

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

1953 - 1961



Dwight David Eisenhower was born in Denison, Texas, in 1890. The family moved to Abilene, Kansas, when he was very young. He graduated from Abilene High School, and in 1910 received an appointment to West Point, from which he graduated in 1915. During and after WWI, he was stationed in the United States. At Fort Sam Houston he met Mamie Doud and they were married in Denver in 1916.

Mamie Doud Eisenhower was born in Boone, Iowa, in 1896. Her family moved to Denver, when she was seven. While on a visit to San Antonio, she met Dwight Eisenhower and they married in 1916. Their first child died of scarlet fever in 1921. Their second child, John, was born in 1922. He became a career army officer, like his father.



President Dwight Eisenhower served in the Philippines from 1935 to 1939. In World War II, he was placed in command of the invasion of North Africa, and in 1944 was made Supreme Allied Commander for the invasion of Europe. He was Army Chief of Staff until 1948, when he became president of Columbia University. He commanded NATO forces in Europe from 1950 to 1952, was elected President in 1952 and served two terms. Though he retained most Fair Deal programs, he stressed fiscal responsibility in domestic affairs. To enforce court-ordered school integration, he sent the National Guard to Little Rock, Arkansas. On returning to private life, he assumed the role of elder statesman. He died in Washington, D.C. In 1969.

As a military family, the Eisenhowers moved often and Mamie was an efficient officer's spouse. She traveled with "Ike" as he campaigned for the presidency. As First Lady, she was active in the effort to build Knollwood, the first retirement home for military widows. After retirement, she was instrumental in President Johnson's decision to extend civil service protection to presidential widows. She died in Washington, D.C. In 1979.

Arizona Timeline

1953 - Davis Dam is completed on the Colorado River creating Lake Mohave.

1955 - Kingman's Front Street was designated Andy Devine Avenue in honor of the actor who grew up in Kingman.

1960 - Mining sees some resurgence in Mohave County when the Duval Mining Corporation opens an open pit copper mining operation in Mineral Park.

1960 - Arizona population exceeds 1 million.