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Maryland Aviation History & Army Ordinance Fall Tour

The Chesapeake Region's Fall Tour to the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum and the US Army Ordinance Museum on Saturday, September 23rd was a great opportunity to explore some of the military history artifacts that have been assembled in our area.

The day started out with threatening weather when we assembled in the parking lot of Divinity Lutheran Church. But as we have experienced at our events throughout the year, it didn't rain and by noon the dark clouds had dissipated and it was just another pleasant day (the first day of fall) to enjoy driving our old cars.



Glenn Martin in an early pusher plane c. 1912

We had fifteen cars on tour that ranged from Mike and Beth Muscedere's 1916 Ford Model T roadster to John Shenton's 1965 Plymouth Barracuda; plus some drove in modern vehicles because of weather concerns. A total of twenty-seven members and guests participated.

The morning leg of the tour traveled through the park around the southern end of the Loch Raven Reservoir and across the Perry Hall and White Marsh areas over to Wilson Point in Middle River. It's amazing how much open countryside remains around the metro area.

Our tour group was met at the Martin Aviation Museum by Urban Linn, their Tour Director, for a two hour guided tour. Included were the current general aviation operations at the old airport at Wilson Point, the museum's displays of the Martin aircraft company's history, and a viewing of the museum's WWII era airplanes. Some of the Club's members worked at various times for the Martin company or its successors, Martin Marietta and Lockheed.

The Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company produced over 80 different types of aircraft totaling more than 11,000 planes for the military and commercial markets. Prominent among them were 536 Boeing B-29s, including the atomic bombers Enola Gay and Bockscar, which played a key role in ending WWII.

Glenn Martin was an aviation pioneer, who made his first flight in 1909 and set up manufacturing operations in 1912 in California. In 1928 Martin Aircraft relocated its corporate and main production facilities to Maryland. It's interesting that Glenn Martin, who did not have a technical background,



Martin 404 twin-engine produced in the early 1950s

hired automobile mechanics to help design and build his first airplanes.

Martin Aircraft also had another distinction. It was an aeronautics training ground for up-coming engineers in the early years of the industry. A remarkable number of ex-Martin engineers later struck out on their own to form major aircraft companies, including William Boeing, Donald Douglas, Lawrence Bell, and James McDonnell.

The Sponsor's Choice Award, as selected by Urban Linn of the Martin Museum, went to Paul Habicht for his 1959 Cadillac. Unlike the '59 Caddy reference in a recent country tune, Paul's car is not one of the things that are "gone forever".

After a nice lunch at the Williamsburg Inn on Pulaski Highway, the tour continued on to the US Army Ordinance Museum at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Security at the entrance looked at our cars and promptly cleared us.

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Martin's & Army Ordinance Museum Tour - continued

At the US Army Ordinance Museum, we were on our own (their museum guides don't work on weekends) to look through the extensive small arms collection housed in the museum's main building and to view the outside displays of tanks, military vehicles, and armaments.

Members and guests who participated on the Fall Tour were: Bud Currey; Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; Ed Hainke; Anne

& Tom Kenney; Bruce Knott; Lois & John Krupinsky, 1950 Ford; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1957 Chevrolet; Mike and Beth Muscedere, 1916 Ford Model T; Art & Boots Petrucci, 1964 Corvair; Elsie & Norman Reese, 1963 Chevrolet; John Shenton III & John Shenton, 1965 Plymouth Barracuda; Ruth & Jim Synodinos; Irv Turner & Ted Schneider; Margaret & Francis Werneth; Mary & Bob Wilhelm, 1972 Buick; and Tom Young.



John Shenton's red 1965 Plymouth Barracuda



Wilhelm's '72 Buick, Krupinsky's '50 Ford, & Muscedere's '16 Ford



Nazi's Anzio Annie 280mm, fired 563 lb. shells with a 38 mile range



WWII workhorse - the Jeep



Paul Habicht & Urban Linn



The Chesapeake Region Fall Tour group in front of a Martin Maryland Aviation Museum hangar