



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The 1928 Stearman C3B is being housed in the OAHS museum and is slated to remain on display through July as restoration work on other aircraft continues.

Stearman from A10

a mailbag to go along with a passenger, it got thrown in.”

mail and passenger service in the 1920s and was also the type of plane Charles Lindbergh flew to survey air routes for Transcontinental and Western Airways.

The Stearman C3B model had two open cockpits with the pilot in the rear and two side-by-side passenger seats in the front as it contributed to the humble start of the nation’s commercial passenger airline industry.

The OAHS’s Stearman, given identification number C6487, was completed on October 12, 1928, and sold to National Parks Airways, for which it flew a north-south route between Great Falls, Mont. And Salt Lake City, Utah for several years.

Following the bankruptcy of National Park Airways in 1937, the Stearman plane changed ownership over the years, at one point serving as a crop duster in California. After an accident in 1947, however, the craft’s registration was canceled and it lay dormant until Talen acquired it in 1991 and was

“That was Montana’s first airline,” explained Talen. “They carried both passengers and mail. ... And if there was

able to retain its original identification and serial number. Since 1995, Talen has worked to restore the plane from what was originally just the “rusty bones” of the fuselage



The museum is selling commemorative license plates as part of its fundraising.

and tail surfaces. The front two-thirds of the fuselage were welded up anew, as were the gear and struts.

New wings were slowly built and, as the restoration transitioned from

a back burner to a spotlight project, a new paint scheme carefully replicated the craft’s original 1928 look.

The mailplane will be displayed prominently at the museum through

July.

On top of the Stearman, OAHS’s volunteers have been busy restoring several antique aircraft for the year of commemorations and travelling museum.

By fall, the museum hopes to have on display world-renowned aerobatic pilot John Gilbert “Tex” Rankin’s famed Great Lakes Biplane.

Due to the public health threats related to COVID-19, OAHS asks that visitors wear protective face masks and follow the suggested procedures to remain safe and ensure the health and safety of the museum visitors, staff and volunteers.

W I L D F I R E S A F E T Y

T I P S & C O L O R I N G A C T I V I T Y

Fire Prevention with Campfire Safety

In the United States, nearly nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by people not being careful. Help Smokey prevent these types of fires by learning to be careful and helping others do the same. Make sure that the grownups building your next campfire follow all the rules below, and tell them to check out Campfire Safety to learn even more. Make sure you are at a site that allows campfires Make sure there are no burn bans and it’s not too windy Dig a pit away from overhanging branches Circle the pit with rocks Clear a 10-foot area around the pit down to the dirt, removing anything that could catch on fire Stack extra wood upwind and away from fire After lighting, throw the match into the fire Never leave a campfire unattended; an adult should supervise the campfire at all times Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby Never put anything but wood into the fire Do not pull sticks out of the fire Do not sit on the fire ring or rocks around the campfire. They will heat up quickly and they’ll stay hot for a long time When it’s time to put the fire out, dump lots of water on it, stir it with a

shovel, then dump more water on it. Make sure it is COLD before leaving the campsite. If it’s too hot to touch, it’s too hot to leave! And remember, Smokey’s friends never play with matches, lighters, lighter fluid or other flammable liquids. If you find any of these items, tell a grownup where they are. If you see younger children playing with them, tell them to stop, and then tell a grownup. Kids who help prevent wildfires deserve a Smokey Bear Hug.

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