



KOYOOOE TUKADU:
PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

When the Numu were free to roam, three different bands lived in the Mason and Smith Valleys. The Kammu Tukadu, or Rabbit eaters, lived in the Campbell Ranch area five miles north of Yerington. The Tobusi Tukadu, or bulb eaters, stayed on the east and west fork of the Walker River near Wellington. The Poo-zi Tukadu, also bulb eaters, lived in the Desert Creek area. Here the bands moved about with the change of seasons and gathered food. In the fall the bands went to their mountain camps in the Sweetwater Mountains, Pine Grove Hills, and Mount Grant to gather pine nuts. In the summer they stayed in the Smith and Mason Valley area gathering plant foods. The bands were known to frequent Walker Lake, Desert Creek, and nearby rivers to fish.

This area was where the first Euro-Americans travelers were seen heading south to the gold fields in California. Later travelers headed across the Wassak Mountains toward Aurora, passing through the southern Mason Valley. Eventually travelers noticed the rich wild grass along the Walker River and decided to settle on the good, fertile land to farm and ranch. Smith and Mason Valleys were named after two ranchers who settled in the area in the 1850s.

The rancher's cattle ate the plants the Numu used for food, miners cut down the plentiful pine forests as timber for their mines, farmers and ranchers blocked off streams that would prohibit the way the fish swam, and brought disease that traditional medicins could not cure. Adapting, the Numu began to work for these same settlers. The men and women would cook, wash, cut wood, and harvest crops in exchange for food or 50 cents a day. The Carson and Colorado Railroad was built through the north end of the Mason Valley in 1880, bringing Chinese laborers who introduced opium. The Numu that used opium to ease back pain and sore muscles often became addicted. This addiction disrupted families and brought many to an early death.

The settlers took it as their duty to civilize the Numu. They took the children from their parents and sent them to schools to learn the settlers' culture and language. In 1883 the Nixon Indian Boarding School was created and in 1890 the Carson Indian Boarding School. Although the children were provided with the tools to understand and survive their new lifestyle, many lost contact with their parents and in turn the tradition of their people.

Due to the Act of May 18, 1916, the first steps were taken to establish the Yerington Reservation. The Numu resisted living in this fenced land, but realized it was the best chance they had to survive in this new culture. In 1936 the Campbell Ranch was purchased, allowing more land for the Numu to keep as their own.

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