

# THEN & NOW

## The Kumeyaay

BY MIDGE NEFF-LECLAIR, PhD, HISTORY



I was in 4th grade, and we were studying U.S. history, we had an assignment to find where our ancestors came from to America, and if any of them came over on the Mayflower. I asked my Grandmother, she laughed and said “no, they didn’t come on the Mayflower, they were here to meet it!” This began long conversations about our ancestors, and years of research into Native American history.

many Indian Nations on this continent with systems of government, trading, fishing and agriculture thousands of years before Columbus reached the Western hemisphere. Some had developed advanced civilizations, created beautiful arts and crafts, invented calendars, systems of mathematics, and organized governments. Some were warlike, but most preferred to co-exist peacefully.

pyramids--many are still standing.

One in Cohokia, Illinois covers a larger area than the biggest Egyptian pyramid. The Pueblo Indians of the southwest built the first American condos and apartment houses in mountain cliffs, while along the Pacific coast they used natural resources, making trails into and over the mountains. They invented the hammock, were the first to gather rubber, and to use the tar balls that washed ashore to waterproof their

tule reed bundle boats.

The Kumeyaay people share a history around San Diego and Baja California, having similarities in their language. The Kumeyaay belong to the Yuman branch of the Hokan language family. The Yuman languages include Kumeyaay, Pai Pai, Kiliwa, Cocopah, Mojave, Maricopa, Quechan, Yavapai, Havasupai, and Hualapai, extending as far as the Kurok in northern California (some preferred to be known as Diegueno,

by those close to the Missions after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo). Mission Indians was the name given to all the Indians in Southern California by the U.S. Government, even if they had not been part of the Mission system. There are three distinct dialects in the Kumeyaay language, identified as “Ipai, Tiapai, and Kumeyaay,” spoken by the many different clans living in the area from the Imperial Valley to the Pacific Ocean. The Bureau

Many, many years ago, when

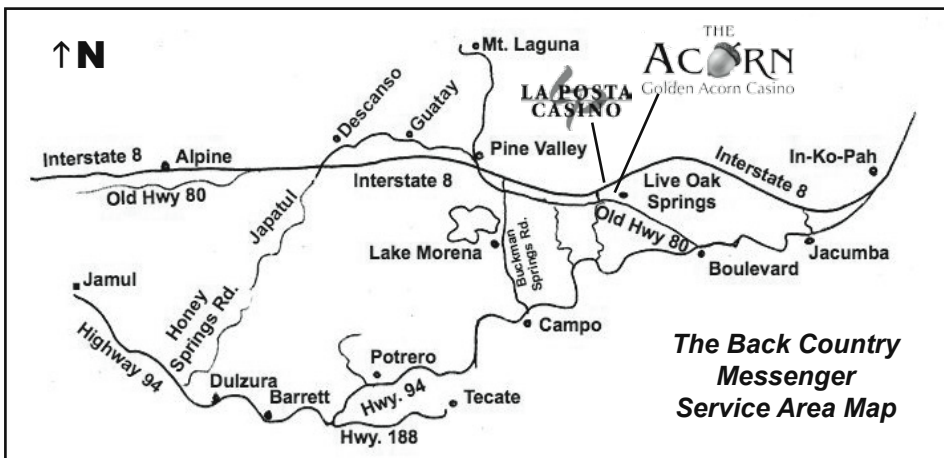
Much to my surprise I discovered there were

Mound building Indians made thousands of

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### A Back Country Guide

To help you find your way around the back country



**ALPINE:** Motels, fast foods, restaurants, shops, health care, gas&lodging, historical significance, Viejas Casino and Factory Outlet Center, Post office, Churches, library, sheriff and fire protection, and community center.

**DESCANSO:** The Descanso Junction restaurant, the Trading Post, Perkins Store center, Camp Oliver, Historical sites, Post office, Churches, CDF, schools, and library along with a community center.

**PINE VALLEY:** Gas, restaurants, grocery, dental, lodging, County Park, camping & hiking, horseback riding, historical sites, ORV area and U S Border Patrol facility, churches, library, Post office and community center.

**CAMPO:** The Railroad Museum, Motor Transport Museum, Stone Store Museum, fishing and camping at Lake Morena, gas, groceries, Lake Morena RV park, and El Rancho Bar and Grill, home of Benny's famous ribs. The Campo

Diner, Circle K, Trading Post, Cameron Corners Convenience Store, Mtn. Health Center, Pacific Crest Hiking Trail, U S Border Patrol, ORV sites in Corral Canyon and along the US Mexican border, Churches and a library, CDF and Campo Fire, post office and community center. In addition the Golden Acorn Casino.

**POTRERO:** The Potrero Store, Café 94, Post office, CDF, County Park, Library, schools, a Christmas tree farm, hiking, camping and a community center.

**TECATE:** the gateway to old Mexico, a passport is required to enter the United States through the International border.

**BARRETT:** home of camping, fishing, and the best all you can eat fish fry.

**BOULEVARD:** The La Posta Casino and restaurant, Live Oak Springs Resort, camping, cabins, grocery stores, gas, liquor & deli, markets,

auto mechanics, library, community center, trading post, hotels, coins and collectables, Salsa Lynda Mexican Food, and the world famous Wisteria Candy Cottage, border patrol, fire and sheriff depts. The “Sacred Rock Reserve” is a live-in park that offers overnight camping and motor home traveler’s spaces with full hook ups. Restrooms, showers, swimming pool, and many large oak trees are within the reserve.

**JACUMBA:** The Hot Springs Resort and Spa, Laundromat, grocery store, health center, library, community center, park, glider port, and churches in town. Off the interstate is the De Anza Resort and two gas stations.

**IN-KO-PAH:** Home to an equipment sales center and the Desert View Tower. The tower is a roadside attraction with gifts, shade, drinks, restrooms and a view for many miles.

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