

## **MELVIN RITCHIE, North High Class of 1959**



90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Mel's Mother, (North 1936); Mel and Wife Barbara

My father's family came to the United States from Ireland in 1754 where Adam Ritchey settled in Pennsylvania and one of his son's (James) with his wife settled in North Carolina then Tennessee then Kentucky and then Arkansas. One of James' son's (Simpson) moved to Vanderburgh county Indiana and the next five generations of Ritchey's were born and lived in this area. (Name changed from Ritchey to Ritchie by my grandfather). Some of these farm families had as many as 16 children and I have almost 6500 people in my father's family tree so I will go into no more detail. My father moved from Indiana with his mother and sister to Denver in the early 1930's where he completed his senior year in South High School.

My mother's family came to the United States between 1901 and 1907 when her dad (Rietz) and her mother (Peltz) as young children came from the Volga river area in Russia. These families were from Germany and for five generations they lived in Kukkus Russia. Thanks to help from a man in Russia I have 2100 people in my mother's family tree. The two families came to Colorado in the early 1900 and my grandfather and grandmother were married in Sedgwick, Colorado. My mother was born in Iliff, Colorado and then moved to North Denver and graduated from North High in 1936.

My parents met in Denver and eloped to Cripple Creek to get married because of the depression. I was born in Denver and we lived on Elizabeth Street next to the City Park golf course. I went to Columbine Grade School and then to Smiley Junior High School. Then we moved across town where I completed my senior year at Skinner Junior High School and then on to North High School. My mother at 90 years of age still lives in the house we moved into in 1955 in North Denver.

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My Wife is from Indiana and at an early age moved to California where she went to school in the bay area. She was adopted and finding her ancestors was a chore. We broke the code and we have over 24,000 people in her family trees. She is related to all the Kings and Queens in France and England. We have gone as far back as about 800 (King of Troy). She and I meet at Lockheed Missile and Space Company where we worked. We were married in 1976 and have a total of three children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. We now live in Westminster, Colorado on the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway of the Legacy Ridge Golf Course. And the world goes on.



Joyce Johnson & Mel Ritchie NHS 1959 Roger Bredine & Janice Sweet NHS 1959



Phyllis Schaffer & Karen Miller NHS 1959

**MELVIN RITCHIE**, North High Class of 1959(3)



Phyllis Schaffer, Karen Miller, Helen Thomas, Steve Magor c.1956-7