

DESTINATION CARLSBAD The Craftsmanship Museum



Shown here is the all aluminum model of the P-51. (Note the quarter dollar coin on the right for scale.)

(Russ Albertson)

By Russ Albertson

f you find yourself flying into Carlsbad, California's Palomar airport, KCRQ, and need a further reason other than our great weather, beaches and attractions, be sure to see the Miniature Craftsmanship Museum just minutes from the airport. This museum, founded by Joe Martin, owner of Sherline Products, has an amazing collection of miniature engines, guns, machine tools, cars, tractors, steam engines and aircraft. As the name implies, this museum is dedicated to craftsmanship and mechanical excellence at the small end of the size scale. What is really amazing, however, is that these machines are not only very small and precise, but almost all of them operate! The museum has a couple of tiny engines that they will fire up for visitors. A miniature 1/2 scale Gatling gun can fire .22 cal bullets, the little outboard boat motors, small machine tools, clocks, steam engines and the supercharged V-8 Hemi all work! The engine collection alone includes over a hundred and forty replica miniature engines from a 1/4 scale Wright Flyer engine to V-12s, a pulse jet and even a small, hand-made, turbine jet engine.

The collection also has a range of radial aircraft engines from rotary to the 18 cylinder Pratt and Whitney Cyclones. In fact, a Bentley BR2 rotary engine displayed here holds the world record as the smallest operating rotary engine to fly on a 1/4 scale model plane. For the car buff, they have a Corvette 327





An incredible Fine Art Model of the Corsair. (Russ Albertson)



The Ferrari V-12 model engine is amazing in its detail. (Russ Albertson)



An exploded view of Dr. Parks P-51. (Russ Albertson)

Destination Carlsbad: The Craftmanship Museum

Continued from Page 20

V-8, Ferrari V-12, Model A and flatheads. Many of the engines have pictures explaining how they were built along with various internal parts displayed next to the engine. Also on display is a large collection of scaled down farm engines and tractors and pumps.

One of the most incredible displays are the 1/16 scale P-51 and F-4U Corsair. Made by Dr. Young C. Park, these two aircraft are crafted in aluminum with cutaway sections showing every detail right down to the tiny bolt-heads on the Corsair's R-2800 Pratt and Whitney radial engine. Both models have working flight controls and feature open gan bays complete with .50 cal guns and ammo belts. The Corsair is displayed in sections and even the smallest detail is visible in the cockpit, engine, tail and fuselage.



A handmade uluminum R2800.

(Russ Albertson)

Another Corsair on display is a 1/15 scale FG-1D, made by Fine Art Models. It is one of 100 built by them for sale and it too is museum quality. This model has no cutaway sections, but the cowl and engine compartment panels are removed. to show the engine, oil tank and boses and accessories. The model is painted in WWII Navy dark blue and every detail in the cockpit is painted just like the real aircraft. The gun bays are open and the plane is armed with 500-pound bombs and HVAR rockets used in the Pacific war. The model has a display book with pictures showing the construction and internal parts.

Minature Craffmanship Museum, 3235 Executive Ridge, Vista, California 92081, 760/727-9492. Monday through Friday, 9-4 p.m.; Saturday by appointment for groups of eight or more. Admission is free.

For additional information on the Craftsmanship Museum and Foundation visit www.craftsmanshipmuseum.com.