

The Sagehen Dance  
by James Shoulderblade

Hea'a naesóhtóhnó'eāā'e hehpeto étanéhe'xove naměšéme  
Perhaps more than 60 years ago my grandfather

náhtatséhe'óhtseha tóhtoo'e tséxho'sóetsése mo'óhtávěšenéva'óhéasóho.  
took me out on the prairie where sagehens were dancing.

Náhtáhévoo'séhaenoto tséohkéhetóhomó'hetsése. Naa tséstavóomono  
He went to show them to me how they were dancing. And when I saw them,

kahkése tséstáho'evonéhótótse. Tséhvě'hoomono  
close we crawled up to them. When I looked at them

éhnéma'onéééeo'o. Naa o'xe hoóma é'óhkepo'o'ta.  
they were in a circle. And on the opposite side there was a space open.

Táháohe o'xe hoóma tsénééese  
There on the opposite side (of) those standing,

éhne'óhkéhóxovo'áhéotse na'éstse, é'óhkeaméstósemóho hetsénoono.  
one would run across, he would drag his wings.

E'óhkéháevavetsénooná'xeo'o.  
They made a lot of noise with their feathers.

Néhéóhe tséhpo'o'tatse éstaohkenéé'e. Náháohe o'xe  
There in the open he would stand. There on the side

tsénééese nonámé'tó'e éhne'óhkéhóxovo'áhéotseo'o.  
those standing, one by one they would run across.

E'óhkeaméstósemovo hetsénoonevóho.  
They would drag their wings.

E'óhkeněšenéma'o'emá'seněhešéhóxovo'áhéotseo'o. Naa  
They did that until they finished crisscrossing. And

óhněhmé'ěhnětseséstse éše'hóho é'óhkeéváhe'néóhtseo'o.  
when it came up, the sun, they would disperse.

E'óhkéséno'eohtseo'o váno'ěšé'e. Náhněheševóomoo'o  
They went into the sagebrush. That's the way I saw them

tséxho'sóévose mo'óhtávěšenéva'óhéoseo'o.  
when the sagehens danced.

Naa tséstšéhe'kéahéto ná'óhkéhetóhomó'heohe.  
And when I was little I danced like that.

Ná'óhkeněhetóhomó'heohe. Ná'óhkeva'óhéosévóhomó'heohe,  
I used to dance like that. I danced the prairie chicken dance,

mo'óhtávěšenéva'óhéosévóhomó'hestótse.  
the sagehen dance.

Ná'óhkemaeněhetaa'e vo'ěstaneo'o, "Táaxa'e mo'óhtávěšenéva'óhéáso!"  
People would say to me, "Let's see the sagehen!"

Ná'óhkeasěstóhomó'heohe. Náněhešéhéne'ena  
I would start dancing. That's the way I know

tséohkéhešého'sóévóse mo'óhtávěšenéva'óhéoseo'o.  
how the sagehens dance.

Hena'háanehe.  
That's it.

NOTE: This text was tape recorded by Mr. Shoulderblade ca. 1979.