

Life Biography

Life Biography of Margaret Wood

I was born in 1950 at the Indian Hospital in Parker, Arizona. My mother was Helen Mae Watchman Wood, Navajo Indian from Ft. Defiance on the Navajo Reservation. My father was Charlie Wood, Seminole Indian from southeastern Oklahoma. My parents met, not at boarding school as so many people are inclined to think, but on the main street, Route 66, in Flagstaff, Arizona. My father had moved west with his family. My mother had moved from the Navajo Reservation to attend what was then Arizona State College. They married in 1944 and my brother, Ron, was born 1946. My parents moved to Poston in 1949 hoping to homestead along with dozens of other Navajo and Hopi Indian families. It turned out they were no eligible for that program but my mother began teaching at the Poston Elementary School and my father worked as a carpenter. My younger brother, Chuck, was born in 1952 in Parker. In 1959 our family moved to Tuba City, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. My mother taught and my father continued with carpentry. In 1962, we moved to Flagstaff, Arizona. My mother's health declined, she quit teaching and she died suddenly in 1964. I graduated from Flagstaff High School in 1967, attended Northern Arizona University, then finished with a B. A. in Elementary Education at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. As my mother had done, I taught first grade. My one year stint was at the Ft. Defiance Elementary School in Ft. Defiance, Arizona. I secured a Master's in Library Science from the University of Denver in 1973. I worked as Director of Library Services at Navajo Community College for one year. I married in 1974 and settled in Phoenix, Arizona where I worked for the Phoenix Public Library as a librarian. We started our family, raised two sons and I started my work as a fiber artist.