



KOYOOTE TUKADU:
PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

The Toe Tukadu, Cattail or Tule Eaters, lived in the Stillwater Marshes. The abundant tule was good for food, building materials, and tools. Bulrush roots were chewed like raw celery, the heads were roasted, and the pollen was eaten from the hand. Tule shafts were tied in bundles making boats to collect the duck eggs or to hunt in the marshes. Tule could also be woven into mats for bedding, as siding on Kanees or Wickiups, and duck decoys were made from duck skins with feathers placed over a tule frame. Tule was also home for animals such as ducks, fish, and waterfowl.

The Koosi Pa Tukadu or Muddy Water Eaters lived in the Fallon area. The Koosi Pa Tukadu also visited the Stillwater Marshes to gather fish, mud hens, and duck eggs or to simply play hand games, talk, sing, and dance with the Toi Tukadu band.

The first to come into this land was the Spanish wagon train. The band killed the men and ransacked the wagon. Next, the pioneers came with no respect for the natives' rights, land, women, or laws. After the Pyramid Lake Wars, Fort Churchill was built in this area due to its central location to Walker Reservation, Pyramid Reservation, and the Stillwater/Fallon area. Although the Churchill War was never "officially" recorded it is said that soldiers drove the Toi Tukadu from their marshes to the Carson Sink Desert. Many natives were killed defending their homes. Eventually the Toi Tukadu were allowed to return to the marshes. However, the Koosi Pa Tukadu were permanently moved from the Lahontan Valleys' rich farmlands to join the Toi Tukadu in the marshes.

Unable to hunt or move about freely the Bureau of Indian Affairs provided the Paiutes with food. They went from an abundant source of fish, pine nuts, and game to rationed bacon, coffee, flour, beans, and salt. In 1890, 50 Toi Tukadu got 160 acre portions of fertile farmland and in the next four years 140 families got another 160 acres each. With a total of 31,360 acres the Numu were now able to farm. The band requested help with irrigation ditches and equipment, but their request was denied. Although only 1/3 of the original 196 land-holders were persuaded to trade their 160 acre plots for 10 acres with water rights, all of the landowners were moved to the 4,640 acres of irrigable land which became the Fallon Reservation. The extra reservation spots were given to some Shoshone tribe-members. Later the Paiute-Shoshone business Council was created. The original 31,360 acres of Paiute land became the first site of a Newlands Projects' attempt to reclaim some desert land.

In 1908, a day school for Native Americans was established 10 miles east of Fallon and four miles west of Stillwater. The day school gave wheat, barley, potatoes, alfalfa seed and equipment to Toi Tukadu Farmers. The Toi Tukadu without equipment worked for farmers, traveled to vineyards to work in California, or moved to Fallon. During a flood everyone in the Fallon area fled up to Rattlesnake hill where the band stayed after the water cleared out.

Stillwater & Fallon
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