of aeronautics.



On April 8, 1917 war is declared with Germany. On May 17, 1917 the company was renamed the Boeing

Airplane Company and by July William was enrolled in the U.S. Navy Reserve. The company began building Navy trainers in the shell house at the University of Washington and eventually provided 56 Model C. Pontoon type seaplanes to the Navy. After the war Boeing concentrated on commercial aircraft and airmail and passenger service that evolved into United Airlines.