

BLEZDINGELE (The Swallow)
(Lithuania)

This is an agricultural dance depicting, like the swallow's flight, the peasant's farewell to his fields in the autumn and expected return in the spring. During World War II when the "V" became a symbol of victory, this dance was called the "Victory Dance".

Music: Record: Folkraft 1104 A

Formation: Columns of cpls, W on MR. Cpls hold corner of handkerchief between them, W also has one in R hand.

Steps: Skip*. Swallow Step: Step R swd to R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2) Swallow Step may be done to L also.
*Described in Vols I-VIII "Folk Dances from Near and Far" published by Folk Dance Federation of California, 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, California

Measures

Pattern

FIG I

A (Slow) - FWD AND BACK

1-8 Step in place, M L, W R (ct 1); swing handkerchief fwd (ct 2). Step M R, W L and swing handkerchief bwd (meas 2). Continue fwd and back 4 times total

B (Fast) - UNDER AND OVER

1-8 All skipping, lead cpl turn around, M hold W handkerchief in L and go under arch of cpl #2. Make arch for cpl #3 and continue alternating under and over to bottom of the set. On reaching the top, all cpls follow the action of cpl #1. Turn at bottom, changing hands and handkerchiefs, continue until all are back to place.

FIG II

A (Slow) - DISHRAG

1-2 Repeat Fig I A, meas 1-2.

3-4 Swing handkerchief fwd and up to form an arch, 3-step turn once around under arch.

5-6 Step in place, M R, W L, swing handkerchief bwd; step M L, W R and swing handkerchief fwd.

7-8 Swing handkerchief bwd and up to form an arch, 3-step turn once around under arch.

1-8 restd Repeat Fig II A.

B (Fast) UNDER AND OVER

1-8 Repeat Fig I B.

FIG III

A (Slow) "V"

1-8 Starting M R, W L dance 8 Swallow Steps, M passing behind ptr. Arms are raised shoulder high and waved up and down slowly like a bird flying. Lead M stay close, behind ptr, while the others separate farther to form a "V".

1-8 With outside arms raised continue 8 Swallow Steps swaying slightly in place.

BLEZDINGELE (The Swallow) (cont)

- 1-8 Turn 1/2 individually, with both arms shoulder high, take 8 Swallow Steps, to form "V" in other direction with last M in the lead.
- 1-4 Raise outside arms high and move twd ptr with 4 Swallow Steps. M place R around W waist; W place L on M R shoulder.
- 5-8 With 4 Swallow Steps turn CCW in place to end in starting pos.

B (Fast) UNDER AND OVER

- 1-16 Repeat Fig I B two times total.

FINALE

Upon reaching the top of line follow the lead M by skipping off the floor, single file, M in front of ptr, waving handkerchief in R hand.

Presented by Vyts Beliajus