

PATRICIA NEILL WILLHOIT, North High School Class of 1959



Columbian Grade School



Skinner Jr. High
6th Grade



10 year Reunion, North High

My family moved from Missouri to Colorado in 1940 for two reasons – one, my grandfather had tuberculosis, and their doctor thought Colorado would be a good climate for him. He was admitted to Glockner Sanitarium in Colorado Springs, and later moved to St. Frances Sanitarium on 6th Ave. and King St. Two, my mom and dad came to Colorado to continue a family business which had started prior to their coming, in 1937. They owned and operated “Rusk Chicken and Feed Store” at 38th and Federal Blvd. until which time they sold it in 1954. During the early years the chicken part of the store went by the wayside, as the demand for chicks had lessened. In about 1945 they switched its entirety to “Rusk Hardware and Variety” keeping the family name. (Rusk was my grandmother’s maiden name.)

I was born in 1941 at Mercy Hospital and at that time we lived at 37th and Federal Blvd. in a rented home. Later my folks purchased our home on 41st Ave. (a couple of doors from where the Clyde Smaldone and Paul Villano families lived.) Our home was right up the street from Columbian Grade School where I attended, on to Skinner, then to North.

My mother is still living and going strong at 92. She resides in Golden, Colorado. I have a younger brother who with his wife lives in Arvada. He graduated from Lakewood High School in 1962. My sister, who has since deceased, graduated from North in 1954.

When asked where I grew up, it is always with pride that I am able to say North Denver. Great Place! Great People! Yea Vikings!