



KOYOOE TUKADU:  
PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



## ◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

The Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe Tribes shared the Truckee Meadows area. The Numu were on the eastern part of the Truckee Meadows with no distinct boundaries. With the settlers came fenced boundaries and the natives were forced out of the land they had lived on for so long. Many Numu lived and worked on the settlers' farms, as farm hands and domestics, constructing their old fashioned homes on the side of the river. "As one elderly man remembered, "those were the warmest houses there ever were. They were built so close and tight, the wind would never come through" (Numa Page 74).

In the late 1800s, many members of the Truckee Meadow band lived by the railroad in Wadsworth then followed it to Sparks. With Reno rapidly growing many Numu were forced out of their newfound homes. Being moved around and never knowing who would come next to take your home must have been a difficult way to live. The Numu were considered homeless - the land had been used so differently than what the settlers were accustomed. They were not allowed on the streets after dark or to eat in restaurants (food had to be ordered from the back), and they were often denied jobs.

In 1917 the government bought 20 acres of land between Reno and Sparks for a reservation that was to be shared with the Shoshone and Washoe Tribes. They dug irrigation ditches for small gardens and drinking water.

Here the Numu tried to preserve their culture the best they could, but prohibited hand games. The tribes were given settlers games, books, music, and lessons in cooking and sewing. "The Washoe gamblers were mostly young men, and they would come over on the Paiute side of the colony to challenge the Paiute gamblers, who were mostly older women." (Numa pg 77) The traditional hand games were mostly psychological, but also required luck and skill.

A day school, going up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, was established on Colony Road and Second Street. However, due to a lack of repairs the children on the reservation began to attend the public school. From 1945 until 1975 the children from the colony were bused to the Orvis Ring School. Now they attend public schools in the Reno and Sparks area.

The colony has formed its own government with selected chairmen that serve four year terms.