

OUR STORY

By Land, By Sea and By Air

The earth, sky and water all meet in Everett. At a bend in the Snohomish River, the food was abundant and Port Gardner Bay gave access to the world. The gently-flowing river winds through towering trees and empties into the open waters of a Bay teeming with fish. First the Snohomish Indians called area home and finally European came. In 1861, a carpenter with a colorful yet unfortunate nickname became the first to settle the area. Dennis “Dirty Plate Face” Brigham was his name. Others followed. The Rucker brothers. The Swalwells. Leander Bagley and H. A. Taylor built a store and a shipyard, opening up the area to the sea while E. D. Smith started a logging camp, making his living on land.

John D. Rockefeller and Charles Colby who operated a barge company nearby and Henry Hewitt, Jr who was running lumber, together bought out the Swalwells and Ruckers and named the town Everett after Colby’s son. In the newly christened town, industry flourished, more people came and the town grew. The Great Northern Railroad arrived and more people followed. Mills were built on the water, logging operations began on land. The American Tugboat Company began operations and the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company built the world’s largest lumber mill. Houses and homesteads appeared where the trees fell. Whether rebuilding from the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 or gearing up for World War I, when the nation needed lumber, Everett boomed.

While the early days of Everett were all about the land and sea, not long after the Wright brothers took flight, planes changed the trajectory of the town. In 1915, launching from a spot in the water near downtown Everett, pilot Terah Maroney took William Boeing and U. Conrad Westervelt up in his seaplane. One taste of flight was all they needed to start Pacific Aero Products Co in 1916 which would become Boeing Airplane Company a few years later. Having played such a pivotal role in the company’s formation, it was no surprise when Boeing returned to town in 1966 to build a factory where they would build the iconic 747.

OUR STORY (cont.)

After the Second World War, a new industry emerged in Everett led by boat-building brothers Paul and Walter Morris. The Morris boys grew up near the water in Everett, designing and constructing model boats. By 1948, they were building full-size speedboats in their facility near the 14th Street dock. Their 32-foot Bristol Bay gillnetter fishing boat was noted for its quality. They even built 20-foot wooden hulled boats for the Air Force. During their time in business, it's estimated that the Morris brothers made over 8000 recreation and fishing boats in their waterfront factory before Paul Morris stopped building in 1966. And although Morris Brothers was no longer operating, the boat building industry that they started continued in Everett.

The forces that shaped Everett are still in play today. The call of the water remains strong, drawing outdoor-lovers to go boating, kite-boarding, whale watching and fishing. And if people aren't in the water, they're often strolling along the waterfront. Or dining at the many restaurants and bars, enjoying the beach at Jetty Island, the farmers market at the marina or attending one of the many festivals held by the water. Between the Funko toymaker shop and the Children's museum there's plenty for kids to do. The Historic Everett Theatre, the Village Theatre, and the Everett Performing Art Center are among the amazing places to see shows. Scuttlebutt microbrewery is one of many great places for a beer and a bite. Bluewater Distillery is great place for a drink. Of course, Boeing still plays a large role in the town economically and culturally. Between the water and the trees, the views are spectacular. The history of the timber, aviation and nautical industries is everywhere you look.