

BEVERLY HOWARD LAHR, North High Class of 1959

My father was born in Colorado Springs after his parents moved there from Indiana. My mother was born on a small farm near Beaver City, Nebraska. Life in a big city seemed much more appealing to my mom than teaching grades 1-8 in a one-room school in Nebraska (which she did at the age of 17), so she followed her older sister to Denver in 1939 when she was 18. She got a job as a waitress at a diner near Spear & Federal, where she met my dad shortly after arriving in Denver. He was 10 years older than she, swept the Nebraska farm girl off her feet, and married her less than 3 months after they met. Unfortunately, his wife in Colorado Springs objected to his marrying a second wife, and filed charges of bigamy. (To be fair, he and his wife were separated at the time.) He was convicted of bigamy and spent a year in the Canyon City prison. Times were obviously different when a person spent a year in jail for failing to get a divorce before remarrying and the current "catch and release" system for armed robbers and other felons. Jails must have been less crowded in 1940.

When I was born 9 months after my dad was released from prison my parents lived on East Colfax, but sometime when I was around 2 years old, they moved to a tiny duplex on 12th & Federal. I went to Eagleton and then to Lake and would have gone to West if we had stayed at that duplex. All of my friends at Lake were going to go to North, so I was really happy when, in the middle of 8th grade, my parents rented a house on Caithness, about 3 blocks from North. That block on Caithness was sort of a no-man's-land as far as junior highs were concerned, about equidistant from 3 junior highs. Some of my neighbors were at Skinner, some at Horace Mann, but I was the only one at Lake. During my senior year my parents bought their first house, even closer to North, on Dunkeld. It was literally a dash out the front door, across the street, and into the door at North. That house was torn down several years ago when the parking lot at North was expanded, so it is only a memory, but definitely a good one.



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Bev Howard and her mom visiting grandparents on farm in Nebraska in 1942.



Bev Howard's grandpa in Colorado Springs. He was a bellman at the Broadmoor and Antler Hotels.



Bev Howard's dad in the cavalry in the 1930's.