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UAIC Tribe

History

When people think of American Indian tribes they generally think of a large united and singular group of people. Certain factors have complicated this though, from tribal alliances, the grouping of bands together with obligatory names by the government, and even the combining of tribes by the government for convenience. There have even been cases where traditional enemies were not only forced to live in close proximity to one another, but where they were even grouped together as the same tribe. The UAIC is a united community in Northeastern California, the United Auburn Indian Community, but they are enrolled as a single tribe. They are made up of both Miwok and Maidu, though they're mostly Miwok (Auburnrancheria.com). Nevertheless, some Miwok *are* Maidu, at least federally, because Maidu traditionally relates more to language and both groups are from the same area, the Sierra Nevadas (Conrotto). And these are language groups anyway, so even though the government and many Anthropologists look at them through this lens, it is not how they see themselves.

During the period of Euro-American contact they were greatly impacted by the Spanish and the Gold Rush. The Spanish mandated Christianity and enforced the encomienda slavery system, considered at the time to be an enlightening gift given to the indigenous people, at least those who were not killed by disease or conquerors. There are still many Catholic apologists. Both economic opportunities and slavery awaited different members of the tribe with the brutal and inhumane methods used by Johann Sutter who brought on the rush and who built up/ stripped down the west coast. The tribe was first recognised by the government in the early 1900s. They were affected both by allotment and termination and most of their lands sold. The tribe was once again recognised in a formal act of Congress by bill H.R. 4228 that amended the constitution (Auburnrancheria.com)

Since then they've used the IGRA and agreements with the state, as the act was informally amended due to a SCOTUS decision to allow the states to deal exclusively with tribes in matters of gaming, to build and then profit from the Thunder Valley casino. They've turned these profits into an Indian school, a golf course, several community-oriented projects, and other avenues. They are a small tribe and individuals don't gain full tribal privileges until they come of age at adulthood (Hiestand), so they appear even smaller than they are due to their many young people.

Culture

The Miwok and Maidu people could be considered one of the more peaceful tribes. Though they lived in smaller bands, they generally didn't get involved in too many intertribal scuffles as was the case with those who had more limited resources and/or warrior cultures. As per Language, Miwok means people in Miwok, and Miwok as a term comes from the spoken language. This means that Miwok peoples spoke Miwok. Maidu also relates more to interconnected linguistics and the people associated. The UAIC tribe was united but came from somewhat different

backgrounds linguistically.

Coyote, the trickster, features prominently in their as in many Indian religions. The religion of their region was that of the Kuksu religion and later the Dreamer religion (Parkhurst), though after Spanish and American occupation, there are numerous Christians. The Ghost Dance would also have come through the region. The tribe is quite small, so research regarding such breakdowns of a personal and spiritual nature are uncommon, but associated bands would have followed traditional Maidu spiritual beliefs in totems and spirits (Lewis). They did enjoy a small northern-California band lifestyle and thus a simple ceremonial life. Singing occurred during some ceremonies (Parkhurst). At present they enjoy a fusion of traditional lifestyles and contemporary mainstream lifestyles, ranging from members focused on traditional educational, learning styles where oral histories are a focus, to a focus instead on the most mainstream-approved education styles where children do worksheets in a small classroom setting and wear cross-training shoes while verifying their answers via the internet.

Music

The Maidu Bear Dance is still performed at many powwows and ceremonies. Miwok music and Maidu are similar, both being from the California/Great Basin area. Song structures are relatively simple and layered, relying more on a consistent building of sounds and textures rather than complicated ranges and rhythms (Parkhurst). The songs often include emphatic pushes on the front end of their melodies, similar in execution to the rhythmic elements of swing, while the mirror-relation for drums and melody also holds true. The oral content of songs is mostly vocables. Since European contact, their musical preferences have ranged from traditional to Euro-American.

Something Inside Is Broken is a recent Rock Opera involving employees and members of the tribe based on the tribal experiences of the region with the involvement of businessman Johann 'John' Sutter. His community was built by the sweat and blood of Indians, though for a long time he was considered akin to the quintessential frontiersman hero and such contributions are often omitted. And this tribe was in the area. He is now known for rape and enslavement. In fact, he was so cruel that arguments regarding him come down to whether or not he was a rapist in addition to a murderer and kidnapper, and whether or not he made Indians live in cages and eat from troughs (Hyer). In the spirit of Indian humour, this musical endeavour treats the audience to the worst a people experience while still finding the joy and indomitable spirit of the Indian people (Kohler, Wallace).

Contemporary Issues

There are a number of different issues of concern for the tribe. First and foremost for the tribe is the casino. It's their chief source of income, and once the Thunder Valley Casino was completed and made into an entertainment destination, income rose and stabilised. In 2017, they had a case reach the SCOTUS regarding land possession and use for gambling. Before that, they had to consider issues regarding the waiving of fees at certain tables.

With the completion of the hotel complex and additional money-making facilities, the tribe could turn their attention to other issues. The tribe has shown interest in being included on the board for water concerns (swrbc). California has

been in a very serious drought, and with the UAIC's relative stability among Indian tribes and financial position, they may be in a position to contribute.

The tribe has, like many other tribes, shown a distinct interest in the arts that is absent from many public schools, providing funding and spearheading many unique projects. On Native Ground is one of those, an FNX television show that featured coverage of the NODAPL protest as well as various interviews of all kinds of Native artists such as musician David Hiestand and crew of *Something Inside is Broken*, which they also funded (Kohler).

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