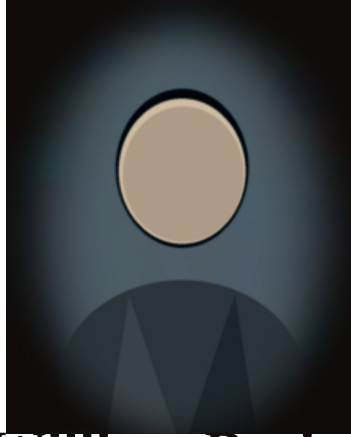




William Boeing

October 1, 1881 - September 28, 1956

Seattle, Washington

William Edward Boeing - American aviation pioneer who turned a Pacific Northwest timber fortune into an airplane company that would define commercial and military flight - died on Puget Sound near Seattle, Washington, on September 28, 1956. He was seventy-four. Born October 1, 1881, in Detroit to a German immigrant lumber family, he studied engineering, headed west for timber, and caught the flying bug hard enough to build a hangar on Lake Union.

In 1916 he founded what became the Boeing Airplane Company; mail routes, fighters, and flying boats followed. He pushed all-metal airframes and airline systems that stitched the West together, then stepped back after antitrust pressure in the 1930s broke up his combined manufacturing-and-transport empire. Horse breeding and property on the Sound occupied later years, but the name on the factory gates kept growing without him in the daily chair.

Aboard his yacht Taconite on Puget Sound, a heart attack ended the voyage. Seattle remains the city most tightly tied to the company and the man.

Detroit capital and Northwest spruce taught him materials; early crashes taught humility. He hired talent, funded research, and treated the airplane as infrastructure, not stunt.

He died on Puget Sound on September 28, 1956. Jetliners still roll out of sheds that began as his bet on wood, wire, and nerve.

Boeing's gift was industrial imagination - seeing forests and fjords as a runway for a national industry. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 28 remembers the Detroit-born lumberman who taught Seattle to build the sky.

Services

Died on Puget Sound near Seattle, Washington, September 28, 1956. Aviation pioneer; founder of Boeing Airplane Company.

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