

ROBERT L. (Rob) DERRERA: North High Class of 1959

My father's ancestral family apparently arrived around 1752 in the Questa, New Mexico area in what was then known as New Spain, which later became part of the United States. My mother's family arrived in America later on in the 1850's and settled in the Michigan area. They came from Spain and Austria and were reputedly of Basque and German descent. My maternal grandfather moved his family to Platteville, Colorado in the early 20th century to set up a dairy farm there. I was born in Platteville while my dad and mom were visiting from Denver. My dad was born into a coal mining family in Aguilar, Colorado, and then worked in Denver as an engineer, then a machinist, from 1937 on for the Colorado & Southern (later the Burlington) railroad for over thirty-two years till he retired. Mom worked as a nurse's aide at Rose Memorial Hospital for many years. They have both passed away.

I attended parochial schools, mostly Mt. Carmel and St Patrick's, till seventh grade, when I attended Horace Mann Junior high, then on to North High. School. When the Valley highway went through in 1949, where our old house was located at 32nd and Mariposa, my dad purchased a house on 2515 16th street, just off Central Street, where we lived till I left for college and military service. By the way, it is the last occupied single residence house left on 16th Street. You might find it funny that since I grew up in an area almost entirely made up of Italian Americans I actually thought everyone was Italian till I went to North High!