

Beth: This is Beth Smith and I am up at Jane Ferraro's this morning at 1347 G Street to talk to her about her life in Salida. Good morning Jane.

Jane: Good morning Beth.

Beth: What would you like to tell us about your life in Salida?

Jane: Well, as you just heard, my name is Jane Antoinette Provenza Ferraro. I was born in Salida on January 31st, 1924.

Beth: Were you born in a hospital?

Jane: No, I was born at home but I think the attending physician was Doctor A.J. Bender. That's the father of Catherine Cribari. He was a long time physician here. Of course I don't remember being born but I was-

Beth: You were there.

[00:01:00]

Jane: I was there and I was born at home on 231 East 5th. It's a little terrace on East 5th. I don't have much recollection of my childhood. My dad died when I was four. It's really surprising. Mother always admired our little house on 5th and G. 146 West 5th. They had hoped to buy it. At that time it wasn't for sale. Then after Daddy died, Mother had quite a hard time working. At that time, women weren't in the work force so much but somehow she managed and that house came up for sale and by golly, she got it. That's really where I was raised and where I have my best memories. A lovely little house. I guess you know it Beth.

Beth: You bet I do.

Jane: Did you want my father's name?

Beth: You bet.

[00:02:00]

Jane: My dad was Federico, Frederick Provenzano and he was born on February 12th, 1886, in the region of Calabria in Cleto, Italy. That's at the boot of Italy. I think he migrated to this country at the age of 14. Not real clear on that but somehow he ended up in Pennsylvania. Then a friend of his was here in Salida, and he came to Salida and the both of them were tailors. They were in business

[00:03:00] together for a while in the tailor shop and surprisingly enough, the partner was Bob Ferraro's dad, my husband's dad. They were together for a long time. Then his brother, who also was a tailor, Fred's brother, came a little bit later.

Beth: What was his name?

Jane: His name was Jim Provenzano. Settimo is the Italian. They were in business then for a while together. But Settimo moved to Florence and he established a

[00:04:00] clothing and a tailoring shop there whereas my dad stayed here and was in the business for many years, and it's on lower F Street which is where most of the tailor shops were. At that time, I think there were, one, two, three, four, about five tailor shops in town. Of course, it was a railroad town and all the railroaders came in and ordered their suits. Surprisingly enough, the old pictures show big bolts of woolen materials. It was quite an interesting thing as far as I'm concerned.

[00:05:00] Back to Mother now. She was born in Lake City and her name was Mary Irene Naples. Her maiden name was Naples and Provenza. My dad shortened the name Provenzano to Provenza for business reasons, thinking it was maybe easier to pronounce, but I just love the name Provenzano. I think it flows so nicely. She was born on August 5th, 1897. I have to tell you a little story about that. I went over to Lake City, maybe three years ago to look up records of the family because they lived there and I was looking through records and I came across the marriage certificate of my grandma and grandpa and it said 1896 and I had a friend with me and my mouth fell open. I said, "That can't be! Mother was born in 1886." Well this friend got the biggest kick out of it. She had to think, "Well, what was your grandma doing?" I came home and I was very upset and Stan said, "Jane, Mother was born in 1897 in Lake City." But she was a very strong, delicate woman. I say delicate because she had a peace about her that very few people have.

Beth: You're talking about your mother.

Jane: My mother, mm-hmm (affirmative). My mother. Would you like to know more about my grandparents?

Beth: If you'd like to. What did they do?

Jane: Piatro Naples came from Italy and he ...

Beth: Whereabouts in Italy?

[00:07:00] Jane: I'm going to have to look that up. San Pedro, I think. My grandmother came from the same vicinity. That's in Calabria also, I think. Somehow he ended up in Lake City as a miner. Three of his children were born there. There were five in Mother's family. Theresa Naples came, I guess, a bit afterwards and they were married in Lake City. That's where they resided for a long time till he became ill with Miner's Consumption, they called it at that time. Came down here and started the store on F Street. I think it was sort of a bar and a grocery combined store. He only lived till the age of 42 and he died of Miner's Consumption so that left my grandmother a widow and at that time, no jobs were available for women. So they had a bit of a struggle, but with Mother's help and her brothers' help, they managed to survive and support the family. Mother was only 11 at the time. She had to quit school but she was a very brilliant woman. I'm surprised at their education at the age of 11.

Beth: What did she do?

[00:08:00]

Jane: My mother?

Beth: Your mother.

Jane: All right. Mother worked in many projects. At that time, they had a WPA Project and she was the head of the cannery and she worked at the library as a bookbinder. Later she worked at a dress shop, just various jobs. There was a variety store called the North Store and she worked there for a long time.

Beth: Don't forget Lallier's.

Jane: Oh, I'll tell you Beth. I'm speaking of myself now. I worked at, which is now Lallier's Drug Store. It was, prior to that, Alexander's Drug Store and then Long's Drug Store. I worked there for six years. Mother at that time was working at the bakery and she and I would walk to work together. Mr. Long, who had bought the store from Alexander's, depended on me a great deal. I did a lot of book work and the buying and pricing and so forth. I was pretty cocky then. I said, when I was going to get married, "I just can't work anymore. My husband doesn't want me to work," and he said, "I hate to lose you," and this and that and the other. So one day he said, "Well, I found somebody a lot better than you," and I said, "Oh, you could never find anybody better than me." So one day, Mother and I were walking to work and she walked into the drug store with me. Mr. Long said, "This is your replacement," so what could I say!

[00:09:00]

[00:10:00] But I had some great experiences in that drug store, just as Mother did and she worked there for 35 years till she was 85. She was a pretty stout woman as far as her work ethics. Very strict with Stan and I. She raised us, between the Catholic school mother, we didn't have a chance of not being absolutely perfect. That's why I'm a little bit hesitant about this interview. We have to be perfect always. She was quite a woman.

[00:11:00]

I had one brother as you know. Stanislau, Stanley Provenza. He and I were always very close growing up. I was always a little sister. He's six years older than I. He and his buddies would include me in things. They'd go bike riding and put me on the handlebars of the bike and away we'd go. I was just always included in some of their things. He was never neglectful of me. We had a lot of fun and he was quite an ideal to me. There was just the two of us in our family but it was a real nice time to grow up. Of course, it was just during and after The Depression. Didn't have a lot of money but we made ourselves so happy. It seems simple things, popping popcorn, playing games, laying on the lawn looking at the clouds, just simple things made our lives so happy.

I'd spend my summers, there were two girls that'd come up from Pueblo. Their grandmother lived across from us. We just had more fun just doing crazy things. I'm sorry our children today can't do the simple things we used to do. Of course,

[00:12:00] a great deal of my time was spent swimming. I loved to swim and literally grew up in this pool.

Beth: Do you remember when the pool was open?

Jane: Yes, I do. In fact, my uncle, Mother's brother, worked on that pool and that was in ... oh my. Oh my, oh my. I was a teenager. Probably '36? '40? Somewhere in there. I'll have to find out. You'd probably know. You'll run across it.

Beth: I'm sure.

Jane: It has always been a drawing point and I just love to swim. During the winter, ice skating was my big thing. We had two natural ponds here down by the river. There was an old shack there. We'd put our skates on and then go skating and then go in and warm up at the little stove.

[00:13:00]

Beth: Where was that?

Jane: One of them was behind the ice house which is somewhere in the vicinity of Country Bounty, behind there. There was another one by Albright's house which is ... the other side of Koenig's, down by the river.

Beth: The little river.

Jane: Yeah, the little river, I'm sorry. It's always the river. Of course, we had winters that were cold enough and the ice would freeze for three to four months so we had a lot of fun on the ice. It was a great sport for me. I loved it. In fact, I liked all sports. Baseball, we'd get sandlot baseball going. As a young girl, I had the opportunity to take piano lessons. I was probably a little too young to appreciate the wonderful teacher I had.

[00:14:00]

Beth: Who was it?

Jane: Sister Amelia. A nun. She was a very, very intelligent teacher. Taught me a good background in music but I was six years old and probably too young to appreciate it but I certainly appreciate music now. I love it. I also was exposed to dancing lessons, tap and ballet and soft shoe and acrobats. I was a regular. You'd never know it now but I was a regular acrobat. I was exposed to a lot of culture and I've always enjoyed good culture, good music.

Beth: How about your schooling?

[00:15:00]

Jane: My schooling. Oh boy. I went to Catholic school, one through eighth grades. Of course the nuns taught us. We were in a little schoolhouse at the side of the Catholic Church. It's now the Grange Hall? It was where the parking lot is in our Catholic church.

Beth: It was moved out, away from town.

Jane: It was moved out? There were eight grades and there were two grades in a room. One teacher taught two grades. I'll tell you, we learned a little discipline there because when Sister was teaching the second grade, us first graders had to put our nose to the books and not pay attention to the second grade. I had quite an education in the catholic school. The nuns were very strict. There was a lot of discipline but there was also a lot of good education come out of that school.

[00:16:00] Then I went to high school in ninth grade. Salida High School. It was a different experience because we'd sort of been harbored, you know, but I enjoyed my high school years. We had the best class ever. There were many things I worked on. Homecoming, floats, and I was officer a few years in different organizations. I belonged to Dramatics Club, French Club, just all kinds of ... there was a Girl Reserve at that time. I happened to end up being secretary of the senior class. Surprisingly enough, our class gets together every five years for a reunion.

Beth: It still does.

Jane: It still does. We'll see what happens in three more years. Our last one was in '02.

Beth: How many people were in your class?

Jane: We started with 108 and then, of course, it was during the war years. 1942 was when I graduated and some of the young boys had enlisted in the Army. I think we ended up with 92. At that time, that was the biggest class that ever graduated from high school. It was a big class but we were a close class and we still are. In fact, I had a classmate visit me a couple weeks ago. We just have always been close. I was happy about my school years, the whole thing. You look back on it and appreciate what you've had.

Beth: You bet. Who was superintendent of the school?

Jane: L.A. Barrett.

Beth: Were there teachers that you were particularly fond of?

Jane: I like Miss Scott, who was an English teacher. I loved math but I didn't particularly care for the math teacher. Let's see. Who was my favorite? I think Miss Scott might have been my, an English teacher, because I liked ...

Beth: You graduated in '42.

Jane: 1942.

Beth: Did you go on to any other training?

Jane: No I didn't. I didn't have the opportunity. Right out of school, I worked at Woolworth's for a little while, which I hated. Then one day, Mrs. Alexander, who owned Alexander's Drug and Jewelry Store, saw me on the street and said, "Would you like to come to work for me?" Boy, I took the opportunity right off. She was a sweet little lady. Her husband had been mayor of the town at one time and he was a druggist and at that time, he was deceased when I went to work for her, Mrs. Alexander, and I learned a great deal from her. She was a little woman but boy, was she feisty. She knew her business at the bars. We had precious jewelry and I learned a lot in the drug store business. Then Mr. Long bought her out and I worked for him for about four years.

[00:19:00]

Beth: You've already told her you were going to quit and go get married but your mother took your job.

Jane: Oh, I know it.

Beth: Who was this husband?

Jane: Pardon?

Beth: Who was this husband of yours?

Jane: Oh, my husband was a wonderful man. Robert Santo Ferraro. Just plain ol' Bob. He was a very strong ... he always worked out with weights. Not only was he strong physically but mentally. He was born in Salida also.

Beth: Who are his parents?

Jane: His parents were Ralph and Palma Ferraro. Like I told you before, his dad was a tailor and our families somehow were friends the whole time. There were five children in Bob's family and I was always Stan's little sister because he and Stan were friends. He'd come in and tease me and I'd just want to kill him, you know? Then he went to the service in 1942, I believe, and he served in the South Pacific.

[00:20:00]

Beth: In what branch of the service?

Jane: The Marines, the First Division. He saw hand to hand fighting in the South Pacific. It was quite a hard time for him I'm sure. We weren't attached at all then. I was still Stan's little sister. Well, then I grew up and one time he had come home on furlough. Mother and I were walking to church and he stood on the corner and waited for us because Mother was his godmother. The family were always good friends. Of course, I had high heels on and a neat little dress and I was classy then. Boy, his eyes popped out. When he came home, when he was discharged from the Army, he and Stan pallied up again. One day he got real courageous and asked me for a date. It went on from there.

[00:21:00]

Beth: Great.

Jane: I was so proud to have him as a husband. His strength, his spirit, really helped me through life.

Beth: When were you married?

Jane: [00:22:00] We were married in 1947 at St. Joseph's Church. Of course, I was baptized there and everything happens at St. Joseph's Church. I've been a part of this community forever. 80 years of course. Bob was a very definite person about what he thought and liked and you knew where you stood with him all the time. I was really, really, really privileged to have him as my husband and as the father of my children.

Beth: What did he do in the community?

Jane: [00:23:00] Actually, when he came home from the service, we bought the outdoor billboard business. At that time, it was a very good business. We could put billboards even on scenic areas. We had several billboards and he posted them once a month for national advertisers throughout and it was a very lucrative business until Ladybird came along and decided they didn't belong in the scenic areas so we were out of business.

Beth: Ladybird. Better explain that one.

Jane: Ladybird was the Johnson's wife.

Beth: President Johnson's wife.

Jane: [00:24:00] President Johnson's wife. Then we had a bit of a struggle for a while but we managed to survive it and everything went well because he worked part time for Motorway and we got along just fine. Prior to his service record, he was part owner of a liquor store and then he helped. He was trained as a tailor at the age of seven, so he was very accomplished tailor, however, he did not particularly care for the trade. I must tell you that when my daughter Michelle got married, the second oldest girl, she wanted Daddy to make her a wedding dress so here he was, sitting on the edge of the table, sewing on lace and satin. People would come in and do a double take.

Beth: Not many people would do that, would they?

Jane: [00:25:00] He made his wedding suit and he made slacks and stuff for me but he just didn't want to pursue the trade. We built this house, Beth, in 1949, and moved in in 1950. At that time, on this block, 1300 block on J Street, this whole side was a big lot and there were maybe three houses across the street from us and maybe one up above us. We were out in the debt and owe.

Beth: A long walk to town.

Jane: Long walk to town but we were very happy to build this house and have it as our permanent building place, of course. I raised seven children here.

Beth: Who are those children? Maybe you'd better tell them all.

Jane: I better tell you about the children. All right. Our oldest was Samuel. Sam Ferraro. He was born May 18th, 1948. He presently lives in Bozeman and he's a designer of precious jewelry, a very good designer.

[00:26:00] Michelle Marie Ferraro Winfield was born November 26th, 1949 and she lives in Gallup, New Mexico. She and her husband have lived there for about 30 years. They've been in the Indian jewelry business, so a very lucrative business for us. They stay busy and they have two boys. One is pursuing a career in opera. The other young man is just ready to graduate from college in December, then I think he'll take over the jewelry business.

[00:27:00] Robert Arthur Ferraro, is my son who lives here and he was born November 4th, 1952. He works as a carpenter. Has worked that way for many years and he has two lovely children and a step-daughter. Mary Alice and Wesley. Mary Alice will be a senior next year and Wesley will be a sophomore. He married Jean Mitchell. I'm glad to have them here in town. He's sort of a caregiver for me.

Sandy Joel. When he enrolled in college, they put him in the girls' dorm. They thought Sandy was a girl. Then they saw the name Joel. I said, "Sandy, why didn't you stay in that dorm?" He was born April 5th, 1954 and he also lives in Bozeman and somehow he ended up in real estate. Both the boys in Bozeman have lovely homes and they're very pleased with that vicinity.

Beth: Sandy has a couple of girls?

Jane: He has two girls. Rachel, who is pursuing a career in physical therapy. She [00:28:00] presently is in Phoenix, Arizona establishing residence and working until she can get her last two years of physical therapy training. Then his youngest daughter is a sophomore in college and she goes to Spokane. Gonzaga, it's a Catholic college, a very, very good college. Both girls, I think they're pursuing careers in medicine. Sandy has been our very strict, straight down the road person. Everything has to go in a pattern. The girls have had some pretty good training there. He married a lovely girl from Butte, Montana.

[00:29:00] Kathleen Frances Ferraro Jamieson was born July 13th, 1955. She presently is in Phoenix. Her husband works for the federal government railroad division so that has taken them many places. She's lived in Salt Lake and in Albany, many different places. She's always worked in the medical field. She's a secretary in one of the medical offices so she's pursued that also.

[00:30:00] Cynthia Ann Ferraro South was born February 18th, 1959. She lives in Meridian, Idaho which is just part of Boise. She has three children, Audrina, who is 23, Cody, 22, and a daughter in high school still, who is 16. She presently works for

an office at the state of Idaho. She has always been a very strong girl and her children have always depended on her for everything so she's had sort of a rough life.

[00:31:00]

James Leo, born July 4th, 1962. He presently lives in Gunnison, Almont actually, at the fish hatchery and he works for the state fish hatchery, Game and Fish. He has three lovely children and expecting a fourth. I said, "Jimmy, how you going to handle four kids?" "Well, how'd you handle seven?" Okay. Was a little easier in those days. A little simpler. Taylor, who is 11 and Annamarie, who is seven, and Leo, who is six. No, I think Annamarie has just turned eight. There are three lovely children and he and Trudy have really spent a lot of time with their children and living out like they do, they're exposed to a lot of camping and outdoor things and it's been very interesting for them living up there. Cold. Let's see, Beth. What else do you want to know?

Beth: How many grandchildren do you have?

Jane: Oh my. I have lots.

Beth: We have them on a list here. We'll just give them the list. We won't have to talk about them all.

[00:32:00]

Jane: I have 13 and one great-grandson. Jessica, who is Bobby's wife's daughter from a previous marriage and I consider her a granddaughter too. She lives in Denver and she's a dispatcher there so she's a very nice, lovely girl. Of course, I have been with her since she was little too, so she's part of the family also. I have, like I say, many grandchildren. I have a hard time keeping track.

Beth: You do better than I do.

Jane: Let's see. Did you want to know anything about my hobbies or anything?

Beth: Well, sure.

[00:33:00]

Jane: Bob and I used to love golf and we played for many years, I guess as the family were growing up. We decided we better quit the game or go camping and picnicking with our children. So we gave it up for a while, and then after the children were all gone, we took it up again and had more fun. Presently, I'm not real able to play golf but I want to get back to it.

[00:34:00]

I enjoy knitting, embroidering, crocheting. Love to play cards. I love to read. I tried water colors and I have a natural knack for things but I'm going to pursue this art thing. I have to have challenges in my life. At this point, it's not easy not to have challenges. With being alone now, Bob died in 1995 so I do need new challenges and something to keep me out of mischief or from getting bored. That picture over the fireplace is one.

Beth: All right. That's nice.

Jane: It's not excellent but the people in the art class said, "You should have it framed." Well, okay.

Beth: It's yours. That's important.

Jane: It's mine. Let's see. Is there something else you'd like to know? I know our town has changed considerably. I didn't work outside the home. I stayed home and raised my children. There were always three meals on the table. Let's see. I
[00:35:00] guess I worked at Crews-Beggs which was the only department store in Salida at that time. I think I worked there for 24 years until it closed up four years ago. I helped manage the store after Mr. McVeigh, who was the owner, died. I did a lot of the buying and it was just a very, very interesting job to me. I love to dress people. It was very challenging and we tried to choose things that people in our town could buy. That, to me, was another good experience. I have sold cosmetics for about 35 years.

Beth: What brand?

Jane: It's called Vanda Beauty Counselor. It isn't highly advertised but those of us who are in the field should get out and do a little more. I used to be top-notch in the
[00:36:00] state but anymore I'm ... you slow down. But I still sell it. It's interesting. I analyze skins and get people the treatment that they need. It's a very good product so I felt confident about selling it. As you know the town has changed. Have you heard more about the town from people?

Beth: Tell us your opinions.

Jane: My opinion is, even after The Depression, we had wonderful stores. We had dress shops. One, two, three, four, dress shops and Crews-Beggs, which was a dress shop and men's clothing, a department store. We had two shoe stores.
[00:37:00] We had shoe repair shops. We had tailor shops. It was just wonderful to go to town and be able to get whatever you wanted. There were, one, two, three, four, about five grocery stores. Believe it or not, they all survived and as far as I'm concerned, they were all busy. We had three drug stores. Actually, there was four but I don't remember Lippard's way back on lower F Street. Like I said, I worked in Alexander's and it had been established for many, many years. I think the only store that's left is Gamble's and the drug store that I worked for.

[00:38:00] We've seen a lot of changes and with the railroad being taken from here, we just don't have any payroll or any industry which is too bad. There was a lot of mining around. That was one of my husband's hobbies was mining, so he had some property in Bonanza he mined for a while. Never very profitable but it was his hobby. What else can I think of, Beth?

Beth: You talked about during the war. Do you remember anything that Salida did to

get organized to support the war effort?

Jane: Oh yes. For one thing, on the side of Lallier's building, at that time it was Long's, they listed every persons name who was in the service. There was a wall and every name was listed on that wall. Then I guess about 10 years ago, it was erased, painted over. We had a USO. Several of us belonged to the USO. We had Camp Hale nearby so a lot of the people took these fellows in for dinner at times. What was our main war effort? Of course, I signed war bonds. Beth, I don't have the best memory in the world, you know.

[00:39:00]

Beth: You're doing great. What about troop trains? I understand you had a few of those going through.

Jane: We had troop trains, yes we did. We'd run down and meet the troop trains. I can remember one gal had a convertible. Every time we knew a troop train was coming, we'd go down and several of us would greet the boys. So often they'd get off of the train and run up to a liquor store and get their refreshments and run back to the train. We had a lot of troop trains. Speaking of trains, now I'm off the subject again, we used to run special trains when the high school was winning their football games. We'd run special trains and the stores in town would close. I can remember going on these special trains to Pueblo and different places.

[00:40:00]

Beth: Were you in high school then?

Jane: I was in high school then. We've had a colorful life here. As simple as it is, it was colorful. Back to the war years. I can remember when Stan, my brother enlisted. Mother was just devastated. At that time, she and I and my aunt were running a luncheonette across from the high school. It was a good thing we had that to keep us very busy.

[00:41:00]

Beth: What was that called?

Jane: We just called it The Luncheonette and it's that little gray house that's right across from the entrance of the high school. It was a luncheonette. At that time, of course the kids didn't have as much money as they have now but we served them hamburgers and we had a full fountain. It was fun working behind the fountain. That was during some of the war years and Mother was devastated but it's a good thing we had that. Let me think. What else? Anything else that you might be interested in?

[00:42:00]

Beth: Do you remember any illnesses that swept through town and just hit everybody? Flu, or something like that.

Jane: The flu was a little before my time. The flu. From what I understand, the girls down on the lower district there, were the people who helped the flu people. Laura Evans, I'm sure you've heard about her. She was very generous to the people that were in need during the flu epidemic. Like I said, that was sort of

[00:43:00] before my time but I just remember these stories. Let me think. We had so much railroad. That was so interesting to just hear the trains and have several of them go through. Our only means of transportation was the train. We just didn't have a car when I was growing up. We'd go down to Pueblo or Denver on train number two which was at two o'clock in afternoon. There was always some passenger train come through late at night also and we took that late night one a lot of times. That was our means of transportation. We had a neat little old, old railroad station which is now gone. There was a Monte Cristo hotel there. It was just gorgeous. It was The hotel. They served good meals and so forth. I don't remember it too well but I remember hearing of it.

[00:44:00]

Beth: A lot of train activity in town.

Jane: Yeah, a lot of activity.

Beth: About how many trains went through town in a day?

Jane: Oh, my. That's hard to know. There were several freight trains and always two passenger trains. I had an uncle who worked for the Rio Grande as a brakeman.

Beth: Who was that?

Jane: George Naples, my mother's brother. He part-time would live with us. He was here every third day on his trips back and forth to Denver. He worked for the railroad for 50-something years so he was Mr. Railroad himself. These railroad people did a lot of partying. They liked their parties and drinks. They were a good group of men. Let me think here now. What else is interesting? Do you think of anything?

[00:45:00]

Beth: You really covered things.

Jane: Have I?

Beth: I think you did a good job.

Jane: It was more personal but I thought that's kind of what you wanted,

Beth: That's what we wanted, yes. Your personal reflections of growing up in Salida.

Jane: It was wonderful. It was just wonderful to grow up here in this town. Like I say, Beth, it was a simple life but we made ourselves so happy in spite of the fact that maybe we didn't have a dime to go to the show sometimes. We always had the theater down there on 1st.

Beth: Did it cost you a dime?

Jane: It cost a dime. There were times we didn't have a dime to go. We wanted to

[00:46:00] keep up with the serials who ran every Saturday. Sometimes we'd stand in front of the theater and Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Kelly, who owned the theater would look at us, "Why don't you go on in," very nice, sweet people. There were a lot of wonderful, character people in town. We'd identify houses by the names of the people who lived there. I still do.

Beth: Give me an example of that.

Jane:
[00:47:00] I'd go down G Street. There's the McDonough house. There's the Heberer house. Oh, there's the Neven's house. They're all between 6th and 9th Street. It was kind of neat. They had a women's club here years ago. They always had their meetings on 7th and G. It's that little house that's being remodeled now that has that little white fence around it. That was their place to do their dancing and have their little concerts. The Women's Club. My sister-in-law, Katherine Post, myself, I'd play the piano and she'd sing on occasion. Once in a while, we'd have a dance session there. A lot of the very prominent women in town, Dr. Cochem's wife and Mrs. Alexander and all of them, pushed the fine arts and the dancing and so forth. We've always had a cultural society as far as music goes.

[00:48:00] Beth: Was that the same women's club that moved over to the library and did a lot to get that started?

Jane: Right. Exactly.

Beth: That's great.

Jane:
[00:49:00] Yeah, that's great. We had some people who built the town and made a good foundation as far as culture and business and everything went. It's changed now as we all know but we must go along with change. My big disappointment in Central (Alpine) Park there down on F Street, the park in the middle of town always had the greatest bandstand, right in the middle where the basketball court is now. A wonderful, wonderful bandstand. We'd have band concerts. There was a city band. Every Thursday night and there were more people gathered around that park to hear the band. They'd play for an hour or so, just a good band. There's a picture in one of the Columbine books and my dad and Bob's dad were both in the band. Later on, Bob was in it. That bandstand should have been kept.

[00:50:00] Beth, I've always been interested in and active in our church affairs. As a young girl, we had a sodality which is just young people in high school who got together and met. We were always having joint meetings with the boys at the abbey which very interesting and we exchanged ideas and had a lot of religious background through this plus some social things. Later in life, we had an organization called The Daughters of Isabella and I happened to be the second president of that. I also was involved in our Altar Society and presently, I'm a lector and a Eucharistic minister. I've always been active in many of the church activities so it's been a very fulfilling thing to me to be in these church activities.

[00:51:00] I guess our present church was built in 1919. Of course that's the only church I remember. It's had a few renovations and changes which everything has but it's very pleasant. It's been a consolation to me to have my religion.

Beth: We're talking about St. Joseph's.

Jane: St. Joseph Catholic Church. Of course my foundation religion came from Mother. Her example was just terrific. Then going to Catholic school, I had an education you wouldn't believe in religion. Then when I married Bob, he was a very devout man and I was very happy that he supported and went along, in fact he led the way to our religion. He was always good about saying prayers with the kids. We were a very dedicated family to our religion.

Beth: Very good.

Jane: Let's see Beth. I don't know what else is interesting. I wish I could think of a particular something to ...

[00:52:00]

Beth: You're doing great. I could tell you've done a lot of thinking about this. If you're ready to quit, we'll quit.

Jane: Let's quit because I don't know that I have anything else. Oh, I used to hike.

Beth: Go ahead. Tell about that.

Jane: Every Saturday, after I'd have the duties of cleaning the house, at Mother's house, several of us would grab a lunch and run up to the hills hiking to Methodist or this side of Tenderfoot or up Tenderfoot and that was our outing for Saturdays. We looked forward to that. My very best friend, Kathleen McNamara, is now a nun and we're still in touch, so she and I and several of us would go hiking together. It was something we looked forward to every Saturday. I guess that's it.

[00:53:00]

Beth: What about the hunting? Did anyone in your family take up hunting?

Jane: Oh my, yes. They lived for hunting. Bob was quite an outdoors person. He taught the boys to fish. He taught them to hunt. From the age of four, he'd be taking them places. He had to carry one of the little boys one time through the forest hunting but they were all exposed to it and even Cindy, one of our girls, liked it too. Yes, we were always outdoors people. It seemed like every Sunday, we'd run up to Bonanza, where the mining property was and have a picnic. Those are the things that I think our children remember, just the simple things that we've done. But our picnics were very important.

Beth: Of course. Well, thank you very much, Jane.

Jane: Thank you, Beth.

