

**B-17 rides highlight inaugural air show
Show continues today at Laughlin/Bullhead;
plane is one of six remaining in the world**

By HEATHER SMATHERS/The Daily News

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BULLHEAD CITY — An original B-17 from World War II is one of the planes on display this weekend at the inaugural Legends Over the Colorado air show at the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport.

The B-17 on display was built in 1944 and saw action in the Pacific, primarily as a search and rescue plane, said volunteer Virgil Moyer, who, along with a team of volunteers, takes the plane to shows around the country.

Moyer said there were 12,731 B-17's built during WWII, 6,500 of which were lost over Europe during combat. Each plane could carry 10 crew members, he said.

Jim Templeton, general manager of Landmark Aviation and the organizer of the air show, said the B-17 in the show is one of six remaining in the world and is the best restored.

The plane is part of the Commemorative Air Force Arizona Wing, a Mesa-based nonprofit

organization that has fully restored the B-17, Sentimental Journey. Two more seats for passengers have been installed in the radio room. The fully operational plane takes passengers for a fee; rides will be available at the air show,

The CAF took possession of Sentimental Journey on Jan. 14, 1978. The plane was named after a contest initiated in the local media that resulted in 800 entries.

Today, Sentimental Journey makes approximately 60 appearances a year, mostly in the spring and summer, Moyer said.

"The wintertime is dedicated to cleaning and repairing the plane," he said.

Sentimental Journey is open for self-guided tours and the all volunteer crew is available to answer questions.

Sentimental Journey will be on display today from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. near the Landmark Aviation hangar, 2550 Laughlin View Drive, building 40. Admission to the show is \$4. Tours of Sentimental Journey are \$5 and a 20-30 minute ride in Sentimental Journey is \$425.



OVER THE TRI-STATE: Two War birds flanked a flight taken by Sentimental Journey on Friday. The War birds also are on display at the air show, which continues from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. today. HEATHER SMATHERS/The Daily News