

## FLOYD SEKIYA, North High Class of 1959



FLOYD TADAO SEKIYA 6 MONTHS OLD



FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: GITARO HATAUYE, KURA HATAUYE  
BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: CAROL HISAMI HATAUYE, LILLIAN ATSUKO HATAUYE,  
NAOSHI SEKIYA, NORMA NOBUKO SEKIYA

FLOYD SEKIYA: My mother's father, Gitaro Hatauye, came to the USA from Japan in 1906 to work on the vegetable farms in California. He worked until he was 30 years old before he could get married to my grandmother because he had to pay off all of the debts of his parents. By 1941, Gitaro, my grandmother Kura, my two aunts, my father Naoshi Sekiya and my mother Norma were happy working their own produce farms in Mission Valley of San Diego, CA. Everything changed on December 7, 1941 and by Executive Order 9066 in February 1942.

I was born December 14, 1941 and Gitaro did not want his first born grandson, Floyd, raised in a concentration camp. The family learned of a farm available for lease in Rye, CO and taking what they could, made the trip to an unknown future. The owner of the Rye farm wanted us to buy all of his farm equipment before he would honor the lease. Having no money for that kind of investment, we were stranded in a strange place. As fate would have it while eating in a restaurant in Greenhorn, CO contemplating what to do, a few of the cowboys from the 3R cattle ranch in Beulah, CO were overheard complaining about being short handed due to the war. The owner of the restaurant introduced us to them and they in turn, us to the millionaire owner of the 3R Mr. Everhart of Pueblo.

Mr. Everhart cared for us and had the family live in a log cabin on the 3R where we worked as ranch hands and away from most of the general population. We will always be grateful to Mr. Everhart but as sad as he was to see us leave, we moved to Denver towards the end of the war. My grandparents and aunts moved back to San Diego while my parents and sisters stayed beginning a new life. When I became of school age, we moved to 4235 Quivas St. in North Denver where I attended Smedley, Horace Mann and North High School.