

## **Bay Area News Archives: Pit River Tribe News Segments from the Early 1970s**

### **Bay Area Television Archive: ["Pit River Indians Claim and PG&E"](#)**

KPIX news report from Shasta County in north eastern California on June 5th 1970, where a PG&E employee's holiday camp has been occupied by a group of Pit River Indians, who claim ownership of the land. Lawyer Aubrey Grossman explains: "It has always been their land. This claim is buttressed by the decision of the Indian Claims Commission, which was set up to determine questions like this. And they did determine - I think in 1959 - that in the year 1853 all of this land was owned by the Pit River Indians. And it was illegally taken away by the adoption of a Federal statute."

### **Bay Area Television Archive: ["Pit River Indians"](#)**

KPIX's Mike Lee reports from Shasta County in north eastern California on June 24th 1970, where a group of Pit River Indians are occupying a PG&E employee's holiday camp, to reclaim ancestral land. Opens with silent views of a court house and the countryside, followed by a press conference with an Indian spokesman: "Our primary objective all along has been the U.S. government and that they - not PG&E - hold all of our land. And that if we're trying to get land back, we should be trying to get it back from the government."

**Bay Area Television Archive: ["Pit River Indian Trespass Trial in Burney"](#)** KPIX's Mike Lee reports from Burney Office Building in Shasta County, Northern California, on October 9th 1970. There are (silent) views of the surrounding countryside and inside the Office Building, where a group of Pit River Indians are on trial accused of trespassing on PG&E property. The Indian's attorney claims: "These defendants could not have committed a crime because they sincerely believe it is their land and they have no criminal intent." Another Indian spokesman goes on to describe how local corporations may be: "Willing to support us in our fight against the Federal government for return of lands."

**Bay Area Television Archive: ["1970 Pit River Indians Reject Financial Settlement"](#)** KPIX Eyewitness News report from December 26th 1970 in Shasta County (California) featuring a press conference by Pit River Indians (including Ross Montgomery Sr), who are rejecting a financial settlement offer from PG&E in order to resolve a dispute over ownership of ancestral lands. One spokeswoman makes an emotional declaration during a press conference: "I'm tired of trying to be like a white person all the time ... to be forced into thinking like one. I'm an Indian! ... This is blood money as far as I'm concerned and I can't accept it."

### **Bay Area Television Archive: ["Pit River & Alcatraz American Indian meetings in San Francisco"](#)**

KPIX's Evan White reports from downtown San Francisco on March 25th 1971, where representatives of the Pit River Indians and American Indians occupying Alcatraz are shown

publicizing their land claims at PG&E and the Southern Pacific Railroad Building. White interviews several activists including Ross Montgomery Sr. and John Trudell, who states: "We're serving notice on the tour boats. We don't want ... them ... bringing tourists close to the island, so that they can look at us ... It's not a zoo out there." Montgomery Sr. comments on their reception at PG&E: "When I went to school, how did it go? We the people of the United States of America, so forth and so forth. Now it's we the big corporations of America. These are the people that control America. It's not we the people. This is why I think that we were met here today as we were with armed guards." Also features interviews with spokesmen for PG&E, the Southern Pacific Railroad and tour boat operators.