

DELTA HISTORY

A vintage Delta airplane, likely a Douglas DC-7, is shown from a low angle. The tail fin is prominent, featuring the Delta logo (a crown over the number 880) and the word "DELTA" in large white letters on a dark blue background. The aircraft's registration "952" is visible on the upper part of the tail. The main cabin door is open, and its built-in airstair is extended to the ground. A group of passengers, dressed in mid-20th-century attire, are boarding the plane. A flight attendant in a dark uniform and cap is assisting a young child onto the stairs. Other passengers, including men in suits and hats and women in dresses and coats, are standing on the tarmac or on the stairs. The background shows a clear blue sky and a distant airport landscape.

JULY 2023

**DELTA EXHIBIT
AT EAA**

**ARTIFACTS
CURATED BY THE
DELTA FLIGHT
MUSEUM**



PILOT HATS (1950- 1972)

Pilot uniforms weren't introduced until the 1930s when airlines began standardizing them for their crews. Before this, pilots would mostly wear their wartime military uniforms.

Original airline uniforms were modeled after naval officer uniforms complete with trousers, jackets, and hats that donned insignias to indicate rank. This black pilot cap with a gold chinstrap features a raised winged Greek Delta on each button would have been worn by a pilot in the 1950s-60s. The black pilot cap with embroidered laurel leaves was worn by Captain Hal F. Summers in the 1960s through 1972.



MODEL AIRPLANES (1930s- 1980s)

The Delta Flight Museum has over 1,000 model airplanes in its collection. From props to jets, many of these models sit in the Museum's open shelving area for visitors to enjoy viewing. Models come in many different scales, and some were available to purchase through Delta. On display are an assortment of models ranging from the years 1934 to 1989.





KIDS (1940- 1961)

In 1959, kids were excited to receive Delta's first Jet Age "kiddie wings." These wings were handed out to all kids flying on the new Royal Jet Service flights, as well as Delta's DC-7 Royal Service propeller plane flights. Dottie Delta towers above as one of a pair of promotional statues developed by Delta's ad agency in 1951. Her counterpart, Colonel Delta, is currently on display at the Delta Flight Museum. The miniature navy blue carry-on flight bag delighted kids in the 1940s-50s. The navy flight attendant (aka "stewardess") cap was worn as part of their uniform in the 1940s and 1950s.



COCKTAIL HOUR (1958-1967)

Bottom's up! In 1958, Delta launched its Royal Service for customers on their Douglas DC-7 flights. Some of the amenities included complimentary champagne, choice of entrée, afternoon cocktails, and a Muzak tape recording.

These 1960s branded miniature liquor bottles feature artwork by John Hardy of Delta's ad agency and highlight Delta's popular destinations. Some of Delta's 1967 gifts available for purchase include this deck of cards and "roly poly" glass available in a set of six.





FLIGHT BAGS & TAGS (1950s- 1970s)



As a perk to flying with Delta and its affiliated airlines, passengers would receive promotional gift bags on specific flights. Some passengers and employees would even purchase these for their travels. The popular Delta hatbox style bag, in white, came out in the 1960s and includes a VIP paper bag tag. Just like today, checked bags would receive a baggage claim tag for its final destination. The 1963 mustard yellow North Central Airlines tag would have adorned a bag heading for Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Other bags and tags on display come from airlines in Delta's large family tree, in the 1950s to the 1970s.

BELOW THE WING (1934- 1960s)

Delta's aircraft maintenance technicians work on repairing and maintaining the Delta fleet. This khaki hat is a reproduction aircraft mechanic hat that would have been worn by Delta mechanics from 1934-1950s. The branded specialty cowling latch wrench would have been used on Delta's Propeller Era aircraft fleet from the 1940s to the 1960s. In the Museum's collection, there are a collection of employee ID badges. F. L. Folk was issued this ID in the early 1940s as part of World War II security measures.

