

**Oral History From: Rodney and Christine Hooley**

**Collected By: Devin Hooley**

This is Devin Hooley and I am interviewing my dad Rod Hooley.

Q: Alright what is your full name dad?

A: Rodney Geen Hooley.

Q: Are you called by any nicknames?

A: No no nicknames.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Elmo Utah

Q: Have you lived anywhere else, if so when and where?

A: I lived in Utah County. From 1950 to 1985.

Q: And have you traveled anywhere, if so where and when?

A: yeah, I overhauled truck driving. I picked up produce in California and took it to Canada for four years.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in American Fork Utah.

Q: When were you born?

A: November 25 1950

Q: Are you married?

A: Yes.

Q: and what is your spouses name?

A: Christine Hooley.

Q: Where was she born?

A: Belflower California.

Q: when was she born?

A: December 19 1964.

Q: um.. Do you have any children?

A: Yeah I have 7 children.

Q: if so can you give there names, birthdates, and latest residence?

A: yeah.. My first one, Gena she was born June 23 1969. She lives in Newburg

Idaho. My second one is Rodney, he was born August 9 1970, he lives in Lehi Utah. The third is Ryan, he was born September 5 1972. He lives in Lehi Utah. Then Brett October 1 1973, lives in Pason Utah. Jana, September 4 1974. She lives in Provo Utah. Devin January 24 1989. He lives in Elmo Utah. And Chalet. November 5 1991, and she lives in Elmo Utah.

Q: And what kind of work.... do you do Dad?

A: I work for Savage, at the coal terminal on Ridge Rhode in Price Utah. I have been there for one year. Prior to that I drove truck for Savage for twenty years.

Q: what was the first kind of work you did, what was you first job dad, and how old were you when you began working?

A: well... my first job, I worked at a gas station. I was 15. The gas station was called Lou's gas station in Orem Utah.

Q: and how much schooling have you had?

A: I had a.. 12 years.

Q: are you a member of any clubs, organizations, or churches?

A: I belong to the LDS church, but I don't have any other clubs.

Q: uh.. Do you have any brothers and sisters and know their names birthdates and residence?

A: yeah I have three brothers and five sisters. They all live in Utah County. The first one was Russ then Me, Judi, Linda, Susan, Rick, Randy, Sandra and Joan.

Q: what is your Fathers full name and where was he born?

A: Cliffard Garn Hooley. He was born in Orem Utah, on March 9 1930.

Q: alright, and what kind of work did he do dad?

A: he was a truck driver, he is retired now.

Q: k what kind of work..... What is your mothers full name?

A: Beverly Geen Hooley.

Q: and where was she born?

A: California

Q: and on what date?

A: January 27 1931

Q: Whats her Current residence?

A: Pleasant Groove Utah

Q: what kind of work did she do?

A: she was a beautition.

Q: where did you ancestors come from?

A: they came from Ireland.

Q: what luangeeges did they speach?

A: English

Q: Alright do you recall any stories about the history of your family?

A: yeah the first Hooley came over from England, Joined the Handcart Company and helped the Pioneers get here. Somewhere along the line, his toes got frozen, and he had to get them amputated.

This Is Family and Community Traditions.

Q: k Dad, what do you remember about the house that you grew up in?

A: um.. The house that I grew up in, was a red brick home in Orem, it had hard wood floors, three bedrooms one bathroom upstairs, a full basement with one bedroom and a large family room.

Q: How was it different from the housing you live in today?

A: it is basically the same, other than homes are bigger now. Most houses have two or more bathrooms.

Q: what do you remember about the town or community where you grew up?

A: the town I grew up was mostly white people. The cops knew us so well that they sponsored a quarter mile race track for all us teenagers, to keep us off the street.

Q: how is it different from the community you live in today dad?

A: it is basically the same only, now in Orem it has tripled in population. Janeeva steel plant was the main source of industry. Where here it is the coal industry.

Q: Alright what are some of your favorite family stories that include your parents, or your siblings?

A: well... my favorite family stories is when all nine of us kids piled in the back of my dads old truck and traveled to California. Cause once a year to see my

Grandmother, and all my aunts and uncles who lived there. My favorite part of that was going to the beach.

Q: what are some of the special occasions in your family and community?

A: well the community Pleasant Groove, had strawberry days every year, rodeos and carnival. We would have a Hooley family reunion every year until my grandma and grandpa died. Then it just kinda faded out. We really didn't have them anymore.

Q: which of these special occasions are still celebrated today?

A: strawberry days are still celebrated.

Q: do you know which ones have changed or disappeared?

A: no I don't

Q: name some of the special home made foods you ate as a child? What were some of the foods you regularly ate, what were some of the foods you only ate on special occasions, and which of these foods do you still eat today?

A: um.. We had a milk cow for milk, and we made our own butter. We would grow our own potatoes, corn, and vegetables. We would raise pigs for pork, cows



for beef, chickens for eggs and meat. And now days we just run to the grocery store for the things that we need.

Q: do you have any family recipes that has been handed down in your family?

A: I don't have any recipes, I never cooked much. I left that up to my sisters and my mom.

Q: name and describe some of the games you played as a child? Which of these games are still played today, and which of these games have changed or disappeared?

A: um.. We played kick the can, knock and run, baseball, basketball. The same games you play today, they might now call it a different name.

Q: did anyone in your family ever make homemade toys dad and what kinds of toys were they?

A: yeah well the boys would make like stick horses, and the girls would make like rag dolls. And I would imagine that a lot of people still do that now days.

Q: alright did your parents ever have any hobbies or crafts?

A: well... my mom would do oil paintings and quilted. My dad built models.

Q: Do you have any favorite hobbies?

A: yeah.. I like to fish, ride my motorcycle, I like to work on my 1950 chevy pickup, but it is a lot more fun driven it.

Q: do you remember any stories told to you as a child dad?

A: yeah I grew up in Pleasant Groove and there is a legend about an indian princess who died and was laid to rest on top of Tempinogest Mountain and you can see a silloute of her body on the top of the mountain.

Q: alright do you remember any jokes or riddles from your childhood?

A: not really.... just played knock knock jokes.

Q: do you know anyone who sang?

A: I have a sister-in-law named Sue. She sings religious songs she would sing at family gatherings, and at church. And I have a nephew, his name is Dustin, he plays country music. He would sing at family reunions. He sings in Nashville now.

Q: Did you know anyone who plays musical instruments?

A: I have a nephew who plays the guitar, country music. My son Devin plays the guitar, rock and roll music. My daughter Chalet plays the clarinet. My wife Christine played the violin.

Q: did you know anyone who did any kind of dancing?

A: my daughter Chalet would dance, she did the clog dancing, and then she did ballet.

Q: alright did you or do you still do any of the above, singing, playing or dancing, and if so how has it changed dad?

A: I really wasn't much for going to dances so I cant tell you if it has changed much.

Q: alright do you remember being sick as a child?

A: uh.. I don't really don't remember being sick other than uh.. Childhood diseases going around, like missles, mumps, chickenpocs.

Q: did your family ever use any home remedies?

A: I cant remember any home remedies, other that putting mud on a bee sting, or boiling methalatum in hot water for conjection.

Q: do you remember any sayings or beliefs concerning the weather, good luck, bad luck, dreams, marriage, birth, or death, and if so can you name some of them?

A: o I have o few sayings that I could say. Like if it wasn't for good luck we wouldn't have any luck at all. Or saying break a leg for good luck. Or lifes a bitch and the you die. Or if you bones ache it is going to rain. Early to bed early to rise, makes a man heathy weathy, and wise. Or the early bird catches the worm. Or uh.. If your nose itches then someone is talking about you.

Q: what was the most valuable thing that your parents or other adults told you about getting along in life?

A: I can remember treat people how I would like to be treated, or that I need to work hard in life for the things that I want.

Q: what are some things that you remember about school dad, like school friends, teachers, recess, or after school?

A: uh.. I have one memory when I was in about sixth grade and the teacher was pretty mean to me, he would hit me on the head with his ring turned around so that it would leave a knot on the back of my head. And I was so afraid to tell my parents about it so I would get dropped off at school and then I would run home. That went on for about three weeks before I told my parents why I didn't want to

go to school. And when I told my dad the reason why, he went to school and smacked the teacher on the back of his head with his ring and asked him how he liked it. Then I was transferred to another classroom, and I didn't have to deal with any more problems like that. Then after highschool we would all get together and go to the high spot and all hang for a little while.

Q: alright what is the most amazing thing that you ever saw.

A: the only thing that comes to mind is amazing to me, is Harley-Davidson motorcycles.. I can just sit and stare at them Harley-Davidson motorcycles all day long.

Q: what historical events do you remember dad?

A: the historical events in my life umm.. The assassination of John F. Kennedy, that and the first man to walk on the moon, the Vietnam war, the explosion of the space shuttle, and the Twin Towers, and now the Gulf War.

Thanks Dad

Now I am interviewing my Mom, Christine Hooley.

Q: what is your full name?

A: Lajuana Christine Hooley

Q: and are you called by any nicknames?

A: Um.. Most of my family calls me Chrissy.

Q: and how did you get your nickname?

A: a.. I don't think that I could spell Lajuana or Christine, so I think Chrissy was just shorter.

Q: who gave you that nickname?

A: Just my family, my older brothers and sisters, and my mom and dad.

Q: and who calls you by your nickname now?

A: mostly just close family. Usually at work and stuff like that I am called Christine.

Q: where do you live?

A: I live now in Elmo on Hooley hill.

Q: have you lived anywhere else?

A: yes, um.. In California.

Q: Have you traveled anywhere?

A: we have just traveled to and from California. Utah, we have went to Pennsylvania for a family reunion.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Bellflower California.

Q: when were you born?

A: in December, well on December 19 1964.

Q: Are you married?

A: yes

Q: what is your spouse's name?

A: Well that would be your dad, which you just interviewed before me, and his name is Rodney Gene Hooley.

Q: where was he born?

A: He was born in American Fork Utah.

Q: when was he born?

A: he was born on November 25 1950.

Q: do you have any children?

A: we have the older kids, but your dad and myself just have you, Devin, and your

little sister Chalet.

Q: what kind of work do you do mom?

A: I am a pharmacy technician, right now and I work full time for Boyds Family Pharmacy in Castle Dale.

Q: When did you begin doing this kind of work?

A: I started in pharmacy in 1993.

Q: and what was your first job mom?

A: my first job didn't have anything to do with pharmacies. My first job was when we moved up here from California, and I was I was a senior, and I started working for Town Bakery in Price Utah.

Q: How old were you when you first began working?

A: I was about fifteen in a half, sixteen.

Q: How much schooling do you have?

A: um.. I have some college. I went to college for a little while, and then K-mart actually put me through their pharmacy technician program.

Q: alright, are you a member of any clubs organizations or churches?

A: no not really. We belong to the LDS church, but we're not practicing Mormons

Q: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

A: yes I do, I have 8 older brothers and sisters, and I am the youngest of 9. There are 6 girls and 3 boys.

Q: can you tell me their birth dates and residence?



A: sure.. My oldest sister is Dianna and she lives in Cleveland Utah, and she was born on February 6. Then we have Nancy, she is my second sister, she lives in Pennsylvania and she was born February 22. And then there is Elsie she also lives in Pennsylvania and she was born February 25. Then I have my oldest brother Duane, he lives in California and his birthday is December 12. The middle boy is Allen, and also lives in California, and his birthday is on June 4. And the youngest boy is Billy, he also lives in California, and his birthday is on December 22. Then there is the three younger girls, which is my sister Loni, she lives in Price Utah, he date of birth is on May 1. LaDawn, she lives in California, her date of birth is April 13, and then of course me the baby.

Q: what is your Father's full name?

A: George Wagstaff Pearson Jr.

Q: can you tell me his birthplace?

A: He was born up in Spring Canyon.

Q: and on what date?

A: lets see his date of birth is on June 3 of 1925.

Q: um. What kind of work did he do mom?

A: um. Well all of the kids and Grandma they had 8 children when they lived in Carbonville, and um. Grandpa worked in the coal mines at that time um.. They moved to California and I was born in California and then Grandpa did, he actually spotted for fish um.. He drove the airplanes for the fisherman's so that they would have radio contact with him and so that they would know where the schools of fish were, and then a few years later he got into construction which that became a very good business for him.

Q: what is your mothers full name mom, and can you tell me her birthplace, birth date, and last residence?

A: yes. She was born in Salina Utah. And her date of birth was June 7 1928, and her full name is RaeDell Long Pearson.

Q: and where is their last residence?

A: They live here in Cleveland Utah by us, just a few miles away from us and they have lived in California, and St. George. But right now they are just a few miles from us.

Q: and what kind of work did she do mom?

A: Grandma has always just been a stay at home mom, and she raised us nine kids, and she never really had a job, she likes the jobs in the Mormon church. She has been very active in the Mormon church, and likes things that have anything to do with that.

Q: k.. Where did your ancestors come from?

A: my dad, George Pearson his family came from England, and my mom RaeDell their family came from Scotland.

Q: Do you recall any stories about the history of your family?

A: lets see there are probably lots of family stories but the one that comes to mind most is grandma and grandpa.. Lets see, your Grandpa Pearson, his mom and dad came from England and they started a little family in Scofield and they lived there for quite a few years. And he was the youngest, there was four sisters and then Grandpa was born. And when he was about 11 years old his mom Elsie Frost died with breast cancer. That was very, very sad for Grandpa to grow up a few years there without a mom, but of course the Grandma Pearson that I knew was Grandpa Georges step mom, but of course she was sweet also.

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Q: What do you remember about the housing you grew up in, and how is it different from the housing you live in today?

A: okay lets see.. Well when I grew up in California we lived in track homes and most of my life we lived in a couple of different homes, but they were usually two story homes and we would always have a swimming pool in the back yard. And we would entertain quite a bit, we had lots of parties and fun things that went on. But the house where we live today, our house where you live Devin, is just on a hill, and we don't have any neighbors. So it is a little different not living in a neighborhood but that is okay.

Q: What is different about the community where you grew up and the community you live in today?

A: um.. The community that I grew up in, in California, it just life was so busy, and I think that where we live now in Emery County, it is just a small town atmosphere and the people are just closer and they seem to care a little bit more about what goes on in the community and town and people seem to just come together and try to help out with what ever they can when it is needed.

Q: What are some of your favorite family stories that include your parents or your siblings?

A: I would say growing up in a large family because I was the youngest one and I got very spoiled. But we would come to Utah quite a bit during the year and my mom would stuff all of us in the car and that was quite an adventure coming up here to see Grandma Fish, which was Grandma Pearson's mother.

Q: what were some of the special occasions in your family and community?

A: well.. I think mostly it was family because we would have lots of parties at our house, we would have lots of swimming parties, Grandma and Grandpa like to entertain and so mostly it was pool parties. We would go to the beach and stuff

like that, but Christmas time was also special, just things like grandma made all of the holidays special for us.

Q: Mom can you name some of the special home made foods you ate as a child?

A: o.. Grandma baked and cooked all kinds of things, I think the thing I remember most is when she would do home made donuts I would wake up from a nap and the whole table would be covered with spud nuts, and that is something that I remember. But she was a very good cook.

Q: do you have any special recipes that have been handed down in your family that would you be willing to share?

A: yeah, there is quit a few recipes but I think the favorite of mine is the Pearson Family Believes A Happy Home Recipe Is...

4 cups of love

2 cups of loyalty

3 cups of forgiveness

1 cup of friendship

1 barrel of laughter

5 spoons of hope

2 spoons of tenderness

4 quarts of self-confidence

1 cup of kindness

2 cups of understanding

Take love and loyalty and mix thoroughly with self confidence. Blend with tenderness, kindness, and understanding. Add friendship and hope. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake with sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings of forgiveness.

I think that has to be my favorite.

Q: Can you name and describe some of the games you played as a child?

A: lets see we played all kinds of things, actually I remember we had honey bees in California and it was kind of funny cause they wouldn't sting you but we would get them and we would rap string around them, and we would fly them like a little kite. It was really fun but that was things that we did. We had lots of fun growing up.

Q: which of these games do you think have changed or disappeared?

A: I just think that kids now days have just have more of the technology, like computer games, t.v., nintendo, playstation, x box, things like that as I was growing up we didn't have that.

Q: Did anyone in your family ever make any home made toys?

A: um.. We would make different things like with paper, paper airplanes and all my brothers would make wood cars and boats. I don't really recall any by the time I was growing up we had lots of stores where we could just go to stores and get what we wanted.

Q: did your parents have any special hobbies or crafts?

A: Grandpa was usually always at work, and Grandma would stay home and she

loved to cook, she loved to soe, and to make quilts.

Q: Do you have any favorite hobbies?

A: I really enjoy working outside in the garden, I like things to look pretty and in place. I think that comes from Grandpa, he likes making sure that the grass is green, and all the weeds are pulled.

Q: Do you remember any stories told to you as a child?

A: I remember when my mom would tell me stories, lots of different stories about how when she grew up in Castle Gate, which is now you cant even tell that there were houses on the hills, but my Grandma fish had a house up there and it was always fun to go see her. But I remember when my mom would tell me stories about how one time Butch Cassidy stole the pay role from Castle Gate, that was way big news, and just stories about small town things. She was in third grade and her dad died in the mine up there. There were three daughters and so my Grandma was left to raise them on her own. And he had died, lets see I think it was on December 12 so it was right around Christmas time so it was really hard on them, but I think the one I remember most is that Butch Cassidy story.

Q: Alright mom, did you know anyone who sang?

A: um.. My three older sisters, grandma usually had them in lots of singing, and dancing and lots of programs.

Q: did you know anyone who played musical instruments?

A: we were quite a musical family, I had a brother who played the ecordian, and there was violins in our family and deffinantly the piano.

Q: did you know anyone who did any kind of dancing?

A: well our family was pretty much involved in singing and dancing, and Grandma, we did a lot of things with the church, we did a lot of rhode shows, we all kind of danced I don't know if there was one perfesional person that I knew that danced.

Q: do you remember being sick as a child mom?

A: I think we were pretty healthy other that I remember one year we got the london fleu when I was just in grade school. And that took the family down for at least a week, and no one could come and visit us. The other thing that I remember was I would get strep throte, and I never got my tonsils out until we moved up here to Utah and I was like 19 years old.

Q: Do you remember using any home remedies?

A: um.. We did, Grandma never really believed in going to the doctor unless we were pretty close to death. So I remember we would use a lot of menthalatum and steam, and oatmeal, mustard, things like that.

Q: Do you remember any sayings or beliefs concerning the weather, good luck, bad luck, marriage, birth, death.

A: I don't really remember any sayings, I just remember growing up, I would say I am only getting married one time. I do know there is a lot of sayings out there my mind just doesn't want to work right now.

Q: What was the most valuable thing your parents or other adults ever told you about getting along in life?

A: I think grandma and grandpa were very good examples about working very, very hard in life for what you want, and achieving your goals.

Q: what are some of the things you remember about school, like school friends, teachers, recess, and after school?

A: um.. We moved from Bellflower to Saredose when I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and I went to John F. Kennedy school and that was kind of a big transition for me, I remember I had to meet knew friends, and to me that was kind of hard. It was only a few miles away. But it was still kind of tromatizing for me but we had fun growing up. I remember my first year of highschool in California and it was really fun we were involved with lots of friends that did things and activities and it was just a grate time.

Thank you very much Mom and Dad this is Devin Hooley, family history report 2006...