Colorado Aviation Museum Celebrating Aviator Dwight Eisenhower

By Penny Hamilton, Grand County Historical Association Emily Warner Field Aviation Museum co-founder

Grand County, Colorado, was one of Dwight Eisenhower's favorite places, even before he became President. After catching fish in the Fraser River, he enjoyed cooking those trout at the Byers Peak Ranch during the years 1948 through 1955. In aviation jargon, Eisenhower "flew west" at his death on March 28, 1969.

earned a private pilot license in 1939 at Fort Lewis. This aviation knowledge was extremely important to Eisenhower in World War II planning as the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces," Hamilton concluded.

In recognition of this <u>50th Anniversary</u>, this summer, the volunteers of the Emily Warner Field Aviation Museum will celebrate Eisenhower's aviation history when visitors stop by any Friday or Saturday, June 1 through August 31 from 11 to 2, free, family-friendly and wheel-chair accessible. Located on the Granby/ Grand County Airport in the former Rocky Mountain Airways airline terminal. Fly-in, drive up, or even bicycle.

Dr. William Hamilton, museum co-founder. "Some readers may not be aware that Dwight Eisenhower was a pilot. According to his Presidential Museum, he learned to fly while stationed in the Army in the Philippines. Eisenhower soloed in a Stearman PT-1 on May 19, 1937. Later, he flew a Stinson Reliant and logged over 350 hours of flying from July 1936 to November 1939. Eisenhower was a Lt. Colonel, serving under General Douglas MacArthur. One of Eisenhower's flight instructors was William L. 'Jerry' Lee, who was training the pilots for the nascent Philippine Air Force. Cont'd on page 23

8610



www.dyersburgavionics.net

24 Hour Self Service Fuel Available Transportation to Lady Luck Casino Provided by Casino Complete Avionics Repair and Maintenance Over 50 Years Civilian and Military Experience

