



KOYOOE TUKADU:
PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

Two Numu bands inhabited the Agai Pah (Trout Lake). The Agai Tukadu, trout eaters, lived on the north end while the Pakwe Tukadu, fish eaters, lived on the south end. In 1844 Fremont renamed the Agai Pah Walker Lake and Agai Hoop'a Walker River in honor of Joseph Walker. From time immemorial these bands were nomadic and lived based on a seasonal cycle. Throughout the year the Numu dried out and saved what food they could for the winter. In April or May the bands gathered to catch the spawning trout, the summer was a time for gathering seeds, berries, and hunting game, and the fall brought a pine nut gathering at the mountain camps in the Mount Grant area of the Wassuk Mountain Range.

The early 1800s brought trappers and explorers such as Ogden, Walker, and Fremont. Next, gold seekers passed by. Eventually, miners began to stay in the Virginia City, Aurora, and Austin areas. The farmers and ranchers that settled in the Walker River area created dams that prevented the fish from spawning and threatened the offspring. The fish runs disappeared along with timber, pine nuts, and game. Illness like the measles, cholera, and typhoid brought death.

In 1880 a railroad was built on Numu land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs received \$750 while the Numu was promised free transportation and money for any livestock damaged. After the government threatened to sue the railroad company, free rides given without a hassle and the ability to transport fish and produce (for sale at markets) was granted.

Fishing, farming, mining, land and the railroad caused arguments that forced many natives out of their homes. In 1859 the Walker Indian Reservation was established and in 1874 an executive order was signed. In May of 1902 families on the reservation received \$25 in cash and \$275 in supplies. The families were given 20 acres of irrigable land with additional land for grazing, and timber. The rest of the land was open for settlement. Four years later the Walker Lake Reservation was reduced in size to 85,760 acres. Part of the land reduced from the reservation was Walker Lake and its surroundings. From 1928 to 1936 as much as 323,000 acres of land was regained. Until the 1930s there were continuous farming problems related to water. Spring runoff washed out the dams that were built for these fields and the summer brought too little water. Eventually a reservoir was built, 1,024 acres of storage for water was set aside for the land that would flood, and in 1936 water rights were established ending an era of struggle.

Walker River

