

IDAMAE CASAGRANDA, North High School Class of 1959



The Casagrande Family 1967
Top: Bob Casagrande, Idamae Casagrande
Bottom: Lucille Casagrande (Mother); Rose Casagrande; Virgil Casagrande (Father)

Both sets of my grandparents were born in Italy, and they all immigrated to the U.S. but at different times and settled in different areas of Colorado.

My Grandfather Casagrande immigrated to Silver Plume CO where he worked as a silver miner. He met and married my Grandmother, and they settled in Silver Plume with their four children. (My father was the youngest.) My grandfather died as the result of a mining accident. My grandmother stayed in Silver Plume, and several years later she remarried and had two more children. My grandmother and her husband died in the Flu Epidemic of 1918, and the children were put in orphanages in North Denver. After four years in the orphanage, my father went to live with his maternal grandmother in North Denver.

My mother's father, my Grandfather Franca, immigrated to the U.S.; and after traveling throughout the East, he settled in Louisville, CO as a coal miner. He met and married my grandmother, and they settled in Louisville with three of their children. To keep his sons from working in the mines, my grandfather and grandmother moved to North Denver. My grandfather worked in the packing houses and later in greenhouses. My mother, her three brothers and one sister all graduated from North High.

My father and mother met playing baseball in the neighborhood. They married and moved into a house across the street from my Grandfather and Grandmother Franca. We lived in our home throughout all my years at North.

IDAMAE CASAGRADA, North High School Class of 1959(2)



The Casagrande Family 1912
L-R Iren Ida (Mother) Dominic, Lucille,
Virgil (Seated) Father of Classmate Idamae Casagrande



John Franca Family 1924
Back Row: Rose, John; Middle Row: Francis, Ernie, Lucille, Mother of Idamae
Front Row: Bob