

**MARVIN LOPATA, North High School Class of 1959**



Marvin Lopata age 6 and Playmate



Marvin Lopata's Grandmothers

My way to North Denver High School began in the 1890's when my father's family left a small manufacturing town in eastern Poland, and my mother's family left a small village in western Romania, (about 150 miles from each other.)

My grandfather left Poland, as he was redrafted into the Czar's army. He figured that if he didn't leave, he would never see the end of his conscription. He packed his young wife and two sons for America, the land of the free. A shoemaker, he settled in Louisville, Ky. where he contracted tuberculosis. The doctors advised him to move to Denver, where the air was fresh and healthy. He died at the Jewish Consumptive Relieve Society (JCRS) hospital in Lakewood in 1915. My dad, the third child was born in Louisville in 1907.

My mother's family settled in New York City's lower east side, where my grandparents worked in the "sweatshops." This grandfather became an asthmatic and was told to move to Denver for the climate. They settled on Larimer and 26th Streets where my mom was born in 1910. This grandfather lived to be 88 years and always said "t's a privilege to live in Colorado" which appeared at the top of the *Rocky Mountain News*.

My Dad was born in Louisville and was about four years old when his family came to Denver. He attended Cheltenham and graduated from North in 1924. My mom went to Gilpin Elementary and Manual . . . yes Manual . . . she was considered to be an "Eastsider."

My folks moved to the west side in 1936, first to Colfax and Lowell Boulevard and then to 13<sup>th</sup> and Vrain Street . . . ½ block inside the North High School Boundary.