

Esther Badion Grib, NORTH HIGH CLASS OF 1959

I actually came to North High School because someone had the foresight to draw the district lines to add the 1200 block of Raleigh St. Originally my house was in the district to go to West High. About the time my sister was to attend high school the boundary was changed.

My family is not originally from Denver or anywhere near. My dad was born in the Ukraine. His family was forced out by the czar in the early 1900's with other Jewish families. His family settled in Buffalo, NY for a short time. Eventually due to illness they came for the clean air in Denver. Dad's brother was quite ill and the family was told he would do better in Denver. My mother's family originally came from what was Russia as well. Mom was the first of her siblings to be born in the USA. She was born in Texas. Her story is similar to my dad's as her family also came to Denver for the clean air. In Mom's case the family was spit due to illness. Her father went into a tuberculosis hospital in Liberty, NY while her brother stayed in Dallas with a doctor's family. He had kidney disease. Mom's mother had to come to Denver for care of TB as well and became a patient at the JCRS, Jewish Consumptive Relief society.

Both families settled into the west Denver Jewish community. Not sure how my folks met but they did and eventually bought their home at 1288 Raleigh St. My sister was about 7 and I was just 6 weeks old.

It seems that my parents had some interest in being in the North High School district. If my sister and I had attended West High we would have been the only Jews in our classes. My parents were very devout Jews and this was not acceptable. So the campaign was on to change the boundaries. How they did this I will never know but they did.

To my joy I was a student for three years at North. I have fond memories of my life there. The process of getting to North seems less important than the journey through those high school years.