Community Ring Dance

Informant/Performer: Leon Manuel Lemoore, CA, 1959

Source: Alfred Pietroforte Yokuts and Paiute Songs and Culture Happy Camp, Calif.: Naturegraph, 2006



Background Information

According to Leon Manuel, the "Community Ring Dance" was danced with the small neighboring tribes which included the Chi, Waiu, Nutunutu, and the Tachi. At a special time of the year and at a predetermined place, these tribes would get together for singing, dancing, and merrymaking. When the festivities were over, the entire group, which consisted of men, women, and children, would form a circle and hold each others' hands in preparation for the "Ring Dance." Others formed an orchestra using all sorts of rhythm instruments for the purpose of keeping time for the dance. This was one of the ways the men and boys got to hold hands with women and girls of the other tribes.