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DB Cooper Artifacts and Airline Memorabilia Scheduled to Land at Washington State History Museum

Opening August 24, the COOPER exhibit looks at one infamous day in history and its ongoing impact on airline travel

TACOMA – April 2, 2013 – On November 24, 1971, passenger “Dan Cooper” bought a one-way ticket from Portland International Airport to Sea-Tac and changed the course of aviation history. Tapping into the mystery and intrigue of the world’s only unsolved skyjacking, the Washington State History Museum will focus on the notorious unknown man, the context of his time and questions of national security in its upcoming exhibit, [COOPER](#). Opening in August 2013, the display will trace the day’s timeline – from Cooper boarding Northwest Orient Flight 305 to his parachuted jump from the plane with \$200,000 in cash—and the impact it had on travel today.

Visitors of the COOPER exhibit will be able to experience what airline travel was like in the 1970s in a recreated Boeing 747 cabin and cockpit, study the science of skydiving and forensics, and make their own call on the Cooper manhunt, an FBI investigation that remains open to this day. Mixed in with the interactive simulations and storyboards, key artifacts will be on display, including marked dollars from his ransom payment and a 1957 Pioneer Parachute Company parachute. The parachute is one of four that were delivered to Flight 305 as part of Cooper’s demands. A timeline of commercial aircrafts will also show how historic skyjackings led to developments like the “Cooper Vane,” which prevents the lowering of the air-stair while in flight.

“The mystery of Dan Cooper has a cultish appeal in this region especially, with its ties with the Northwest and its unique status as the only unsolved hijacking. The story is one of contradictions: Cooper was a criminal who threatened people’s lives, and yet folk songs were written about him and Washington communities celebrate the anniversary of his jump each year,” said Jennifer Kilmer, the director of the Washington State Historical Society. “We’ve been fortunate to work with private collectors to curate this incredible exhibit and develop a glimpse into the life and times of the Cooper hijacking, the influence the event had on air travel and security reforms, and how this story has permeated our popular consciousness.”

Over the course of COOPER, the museum will host a series of events, including an opening night premiere, an ongoing educational series focused on forensics science and history mysteries, and a Cooper symposium hosted by Geoffrey Gray, bestselling-author of *Skyjacked: The Hunt for D.B. Cooper*. More information on events and exhibit specifics will be released in coming months, with regular updates available at www.washingtonhistory.org and the Historical Society’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/washingtonhistory.

About the Washington State History Museum

The Washington State History Museum, flagship of the Washington State Historical Society, is located at 1911 Pacific Avenue in downtown Tacoma, just off 1-5. The Washington State History Museum presents exhibits, programs, and events that bring to life the stories of Washington's history. The Washington State Historical Society has been dedicated to collecting, preserving, and vividly presenting Washington's rich and varied history since 1891. For more information, please call 1-888-BE-THERE or visit our Web site, www.WashingtonHistory.org

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Editor's Note: High-res images and artifact and exhibit specifics are available upon request.

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