

Gwen: This is Gwen Perschbacher, for the Salida oral history project, and I'm interviewing Anabel Lamberg, at her home 1048 H street. I'm going to have Annabel start talking about her parents, who they were, when they were born.

[00:00:30]

Anabel: Okay this is Anabel, A-N-A-B-E-L, Lamberg, L-A-M-B-E-R-G. My name originally was Anabel Stevens. I was born in Salida at the Red Cross Hospital. Grew up in Buena Vista, spent the first however many years of my life in Buena Vista. 18 I guess. Dr. Shaffer was at the Red Cross Hospital, he was my mother's physician. My mother and father at one time owned a grocery store in Buena Vista, and I believe before that my father was a butcher at the Buena Vista Mercantile store.

[00:01:00]

I remember he played baseball, softball. I do not remember a whole lot more about him. I remember my mother making rolls and donuts to sell, which I assumed might have been during the Depression. I grew up probably the only girl in blocks full of boys. We used to chase burros. I chased burros with them, and they played house with me. My grandfather owned a dairy in Buena Vista, that my mother in fact grew up on what's called the Chicago Ranch.

[00:01:30]

Gwen: Can you tell me the location of that for people that wouldn't know?

Anabel: It's out past the cemetery. It's towards Mt. Princeton Hot Springs. It's probably halfway between Mt. Princeton Hot Springs and Buena Vista.

Gwen: On which side of the road?

Anabel: Left side going towards the hot springs.

Gwen: Okay.

Anabel: Same side as the cemetery.

Gwen: Thanks.

[00:02:00]

Anabel: Across from the rodeo grounds, approximately. My mother was one of 6 girls.

Gwen: What was your mother's name?

Anabel: Her name was Helen Madeline Stevens. Helen Madeline Taylor at that time. She graduated from high school I think in about 1917, in Buena Vista. Her first job was teaching at Gas Creek School, immediately after graduation, and at Centerville School. She eventually taught fifth and sixth grades in Buena Vista. Let's see what else about her. She was the town clerk in Buena Vista for many years, after my father died. Which was about in 1936, '35 or '36, I don't remember which.

[00:03:00]

Gwen: When was he born, and where was he?

[00:03:30]

Anabel: He was born in Melvern, Kansas, on December 16 in 1884. My mother was born in Batavia, Illinois on January 8th of 1892.

Gwen: When did they each come to Buena Vista?

[00:04:00]

Anabel: My mother was 4 years old, and she was 84 when she died. My father was I don't know. A young man, that's all I can say. His parents, at the time of their death lived in Denver. They are buried in Denver I believe. I don't know too much about that side of the family.

Gwen: How old were you when your father died?

[00:04:30]

Anabel: I was 9. I'd just turned 9. On May 21st, and died on May 26th. For many years there was just my mother and me. I graduated from Buena Vista High School in 1944. Attended Buena Vista schools all my life, all the way through.

Gwen: Can you tell me a little bit about how Buena Vista was when you grew up, other than there were boys in your block?

Anabel: Well yeah. It was very small. We used to roller skate, you could just roller skate anywhere. All over town. Went to Sunday school with Effie Crider a long time. We spent our Sunday School money on penny candy at the drugstore, I remember that.

[00:05:00]

Gwen: Where was the drugstore located then?

Anabel: Well let's see it was down by the, I don't know how to tell you. It was down on lower main street. East Main I guess is what it would be now. Across the street from the drugstore was Chris Hamdorf, who was a shoemaker, who was from Germany. The pool hall was next door, run by Grover Dobbins. The Green Parrot Café was just up the street, and still is. I worked in the drugstore when I was in high school, and probably for 6 years.

[00:05:30]

Gwen: Who was the pharmacist then?

Anabel: Dr. Schaefer.

[00:06:00]

Gwen: It's called Schaefer's Drug?

Anabel: Then after Dr. Schaefer left it was Mr. Loller. L-O-L-L-E-R. Oh my goodness. Used to go swimming a lot at Mt. Princeton. Effie and I used to ride our bicycles and

[00:06:30] take lunch. You could do almost anything in those days. It was not, and I had another friend whose cousins let us ride their bikes, if we would deliver the Denver Post for them. I lived on South-North Pleasant avenue. Ray Perschbacher lived close to me. Let's see I guess for about the first 14 years of my life I was on Pleasant Avenue. Then we moved across the alley to a house which was located on Main Street.

Gwen: Do you have any idea how many people lived in Buena Vista then?

Anabel: Oh, I would guess 700-800 maybe. It was quite different. Where there are houses now there were rocks. There were no houses much beyond the city limits, like where Swedhins live. Out by the drive-in theater now there's houses everywhere. There were no houses. It was very interesting. We used to go up to Swedhins, they raised a lot of head lettuce. We used to be able to sit out in the yard and eat head lettuce, right fresh from the ...

Gwen: They used to have Head Lettuce Days didn't they?

Anabel: They did, and they had a barbecue, and a rodeo, and it was a big deal. Parade. We used to ice skate a lot on what was called the ice pond. I don't know what it's called now. Where they cut ice to ship so they could keep the lettuce cool and the bees cool, and all that good stuff.

Gwen: Where was that located?

Anabel: We used to walk there. Of course everybody walked. It's located out, I don't know the names of the streets anymore. On, who used to live there, Sears, Burlisons. Sid Burlison. You'd go on past his house. I don't know, I'm sure it has a name now, but I don't know what it is.

Gwen: It would have been off going toward Leadville, it would have been off the highway to your left, about right after the park you'd turn off wouldn't you?

[00:09:00] Anabel: Yeah. You would now. Then you'd go Behrman's lived up there. Ben Behrman. Who else lived there? Those are the two I remember. Helen Carlson lived up that street, but we just went on, I suppose that maybe it was two miles. I don't know.

Gwen: Do you remember the Mt. Princeton Hotel?

[00:09:30] Anabel: Yes, I do, because I used to run away from home a lot, so my mother told me. Several times the servants from the hotel took me home. They found me down by the park or whatever. If I ran away again the gypsies were surely going to get me, I do remember that.

Gwen: Do the gypsies come to Buena Vista quite often?

Anabel: Oh, a lot, yes.

Gwen: I remember that too.

Anabel: That's funny. Let's see when I was older I played a lot of tennis. The tennis  
[00:10:00] courts were behind what is now, what used to be the community building. Now it's the Depot has just been moved there.

Gwen: The CNS I think.

Anabel: The tennis courts were located behind there. What else did I do. I can't think.

Gwen: What about school? What was school like then?

[00:10:30]

Anabel: Well I don't know, it was just school. I don't know. First and second grades were combined, third and fourth grades were combined, into one big room. Fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth. Then the high school had this one big room, and we sort of went into other little rooms for classes.

Gwen: Was it all in what later became the courthouse?

[00:11:00]

Anabel: Yes. Originally it was up on Gunnison Avenue? San Juan, Gunnison, one of those streets. It was a block from my house, and I went there until I was in the third grade. Which would have been what, about '34, approximately 1934. Then we  
[00:11:30] moved to what is now the courthouse. What was then the courthouse building. I guess it's a museum. I went all the rest of my life there. Lloyd Swedhin who was the postmaster. He used to take us to Mt. Princeton. He had a car. Fred Curtis had a car. Not too many cars around. The Covans had a car because they lived in the country, they had to drive to school.

[00:12:00]

Gwen: They didn't have bus service then for school children?

Anabel: No, they did not.

Gwen: How about lunch money?

Anabel: They did have hot lunches. Let's see what grade was I in then. Probably the sixth or seventh grade, I remember eating hot lunch. I don't remember it before then. It was located in what was the jail at one time, which was behind the courthouse.

Gwen: That was the dining room?

[00:12:30]

Anabel: That was the dining room, and I guess I don't know what became of the jail. I remember Specs Harper and Bill Harper. Specs Harper used to sweep the streets. I can still see him with his push broom and his little cart running up, running, he didn't run he walked up and down Main Street.

Gwen: The streets were swept by hand then?

Anabel: Yes. Bill Harper used to carry the mail I believe, from the depot to the, there was quite a flurry of activity when the trains used to come in. We had passenger trains of course, and every day at 3:30 number one came in from Denver. We waited anxiously for the mail, and all that sort of thing. Had a station, what are they called, station masters?  
[00:13:00]

Gwen: Depot agents, what I remember.

Anabel: Depot agents, and then telegraphers, the whole nine yards. I remember my mother saying I must never call people by their first names, because I did that once. That's something I will always remember. You didn't do that. We were very proper. I used to play with a lady lived across the street from us, an older lady, by the name of Mrs. Locke. When my mother had to go to council meetings or town meetings, whatever they were called, Mrs. Locke used to take care of me, and we'd play parcheesi, and she made lemon sherbet.  
[00:13:30]  
[00:14:00]

Gwen: Oh wow.

Anabel: I don't remember all these things. My grandfather made a playhouse for me. He was, he lived in Buena Vista at that time. He made a doll cradle for me, and a cupboard, and lot of different things. He made quite a good sized playhouse. I think it was just one room, but it seemed awfully large. I used to help my mother with the laundry. Laid the handkerchiefs out on the grass, so they would be whiter, and there was never too much room on the clothesline. Laid them out on the grass. She boiled the clothes in a copper boiler. I remember that.  
[00:14:30]

Gwen: You had wood burning coal?

Anabel: Wood burning. We had the iceman deliver ice. We stood behind the cold stove in the front room to get dressed in the morning, because it was so cold, wore long underwear, long stockings. You know everything.

[00:15:00]

Gwen: To keep those stockings up did you have a harness?

Anabel: Yes. A garter belt I think it was called. Oh my, but then those were the days my mother wore corsets too. Cinched up, oh dear. Then I remember in the spring I couldn't wear sandals until probably June. Had to wear these long underwear until then, had them rolled up, and the stockings rolled down as soon as we left the house. The good old days. What else do I know?  
[00:15:30]

Gwen: Was your mother real strict?

Anabel: I don't think so probably, but she just was proper. People aren't that way anymore I don't believe. Used to sail boats I remember in the, we had a ditch in front of our house. They were a stick of wood, a pine cone, every once in a while we had a boat that we got at Woolworth's. That was a big deal. We used to sail boats a lot. There was water in that ditch. That was kind of fun.

Gwen: That's what you irrigated with right? Irrigated your lawn with that?

Anabel: No, I don't think so.

Gwen: You don't think so?

[00:16:30]

Anabel: It was just there. Sometimes there was water in it, and then we got to sail boats. Let's see what else did we do here. I went to a Halloween party, bobbed for apples. I was in a piano recital once I remember. I played the piano. Christy Blount was my piano teacher. She lived up Chalk Creek. I think her husband was the county treasurer, assessor, he was something for the county. That was a long time ago. Went to Turner's, they had a pond, at what's called the Turner Farm now.

[00:17:00]

[00:17:30]

There was all kinds of land, where now there are houses. They had a neat pond, where we could swim in the summer, and sled in the winter, and catch tadpoles. Let's see, Mrs. Turner made chocolate cake, and homemade strawberry ice cream. I remember all of that. I made fudge with Bonnie Turner once, and it wouldn't get hard, so we sat in the pantry and ate it with a spoon, Bonnie and I. We weren't supposed to be doing that. Their grandfather used to squirt milk in our mouths when he milked the cows, I remember that.

[00:18:00]

I spent most of my life at Turners. There were 3 girls, and I was the middle of the ...

Gwen: The three?

Anabel: I have no brothers or sisters, so it was fun.

Gwen: They were kind of like your sisters then?

Anabel: Yeah, one of them graduated from high school with me, and we still keep in touch.

Gwen: Wonderful.

Anabel: She lives in Pagosa Springs. My mother was the, oh she substituted one time for the librarian in Buena Vista. I read lots of books, so I read almost every book in the library I think while she was there.

[00:18:30]

Gwen: Was the library then in that community building?

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative), half of it was the library, and half was the community building. The community building is where they had meetings and Fortnightly club, and all that sort of thing.

Gwen: Were there a lot of tourists in Buena Vista then?

Anabel: [00:19:00] Not that I remember. There may have been, but they didn't impress me if they were. I don't think there were because even when I worked in the drugstore I don't remember a lot of strangers. I don't think so. It was just a pretty quiet little town, and I wanted out, as soon as I could get out. Here's a big occasion, they had the roundup lodge for boys. Every summer they came from mostly St. Louis, and that was a really big deal. They had Indian dancers.

[00:19:30]

Gwen: Was that a church associated...

Anabel: I don't believe so. I think it now is, is it what, Adventures Unlimited. I think that's an offshoot.

Gwen: Where the Markwoods,

Anabel: The Markwoods, and he was a dentist, I think in St. Louis. He just brought these young men out there, now what affiliation there was, I don't know. Then there were the Byrd colonies below there. Byrd Fuqua used to have all these little cabins named after birds.

[00:20:00]

Gwen: Did you know Byrd Fuqua?

Anabel: I'm sure I did. Not personally.

Gwen: Real well?

Anabel: Not real well, but I knew who she was, and the Markwoods had a chauffeur. I remember that name, Harry Johnson, who was black. We weren't to associate with him, but he was the nicest man.

Gwen: I remember Ray talking about him.

[00:20:30]

Anabel: Let's see, what else do I have written down, if anything. Oh, the Turner girls and I sang at funerals. That was my first social security card. I had to get one, so I could get paid, so I could sing at funerals. I think we made \$5 maybe, or something.

Gwen: That was a lot of money then?

[00:21:00]

Anabel: Yeah. Let's see, we played kick the can under the arc lights. I don't think people do that. We walked on stilts, and we did all kinds of things like that that were fun. We went to St. Elmo, went to Cottonwood Lakes, almost every Sunday. Which I hated because I was the only child. My mother had friends, who had cabins in both those places. Every Sunday we packed up and went up to one of them. One Sunday I remember, a man took me all the way around Cottonwood Lake in a rowboat. He rowed all the way around the whole big lake. No lifejackets, we didn't even think of such things.

[00:22:00] My mother may have been upset, but I remembered it. Let's see, we went to a friend's cabin in South Park. Probably was Bassam Park. I got to take a friend there. I suppose it was during the time that they were rounding up the cattle or something. That was Frank Field. I had 5 years of 4H and sewing. Sewing in 4H. [00:22:30] My mother was a 4H leader, and I'm still using the sewing machine she bought when she was a 4H leader. Good grief, it was an electric machine.

Gwen: Wow.

Anabel: Let's see what else do I ... played jacks, we played hopscotch and marbles, and [00:23:00] jumped rope. Crack the whip, Red Rover, Cowboys and Indians, all those things. Simon Says.

Gwen: Tell me a little bit about Crack the Whip? Most people have no idea what that is.

Anabel: Well we used to just line up on each side, oh crack the whip, no. Red rover is when we lined up on the streets. Those were games. Crack the whip is when people would just line up, and whoever would, the head would whip everybody around and the one at the end was cracked I guess.

Gwen: Sometimes.

[00:23:30]

Anabel: Yes. Good old days. Well what else do I know. I went to 4H camp at St. Elmo and at the Bear creek with the boy scout camp one summer. Road to and from Salida on the back of a big truck. Carl Flowers used to haul coal and haul stuff, and so Jack Flowers and I road on the back of his big truck to the movies in Salida.

[00:24:00]

Gwen: To the movies?

Anabel: Yeah. That was pretty important. I came to the circus in Salida with my mother. We used to have big circus tents up. It was at the ball park, it's sort of where the ball park is now, but it was not that nice.

Gwen: Did your mother have a car?

[00:24:30]

Anabel: Yeah, it was an old Chevy I think. Really old. Then she had a Pontiac, a 1936 Pontiac was what I remember. She and I went to California in it, and we stopped at every one of those places in Utah, I do remember that, to fill it with water. It just boiled all the way. Oh my, and so what else did we do, what did I do? Well I don't know about anything else. Road bikes, I said that. One summer my mother rented a bike for me so I could learn to ride better, but I didn't have one of my own.

Gwen: She rented a bicycle for you?

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative), from Buna Stewart. She lived where they had a mortuary actually up there. It was Bing Stewart and his wife Buena, and they lived up in what was the Gillette house. I don't know who lives there now. At one time, Buena's relative, what was her name. Arlene ...

Gwen: And Ernest ...

Anabel: And Ernest Perschbacher lived there and I went, why did I go there, to a Sunday School class. Did she used to teach Sunday School maybe?

Gwen: Probably.

[00:26:00]

Anabel: Oh, my I'd forgotten that. I remember one time when I was in high, I'm sure going back and forth a lot, in high school, I spent days trying to translate a sentence. Mr. McGinnis was my first year Latin teacher, Mrs Roman was my second year Latin teacher. She had me in tears most of the time. That one time she said I wasn't translating it right. I even went to Mr. McGinnis, and she thought it wasn't right. I finally got it I guess.

[00:26:30]

Gwen: Is that the Mrs. Roman that still lives in Buena Vista?

Anabel: She still lives in Buena Vista. She lived across the street from me actually, one time. A nice lady, but I sure was, oh my.

Gwen: Everybody took Latin right?

Anabel: Everybody took Latin. There wasn't any Spanish. There was no shorthand, there was no Home Ec, and everybody took Latin 1 and 2. I mean that's what you did.  
[00:27:00] We went from school to home, and sometimes to Turner's, which was a mile each way from school. We ran most of the way so we could beat the freight trains. If they had stopped for water we'd climb through the trains. Now that's not a good practice.

Gwen: I've heard that story before since I've been doing this.

[00:27:30]

Anabel: Well we did that. Let's see. We played Simon says, we played Mother May I, and Statues. I don't know, people used to just twirl you around and wherever you stood you just stood there in that position, that was a statue I guess. Helped the Turners dig and sell fishing worms one summer. Oh Turners had, Mr. Turner had a saw mill up on Cotton, Middle Cottonwood. Virginia and I used to go up there a lot and spend the night. We went to the top of Cottonwood Pass, before there was a road up there. That was interesting.

[00:28:00]

Let's see, we skated on Cottonwood Lake some. I don't seem to know a lot else Gwen, at the moment.

Gwen: When did you move to Salida?

[00:28:30]

Anabel: 1946. I graduated in '44, I went to Western State College for a year and a quarter, and then I thought I would learn more by working than I was by going to school. I went to work for Dr. Barrett at the school.

Gwen: Here in Salida, as his secretary?

Anabel: As his secretary, and I worked for him for two years, a little over two years and then I got married. Then I had a couple of children and I ...

[00:29:00]

Gwen: What are their names?

Anabel: Marta and Eric. Eric lives in Salida, Marta is at the moment in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1963 about, I guess when Marta was in the first grade, I went back to work. I went back to work at Longfellow School.

Gwen: Secretary again?

[00:29:30]

Anabel: Secretary, to Mr. McGrath. I worked half days at Longfellow, and half days in the superintendent's office, at the high school. The superintendent was Bill Andreas at that time. Then I did lunch and playground duties for one of the teachers who was unable to do it, and I went to work full time at the high school in 1981, when Mr. Andreas died. Mr. Melien and I would, I worked as Mr. Melien's secretary. Bill Andreas had asked me to be his secretary because Ellen Baird retired. I think maybe a week or so, I worked for him, and then he died.

[00:30:00]

Gwen: He died young didn't he?

Anabel: In 1981, and then I worked there until 1990.

Gwen: Who all did you work for ...

Anabel: 1991 I guess.

Gwen: What superintendents besides Bill Andreas and Mr. Melien?

[00:30:30]

Anabel: Laverne Robertson, John Ophus, Harvey Guest.

Gwen: Now I remember Ray saying that if you needed to know something was going on at the high school, you didn't ask anybody but Anabel, she always knew.

Anabel: Sounds good doesn't it. Let's see, I've had several people say to me that they  
[00:31:00] thought I should, that things have not been done just right. Now they have computers, and I did it all by hand.

Gwen: How many people took your place when you?

Anabel: Six.

Gwen: Six, when you quit?

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative), six.

Gwen: That's technology worried.

Anabel: We did have a computer the last year I worked I think, or the last two years. I  
[00:31:30] never did, after that I was lost. When I did it by hand I knew where everything was. Computers just fouled me up.

Gwen: Tell me a little bit about how the school changed through those years from when you worked for Mr. Barrett 'til you worked for the last superintendent.

[00:32:00]

Anabel: Well there were more children, I'm sure a lot more. A lot more paperwork. The teachers I guess were mostly younger people who they hired at the time. I don't know.

Gwen: Was the turnover in teachers greater or less.

Anabel: No, it was less I imagine, a lot less. I don't know very many of them anymore. At  
[00:32:30] that time, when I first started working in fact, you didn't have to have a degree so to speak. You could just start teaching. You didn't have to have a certificate that said you were smart.

Gwen: A lot of people taught right out of high school?

Anabel: Right, and a lot of them I think taught in country schools first and then came to town. Well they didn't have aids. When I first went to work there were no aids. I

[00:33:00] worked half days, I had no assistants, it was just a whole different world.

Gwen: Did the high school burn down while you were there?

Anabel: I think that was before. It was during the time I was, what was it 1984?

Gwen: I can't remember. I thought maybe you.

[00:33:30]

Anabel: I think Bill Andreas was the superintendent at the time, so it's before I worked up there. Probably worked for Mr. McGrath at that time. That would have been in the '60s or '70s I can't remember the ... you'd think I would wouldn't you?

Gwen: No, I should know too, but I don't.

Anabel: Let's see, I think that Mike graduated in '72, they didn't go there.

[00:34:00]

Gwen: That's right.

Anabel: I have forgotten all those things.

Gwen: Did you have one superintendent that you really liked particularly, or thought was outstanding?

Anabel: Well they were different. Some of them weren't very public related, but they were good at what they did. As I recall Mr. Robertson was really great with budget kinds of things. John Ophus is probably, was one of my favorites.

[00:34:30]

Gwen: Was a favorite teacher too.

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I don't know, I can't think of anything else at the moment.

[00:35:00]

Gwen: Where all did you live in Salida?

Anabel: Oh dear, well I lived with Harold and Arlene Thonoff on West 5th Street. 128 West 5th. Then they moved to G street, 900 and something G. Then they moved out to what was called the housing project at that time, out by the swimming pool. I moved in with Mrs. Caddes.

Gwen: How do you spell that?

[00:35:30]

Anabel: C-A-D-D-E-S.

Gwen: Okay.

Anabel: They were from Buena Vista originally. He worked at the reformatory, the correctional facility. Then they moved and I think I just stayed in that house, which was on H, something G. Then I got married, and I lived out, well they used to have cabins out by the swimming pool. I lived there for just a brief while, then I moved to Cleora, which is what, two miles down the road? Approximately. I lived there until Eric was in the second grade, whenever that was, because Mrs. Holman was his teacher I remember that. He was born in '53, '60, '61, probably '63, I don't know. Then we moved to West 7th Street, which we rented from Mrs. Dorothy Cowan, and then I moved here, and this is it.

[00:36:00]

Gwen: Are all those houses still standing, that you lived in?

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative), I believe so. I believe so.

[00:37:00]

Gwen: Do you remember anything about when your children were in school. Some of the things that, the activities, and teachers that maybe stood out in your mind?

Anabel: Well there were several teachers who I thought were really great. One was Rita Thorne, one was Bertrude Peeples, one was Maxine McDowell. Mrs. Holman, Reva Holman. There were a lot of them.

[00:37:30]

Gwen: Those just stood out.

Anabel: Helen Bloomberg.

Gwen: I remember Helen.

Anabel: Betty Cable was teaching kindergarten then, and I believe Donna McClure was. Eric started the school at the McCray school, they used to have two grade schools. He went to McCray because we lived on that side of town, and he rode the bus. Then when we moved he went to Longfellow.

[00:38:00]

Gwen: Was that the new Longfellow or the old Longfellow?

Anabel: The new Longfellow. By then the old one had been torn down I think. McCray school was where the post office is now. Let's see, I used to teach Sunday school at the Methodist church, when my kids were little.

[00:38:30]

Gwen: You're still active in that church aren't you?

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative), pretty much. Actually I grew up as a Christian Scientist.

Gwen: I was thinking your mother was ...

Anabel: She was a Christian Scientist. Then when I got older I went to the Congregational Church in Buena Vista, so I could sing in the choir, because the Christian

[00:39:00]

Scientists didn't have a choir. Then I moved to Salida and I just thought it was easier for everybody to go to the same church.

Gwen: Do you remember any particular characters in Salida, or Buena Vista?

[00:39:30]

Anabel: Well in Buena Vista there was Specs Harper, but probably several, Grover Dobbins, and why I don't know, I just guess they must have stuck in my mind for some reason. Let's see about Salida, I can't think. No one in particular I guess. I'm sure there have been some but I can't pinpoint it right now.

Gwen: What kind of social things did you do as a young adult in Salida?

[00:40:00]

Anabel: Went to the Elks to dances. Played Bridge, learned to play Bridge. That's about it, that I can think of. The Elks used to have kind of fancy nice dances, you wore formal, dressed up. I think they had several dances.

Gwen: It's my recollection during the year they had several formal dances.

[00:40:30]

Anabel: I don't think of anything else. There may have been things along the way, but I can't ... ice skated I think. Was in Beta Sigma Phi sorority for a long time.

Gwen: Is that sorority still active here?

[00:41:00]

Anabel: Oh yeah. Some of them, well I would be in the group like with Janet Murphy and Doreen Smith. When I joined they were in, or Doreen was in particular. Peggy Kurtz, Carrie Braswell, a day or two ago.

Gwen: Can you think of how Salida's changed from when you first moved here. You mentioned Peggy Kurtz, and I know she moved when the railroad moved.

[00:41:30]

Anabel: Well it used to be quite active, my aunt lived in Salida, when I was a little girl in fact. Was very active with railroaders, and trains, and all that sort of thing. They had a drum and bugle corps. They had lots of things.

Gwen: Tell me about that.

Anabel: I don't know remember much about it. I just remember they had one. I think it was connected with the American Legion, perhaps. Burt Mitchell and Frank Braswell, and Eadres Glenn, were three of the people I know who were in it. I didn't really care for Salida when I first moved here, because I was used to Buena Vista, and you spoke to everyone and it didn't matter if you knew them, and it was just such a small little place. Now I've gotten used to it, but at first it was kind of hard, because you didn't speak to people unless you knew them.

[00:42:00]

[00:42:30]

Gwen: What was your aunt's name who lived here?

Anabel: Ruth Hillis. She was, my uncle was a brakeman on the railroad, and she was something at the courthouse. In the county clerk's office I think. I'm not sure. I used to spend kind of a lot of time with her down here. She introduced me to Cherry cokes, at Lewis' Candy Kitchen, and she taught me how to work crossword puzzles. She used to fix pork chops for me for breakfast, because that's what I liked.

[00:43:00]

Gwen: You liked to come to her house then?

Anabel: Yeah, I guess, yes. She later moved to Grand Junction. My other aunts lived in California, in Denver. I went to Denver a few times to visit that one. Anyway my mother was the oldest of six of them.

[00:43:30]

Gwen: Did you ride the train much?

Anabel: No. Well, my mother and I rode from California. One of the last trains I took my kids to Denver on the train so they'd know what it was like. That was about it.

Gwen: How long did it take to go to Denver on the train?

[00:44:00]

Anabel: I think it was all day. Stopped at, I remember stopping at the Royal Gorge. They went for a long way around, I remember that. It took a long time, and the cinders, oh my. They used to have coal fired engines of course, so there were cinders blowing back in your hair, and on your face. That's all I remember about the trains, but I don't think I ever rode on them more than that. Oh yes I did, I rode to Grand Junction on a train once. With Bill's grandmother. Eric was probably 2 or 3 years old.

[00:44:30]

Gwen: Do you remember some of the, not downtown business so much, but like the railroad was here, and then it left, and other businesses like ...

[00:45:00]

Anabel: Climax was here and left. I believe a lot of people work at the correctional facility now. When I was growing up it was the reformatory, so I still call it the reformatory.

Gwen: Me too.

Anabel: In fact when I was in high school we used to play, the boys used to play basketball down there, and I had a friend who went down there with me and we kept score. They were just young boys, you know out of, young boys in trouble.

[00:45:30]

Now I guess it's pretty much a criminal place, so that has changed. What else was there here? Hospital, Red Cross Hospital, which was where the Masonic

Lodge is now.

Gwen: It was a two story building as I recall.

[00:46:00]

Anabel: Mm-hmm (affirmative), it was. Now we have art galleries where we used to have stores, a lot. That's about all I remember. I don't think there were too many businesses on the highway, like there are now. I came to Salida to Rainbow Girls, because there was no organization in Buena Vista for them. I think three other girls and I came to Salida. Then we always went to the Greeks.

[00:46:30]

Gwen: Where was that?

Anabel: The Greeks was, let's see. Down where the dentist's office is, about next to Waggener's on the corner.

Gwen: Okay. What do you remember about that?

Anabel: Had chocolate shorts. Which was only chocolate milk with marshmallow on top, but they were so good, and they made their own candy. They had lots of good candy I think. I don't know, I think, that's just where you went.

[00:47:00]

Gwen: Can you remember anything about what it looked like inside?

Anabel: Well, they had a big ice cream fountain, soda fountain, whatever. Soda fountain. Lots of, I don't think they had, can't remember did they have booths or they had booths and tables both I guess.

Gwen: Did they have marble counters, or do you remember?

[00:47:30]

Anabel: I don't remember that. I could have cared less probably. It was mostly to see who was there. Then there was Lewis's Candy Kitchen, Waggener's had a soda fountain. They were one of the last. There was the Salida Drug up in the middle of the street, they had a soda fountain. Everybody had soda fountains. It was kind of fun. There was the creamery. I remember going there to buy ice cream.

[00:48:00]

Gwen: Where was that at?

Anabel: That was down on 8th street. About where, what's there now? Culligan.

Gwen: Okay.

Anabel: I think.

Gwen: Was that what later was Monarch Dairy?

Anabel: Probably.

Gwen: It was on, across the alley from where Culligan's is now.

Anabel: Probably, right I think so maybe.

Gwen: They sold ice cream by the cone?

[00:48:30]

Anabel: Well most by the pint, or the

Gwen: Half gallon?

Anabel: Yeah, but it was such good ice cream. I do remember that. I remember having my tonsils out in Dr. Parker's office, which was up by, was upstairs over what's now, where what's the picture place. Nony Feehan's place.

[00:49:00]

Gwen: I know where you mean, across the alley from what was Crews Beggs.

Anabel: Yes, that place. His office was upstairs, and next was Fritz Kelly's office who was a dentist, and he gave me a nickel for an ice cream cone, because I had to spend the night in Dr. Parker's office, to have my tonsils out.

Gwen: Oh really. Was that the night before you had them out, or the night after?

Anabel: No the night after.

Gwen: Was there a nurse there, or who was with you?

[00:49:30]

Anabel: My mother is all I remember. What else I remember is Dr. Parker had my tonsils in a jar, and he wanted me to take them home, and I wouldn't do it. I don't know why you remember the things you do. I suppose there might have been a nurse, well there had to be.

Gwen: It's unusual having your tonsils out in the doctor's office.

[00:50:00]

Anabel: Yeah, I know, but that's the way it was. That's really all I remember about it. The ice cream cone and the tonsils, but I know we spent the night there. Then we went to my aunts. I remember I couldn't eat. I think I probably had ice cream and that was it. Nothing too important. The last time I ran away going clear back to my early childhood, was that I ran down the alley away from home one evening and a little boy, and I have no idea who he was, hit me with a rock and made me bleed. I still have a scar. The Shoals took me in, I was clear down at the end of the alley.

[00:50:30]

Gwen: Fred Shoal?

Anabel: Yeah, and he called my mother and she came and got me. They cleaned me up, I was, and I never ran away again.

[00:51:00]

Gwen: I was going to ask if that stopped you running away from home?

Anabel: Yeah, it did. Another time I remember, maybe that's when I ran away too, before that time. I remember crying in the bedroom when some kids came after me after school, before I started school. They were in school, they came after me to go to a birthday party. My mother said no, because she ran away, and I could not go. Boy I remember that one.

[00:51:30]

Gwen: When your mother said no, you remembered?

Anabel: She meant it.

Gwen: Did you run away from home then?

Anabel: Probably. No I just, I don't know. Well evidently I did until I got hit in the head with a rock. I don't know why I remember that either, I guess it impressed me.

Gwen: I imagine if you still had a scar, it would impress you.

[00:52:00]

Anabel: I have no idea, other than that, I don't know who it was, or why it was.

Gwen: Was there a doctor in Buena Vista when you lived there?

Anabel: There was Dr. Ayers, and Dr. Clost. There were two doctors I believe. Dr. Clost was lame, I do remember that.

Gwen: He was what?

[00:52:30]

Anabel: Lame. His son, I don't know where his son lives. He's been to the reunions in Buena Vista, the alumni reunions, I know that. Maybe he's in Denver. I kind of think he's a doctor also. Dr. Ayers, lived down on the corner house, it isn't even

[00:53:00] there anymore. I don't remember too much about him either. Really, they were there. Mr. Humphrey was the mortuary man here, or owner, whatever at that time.

Gwen: Was that the one on main street, or the one off of main?

Anabel: The one on main. I suppose I did a lot of things, but I can't remember them now.

[00:53:30]

Gwen: Well is there anything else you'd like to tell us before we wind this up?

Anabel: No, I don't believe so.

Gwen: Well we really appreciate you doing this Anabel.

Anabel: I think I may remember something next week or something. Right now I don't think of anything. Thank you.

Gwen: Thank you very much.