



KOYOUE TUKADU:
PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

The Numu who lived near present day Lovelock called themselves Kupa Tukadu or Ground Squirrel Eaters. They met with other neighboring bands for harvest times, social gatherings, and defense. In November, the band traveled to Winnemucca Lake for the mud-hen drive. They fought the Numu Tukadu who were said to eat people, and helped the Kooyooe Tukadu fight off the Pitt River Indians who were trying to claim the Pyramid Lake area.

It is said that the Kupa Tukadu band, living at the end of the Humboldt River, were victim to unnecessary killing by the Walker party. During the Pyramid Lake Wars the Kupa Tukadu were quick to fight off the settlers' army, but troubles with the settlers continued. For example, farmers began to poison water holes with hopes of killing the troublesome jackrabbit. This act killed off much of the Kupa Tukaus' food supply. It also poisoned many Numu who drank from these water holes since they were unable to read the warning signs. Around 1868, the Central Pacific Railroad and the US government gave a small amount of land to this band. The Kupa Tukadu leader lost this land while gambling so the band was forced to set up camp wherever they could, until they were pushed out by more settlers. Since the Kupa Tukadu buried their dead with all of their belongings some settlers began rummaging through their graves forcing the band to bury their dead secretly outside of Lovelock, now these grave sites are know as the Indian Cemetery of Lovelock.

Since the Numu were not allowed to attend school with the settlers Sarah Winnemucca started a school that taught English to the Numu children. Finally, in the late 1920's children from the Lovelock Colony were allowed to attend the Lovelock Public School. The Numu built their homes on the 20 acres of land they acquired using the tools and materials of the settlers. The Kupa Tukadu no longer had land to support their family which made them dependent on work in the settlers' community. The Numu acquired water rights for 17.3 of the 20 acres that they lived on and were allowed 3 feet per acre a year. In 1934, three colony families started a 15 by 150 foot vegetable garden and were accused of high water usage, raising the water price. Three years later when the Southwest ditch was cleared the water was used to irrigate the Lovelock Colony gardens. Today, farming is still the Lovelock Colonies' main source of employment.

The Lovelock Colony is part of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. They have five council members with a two year term that meet with the council once a month. On March 14, 1968 the colony adopted the Indian Reorganization Act Constitution and By-laws and their tribal government was approved by congress.

Lovelock Colony

