

## Churchill County Museum & Archives

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## Indian Ways and Traditions Recalled

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NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE:

## Indian Ways and Traditions Recalled

*By Frances Hooper as featured in Volume 12 of In Focus*

My name is Florence Frances Pacheco Hooper. I am a Paiute and a member of the Fallon Pai-Sho Tribe. I was born in Tonopah, Nevada, January 2, 1934, to Rosaris and Iowa "Ivy" Allen Pacheco, the fourth of five children. My father was a silver miner and following his death, my mother, a traditional Paiute, moved us back to our homeland on the Stillwater Indian Reservation where my grandparents, Topsy Steve Allen and Charley Allen, had also lived.

Before I was five years old, my mother determined that she was unable to take care of us children, so we were separated and placed in foster homes. My younger brother, Thomas Pacheco and I were placed in the home of Mary and Ida Dalton of Stillwater.

I attended 1st through 3rd grades at the Cottage Schools on East Stillwater Avenue in Fallon and the 4th through 12th grades at Stewart Indian School outside of Carson City, Nevada.

My husband, Ernest Hooper, is a Shoshone Indian and a member of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe. The Yomba Shoshone Reservation is located 40 miles south of Austin, Nevada. Yomba means wild carrots which were only one of the many kinds of roots that were eaten by the Shoshone people, who historically lived in mountain areas.

Ernest, who is now 69 years of age, also attended Stewart Indian School. Later he attended Churchill County High School for



*Ernie Hooper holds the microphone for Frances as she explains the old ways of the Palute people to a group of Elderhostel participants from the museum in 1997. (Churchill County Museum and Archives Photograph Collection)*

the 9th and 10th grades and returned to Stewart Indian School where he graduated with the class of 1949. We met again in 1955 and in 1956 he asked me to marry him.

In 1960 Ernest decided he wanted to become a minister in order to help American Indians. We moved to Hot Springs, South Dakota, for five years and from there we traveled throughout thirty two states with our four children, Kenneth, David, Rebecca and Bryan.

In 1965 we moved back to Churchill County to the now Pai-Shoshone Indian Reservation, and we have made our home here ever since. Ernie practices his ministry and is employed as a heavy equipment operator. I am a housewife and help Ernie wherever I can, by playing hymns on the piano for church services and traveling with him to different towns where we are needed.

I have acquired hobbies, knitting, crocheting and doing Indian bead work, which I love best. I also started collecting Indian artifacts for myself.

One day Vivian Hicks, who is a member of the library staff at West End Elementary School, asked me if I would speak of our Tol-Ticutta people (In the Palute language the "T" is pronounced like a "D") before one of the classes there. My granddaughter Jaimee was in this class.

I consented and enjoyed talking about our Palute ancestors. For the past eight years I have also visited Northside School, Churchill County High School and some other schools. For the past three years we have participated in the Native American Day at the Laura Mills Park and have been invited to speak before Museum sponsored Elderhostel guests.

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