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The Evening Star

Tuesday

June 5, 2007

Classic aircraft to be sold Sunday

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AUBURN

— A reconnaissance aircraft built for World War II that never saw action will be the featured plane Sunday at the Auburn Aircraft Auction.



The L13 was manufactured by Convair-Vultee during the final month of World War II, "so it never saw military service,"

said Dave Nelson, national sales manager for Kruse International, which will conduct the auction.

The featured aircraft at the Auburn Aircraft Auction is this L13 reconnaissance aircraft manufactured by Convair-Vultee. The auction will begin at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the DeKalb County Airport, 2710 C.R. 60, Auburn. (Photo contributed)

The airplane was designed to haul its own weight in payload and fly reconnaissance missions at low altitudes.

Nelson said it is a slow plane, flying at 100 mph or less, but it has been outfitted with an updated radial engine.



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"It really makes it a very usable aircraft," he said.

The plane made its journey to Auburn from Dallas-Fort Worth, the home of current owner Carl Walchshauser, on Tuesday.

"It flew like a champ," Nelson said.

The aircraft features an insignia of Felix the Cat on its tail, which designated the airgroup for which it was built.

Nelson expects 20 to 25 aircraft to be sold Sunday. The auction begins at 1:30 p.m. on the tarmac near the terminal of the DeKalb County Airport, 2710 C.R. 60, Auburn.



"Right now it's going to be classics" that will be sold, Nelson said, including Beechcraft aircraft and some aircraft from the Hoosier Air Museum.

"We have the aircraft. We're hoping for buyers," Nelson said.

People will be able to register to bid on Sunday.

The auction will not be the only event Sunday. From 7 a.m. to noon, the Hoosier Air Museum, on the south edge of the airport, will host a fly-in breakfast serving pancakes, sausages and eggs.

Last month, Nelson told the Board of Aviation Commissioners that up to 500 aircraft could converge on the airfield for the event. The public is invited.

Throughout the morning, Kruse International will have shuttle buses running to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum and World War II Victory Museum.

"The plans are to get everyone there for the pancake breakfast and shuttle them around to the museums," Nelson said. They hope to keep people entertained throughout the morning so that they stick around for the auction.

The Hoosier Air Museum also will run a shuttle around the perimeter of the airport to carry passengers from the terminal to the museum.

At 1 p.m., Civil Air Patrol cadets will raise the flag, perform the national anthem and open the auction.

The event is almost entirely organized by Kruse International; the Hoosier Air Museum; Victory Aviation, the DeKalb County Airport's fixed-base operator; and the Experimental Aircraft Association Vintage Aircraft Chapter 37, which will be on hand to help with safety. Kruse International signed a license agreement with the DeKalb County Airport to hold the event with only a small amount of input from the Board of Aviation Commissioners and airport manager Russ Couchman.

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"They've run with the ball," Couchman said.

Couchman added that he will be at the airport for the event and is really looking forward to it.

"I'm excited. I think it's going to be a lot of fun," he said. "My whole family is looking forward to the pancake breakfast."

The cost of the pancake breakfast is a freewill donation to the Hoosier Air Museum.

General admission to the auction will be free.

The bidder registration fee is \$75.

More auction information, including an inventory list, may be found at www.kruse.com.

Sunday schedule

7 a.m. - noon: Pancake breakfast at Hoosier Air Museum

All morning: Shuttle buses to ACD Museum and World War II Victory Museum

1 p.m.: Civil Air Patrol flag raising ceremony

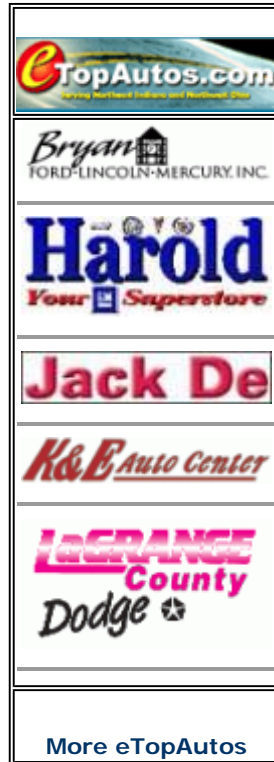
1:30 p.m.: Aircraft auction on tarmac near the terminal

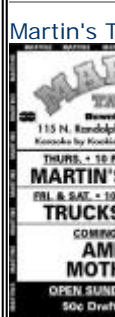
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