

Beth: This is Beth Smith. I am at 132 Routt talking to Alberta Mitchell. This is her home, a beautiful little house here. She's going to tell us about her life in Salida. Alberta, where would you like to start?

[00:00:30]

Alberta: Yes. Well I guess with my birth, I was born in Salida at a house down on Oak Street. If you don't know where Oak Street is, it's the same as 291. My dad worked for the railroad and my mother was a home maker. I grew up, went to school, elementary school at McCray. From there, I went to Kesner Junior High and graduated in 1944 from Salida High School. The September of 1944, I went to nurse's training at St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver. I graduated in 1947. Then, I came back to Salida with the intent of staying here for awhile then I was going to move on to greener pastures. I went to work at the Rio Grande Hospital. I stayed with the hospital until 1987, when I graduated from nurses training, when I resigned from the hospital.

[00:01:00]

[00:01:30]

[00:02:00] I had visions of going on to school or maybe joining the Navy Nurse Corps but I got married instead and raised three girls.

Beth: Your husband's name.

Alberta: My husband's name was Robert Bert Mitchell known better as Bert. He graduated from Salida High School in 1943 and spent a couple of years in the service then he came back to Salida and went to work for the post office. He was with post office until he retired in 1989.

[00:02:30]

Beth: Good. You raised 3 children here in Salida then too. Who are they?

Alberta: You know, I think I'll correct that about Bert. He retired in 1980, that's when it was. I worked 7 years after he retired. Yes, and we raised 3 girls. They all graduated from Salida High.

[00:03:00]

Beth: What were their names?

Alberta: Brenna was the oldest one.

Beth: Can you tell me when she was born? When was she born?

Alberta: She was born in 1951. She graduated from Salida High and she attended college at Fort Lewis for awhile then she decided she wanted to go into cosmetology which she did and then she had her own shop for awhile here in Salida. Then she start raising children, she got married, Larry Marcus and start raising her family. She had 3 boys. They all graduated from Salida High.

[00:03:30]

Beth: You've been in Salida for a long time.

Alberta: We've been in Salida for a long time. Lorene graduated, she was born 1953, and

[00:04:00] she graduated from Salida High and she went to Fort Lewis also and got her teacher's certificate. She taught for, she worked in Denver for a couple of years and she did some substitute teaching, then she came back to Salida and she's been a teacher at Longfellow Elementary School and still is. She has one boy.

[00:04:30] Marla is the baby. She was born in 1955. She went to school in Alamosa and graduated Alamosa State College. She then moved to Pueblo and has been working in Special Education in the Pueblo School System and she's still actively employed. She also went on, got a Master's Degree in Psychology so she has, does a lot of consultation work.

Beth: That's good.

Alberta: Yup.

Beth: Let's go back to you and Bert and you living here in Salida and working at the hospital. Are you a particular kind of a nurses? Do you have a specialty?

Alberta: No, I was just a jack of all trades. When I worked at the hospital, I worked in all departments with the exception of the laundry and kitchen, never worked there.

Beth: Good.

Alberta: But I did floor duty, I worked OB in nursery, I worked in surgery and I worked in the emergency room. I helped in x-ray and in lab but when I started working, nurses helped all over. The last 20 years of my employment, I was Chief Nurse on second floor of medical/surgical. I also had some control over the intensive care unit, worked in there too.

Beth: Can you tell us anything particular about what happened that was interesting in the hospital?

Alberta: When I came to work, the hospital belonged to the Rio Grande Railroad. It was a typical hospital that you found in those days. When I started working , we worked 6 days a week. The railroad was good to us. We were considered railroad employees and they were good to us. The chief staff at that time was Dr. Curfman out of Denver. He was a Salida doctor before he went on into Denver.

[00:07:00] We just seem to have a good hospital. The hospital had a census capacity of 66 patients. I worked two floors, first floor and second floor. I worked first floor most of the time which was a medical ward. We were always full, summer and winter. In fact, there were times when we'd have such a patient load that we put beds out in the hall. Very few people were sent out of town. Dr. Fuller was an excellent surgeon, well-known in the state of Colorado. Dr. Hoover was an Orthopedic Specialist and not only did he do all the orthopedic work here, he did it for Adams State College in Gunnison. He went to Fairplay and treated

[00:08:30] patients but most of, they all have to come here for the surgery. I always marvel how he could take a broken body and put it back together again. He was a marvelous doctor.

[00:09:00] Then, I can't remember exactly when they started remodeling the hospital. We were like most hospitals. And Salida, it was known as having one of the best hospitals in the state of Colorado. We took care of railroad patients from Denver all the way into Utah where the railroad ran. Then, I think it probably was in the 50s, late 50s, when the railroad men begin to want to stay in their own home to go to the hospital so the railroad provided, made an agreement with hospitals in various places where they could stay there.

[00:09:30] Then, after that, when the railroad start cutting back on their rail service to all these little towns, it was no longer a railroad hospital. Now, at that time, only railroaders and their families were patients at the hospital.

Beth: No local people.

Alberta: No, they had to go... their families, the railroad and their families, all the rest of  
[00:10:00] the people went to the Red Cross Hospital.

Beth: That's over there by Safeway.

Alberta: Well, the Red Cross Hospital was where the Shriner Building is today. That was a  
[00:10:30] locally-owned hospital. Dr. Cochem owned the hospital and trained his own nurses. Nice hospital. I used to go there all the time with my mother because she and my dad were married in Leadville. Her parents had a boarding house and a saloon during the gold rush days.

Beth: In Pueblo?

Alberta: In Leadville.

Beth: In Leadville. What was her name?

Alberta: Eppie Gabardi, Eppie Mosco Gabardi. She knew a lot of people that were in  
[00:11:00] Leadville. They used, primarily all come down from Leadville to go to Red Cross Hospital. Then after the railroad sold the hospital they opened it up to the public.

Beth: They sold it to whom?

Alberta: Nobody. Yes, they did. Some doctors in Denver wanted to buy it and the doctors here decided that wouldn't be a good idea so they formed a district and that's when the district was formed.

Beth: We still have that district.

[00:11:30]

Alberta: And they still have the district, yes. It was a little uncertain at that time what was going to happen to the hospital. Had a group of people within the community that the district has formed went together and put up enough money to buy it at least make a big down payment on it to the railroad. Otherwise, had that not happen, we might have lost the hospital entirely.

[00:12:00]

Beth: Was there someone who spearheaded this?

Alberta:

[00:12:30]

Yeah. It was the Board of Directors. Ted Jacobs and John Peebles and Dr. Leonardi and man from Howard by the name Pease, PEASE, Pease. I can't remember all of them. They are the ones that got together, I don't know for sure who was the big instigator. Ted Jacobs and Mr. Godown were on the Board of Directors at that point. They're the one that spearheaded this or we, Salida might have lost the hospital.

[00:13:00]

The railroad wasn't too sympathetic to the needs of the hospital and by that time the Red Cross Hospital had already closed. We were very fortunate that these people all got together and made a donation so they could at least get started. From then, it's progressed to where it is now.

[00:13:30]

Beth: Did you notice any differences between Rio Grande Hospital and the one that we had that belonged to the city?

Alberta:

[00:14:00]

I think, yeah. I think after the city or the district bought the hospital, I didn't notice any difference in the governing body of the hospital except that's when they formed then the Board of Directors. The chief of staff then was here and not in Denver where a chief of staff ought to be. I think... the patient load didn't change, and that we still have the same doctors. As far as patient care, no, there was no difference.

[00:14:30]

The local and surrounding railroaders from around the county, they all came here. We just lost the people from various points like Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Denver, Grand Junction. I don't think the care changed. I don't think anything changed until the plat change later on. Even after it became a district,

[00:15:00]

our patient load was still, it was still up in the 60s. That's when they have 2 floors and at the end of the hall was a big solarium. Then they turned the solariums into, which I really felt bad because it was such a nice place for the patients and visitors and family to go and visit out at the end of the hall on the

[00:15:30]

west end of both floors, big ones. They turned that into a nursing home associated with the hospital.

[00:16:00]

On second floor were medical records and the pharmacy and it used to be the library, that whole wing there was two big wards. Most of those wards, I think there was several beds in either ward. I can't remember exactly how many. They were primarily retired and older railroad men. Then the hospital made that into

[00:16:30]

a nursing home. It was just really nice to have the nursing home in connection

with the hospital. I know I had my mother down there. It was just very nice. It was always full.

[00:17:00] We never had any empty beds. If we did, it wasn't for very long. They never sent people out. Dr. Hoover did all the orthopedic work. I remember one time when they had a plane crash and when they brought the pilot in, I didn't think they'd ever get him put together but they did and he lived and left and came back to visit us 2 or 3 times after that.

He had a fight with the big mountain on Monarch, the mountain won.

Beth: Yes. The winds sometime doesn't it?

Alberta: Yeah.

Beth: Was that the plane crash that killed George Everett?

Alberta: No.

Beth: It was another one.

Alberta: No.

Beth: All right. I suppose in this area we have had a few.

[00:17:30]

Alberta: I can't remember but it seems to be like this pilot was alone and he didn't realize before he started that Monarch was as high as it is. It was too late for him to turn around. We kept everybody here occasionally. Very seldom did we ever send anybody out. The doctors were very well-rounded, skillful people, kept them here.

[00:18:00]

Beth: There was a hospital auxiliary formed very early. What do you know about that?

Alberta: Yeah, the Hospital Auxiliary, I can't remember for sure when it was formed. I think probably some of the instigators of this was Dr. Sandell's wife, Mary Jo. I just can't remember exactly when it all got started. I can't say enough about how much they have contributed to the hospital and the patients in the hospital have contributed an awful lot of money that was used to buy equipment. They were a big help when I was working. Nurses used to do everything. It was the days before when nurses were more of a ministrative type workers than nursing. We took care of patients. We bathed, we got them up, we did all the treatments, we did all of that. I used to do all the IVs in the hospital. We had aides and we had such a good bunch of aides. They were just... I can't talk enough about them either because they, a good bunch of aides are absolutely worth their weight in gold when it comes to patient care.

[00:18:30]

[00:19:00]

[00:19:30]

[00:20:00] There were a lot of things that the auxiliary used to do and I suppose they still

[00:20:30] do taking patients to the room and taking them out for dismissal and getting things for the patients and fixing their flowers and cleaning the room up a little bit, and reading to them and maybe writing letters for them, and taking them for little walks, if the patient could. They were worth their salt and gold as aides were... we couldn't have done it without them.

[00:21:00] When I started working in 1944 or 1947, they had an organization here called the Grey Ladies. They would come in to nursing care when we needed them. Frances Bradford, Lorene Gruenler and Lora Ramey are three of them that we just called on constantly. They would come in, they were trained. I think they might have been Red Cross trained, I'm not sure, but they were trained and we'd call them in. You just went to work and hope nobody was sick and if they were sick, everybody just pitched in and got everything done and hoped tomorrow would be better. They used to come in and they did a lot of things like the auxiliary did but they did actual patient care. They are marvelous women.

Beth: Good. We need them.

[00:22:00] Alberta: Yeah, we need them. I look back, we never locked the hospital. I think we locked the front door after visiting hours but there was a door that faces the east and the other one facing the north. We never locked the hospital. We didn't have any trouble. Sometimes, maybe somebody had too much to drink would get confused and get wandering around but you could take them out. They didn't give you any trouble. It was a good place to work. We had a lot of fun. We worked hard. We had a great bunch of nurse. It was a fun place to work.

[00:22:30] Beth: How did your pay scale compare with, say, Pueblo?

[00:23:00] Alberta: Oh goodness. Well, when I started to work, I think I probably was making, I was lucky if I was making \$200 a month. This was the best pay, the nurses received more pay in this hospital than they did in the state. There was never a shortage of nurses. Nurses wanted to come here because the pay was so much better.

Beth: Great.

[00:23:30] Alberta: We never had a shortage. We had nurses coming from all over. Even the younger women liked to come because they wanted to ski and they liked the area. There was good turnover because these young gals would come and I think a lot of them were looking for husbands. There was, in fact, there weren't enough young men around. We always had an ample supply.

Beth: Can you remember any epidemics or any something that-

[00:24:00] Alberta: No, I don't think so, not epidemics. I got into that in Denver but I don't remember, we had the usual winter stuff, the pneumonias and the flu. I can't remember any epidemics like they had in previous years. No, I think just the

seasonal things we had but not enough that you would call it an epidemic.

[00:24:30]

Beth: Are you and Bert were active in the community too?

Alberta: Yeah, Bert more so than me for a long time. Bert started at the post office as mail carrier. He was active in the American Legion and was an active member of the Drum & Bugle Corps. Do you remember the Drum & Bugle Corps?

Beth: No, I don't.

[00:25:00]

Alberta: I think they had about 30 or more members of the men that were in World War II. When they came back to Salida, where the swimming pool that now was still there but they had all that vacant in the back. There were a lot of Quonset huts out there. All these guys got together, they were all members of their legion.

[00:25:30] They all got together and formed the Drum & Bugle Corps and any other real classic corps. They performed in celebrations all over the state whenever they would have like, at the boat races here when they would have that. They took part in competitions. They were real good.

[00:26:00] Now, I might have a picture or can get a picture of the Drum & Bugle Corps because I have a picture of them in their dress uniforms. Then at night during the boat race days or where they'd go like to Leadville for boom days and stuff, at night they always have what they call a shirt tail parade and they get dressed in crazy outfits and march up and down.

Beth: That was fun.

[00:26:30]

Alberta: Those guys really knew how to have fun. After Bert and I got married, they were always going somewhere. They get together and they drink a little beer but they really knew how to have fun. Yes, it was a marvelous, marvelous organization.

[00:27:00] They used to do some of the dumbest things but it was all in good fun. Nobody ever got hurt, nobody ever got in a fight. I just really feel too bad that some of our younger people don't know how to have fun.

Beth: You talked about some of the dumbest things, what are you talking about?

[00:27:30]

Alberta: When Bert and I got married, the Y & R garage used to be downtown where, it was on F Street. I think it was probably on the 3rd or 2nd to, can't remember exactly. It's a big garage where you drove inside, not inside but they have, you drove at a cover where the gas pumps were. They did a lot of car works. They sold cars.

[00:28:00]

Beth: Do you know who own that dealership?

Alberta: Yeah. Mr. Young, people by the name of Young.

Beth: Roy.

Alberta: Yeah, Roy Young. They had that, I think he was in there with a brother but anyway, the Drum & Bugle Corps was having their, they had to parade, it was  
[00:28:30] early in the evening. Bert and I hadn't been married, just a couple of weeks. As they were marching down I saw him wave, wave at me. I thought he was waving so I waved back. Went in to the Y & R garage and I thought, "Why did they go in  
[00:29:00] the garage for?" When they come out they found an old green bathtub. I have no idea where they found it. They put in on a pull cart and they put Bert in it and while they were putting him in it, a couple of the members come over at me picked me up and put me in and we were rolling all over town in a bath tub on wheels. Then after that every time they went out to perform, somehow they  
[00:29:30] always put it on a trailer and took it wherever they went. The last place they left it was in the Vendome Hotel in Leadville.

I don't know how they ever got it up there on the third floor but they did. When they would go to perform after it got dark, that's usually when they perform. They would walk in the bar, all the different lounges and bars or whatever they have. They beat the drums until they got a drink. With that many people in there beating a drum it didn't take too long for the bartender to setup the drinks.  
[00:30:00]

Beth: Sounds like fun.

Alberta: It really was, they had a lot of fun. I was just looking at the picture not too long ago. Most of the guys are gone now. John Hill belong to that. He was right out with the rest of them. Several guys that worked at the post office, I have a picture, I'll see if I can get it for you.  
[00:30:30]

Beth: The library would like that.

Alberta: I think he would really it's part of them. Then Bert belong to the Elks. Was not too active in there but he was a member. He had his 50-year pin. He then start playing golf and he was president of the Salida Golf Club for one or two years, served on the school board. After he quit or retired from the post office, he got his real estate license to do appraisals. He had to go to school, Colo University and then he ended up a few days out in California to get his appraisal certificate.  
[00:31:00]  
[00:31:30] After that, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the, what was then, the Salida Building and Loan. I can't remember what year that was but he was the Chairman of the Board for a couple of years, still was the Chairman when he died.

Beth: When did he die?

[00:32:00]

Alberta: 2001. He was a big instigator in getting this bank going.

Beth: High Country Bank.

Alberta: When he was elected to the board it was still downtown.

Beth: On 2nd street.

Alberta: Yeah. They had just moved over on 2nd street. He was very active in the  
[00:32:30] Episcopal church. He joined the Episcopal church probably in the middle 50s, in  
[00:33:00] mid 1950. I was born and raised a Roman Catholic. His mother was a first Baptist  
but, then we both joined the episcopal church when Fr. Smith was here and Bert  
was very active in the church. He was pretty active in the community.

[00:33:30] After I retired, I joined the hospital auxiliary. I was there about 10 years. I  
belonged to the Epsilon Sigma Alpha for about 10 years. Then I was on the  
auxiliary for about 10 years. Then after the girls grew up, I joined the golf club  
and I played golf. For the last several years, I've been doing volunteer work at  
Longfellow School. I go there four mornings a week.

Beth: A little community like this needs lots of volunteers.

[00:34:00]

Alberta: Yeah. The little kids are so cute. One of them said to me the other day that they  
were going out the door and he said, "Goodbye Ms. Old," he said, "You're not a  
Mrs., you're a grandma".

Beth: That's fun.

Alberta: But I was active in the nurse's, semi-active in the nurse's association for a while.  
[00:34:30] I've been very active in the church for the last probably 10-12 years. Played a lot  
of bridge to keep busy.

Beth: Keep that mind active. Can you think back over the years of the changes that  
happened to Salida while you lived here?

Alberta: Yeah. Some of them have been good, some of them have not been good. As a  
[00:35:00] little girl when I was growing up and even through high school and even up until  
the railroad left, and then really after Climax shut down, there were more stores  
in this town. There were half a dozen dress shops, there were places like Golden  
[00:35:30] Rule and Everybody's and Crews-Beggs. You could buy anything, grocery stores.  
I can remember City Market. First it was Vaughn's and then City Market and  
Boy's market, Star market and Randall's market and Kylie's meat market and  
[00:36:00] Calloways' meat market, you can't believe how... it just break my heart that  
right now there's hardly any stores. There are gift shops and galleries and stuff  
but you had a choice, any grocery store, any dress store you wanted.

[00:36:30] I always felt bad when they tore down the Presbyterian Church that used to be-

Beth: When was that?

Alberta: Gosh, I don't know. Bert and I was married in 1950 and it was still in, so it was in the early 50s. Yeah, it was right downtown on the corner where that.. well right next to Crews-Beggs, that's where it was. It was a beautiful church. I always felt  
[00:37:00] bad that they tore that down. But by the same token, where the Senior Center is now, there was a kind of a S-shaped fish pond. It was a great attraction for the  
[00:37:30] local people but a lot of the visitors and in the summer time, they had several big trout that used to swim around in there. I think it's a shame that they tore that down. it needed repairing but I just think it was such an attraction and it's too bad they got rid of it. We used to go to town it was fun. They had places  
[00:38:00] around it where you could stand up on a piece of cement and watch the fish go back and forth in kind of like a spray fountain like on one end. This is a tear down, throw away country.

Beth: Yes it is. That's what they call progress.

Alberta: Of course, go out on Highway 50 once you got beyond G street, you were out in the country. There wasn't hardly anything out there. Up here on the Mesa there were just a few house likes Dr. Larimer's house and two good brick houses up here. This was pretty vacant all the way up here. Let's see, what else can I think about the town?

[00:39:00] It was too bad when they took the railroad away. I can still remember the Monte Cristo Hotel. My mother and dad owned a bakery in Montrose. My mother was the businesswoman of the family so to speak. She would have to go over there periodically. We'd take the Narrow Gauge and I always went with her  
[00:39:30] and then we went to Leadville a lot. Neither my mother or father drive. They had a car but that was for the two boys. Then they left home and the car just sat. We'd go to Leadville a lot on a train. When I was little, they had a passenger train east and west in the morning and one in the afternoon. They'd have four passenger trains going by.

[00:40:00] I loved that little depot. I just, I can remember how quaint it was. You'd walk, you could hear your footsteps and it had that odor of a wooden building and the benches around. It was just kind of neat. I liked to go there. I can remember that  
[00:40:30] I've been doing a lot of traveling on the train. Of course, we had free passes because my dad worked on the railroad. I had a free pass when I worked as a nurse. I've never been over Royal Gorge and I have no intention of ever going there. I don't like high places. Back in training there times I was under it.

[00:41:00] My mother, you know my brothers and sisters by then had grown up because they were quite a bit older than me. They lived, one of them lived in Grand Junction and I had a sister lived in Denver. My mother take me down when I was just a little bit of kid and put me on the train, tell the conductor where I was going and they would just see that I didn't get off anywhere between here and there. Let's see, what else can I... I don't know. It's just changed and a lot of it is

[00:41:30] for the good but I still wish we had a few of the old landmarks. I miss the whistle on the railroad.

Beth: Where was that?

Alberta: It was down where the round house was. They blew the whistle at 6:00 and they blew it at 7:00. You always knew when it was noon, the whistle blew. I think they blew it again at 4:00 or maybe 5:00. It was just part of...

Beth: Part of the town.

[00:42:00]

Alberta: Yeah. Nobody complained. We had a couple, what they used to call externs. They were Med students who come here and work along with the doctors and a couple of them, they had a place, I think it's where the nurse's lounge is on second floor now as you come off the elevator. You make a left turn they have room down there where the externs could sleep. Then they used to complain because of whistles, we weren't too far from the hospital, blow them right out of bed. There were a lot of things that I remember as a kid that I miss.

[00:42:30]

Beth: Did you take part in any of the skiing or skating?

Alberta: No. I was a klutz when it came to things like that. I was doing as best I could just stay on my feet. When I was young, growing up, of course, like I said, we didn't have any, we didn't have a car and Monarch was nothing for a long time. Then I think they had family by the name Berry started it. It wasn't very easy to get there. I did try to skate a little bit. They had the neatest skating pond where behind were Helen Kaess list today on Highway 50 out where you used to live on the highway. You remember where Albrights lived?

[00:43:00]

[00:43:30]

[00:44:00] Mr. Albright was Helen Kaess' father. You go went back down their house and a great big skating pond there. It was pretty neat. We used to go there and I had been out there a few times but like I said I never was very athletic. It was such a struggle for me to learn to play golf. It was a real neat place. Of course, the weather was different too.

Beth: Why is it different?

[00:44:30]

Alberta: We had four seasons. You knew exactly when the seasons were. We had four distinct seasons. My dad, we had a big yard where I lived down on Oak street. He raised the most, it was the best garden you ever want to see. It was a big garden and he did it all by hand. I used to gripe and complain, I always tell my mother, "When I go off, I'm, going to eat beans out of a can". Well I'd give anything to eat beans out of a garden. We'd go out in the garden and cut off a head of lettuce or pick some beans or some peas or whatever they wanted to wash and all we needed.

[00:45:00]

Winter started in October and let me tell you, they were cold. I got some pictures of my mother where the snow was this high.

Beth: They're worse than they were now.

[00:45:30]

Alberta: Yes. We had cold weather. I can remember coming home from school. It was so cold. We had snow. Course we had a cold stove and a cold heater. Boy, when you got out of bed, you want to hurry to the kitchen or the front room where the fire was going let me tell you. Then in the spring, we had distinct springs, we don't feel springs anymore. My dad always got the ground ready around the 17th of... St. Patrick's Day I think is when he... there was a old fellow in town that had a team of horses and our yard was big enough. He would come down and plow up the yard. I just thought that was real neat because I got to ride on his horses and that was in the spring.

[00:46:00]

[00:46:30] Then the summers were, they were nice summers. Everyday, it just seemed like every afternoon we had a little shower. I can remember over here around Tenderfoot, as I'm facing Tenderfoot now to the right. As you come up the highway and make that curve to go up by the hospital, what we'd know now as a motel, they used to call it Cottage Camp. We used to have a lot of flash floods. My mother would always let me run down the highway where that cottage camp and watch all the debris coming down from the mountain. We had a lot of flash floods up and around there. But it just seemed like, in the afternoons we'd, not a long shower, but we always had showers. Everything, even Mother Nature has changed.

[00:47:00]

[00:47:30]

Beth: How about the wind? Did you have much wind back then?

Alberta: Not no. March, we always had a lot of wind in March. I go to bed at night and not sure if the house would be there in the morning. We never had it in other months, little breezes in the afternoon. I never did get up to see the wind blowing like I did now.

Beth: Changes.

[00:48:00]

Alberta: I can remember going with my mother or my dad and brother out and clowning around the hills, the foothills over and snow clear up to my fanny looking for Christmas trees because you could go up and then just cut them down wherever you wanted to. My dad loved Christmas and we'd tramp all over the foothills until they found the perfect tree. I had a lot of good memories.

[00:48:30]

Beth: That's good.

Alberta: I had a lot of good memories at the hospital. I really enjoyed working there and had a lot of real good memories at the hospital.

Beth: Thank you very much Alberta. You've really covered the situation for us here.

[00:49:00]

Alberta: Well, when you live here this long, you know, and work here, I think it makes a difference when you come back and work. When I quit work in 1987, I worked 40 years, I used to walk a lot. I'll bet out of every 10 cars that passed me, I knew 9. Now I'm lucky to know one.

Beth: Changes.

[00:49:30]

Alberta: I feel a little bit like an alien in my own home town.

Beth: Well you did a wonderful job of explaining to us.