

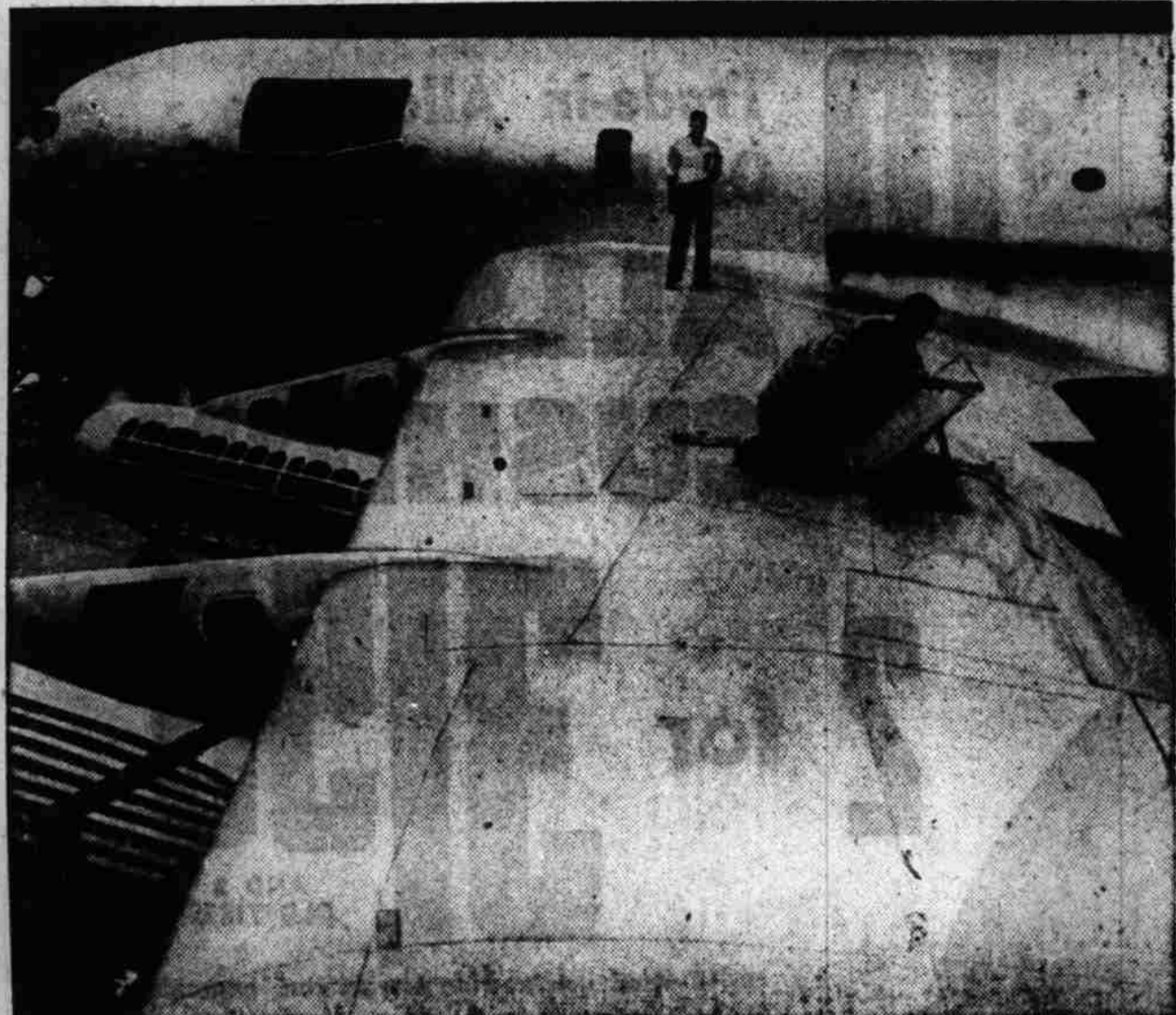
JET AIRLINER IS BORN

U.S. aviation has a powerful new arm—a jet tanker-transport, the world's first.

It's the new Boeing 707 Stratoliner-Stratotanker, a four-jet giant, with a wing span of 130 feet and a 128-foot-long fuselage. It's been eight years in the making: six in the blueprint and designing stage and two in the actual construction. The plane was built at a cost of 15 million dollars.

The new jet—to be known as the Stratoliner in its commercial version and as the Stratotanker in the military—is now undergoing intensive test flights at Seattle. The plane has already attained speeds over 600 miles per hour, has climbed to more than 42,000 feet. As an airliner, the 707 will transport from 80 to 130 passengers, fly non-stop from New York to Los Angeles or San Francisco in less than 5 hours. As a stratotanker, it can refuel the U.S. Air Force's newest 600-miles-per-hour jet bombers and fighters, thereby greatly extending their "hitting" power. It's faster than any current transport by more than 200 miles per hour.

How this new Goliath of the air evolved is pictured here.



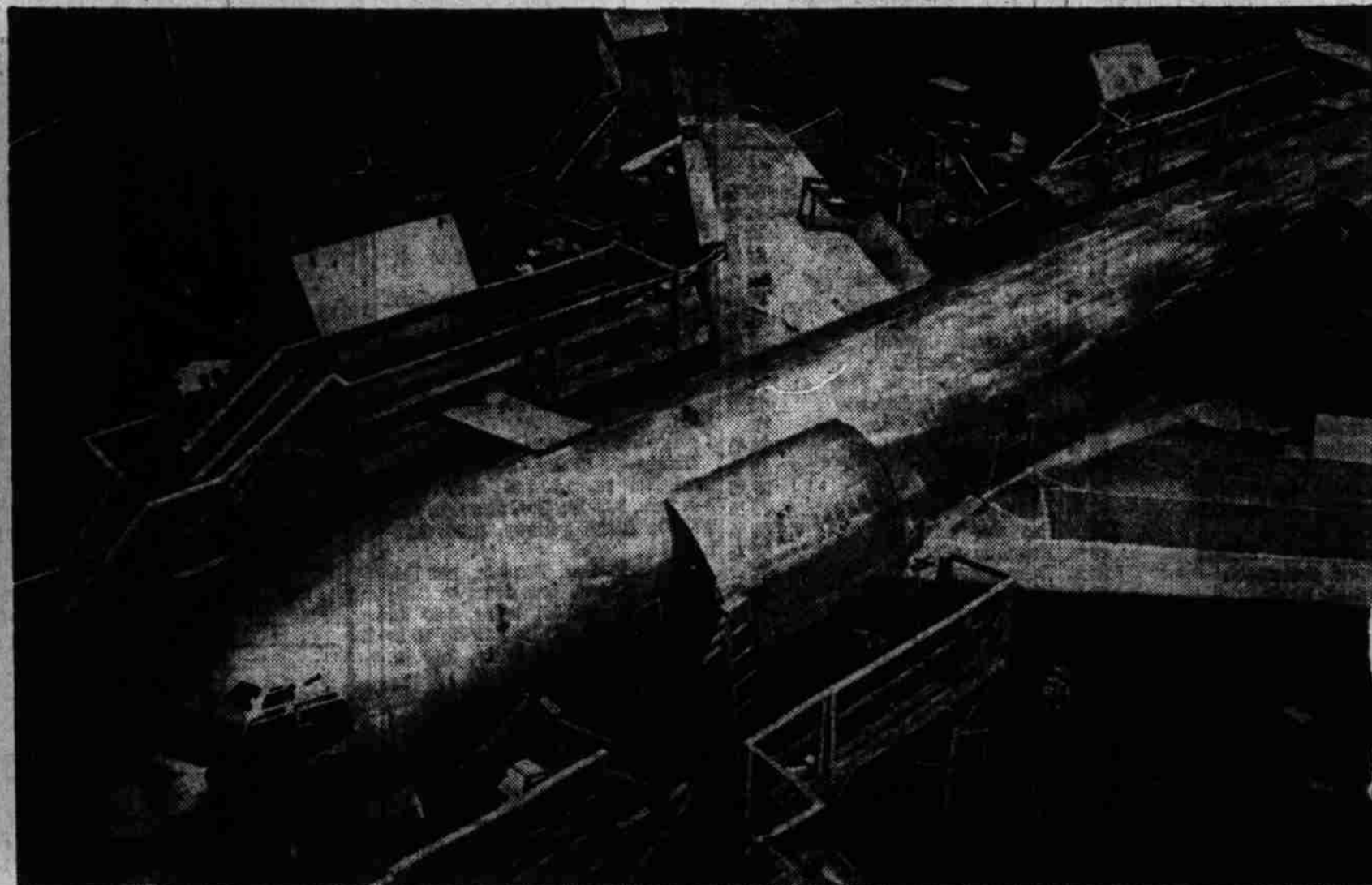
1. The 707 mock-up: Exact replica of the jet stratotanker-stratoliner built of wood as test bed for various installations and procedures used in building plane at Renton, Wash.



America's first jet transport, the Boeing 707, zooms high over the snow-capped peak of Mt. Rainier, Wash.



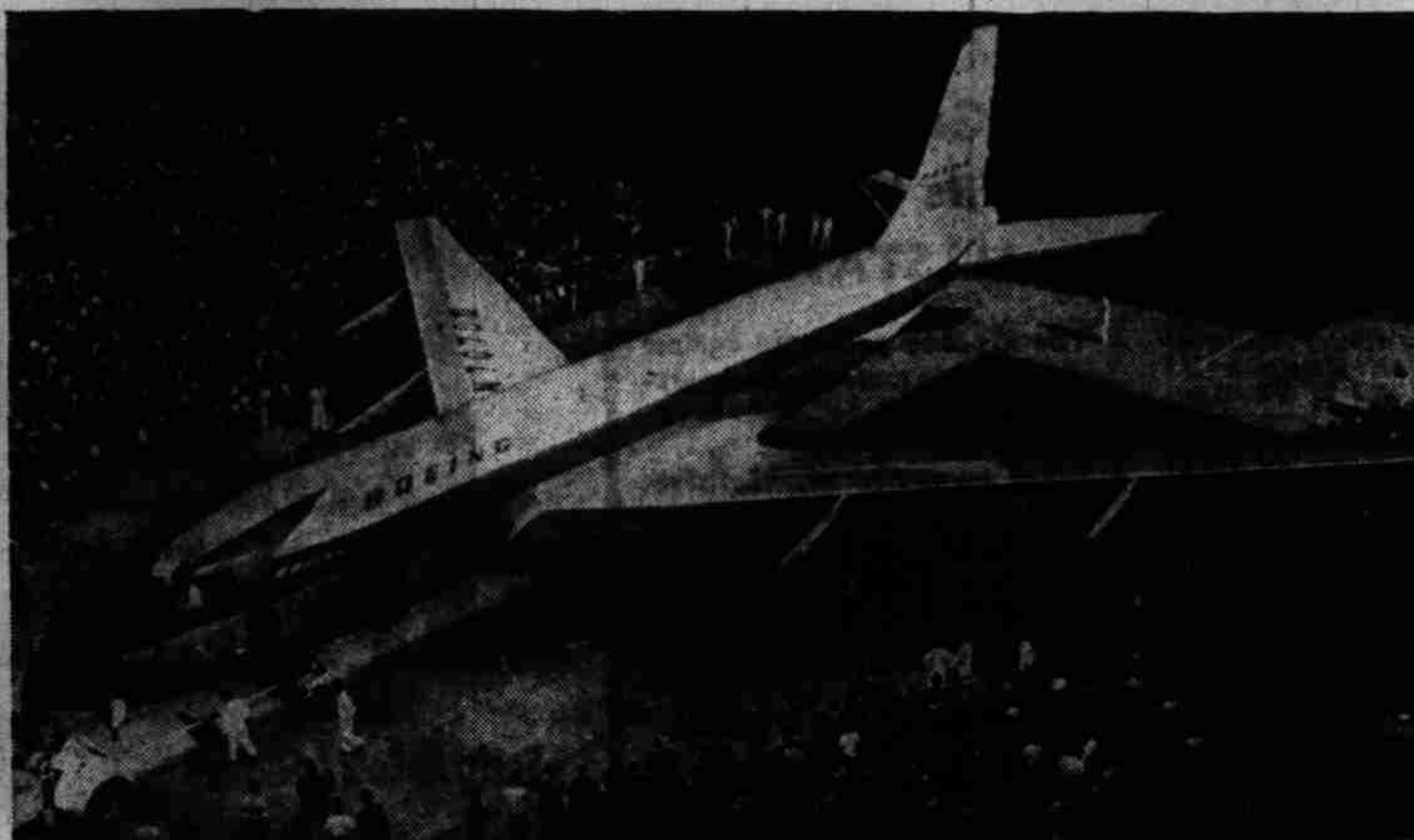
2. Wooden jig in which the Boeing 707 was built lies empty just before start of construction on actual airplane.



3. Late stage of construction shows 35-degree sweepback of the wings. Wingspan measures 130 feet.



4. Nose cowl of 707's jet engine frames nose of huge transport.



5. Watched by thousands of Boeing employees, completed giant transport makes its open-air debut.



6. Smiles and tears greet test pilot Tex Johnston after 707's first flight. Wife's happy; daughter Barbara sobs in relief.

This Week's PICTURE SHOW—AP Newsfeatures.

