

# Heritage Airpark honors Plant 42

By ALLISON GATLIN  
Valley Press Staff Writer

PALMDALE — The list of attractions celebrating aviation history here in Aerospace Valley will soon get a little longer.

Palmdale's Plant 42 Heritage Airpark will eventually showcase 42 aircraft in a strip of parkland along the southern boundary of Air Force Plant 42.

The airpark grew out of a desire to commemorate the vital role Plant 42 has played in aviation history.

"(It's) a tremendous history," said Carol Seidl, deputy city manager of Palmdale and airpark organizer. "But it hasn't been celebrated until now."

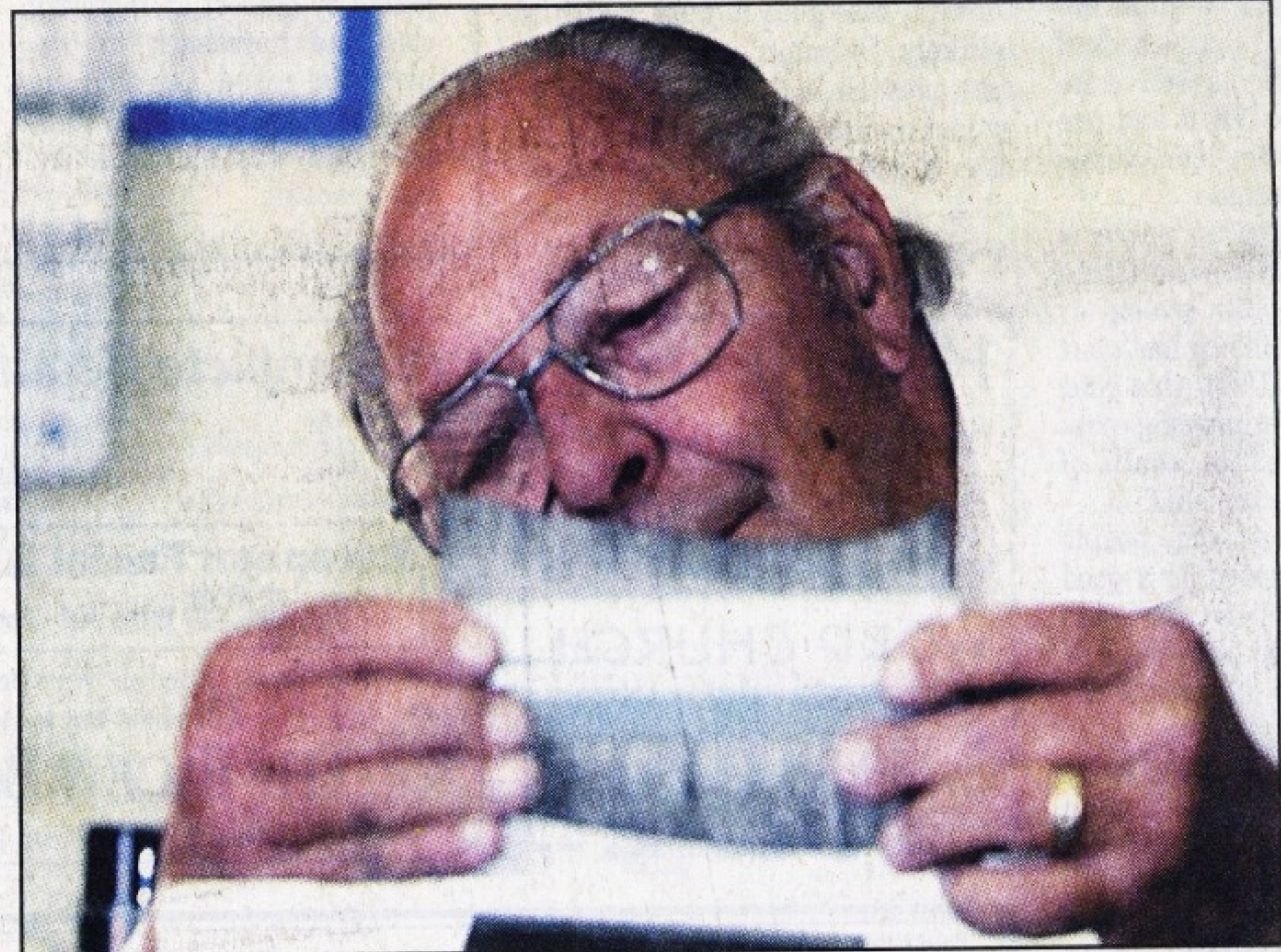
Plans call for representation of any aircraft with a history at Plant 42: whether designed, built, tested or modified there.

"We want to be a destination; we want people to come here to see these aircraft," Seidl said.

Efforts to develop the airpark began in 1997 with the formation of a task force, which included representatives from the city, Plant 42, local aerospace industry, civic leaders and retired aerospace employees.

The task force obtained a lease from the Air Force for 26 acres of land, a strip alongside Rancho Vista Boulevard (Avenue P) between about 20th and 25th streets east.

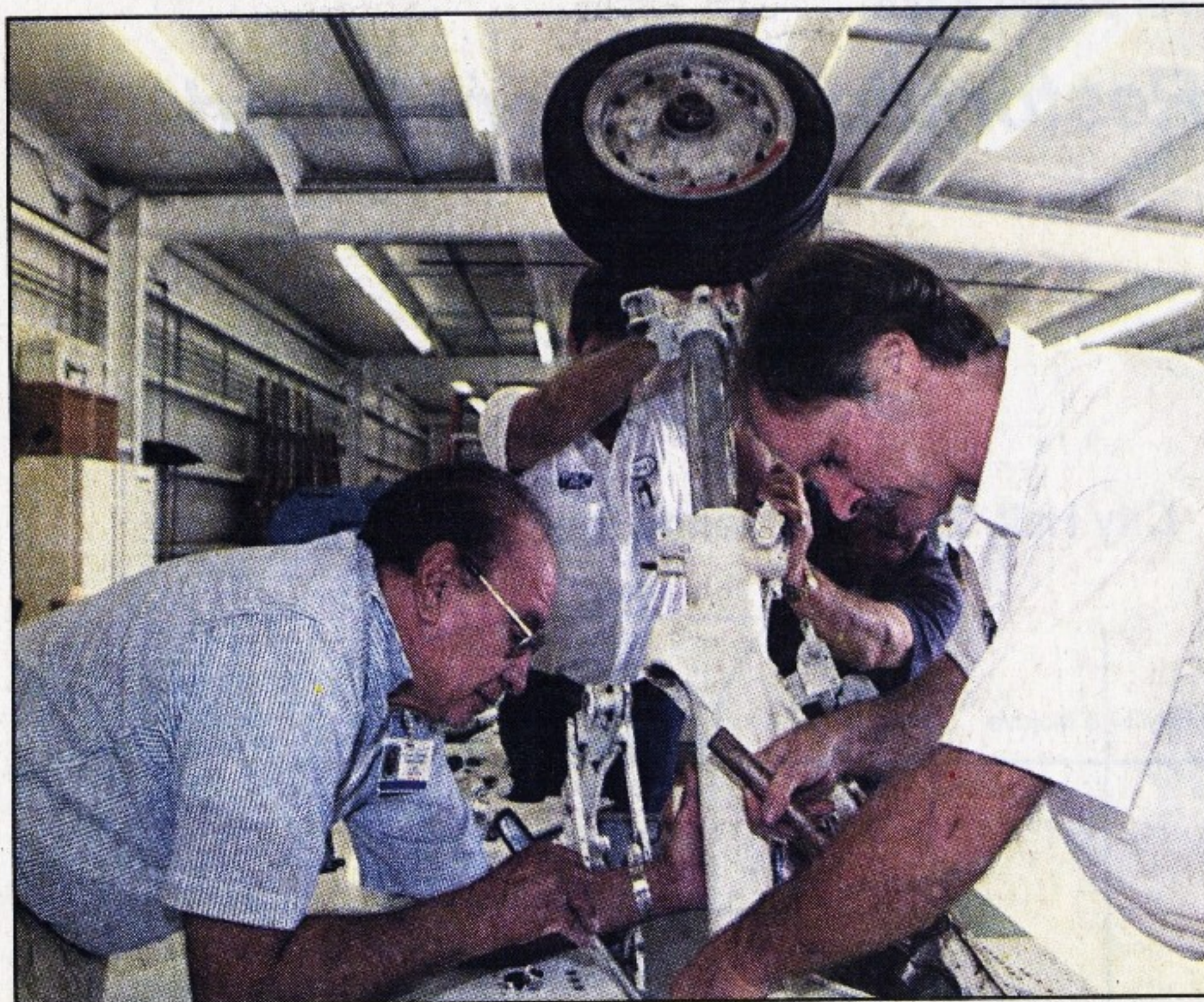
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## AIRCRAFT HERITAGE

Volunteers work on aircraft at the Heritage Airpark on Rancho Vista Boulevard (Avenue P) in Palmdale. Two planes to go on display are a T-38, left, and an F-86. Left, Jack Fabbri works in the hangar.

GENE BRECKNER  
Valley Press  
photos



**TEAM VOLUNTEERS** — Luis Provencio, left, and Rob McGregor get some assistance on the landing gear of a T-38. The refurbishing work at the Heritage Airpark is being done by a dedicated team of volunteers, most of them retired aerospace workers.

## Volunteers restore glory

By ALLISON GATLIN  
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PALMDALE — Two mornings a week, the lonely building along Rancho Vista Boulevard (Avenue P) hums with the sound of machines and men working on aircraft.

It may sound like any of a number of buildings at Air Force Plant 42, home to many of the nation's aerospace manufacturers. But this one is a little bit different.

The aircraft that emerge from this building are not destined for exotic test programs or even distant military deployment. These are traveling only a few yards away, onto concrete pads for permanent display at the developing Plant 42 Heritage Airpark.

The men who work on them are a little bit different as well.

While most of them once received paychecks for doing this type of work, they all are now strictly volunteers, donating their time, knowledge, skills and a fair dose of humor to the task of readying a permanent monument to the Valley's aviation history.

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