

DAVID EDWARD LEWIS, North High Class of 1959



When I retired in May 2006, one of the projects I gave myself was to find out more about my family ancestry. I never knew much about either of my maternal or fraternal grandfather's. My maternal grandfather died in a mining accident in Victor, CO in 1919, forcing my mother Louise E. George to go to the Pillar of Fire Church & Orphanage near 72nd and Lowell (now Westminster). The other grandfather, always distrusted by my fraternal grandmother, Maude Powell, abandoned her in Salem, Oregon in 1909 leaving my father, Powell Marley Lewis to be raised by his wife's parents, the Powell's, a farming family in Longmont who moved to Colorado from North Carolina. Using ancestry.com and two other sources from both sides of the family, I finally found them and then kept going. Turns out, that all four of my grandparent's ancestors came through the Jamestown Virginia colony established in 1607. My maternal grandfather's ancestors (George's) came from England. My maternal grandmother, a Robertson, came from Scotland. My fraternal grandfather, Marley Clinton Lewis, ended up back in Indianapolis with a fourth wife. His family goes back to Wales which I guess helps to explain why I had three marriages.

My dad, a pretty tough dude, was a mechanic and got into auto racing when he was young. He somehow met my mom who most likely was looking for a way out of the brim fire and hell being taught at the Pillar of Fire Orphanage. They married in Denver in 1929 and first lived up around 52nd and Meade, nearby Regis College. In the early forties, they moved to 5928 W 29th Ave. In 1946 my father was killed in a midget racing accident at Lakeside Park leaving my mom with four kids. She was a telephone operator at Mtn Bell Telephone Co and continued to raise the four of us by herself. In 1947 she moved to 4505 Irving St in North Denver. My older sister, Betty (who sadly passed away last year) along with my older brother Ron and younger sister Carol, also attended and graduated from North High. So we are a family of Viking graduates all raised and born in Colorado where my ancestors met up after arriving by boat in Jamestown and crossing the prairies to find their fortune. Most were poor farmers. That's how I got to North.

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Fraternal Grandmother, Maude Powell



Until I got going on my ancestry project, I knew little about her [Maude]. She was not a loving grandma and my mom didn't even like her in the house when she visited us from California cause she smoked non stop. She had a deep husky voice but I never remember her even talking much with me. She outlived three husbands. She came to Colorado by wagon and train. I never knew she rode horses until I discovered this photo. She didn't raise my father after she was abandoned by her first husband, Marley Clinton Lewis in Salem, OR in 1910. My dad was raised by her mother and father.

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POWELL LEWIS a/k/a Lou Parsons is in the Ellis Evans Willys Special at Lakeside Speedway, in 1941. Unfortunately, I can identify only Evans among those standing. He is right in the center. Lewis did very well in this car that year but won no features. He drove under the name of Parsons for awhile to keep his midget racing endeavors from his family.



David's Mother, Great Grandmother Mary Alice Houck, Aunt Pearl Husted with David's older sister Betty
1931, Longmont, Colorado