

Eagle County Regional Airport

By Jim Driver

Collected clippings, notes, photos and research

REF 978.844 DRI

Processed by:

Jaci Spuhler August 2007

Description of Collection

Origination

Jim Driver

Title

Eagle County Regional Airport

Physical Description

1 loose-leaf binder

Repository

Local History Collection, Eagle Library, Eagle Valley Library District
PO Box 240, 600 Broadway, Eagle, CO 81631

Location of Collection

The notebook is available in the Local History Collection reference section.

Collection identification

REF 978.844 DRI

Administrative Information

Restriction on Access

The notebook may be accessed in the Library.

Restrictions on Use

The notebook is used in the presence of Eagle Library Local History Collection staff.

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Eagle Public Library

Custodial History (Provenance)

The notebook was donated to the Eagle Public Library, Local History Collection in 2006 by Jim Driver.

Note (Abstract)

The notebook contains a narrative history of the Eagle County Regional Airport based on research done by Jim Driver in 2001. The narrative is augmented by newspaper clippings, Internet searches, letters and photos. The time frame covered by the notebook is 1911 to 2004.

Preferred Citation

Eagle County Regional Airport, by Jim Driver. Local History Collection, Eagle Public Library, Eagle Valley Library District.

Processing Information

Processed by: Jaci Spuhler.
Completed August 2007.

Arrangement

The notebook is arranged by topic, beginning with the historical narrative. Subsequent sections provide documentation for the narrative in general chronological order.

Historical Note

Jim Driver, author of Satomi and an Eagle County resident, worked at the airport and compiled this notebook. His narrative has been used as a basis for an official history written by Jennifer L. Taylor.

Subordinate Components (Notebook Section Contents)

Eagle County Regional Airport Fast Facts

Eagle County Regional Airport Fact Sheet

Table of Contents

Section 1. Narrative: Eagle County Regional Airport, Eldon Wilson Era, Cooley Mesa from 1911 (22 leaves)

Section 2. Glossary

Section 3. Narrative: Early Years beginning to 1947 (2 leaves)

Copy of 1911 Grantor/Grantee record of sale for land constituting a part of the runway complex

“Air passenger mail route to include Eagle,” Swain, Alva A. Eagle Valley Enterprise, August 14, 1931, p. 1.

“Gov. Knous will attend dedication.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Sept. 12, 1947, p. 1.

“Eagle County may maintain airport.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, April 6, 1961, p. 1.

“County will apply for airfield transfer.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, May 11, 1961, p. 1.

“FAA may move staff this year.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, January 11, 1962, p. 1.

“FAA field to stay.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, June 1962.

“Work on airfield urged.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, June 1966.

“Zuni Indians flown in for fire mop-up.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, August 22, 1964.

“Airport work should begin this fall.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, September 8, 1966.

“Former resident recalls ‘barnstormer’ days at Eagle County Airport.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Jan. 5, 1995.

“Airport celebrates 50 years of flight,” Heicher, Kathy. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Sept. 11, 1997, p. 1. 12. 19.

“Count takes up option on airstrip.” Dec. 7, 1945

“State air squadron to visit local airport soon.” June 1939.

“Landing field to be inspected.” Aug. 4, 1939.

“Flying field on Cooley Mesa proposed.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, May 5, 1939.

“Langley Aerodrome, Oct. 7, 1903.” <http://aviation-history.com/early/langley>

Section 2. 10th Mountain Division.

“History of the 10th Mountain Division.”

<http://www.drum.army.mil/history/divisionhistory.htm>

“National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.”

<http://www.10thmtndivassoc.org/>

“History of Camp Hale at the heart of skiing’s beginnings,” Miller, Tamara. Vail Daily, Oct. 1, 2004, p. A9.

“Ready Reference-Vail Valley”

Section 3. Air Mail.

“Development of night navigation in the U.S.,” Schamel, John.

<http://www.ama500.jccbi.gov/afss/History/NightNav.htm>

“The last air mail pioneer pilot,” Wright, Nancy Allison.

<http://www.airmailpioneers.org/profiles/profile1.html>

Section 4. Fred Gray.

“Ill-fated jet’s pilot known here.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, June 7, 1962.

Civil Aeronautics Board Aircraft Accident Report, File No. 1-0003, released August 1, 1962 (5 leaves)

Section 5. Middle Years.

Narrative: Middle Years 1947-1990 (3 leaves)

“Eagle County new runway promotes direct ski flights,” Andre, Babette. Wings West, Winter 1987, p. 12.

“Airport future looks good.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Oct. 27, 1966.

“New runway opened at county airport,” Kostas, Peter. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Oct. 16, 1986, p. 1.

Section 6. HAATS (High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site).

[Letter] to Chief Warrant Officer John Such, National Guard, High Altitude Training Site
HAATS [brochure]

[Photos] Colorado Army National Guard; Mike Spencer, Forest Service
COARNG-HAATS program [brochure]

“Eagle-eyed pilot downplays his role in discovery of A-10,” Amole, Tustin. Rocky Mountain News [n.d.]

“Operation Medi-Vac trains for mtn. Rescue.” Vail Trail, Jan. 22, 1971.

Section 7. FSS (EGE). [Eagle, Colorado, EGE, Flight Service Station]

[Photos]: ten on 4 leaves, taken from 1983 to 1992.

[Interview] Cheryll Krieger, FAA, interviewed by Jim Driver.

Section 8. Modern Years.

“County receives \$300,000 for airport improvements.” A-B-C Times Sept. 13, 1989.

“Eagle County Regional Airport Safety Fact Sheet [draft]”

“The way it was.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Dec. 22, 1994.

Section 9. ARFF.

Narrative: Fire-Station (ARFF) [Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting] [2 leaves]

“Chief says firefighters will need more training if airport expands,” Hudson, Audrey. Vail Daily, Aug. 10, 1989.

Section 10. FBO [fixed-base operations]

“A five-star stopover,” Whitney, Veronica. Vail Daily, Feb. 12, 2003.

“Eagle pilot’s business remains fixed at airport,” Solberg, Mary. Vail Daily, Sept. 17, 1986, p. 1, 15.

“Airport hangar completion expected soon,” Kostas, Peter. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Feb. 18, 1987.

“Jerry Black heads jet center expansion,” Kostas, Peter. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Oct. 20, 1988.

“Howard purchase: VA’s owner bartering for airport FBOs,” Holmes, Pam. July 14, 1988.

“Gillett negotiating to buy County Airport operations,” Smith, Valerie J. Vail Daily, July 13, 1988.

“Local jet center scores in the top 20,” Thompson, Cliff. Vail Daily, July 13, 1988.

“Airport deal 95 percent completed, says buyer.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Sept. 28, 1988.

“Washington trip ‘successful.’” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Apr. 16, 1987.

“Mountain flying service is sold.” June 30, 1988.

“July 26 closing planned for both airport FBOs.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, July 21, 1988.

“Sale finalized,” Holmes, Pam. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Aug. 4, 1988.”

Section 11. Airlines.

“Air service for Vail.” Vail Daily, Jan. 27, 1966.

“Daily flight service Denver to Eagle.” Feb, 17m 1966.

“Vail Airways files for new flight plan.” Vail Daily, Aug. 11, 1967, p.1.

“Royal West begins commercial service,” Kostas, Peter. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Dec. 18, 1986 p.1.

“Shutdown: Royal West halts operations,” Kostas, Peter. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Mar. 5, 1987, p.1.

“Ski country airline goes for new jets.” Vail Trail, Feb. 10, 1969, p.3.

“Rocky Mountain Airways sports new turbo-prop.” [photo] Vail Trail, Dec. 14, 1969.

“Monarch Airline gets new name and a new schedule,” Best, Allen. Vail Trail, Mar. 27, 1987.

“Air service still pending FAA approval of expansion,” Smith, Valerie J. Vail Daily, Aug. 3, 1989.

[Avon Airport]. Abandoned & little-known airfields: Western Colorado,

http://members.tripod.com/airfields_freeman/CO/Airfields_CO_W.htm

“Grounded: STOLport flights discontinued,” Kostas, Peter. Vail Daily, July 26, 1989.

“Airport expansion,” Heicher, Kathy. Avon-Beaver Creek Times, Aug. 2, 1989.

“No commercial carrier using airport this winter,” Thompson, Cliff. Avon-Beaver Creek Times, Nov. 9, 1988.

“Friendlier skies,” Miller, Scott N. Eagle Valley Enterprise...

“United soars into county daily this summer,” Flomberg, Dave.
“Summertime Denver flight returns to Eagle airport,” Thompson, Cliff. Vail Daily, Mar. 20, 2004.
[missing headline]. Steiert, Connie. Eagle Valley Enterprise, July 22, 2004.
“Local pilots thrive in their local blue yonder,” Miller, Scott N. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Dec. 29, 1994, p. 17-20.

Section 12. Accidents.

Event dates 9/1/1968-7/15/2005

“B-25 forced down on local field.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, July 19, 1951, p.1.
“Corporate jet sinks in county taxiway.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Mar. 29, 1979, p.6.
“Jet out-runs the runway at Eagle Airport,” Karlin, Rick. Eagle Valley Enterprise, Dec. 29, 1983, p.5.
NTSB ID: DEN80FTE27, Feb. 14, 1980, Cessna 500. <http://www.nts.gov> [with photos]
NTSB ID: DEN82FA008, Nov. 18, 1981, Mitsubishi MU-2B. <http://www.nts.gov>
“Search for 59B by permission from Eagle FSS Staff.” 4 p.
NTSB ID: DEN85FA102, Mar. 21, 1985, Piper/PA-28-181
“Two area residents die in airplane crash.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Mar. 1985.
“Sally Hawkins burial is at Sun Set View.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Mar. 1985.
“Two are found dead in light plane crash.” Avon-Beaver Creek Times, Mar. 27, 1985 p.1.
NTSB ID: FTW87NA086, March 27, 1987, Learjet 24A
NTSB ID: DEN91DTE01, July 29, 1991, Glasair-SHA
NTSB ID: FTW97FA042, Nov. 17, 1996, Piper/Aerostar 601P

Section 13. Economy.

“Economic projections beginning to take shape,” Kostas, Peter. Avon-Beaver Creek Times, Aug. 9, 1989.
“Study predicts dollars swooping in,” Thompson, Cliff. Avon-Beaver Creek Times, Nov. 9, 1988, p. 1.
“Economic ripples,” Best, Allen. Vail Daily, Apr. 20, 2004.
“Eagle County looks at its own terminal to reduce airport costs,” Donnelly, Joe.
“Substantial economic benefits predicted.” Eagle Valley Enterprise, Oct. 27, 1988.
“Airport numbers are up.” [news release] Ingstad, Jack. July 6, 2004 (www.eagle-county.com)

Section 14. Radar/GPS

“Airport lands technology funds: \$2 million ‘instrument landing system’ should help pilots land in foul weather,” Thompson, Cliff. Vail Daily, Jan. 27, 2004.
“Radar to be paid for out of airport funds,” Miller, Tamara. Vail Daily, Nov. 18, 2004.
“County gets long-sought airport radar,” Miller, Tamara. Vail Daily, July 2, 2004 p. A3.
“Satellite Navigation Product Teams: Fact Sheets-WAAS.” July 14, 2004.
<http://gps.faa.gov/Library/waas-f-text.htm>
“Satellite Navigation Product Teams: Fact Sheets-LAAS.” July 14, 2004.
<http://gps.faa.gov/Library/laas-f-text.htm>
“So you want an instrument flight procedure...” July 14, 2004.
<http://avn.faa.gov/index.asp?xml=ifp/index>

Photos:

United Airlines

Air Traffic Control Tower (1993)

Approach lighting

Eagle County Regional Airport terminal

Vail Valley Jet Center

HAATS Facility

Paul Gordon, General Manager, Vail Valley Jet Center

Chris Anderson, Assistant Airport Manager

Elizabeth Wilt, Airport Administrative Assistant

Neil Weisler, EGE Tower

EGE Tower

Harry Hurd, Chief of Airport Operations

Harry Hurd and runway broom

Eagle Tower, Nov. 1993

Eagle Tower, Nov. 1993

Trista Sandoval and Debi Brown, Vail Valley Jet Center

Remains of NDB Homer Ground Array

Section 15. Miscellaneous.

Discussion with John Oleson [notes] Aug. 11, 1991.

Letter from Merritt Moselle to Dick Cremer, Aug. 27, 1991 re: history of the Eagle County Airport.

Eagle County Enterprise articles [notes 1938, 1939, 1945] Aug. 11, 1991.

Discussion with Shirley Shelton and Thelma Wilson [notes] Aug. 13, 1991.

Letter from Merritt Moselle to Dick Cremer, July 2, 1992 re: history of the Eagle County Airport.

Discussion with Ed Belding [notes] June 10, 1991.

“Roster of Eagle County Aviation, c.1990”

Photocopies of photos:

Radio-telegraph 1925

Loop antennas

1940 communication center

Teletype equipment

Eldon Wilson and Eddy Belding with model airplane 1997.001.018 (Eagle County Historical Society)

Negatives

“Rocky Mountain BiPlane Adventures” [brochure]

“Eagle County Regional Airport History.” [Draft] Taylor, Jennifer L.