

Cindy: This is Cindy Marie Henshaw for the Salida Oral History Project. I'm interviewing Betty Cable or Elizabeth Cable. That's C-A-B-L-E at Columbine Manor, Salida, Colorado on October 26th, 2003. I'm just going to ask you some questions about your life. I was wanting to know if you could tell me about your parents, what their names were.

Betty: Okay.

Cindy: What were their names?

Betty: Carrie Limberous before she married my dad and he changed his name from Argiropoulos to Argys. He was born in Tripoli, Greece.

[00:01:00]

Cindy: You're dad's full name was what?

Betty: Argiropoulos.

Cindy: His first name was what?

Betty: Demosthenes.

Cindy: Demosthenes Argiropoulos.

Betty: Right.

Cindy: You spell that D-E-M-O-S-T-H-E-N-E-S and Argiropulos is A-R-G-I-R-O-P-U-L-O-S.

Betty: Right.

Cindy: For short, it was Dick Argys?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: A-R-G-Y-S. He was born in ... You know what? This thing went off. I'm going to  
[00:02:00] have to re listen to this. I looked at it and it looked like it wasn't ... Hold on a sec. Okay, try this again. I think I left off about asking what your dad's name was and where he lived. Both of your parents were Greek, right?

Betty: Right.

Cindy: Tell me what your parents, what they did for a living.

Betty: My father started selling ashes in 1919 right behind the old post office, which is right across the alley from where my uncle had the grocery store on F Street.

Cindy: Did your mom work anywhere?

Betty: No.

Cindy: She was just a stay at home mom.

[00:03:00]

Betty: Yeah, and my father started the Argys Motor Company in 1928, which is the big building next to, well it used to be a hotel on the corner and he tore it down. The garage was next door. Now that they sold it after he died to Elmo Bevington and when Elmo died they sold it I guess I don't know to whom. They have several shops in there. It's between E and D on 1st Street.

Cindy: Okay. Did your dad actually ... did he grow up in Greece?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: Do you know when he moved here from Greece?

[00:04:00]

Betty: I would imagine that it would've been '23. 1923.

Cindy: Then he met your mother here in Colorado?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: When did they marry? Do you know?

Betty: Well, I'd say it was '24 because they had me in '25.

Cindy: Okay. You were the firstborn?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Then my brother was born a year later, the one that died. The other one was 5 years later. He was principal of a high school in Brockton, Massachusetts. When he retired a couple years ago they gave him a surprise party and his 12 football players from Denver University showed up.

[00:05:00]

Cindy: Wow. Is that where he went to college at?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative). All 3 of us went there.

Cindy: All of you went to ...

Betty: Well, I went to Pueblo Junior College for 2 years because my parents thought I was just too young to live in a dormitory, so I had to live with my grandparents.

Cindy: You all ...

Betty: The boys ...

Cindy: Went to Denver University and he graduated and became a principal?

Betty: No, I was a teacher.

Cindy: No, I know you were what, Kindergarten teacher?

Betty: Well, I taught first grade 4 years at McCray School where the post office is now. Then I went to Longfellow and taught 2nd grade 2 years. Then I taught the rest of my 33 in Kindergarten. One year, the superintendent asked the principal, "If you ever get sick, who will take over?" and I had to take over for a little while.

[00:06:00]

Cindy: McCray Elementary School, that's where you went to school at when you were ...

Betty: Right, right.

Cindy: That was near where the post office is?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: Then you went to the middle school and high school here in Salida?

Betty: We didn't have a middle school in my day.

Cindy: What was ...

Betty: We had a junior high.

Cindy: Elementary was from Kindergarten to 6th grade?

Betty: Yeah, but we didn't have Kindergarten when I went to school.

Cindy: Oh, just 1st grade to 6th or 8th?

Betty: 6th. Then junior high was 7 and 8th grade. The high school was 9, 10, 11, 12.

Cindy: They were just called Salida Junior High and Salida High School?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: Okay. You were born here in Salida. You were born in your parents house?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: That was located where?

[00:07:00]

Betty: What?

Cindy: Where was that located?

Betty: 604 E.

Cindy: A doctor ...

Betty: Parker.

Cindy: Parker is the one? You had 2 brothers. Their names were what?

Betty: Yes?

Speaker 3: We're leaving.

Cindy: Can you come back later?

Speaker 3: This is my last room.

Betty: Oh, you want to clean it?

Speaker 3: Yeah.

Cindy: Okay.

Betty: Okay, she can come back ... Glad my roommate left.

Cindy: Okay. I was just wanting to know if you could tell me about the house that you grew up in?

[00:08:00]

Betty: I will.

Cindy: Okay.

Betty: Okay, there were 3 bedrooms and I had 2 brothers. I had a piano and I could take piano lessons. That's about all.

Cindy: Tell me about how then ... okay ...

Betty: How I got my house?

Cindy: The other one you moved across the street or something?

Betty: I'll tell you.

Cindy: Okay, tell me about that.

Betty: When we got married we lived in a new house on the west end that didn't have a garage and the guy next door sold cars. He got put in jail for drunken driving. When he got out, he put his cars all in front of our house. My dad said, "He's crazy. You've got to move across the street." I said, "You're crazy. That's an antique." He tore it down and had another house built that faces the house I was born and raised in.

[00:09:00]

Cindy: You moved there. What was the address at that place?

Betty: Which place?

Cindy: The one that you moved into?

Betty: 146 East 6th.

Cindy: Do you know what year you moved in there?

Betty: No, I don't remember.

Cindy: How old were you?

Betty: I was married, so I must have been about 24.

Cindy: You still have that house?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: How old are you now?

Betty: 78.

Cindy: Wow. You lived there a long time. Didn't get very far away.

Betty: No. Did I tell you about my dad's garage?

Cindy: I'm not sure. Go ahead and tell.

Betty: Well, it's between E and D on 1st Street. It's a big building and they have several little shops in there now. When he died, we sold it to Elmo Bevington. He was a very famous man in town.

[00:10:00]

Cindy: What was he famous for? What was he famous for? Elmo Bevington.

Betty: Being rich.

Cindy: How'd he get rich?

Betty: I don't know.

Cindy: He was famous for being rich?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: Okay. Do you remember about your first childhood memory?

Betty: First what?

Cindy: Childhood memory and some of the games you played when you was growing up? Favorite toys and stuff.

Betty: We played hide and seek, hide and go seek.

Cindy: Okay. What was your favorite place to play like a park? Did you go to a certain ...

Betty: Yeah, we only lived a block from Alpine Park.

Cindy: Okay, Alpine is what, near the ...

[00:11:00]

Betty: Across the street from the library.

Cindy: Oh, okay. That's where you played a lot?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: Tell me about any of the special events that went on in Salida that you did for holidays or Christmas or Fourth of July celebrations. Was there any special holidays and things going on?

Betty: Well, we burned a lot of firecrackers on the Fourth of July.

Cindy: Did they do it off the top of Tenderfoot Hill?

Betty: Do it on top of what?

Cindy: Off of Tenderfoot Hill or ...

Betty: Yeah. They did.

Cindy: They did it back then?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: They've been doing that for quite a while then?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: You already told me about where you went to school at McCray.

Betty: That's where the post office is now.

Cindy: They tore that school down and put the post office?

[00:12:00]

Betty: Right.

Cindy: Do you have any first memories of school, what your school or classroom was like? Who your teachers were or anything?

Betty: Yeah. Mrs. Jacobs was my 1st grade teacher. I can't remember the 2nd grade, but 3rd was Mrs. Hayden. 4th, 5th, and 6th I can't remember.

Cindy: Do you have any favorite ones? Teachers?

Betty: I haven't thought of that.

Cindy: Well, I thought maybe that's what influenced you to become a teacher?

Betty: No, I just went to college and got started.

Cindy: You just decided that's what you wanted to do. Wasn't necessarily because of any favorite teacher you had or anything. Who are some of your classmates? Describe what you remember about them.

[00:13:00]

Betty: Maxine Heberer was one of my favorites. Her dad had the Sherman Hotel on ...

Cindy: Okay, I think I know where that is.

Betty: It's just a block from F Street.

Cindy: She owned that?

Betty: He.

Cindy: Her father owned that?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Barbara Fuller was a good friend of mine and she has passed away, but her dad was a doctor in town. She lived next to the Temple Baptist Church. A big 2 story house.

Cindy: Her father was a doctor. What was his name?

Betty: Dr. Fuller. Rex Fuller.

Cindy: Fuller?

Betty: Fuller.

Cindy: Fuller. F-U ...

Betty: L-L-E-R.

[00:14:00]

Cindy: Oh, okay. What kind of activities went on at school? Did they have Christmas programs or Thanksgiving pageants and stuff?

Betty: Oh, yeah.

Cindy: Spelling bees or things like that?

Betty: Yeah, we had Spelling bees.

Cindy: Was there any special things that you remember at school, like they had sports and things like that.

Betty: Sports?

Cindy: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Betty: Yeah, I'm sure they did.

Cindy: Back then they taught like they teach now except for not having computers?

Betty: Yeah, they don't have computers ...

Cindy: They didn't have computers back then.

Betty: In my day.

Cindy: Pretty much the same subjects were taught?

Betty: Right.

Cindy: You went to Pueblo College?

[00:15:00]

Betty: At that time it was a junior college. I went there for 2 years. Then my parents let me live in a dormitory at Denver University so I went there and got my degree.

Cindy: In education?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: After you went to school, this is like when you were going to grade school, what kind of chores or after school activities and work and stuff that you did.

Betty: After school?

Cindy: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Any activities or chores or whatever or work that you did?

Betty: I can't remember. It's been too long ago.

Cindy: You don't remember having a job or something, doing some kind of job.

Betty: No, I didn't have a job.

Cindy: You didn't until after you graduated from the university?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

[00:16:00]

Cindy: Do you have any memories of Salida as a teenager, like things to do, places to hang out, movie theaters, places to shop and stuff?

Betty: The theater.

Cindy: What was that called?

Betty: The Salida ...

Cindy: Just the Salida Theater?

Betty: Theater.

Cindy: Did they have a bowling alley?

Betty: I don't remember.

Cindy: What were some of the things that you did? Would you go shopping and hang out and stuff?

Betty: Yeah, I shopped a lot at Crews Beggs and Sharp Style Shop.

Cindy: Crews Beggs, yeah they went out of business.

Betty: Yeah, and Sharps went out.

Cindy: What was Sharp's?

Betty: Edith Alexander lived there, I mean worked there. It was across from the home bakery next to the Salida Drug. That big building.

Cindy: What was Sharp's? What did they sell?

Betty: Clothing.

[00:17:00]

Cindy: Oh, clothing.

Betty: For women.

Cindy: Okay. What kind of transportation did you and your family use?

Betty: My father sold cars, so my father started selling Nash's in 1919. Then he had his garage back at the old post office on 1st Street on F. I don't know what's in there now, but right behind was a garage. That's where he started to sell and the building across the alley is the grocery store that my uncle had, Argys.

[00:18:00]

Cindy: Okay. Is that the one that's on where Capricorn Sports is?

Betty: I'm not sure where Capricorn ...

Cindy: What was the grocery store called?

Betty: Argys Mercantile.

Cindy: Argys Mercantile. That's on F Street down towards the river?

Betty: It's the first block. It's just a half a block from the stop light.

Cindy: Okay.

Betty: On 1st Street.

Cindy: I'm pretty sure that's where Capricorn Sports is.

Betty: It could be. It could be.

Cindy: It's been through a lot of things like Nita's and other things. I don't know what it was. I think it used to be a liquor store or something for a while. Your uncle managed that?

Betty: Theodore Argys.

Cindy: He owned it?

Betty: It was my uncle. Yep.

Cindy: Theodore?

Betty: He has a son still living in Salida, Teddy Argys.

Cindy: His son is living, okay.

[00:19:00]

Betty: My uncles are all gone.

Cindy: They had that store for quite a while then?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: That's where you did your grocery shopping then?

Betty: Right.

Cindy: Do you remember when your dad first got the car or did you always have a car?

Betty: No, we used his cars.

Cindy: The ones that he sold?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: You always had transportation?

Betty: Yeah. He started out selling Nash's and then American Motors.

Cindy: Do you know of any interesting individuals like different businessmen or law enforcement or prominent women or anyone that you remember that stands out in your mind while growing up? You told me about that one that was famous for being rich. Do you remember any other one that prominent person?

[00:20:00]

Betty: I can't think of anyone.

Cindy: Well, you could tell about your husband.

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: He was prominent.

Betty: He was the police chief for 25 years. Then special investigator for the DA for 2, just a little over 2. The night he died he had 22 cases in court. The police called him for help and the sheriff called him for help and the next morning he didn't

wake up.

Cindy: Wow. How old was he then?

Betty: 52.

Cindy: That was pretty young.

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: What did he die from? A heart attack?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: Probably all that stress from ...

Betty: Right.

Cindy: Having all that ... When you married him was he a policeman?

Betty: He started out as a patrolman. Then he got to be chief of police.

Cindy: Chief of police and then he was a private investigator?

[00:21:00]

Betty: Special investigator for the DA.

Cindy: You were married to him how long? 20 some years I guess?

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: Did you marry again after that?

Betty: No. No, I still have the name Cable.

Cindy: Okay, what's his name anyway?

Betty: Harry Cable.

Cindy: Harry Cable. Harry Cable. Okay. How did you meet Harry?

Betty: I don't remember.

Cindy: You don't remember how you ...

Betty: No.

Cindy: Do you remember where you were married at? Were you married here in

Salida.

Betty: Yeah, we were married here.

Cindy: You got married here?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: What church?

Betty: At the Episcopal Church.

[00:22:00]

Cindy: Okay. Did you go on a honeymoon or anything?

Betty: I don't remember. That's been a long time.

Cindy: Yeah, it has been. About 70 years ago? No, that wouldn't be.

Betty: It could be.

Cindy: About 60 years ago.

Betty: 60 years ago.

Cindy: You don't remember how you met him or anything. Describe where your children went to school and any memories about their school, career.

Betty: My daughter went to school in Durango College. She majored in Spanish and she taught 1 year at the high school when the Spanish teacher was pregnant. Several of the teachers told me their children had never learned so much Spanish as they did that year because she went to school in Mexico.

[00:23:00]

Cindy: She actually went to school in Mexico?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: What is her name?

Betty: Carrie. Carrie.

Cindy: Carrie?

Betty: Chelf. C-H-E-L-F. Her husband has the Poncha lumber. He and his brother Steve have that.

Cindy: Okay. She went to school here in Salida though before that?

Betty: Right.

Cindy: Then she went and got a degree in Spanish in Durango?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: That was your only child, right?

Betty: Right.

Cindy: Then her children, did you say one went to ...

Betty: New York University and she just graduated this year. The other one goes to Notre Dame.

Cindy: She's a lawyer? She got a degree as a lawyer?

Betty: Yeah. She's working on her master's now.

[00:24:00]

Cindy: Your grandson, is he in college?

Betty: He's a sophomore in college.

Cindy: Where?

Betty: Notre Dame.

Cindy: What is he majoring in? He doesn't know yet?

Betty: I'm not sure that I really know. He might change his mind too.

Cindy: Was wondering if you knew anything about the effects of different national events such as prohibition or the Depression or things like women voting or anything. Do you remember any special national events? Effects that it had on your lives or any ...

Betty: Not really.

Cindy: What about The Depression? Did you have any things going on during that time?

Betty: Not to my knowledge.

Cindy: You probably always had money. You didn't have to worry about being poor or anything.

Betty: I had my parents.

Cindy: They worked and everything?

[00:25:00]

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: They didn't have to have problems having a job? Do you remember anything about the ranchers or farmers?

Betty: We had some good friends called the Petersons. We used to go out to their ranch all the time.

Cindy: Do you know where that was located?

Betty: Yeah. Between here and Buena Vista.

Cindy: Okay. Do you remember anything about the railroad? Any hobos or ...

Betty: I just know that Salida was really ...

Cindy: A railroad town.

Betty: A railroad town.

Cindy: Did you take the train?

Betty: Oh, yeah.

Cindy: Did you? Where would you take the train to?

Betty: To Pueblo.

Cindy: Was that a steam train?

Betty: I think so.

[00:26:00]

Cindy: They had the trains until they quit having passenger service when? Do you remember? When they quit having passenger service?

Betty: When they quit having them? No, I don't remember that.

Cindy: Do you know anything about World War II? Any of your relation go to war? Do you remember anything that your families had to do to support the war like collect scrap metal or have victory gardens?

Betty: No, I don't remember any of that.

Cindy: What about any of the other wars and things that happened?

Betty: No, I don't have any knowledge about that.

Cindy: You pretty much just did your own thing and didn't really let the national events or anything bother you or didn't really cause any problems. None of the wars or  
[00:27:00] do you remember any of the certain decades like the 60s, the 70s with the hippies or like when you were teaching. Did the children change as you were teaching them or were they pretty much the same?

Betty: They did all the right things.

Cindy: Didn't they get harder to deal with as they got older? As the decade went up?

Betty: I didn't teach them when they got older.

Cindy: Well, I mean as the years went on, seems like the children are a little harder to train I would think to teach nowadays than they were then.

Betty: Yeah.

Cindy: Not as much family togetherness and discipline and stuff.

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Cindy: Do you remember anything about any influenza epidemic or any discrimination type stuff with blacks or anything going on here?

Betty: No, I don't recall that we had any black people here.

Cindy: What about other nationalities? Did they have any ...

Betty: Italians and Greeks.

[00:28:00]

Cindy: Did you notice any of the discrimination type stuff going on?

Betty: No.

Cindy: What about any certain sicknesses? Now they have AIDS. Did they have any things ...

Betty: I don't recall that they had that.

Cindy: Did you have any problems growing up?

Betty: No.

Cindy: You're all physically ... never had any much problems that way? Do you know anything about the railroads or mines or smelters or things?

Betty: No, I know that smelter doesn't exist anymore.

Cindy: Do you remember when it was going on? Did you know anyone that worked there or anything?

Betty: No.

Cindy: You've told me a little bit about where you shopped. It was at your uncle's grocery store.

Betty: Yeah.

[00:29:00]

Cindy: Argys Mercantile and what was that other place called? Crews Beggs and ...

Betty: Sharp's Style Shop.

Cindy: Style Shop. Did they have any restaurants?

Betty: Oh, they had another store called Gilbert's.

Cindy: What was that?

Betty: A clothing store.

Cindy: Clothing store.

Betty: It was between Crews Beggs and the bank on the corner.

Cindy: Did they sell a lot of clothing back then or did most people make their own clothes?

Betty: I would imagine they made a lot, but my mother didn't sew, so we bought a lot.

Cindy: Did you remember any other places that you shopped? Did they have restaurants or anything to eat out?

[00:30:00]

Betty: Yeah. What's the name of that restaurant on 1st street between F and E?

Cindy: I'm not sure what it's called. They only had 1 restaurant?

Betty: No.

Cindy: They had others but that was the one you ...

Betty: There were others. They had a restaurant across from my uncle's grocery store, there's a restaurant there now.

Cindy: I was trying to remember what the name of that was.

Betty: I can't remember either.

Cindy: Did they have places like bakeries and ...

Betty: The bakery's been there for a long, long time.

Cindy: They probably had more specialty shops like a place where you go get your meat, right? Then a place where you go get your bread and stuff or did you just get it in all 1 place?

Betty: Yeah, my mother used to bake.

[00:31:00]

Cindy: Okay. She baked her own bread and stuff?

Betty: Mm-hmm (affirmative). My grandfather in Pueblo was a baker.

Cindy: He had a bakery there?

Betty: He worked at a bakery.

Cindy: Oh, worked at a bakery. Do you remember any significant changes or events in Salida or Chaffee county during your life here that are any of significance?

Betty: The boat races in the summertime.

Cindy: That's been a thing for a long time. That's one of their major celebrations. Was there any other thing that you remember, like any clubs or activities that you did?

Betty: I can't remember. I belong to Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

[00:32:00]

Cindy: That's a college sorority type thing?

Betty: No, that's here in Salida.

Cindy: What is that?

Betty: You know what Beta Sigma Phi is?

Cindy: I thought it was some type of college club or something.

Betty: They have a beta organization here too.

Cindy: What is for? What does it mean?

Betty: The ladies belong to it.

Cindy: Don't you have to have a college degree or something?

Betty: No.

Cindy: What would you do when you'd get together? Just talk about different ...

Betty: Things.

Cindy: Things. What kind of things? Just events that were going on and stuff?

Betty: Right.

Cindy: What about church? Did you go to any of the churches?

Betty: Yeah. The episcopal church. I grew up in that.

Cindy: Who was the minister?

Betty: At that time? I don't remember.

Cindy: That Episcopal church, do you know where that's located?

Betty: Yeah, it's right across the street catty corner from the Alpine Park.

[00:33:00]

Cindy: What is it called?

Betty: Episcopal.

Cindy: That's what it's called? Episcopal? Okay, well I guess that's enough for now. Can you think of anything else you think would be of historical significance?

Betty: No, but if you'll leave me your phone number and I think of anything I'll call you.

Cindy: Okay. I'll do that.

Betty: Let's see, where can I find some paper?