

Beth: Well good afternoon this is Beth Smith and I'm at Irene Budd's home at 604 Uray Avenue. I'm going to talk to Irene Bud about her life and the life of her family. All right Irene say hi.

Irene: Well hi. I'm going to start way back at the beginning I think they wanted to know my father's birthday and place it was in Louisiana in 1880 and my mother was born in Wisconsin in 1890. I was born in Louisiana in 1917.

Beth: Where in Louisiana?

Irene: Oakdale a little saw mill town and I lived there until well I'll get to that in a minute. I had brothers, one Lawrence is my older brother and Raymond was my next.

Beth: Can you tell me when they were born, dates or years?

[00:01:00]

Irene: No I'm not sure exactly when. I know Lawrence the oldest was born in April and then my sister, my only sister, Bertha Louise Carver, she lives in El Paso. She is two years younger than I am we didn't have any other sisters. A lot of this is just going to be about family because even though 50 years is a long time in Salida it isn't a real long time. I don't know a lot about the real old days in Salida.

I went to high school in Oakdale and then went to two years of college in Lafayette.

Beth: Louisiana.

Irene: Louisiana, which is now called I think it's the University of South Louisiana or something. It was called Southwestern Institute in the days I went there. I went there two years and then decided there was no way I was going to teach and that's about all anybody did in those days. I went into nurse's training in New Orleans after I left College. Graduated from nursing training in New Orleans in 1939. That's old news too. Nothing like it is now, that was in the days you bathed and made up their beds and made them real comfortable. You didn't have machines or anything.

[00:02:00]

Then in New Orleans then I worked a year in my hometown in a clinic and then I took civil service and went to work at a marine hospital in New Orleans and my husband-to-be was an intern there.

Beth: Who is he?

[00:03:00]

Irene: Edward C. Budd. He's an intern and we married in Louisiana than in 1941 at my home in Oakdale with my little Methodist preacher in my house. In those days it was wartime beginning of the war and we didn't have big weddings. We just got married when you had time. Because then he was ordered to ... we went to

Bethesda Maryland for just about six weeks for training and they sent him to Arkansas, Hope Arkansas, Clinton's old home town. Where he was working in public health units. He went around trying to straighten them out.

Beth: Did he have his medical degree by then?

Irene: Oh yeah he was an MD. We were in Hope and we lived there I can't remember
[00:04:00] how long. Then we went to Arkadelphia, Arkansas which is college town. But we weren't there very long then we went to Blytheville, Arkansas which is on the Mississippi River, cotton country.

Beth: Were you working as an RN?

Irene: No, I did not work, I never worked. I worked but not for a job. We were there and my oldest daughter Mimi was born there.

Beth: When was she born?

Irene: Well now let me see. We were there five years, it must have been about ...
[00:05:00] when was she born anyhow. I have it written down somewhere, she was born in 1943 in Hope. Then we were moved. Of course Ed was from Salida and he kept being asked to move west. So they sent us as services do to Brooklyn.

Beth: That's West?

Irene: That's West. We lived there about nine months I think. They told him not to bring family it was during the war, well we didn't make enough money and it was too hard to find living places but he took us anyhow. We were lucky to find an apartment in an old house that was right at the end of the boardwalk at Coney Island so we were right on the ocean. We were there about nine months and Elizabeth my second girl was born there in 1945, in the fall. We stayed there until 1946.

[00:06:00] When the war ended and this was the Second World War. It ended in the spring sometime I forgot just exactly when. We came back to Salida with two babies and a small car. In those days we didn't have big motels along the way and we stayed in some odd ones. One night in St. Louis in and a lovely place and the next night in Kansas that had a little wood stove in it. We got back and then we stayed ... Ed's mother lived in Salida and they had a nice set up because but anyhow they lived at I think it's 346 East 2nd Street, a big two-story brick house that's still there.

Beth: What was her name?

Irene: Amelia Budd. His dad was Edward Budd. His Dad Edward and his mother Amelia
[00:07:00] and his Aunt Elizabeth Cooper and her husband Hap, I don't know his real name. They all lived in the same house, they had what was everybody's story I think a dry goods store that when after the men both died the same day on New Year's

Day, I'm not sure when but it was before we came here. Then we lived in the big house with her until some of our misfortunes were over and we got started.

After we got here then his family came from Pueblo and Ed came from Pueblo and he came from there when he was I think in junior high.

Beth: He went to school up here?

Irene: He finished high school here.

[00:08:00]

Beth: Do you know when he graduated?

Irene: His mother thought he was too young to go to college so he went to New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell for two years which was a junior college. Then he went to Colorado University, a four-year college and then medical school and graduated from there. Then what did we do then. Later he took a course in anesthesiology in Denver. He did anesthesiology here.

Beth: Here in Salida?

Irene: Yes. The first time, I wanted to tell you about the first time I came to Colorado.
[00:09:00] It was Christmas it was after we entered the bar, okay when was it the bombed Pearl Harbor.

Beth: 1941.

Irene: In 41, we were married in 41 in June and then the war started in December. We had planned to come out here for Christmas and had ordered new tires for the car and we got all worried wondering if we could get the tires but we did and we drove out here. When we got here we came up the iver Canon and I had never been out here I grew up in flat country and I would see patches, I don't know what it was some stone or something it was black and I would say what was that snow and it wasn't. Then while we were here over the Christmas holidays it snowed, it really snowed and I met a lot of his friends who were working other places and were back for Christmas I met them at Christmas.

[00:10:00]

Then we drove back to Arkansas and lived in a variety of places. One above a chicken house but that isn't as bad as it sounded they just built it and built an apartment. We lived there. Then we lived in a little house of some kind there. I keep jumping back and forth but I have to because I don't know where I was. Then we were here and we came back in 46 and I think it was in 47 I developed TB. I said most people come out here because they have it but I wasn't old enough when I was in nursing to take care of a TB patient, I wasn't allowed in public service, health service hospital but I don't know why didn't know how old I was and they put me on special duty and I don't know if that's where I got it or what.

[00:11:00] Then I was over in, well it's Penrose now, it was Glockner Sanatorium for seven months. I was very lucky and got over it but I had to leave two little girls, one just barely walking and talking for all that time which is hard to do. Then when I came back from there then I was all right and my doctor said once you get over it, it can't kill you. I'm beginning to think so. Then we went of course, Ed was a fisherman and a hunter and loved Gunnison River and he was heartbroken when they dammed it and ruined it for fishing.

[00:12:00] The we spent vacations over on the Gunnison fishing and I went duck hunting over in the valley which I did not like but I did it anyhow. We would get up real early this is why we were still living at his mother's and go over there while it was dark and tromp around on the ice before daylight and I would just sit and pray that the sun would come over the mountains. Anyhow I did it.

[00:13:00] Then he went to Denver to take this course in anesthesiology which lasted I don't know how long it was but I know I took the girls up there on the train. We spent a weekend with him, that was before Eddie was born so we spent a weekend up there. They remember the train trip. Then, wait a minute. In 1952 we bought this house at 604 Ouray and it will be I think it was built in 1906 so it's almost a 100 years old. There were two other houses on this street, none of these houses that are around it now we're here, it was just open field and weeds and dust. In fact, one of his friends that was a doctor said what is this about wanting to get away from everybody. If they can see it now.

[00:14:00] Anyhow we bought this house, we fell for it because of the view and the big yard it had for children. It has a little log cabin out in the yard, I don't know when that was built of course it's about to fall in now but I don't intend to have it rebuilt. Then there's a big building out in back that was a bakery. The people who owned the house were named Subry and they had a bakery downtown. They baked, now people have told me they baked bread and then Thanksgiving and Christmas people would bring turkeys and have them bake them.

Well we were going to tear that building down and have garden space and one of the older men that knew told my husband said there's no way you were going to tear that down. That oven there is a big oven that is filled with sand it would take dynamite to get that out. We still have it sitting there. It did work as a real good playroom and then when Ed retired and was working with rocks and reloading guns and things he had a good work room which we didn't have in the house.

Then let me see one of the memorable things.

Beth: Wait a minute, Eddie's Birthday.

[00:15:00]
Irene: Eddie, I'm sorry he was born in 1954. Well, May the 6th which is next week. People wonder but when you had TB you didn't have children until you had been well for five years. That explains that. Then you had the two sisters and of

course our house had one bathroom. I can remember him sitting on the stairs crying because they wouldn't get out of the bathroom and a good many other things, he had troubles. He lived through it, he grew up to be a good kid.

Beth: What's he doing now?

Irene: He is a clinical psychologist. He got his Ph.D. and has his own practice in Denver.

Beth: Denver?

Irene: Well, its not Littleton its someplace an office someplace there. He has an office there and he works a lot with the children custody cases.

Beth: His family?

[00:16:00]

Irene: His family, he married, well he didn't marry until he was 37 or so. He married and it's been about 10 years or so I think, maybe a little more. He has three children. He has a stepson who's married and he has the three children. One, well the oldest little girl I think is 8 going on 9 and a little boy in the middle, poor thing, will be 7 next week. Then Madeline, she's going to be the case, is 5 so she will start kindergarten next year, thank goodness they'll all be in school in the same school so no one will have to haul them around.

Anyhow he had a condominium and then they sold it and bought a house in Wolf Creek subdivision with a big yard. They have all the trials of a house and the family.

Beth: How about the girls?

[00:17:00]

Irene: My girls?

Beth: Your girls.

Irene: Mimi the oldest was 60 last year, I can't believe it. She is well she went to Nigeria ... she graduated from CU, she went to county college in Missouri, a rural school and loved it and graduated from CU and then went to Nigeria in the Peace Corps that was when the Peace Corps was new and wonderful. She was there for two years. She was teaching English mostly to Nigerian girls and African girls. Then she came back to San Francisco and took a course in teaching English as a foreign language which she should have done before she left. Then she got a degree in that and then she went to law school. She's an attorney and she has worked for the State of California all this time and is planning to retire this summer.

[00:18:00]

Beth: Does she have a family too?

Irene: No, she married but that didn't keep. I won't make remarks about that. Anyhow, she's always been the real liveliest and the party girl of the family. Every 10 year birthday she throws a big party for herself. When she was 50 she took a great big bunch of us to Cabo San Lucas for the weekend. This year she had a party in Ashland and we all had to fly out there, Ashland Oregon. The rest of us don't do those things.

[00:19:00] Anyhow, then Elizabeth went to Denver University the first year because we had two in college she had a Methodist scholarship and she graduated from there in social work. I don't know what they call it but she did social work in Colorado Springs. Then she married Len Bennington who of course she knew in high school and he went into the Coast Guard and then she worked out in California, they lived in San Francisco and then they lived in Walnut Ridge and she worked out there, social service and then she came back to Colorado Springs and he had another year before he graduated from college so she worked, I know she did a lot of work at one of the hospitals but I'm not sure which one.

[00:20:00] They have two children, Aaron is maybe 28 I don't think he's any more than that and the two children were both very tall and they played basketball. He went to St. John's in Baltimore and played basketball and graduated from there I think in business, now he's doing carpentry work in Marble, Colorado. He came back to Colorado because he didn't get to ski, he loved to ski. He worked in the ski shop and then he worked for some other people and then he met this girl from Louisiana who was living in Aspen and they were married in Louisiana a couple of years ago. They built their own house, it's really something, planned it and built it.

Beth: Where did they build it?

Irene: In Marble on the side of a hill, beautiful spot it's really pretty. He says he isn't going to drive nails forever but I don't know. He would like to go back to school and get an architect degree but who knows. Alexis played basketball at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. When she graduated from there she got a job, she just knew how to apply, all the other parents were wishing she would give a course to their kids on how to apply for work. She got a job with I think it was Just For Feet in marketing and she traveled all over the country. Now that has gone kaput so she's going to be looking for a job. That's okay.

[00:21:00] Let me get back, I have to tell you about the train trips and one of the last of the train trips.

Beth: You're going up to Denver on the train.

Irene: Yeah I took Eddie he was little, Salida had all of these championship basketball teams and the big deal every year, the kids would all go to Denver. The girls would save their money, they would work and save their money all summer so

they could go shopping in Denver.

Beth: You would go up on the train?

[00:22:00]

Irene: I can't remember, I took them up one time and I don't know how they went this one time because we thought 'Well the train won't be here and Eddie needs to ride a train,' he was real little so I took him up and we stayed in a hotel and at 3 o'clock in the morning all these Salida kids came to see me. Anyhow their dad, Ed would drive up after work for the night games. Of course we got the championship. Then when Eddie was in high school ... I'm skipping over a good many years. He played football and they won the state championship. We spent a good bit of time on buses and then cars going to games everywhere.

[00:23:00]

I had been a real football fan since I was in high school it was during the Depression and my brother played quarterback. As poor as everybody was we would fill up the car with gasoline and drive to where the game was so we could see it. Anyhow I am just a real football fan. People kind of laugh at me but that's what I like, it's interesting. Anyhow then I took him up on the train and the girls did their shopping and I think that's the time Mr. King who was a high school principal, I had written him a note that Mimi could miss class on that Thursday or Friday or whatever and he called me to be sure that I had written it. I thought 'geez checking up.'

[00:24:00]

Then another trip we took on the train was when the Narrow Gauge train went up to Marshall Pass and one of the last trips it took we rode up there and just rode up to take the train ride. It was in the fall when the leaves had turned to see the beautiful leaves it was a wonderful trip and I'm sorry they got rid of that train, very sorry.

Then we, Elizabeth reminded me of this. When the first boat races, the first year or the second year of them, everybody loves a picnic lunch and drove down to Cottonwood Rapids and just sat on the Rocks there and had a day of it. Picnics and watch the boat races and have a real good time. I don't think people do that much anymore. We did and they ran special trains from Denver at least one or two years. The people came down and then the train would just go along the track and they could see the boat race. That was fun.

[00:25:00]

Anyhow, then in 1963 when Elizabeth was a senior, the high school burned. Ed was president of the school board then I think, of course he belonged to all sorts of stuff. He was president of the school board and somebody called it was at night and said Doc you better get over here the school is burning. They had a bond issue out they were going to vote on and they said there's going to be some people asking questions, you know, burned the school down. I remember Elizabeth played flute and she never brought her flute home but she had brought it home that weekend. We said we're going to be in trouble, but then they did do the bond issue. Then she had to finish high school at the old McCray School which is where the post office is now and that didn't make them very

happy.

Beth: What year was that?

Irene: [00:26:00] It burned in 1963 I think, yeah I think that's when she finished sometime in there. I used to take them ... the schools, they didn't have buses going everywhere like they have now which I don't know if that's good or bad. They would go up to Alamosa with the choir and with the band and stuff and I always had a bunch of kids and taking them over there. When we were in the basketball league with schools over in Colorado Springs, well, I had a station wagon and I would take a bunch of girls over there. We went and went but we enjoyed it.

[00:27:00] What else now. After their school years ... because you know how it was. The band mothers had the big dinner thing every year for the people to come and eat to make money and the PTA had a big carnival at Longfellow. It was in the spring and we, I know a friend and I baked seven cakes for the cakewalk onetime. We had a big spring storm and it cut off electricity so there was no way we could get there so they quit having it in the spring.

Of course Ed's mother, they sold that first store when the husbands died and they said ... is it alright if I go back?

Beth: Sure.

Irene: They just couldn't stand being retired, they didn't know what to do with themselves. She said if they could just start a little tiny store, just a little store well it ended up in a big thing right next to Tuttle's.

Beth: What did they call it?

[00:28:00]

Irene: The old one was Everybody's and this one was B & C, Budd and Cooper, the B & C store. They sold everything, they had everything in that store, it was big, everybody in town said they had everything if they could find it. Occasionally I had to work there and I had never liked working in the store. I hate selling things and I never liked working in the store. Even a few years, I guess it was after her sister died then she couldn't go down early in the morning. They opened the store at 8 o'clock in the morning and you had to go down there and open up the store. I always wondered why, but railroad men from Colorado Springs liked the socks they had and when they were in town they would come in and buy the socks they wanted.

[00:29:00] I tried and I took her to market in Denver. In the old days they went to Chicago to market, the big markets. As they got older they would go to Denver and they would have markets there to buy things. I came from a little town I had never driven in a city but I took her to Denver. She just told everybody that I may not know where we were where we were going but I would find it.

Then of course we had the church. Elizabeth said you have to tell them that, after all you and Elsa Stallsworth and what's her name?

Beth: Young?

Irene: No no no, this is the one that was doing the thing last Sunday.

Beth: Flora.

Irene: Flora. You guys ran the church you did everything. I said well everybody does.
[00:30:00] We did, I sang in the choir, I enjoyed that.

Beth: Now this is a Methodist church?

Irene: I've been a Methodist since the day I was born I think. Our preacher came and wanted me to be head of the primary department and I said I don't know kids here I had a little one running around like everything. He says just treat him like you do your own and I thought no way. I would have parents killing me. I did that for a few years and then finally I quit because we were going to, Ed and I and sometimes the kids, we were going to Colorado University to Boulder to football games on Saturday. We had to come back after the game so I would be here Sunday morning and I had to be here and I just had to because if I said I was going to do it ... that's why I don't do anything now because if I say I'm going to then I have to.

[00:31:00] Then one time I answered the phone and said no and he almost fainted. He said you mean you told somebody no and I said yeah that's it and that's been it ever since. Then the girls went to band camp over in Gunnison, I don't think you remember that. They were in the band and they would go to band camp in Gunnison in the summer and we would go fishing in Gunnison. Then we took vacations. We shouldn't have I guess we shouldn't have. maybe we should have stayed here and worked, earned a living.

[00:32:00] We like to go and my husband taught me that, we were poor in Louisiana and I never went anywhere. We would take the girls and go. We went to Mexico for spring break several years. We would get a trailer and we went down to I think we went down to the Texas Coast one year and you know we just went places. I know when Mimi she's the oldest and she was in 1st grade, we wanted to keep her out of school while we went. We would take her books and teach her because she was easy to teach. We asked the superintendent and he said certainly that's learning as well as anything else. So we did and we went down there and I think it rained the whole time. It was cold but that was all right we would just go out in the rain.

[00:33:00] We went a lot of places and after Ed retired we went to Europe. We belonged to Ports of Call and we went to Europe a couple times and we went to the Dominican Republic once and I can't remember where else. Then I learned

about Hawaii. We went to Hawaii, the girls made him go to that, he didn't want to go. They knew it was kind of place that I would like, so Ed did that.

See I don't know too much of the modern Salida I just know that things have changed for the better I'm sure.

Beth: You never did work in the hospital here?

Irene: No I never did.

Beth: Busy with kids at home.

Irene: I worked in Ed's office but I wasn't a very good bookkeeper, I didn't like it. Anyhow, I worked in the office some.

Beth: How long was he an anesthesiologist down there? Do you know?

[00:34:00]

Irene: He retired I think in 1962 I think is when it was. I tell you in the old days before Climax Mines and Blue Shield Blue Cross you didn't make much money unless you did surgery here. It was a hard deal but then when the insurance came in then you collected insurance, then you could collect on the insurance. He did that and then he got started doing rock work cutting rock and polishing it and making jewelry. We went down in Texas hunting rocks, in Utah and all different places.

Salida is when we first came here all the stores were downtown, you just went downtown and that was it. Of course everything is built out on the highway now and a lot of the art which is interesting, I think it brings a good many people in. That's fine, who's to say you can't stay in one place.

Beth: Change.

[00:35:00]

Irene: You either change or you die. I hope that's help some, I really just don't know much about the older workings of Salida, but that's the way it was.

Beth: You had a nice interesting life.

Irene: Yeah it has been interesting.

Beth: Yeah.

Irene: Now I like to go places and I go. As long as I can, who knows.

Beth: Well that's true.

Irene: I've said every year I'm bad about that. Every year my sister and I, I go down to

[00:36:00] El Paso to my sister's and her husband died a few years after mine did. Then we've been to Cancun and we have been to Padre Island. We go someplace together for about a week. Every year I say 'Alright this may be the last year I may not go next year,' so I go. It's beautiful here and stinking day today. It hasn't frozen the ornamental grass, I'm so glad because they're beautiful.

Beth: Thank you very much you did a good job.

Irene: Well you know I get started you can't stop me.

Beth: I know how that goes.