

THE HAPPY WANDERER

A duple improper contra written by Bob Howell. It was taught and danced for the first time during the Lloyd Shaw Dance Fellowship in August, 1969, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Music: German folk song * "Mein Vater is ein Wandersmann"

Record: LS 185/186

Introduction:

1-8 * * * *, Actives roll out and weave below three;

Counts

1-8 * * * *, * * * *;

Actives step to the outside, weave down the line of dancers on their own side of the set, passing behind their neighbor, inside the next dancer, outside the next and then into the center of the set. Those near the bottom of the set must imagine dancers to weave past.

9-16 * * * *, Come into the center balance forward and back;

Actives meet partners in the center, face up, and bal fwd and back.

17-24 Up the center and cast off, * * * *;

Come up the middle in 6 steps and cast off with the one originally below at the beginning of the dance.

25-32 * * * *, Join hands and circle four;

33-40 * * * *, Left hand star come back;

41-48 * * * *, * * Right and left through;

49-56 * * * *, * * Right and left back;

57-64 * * * *, Actives roll out and weave below three;

Note: We recommend singing this dance, especially the chorus. The English words for the music are given below. The music is keyed for the average voice, and the words fit the action very well. A good

caller can learn to sing his prompts to the tune, during the learning period. The dancers won't need a prompt for long so let them sing their way through the dance.

The Happy Wanderer

I love to go a-wandering
Along the mountain track,
And as I go I love to sing,
My knapsack on my back.

I wave my hat to all I meet,
And they wave back at me,
And black-birds call so loud and sweet
From every greenwood tree.

O, may I go a-wandering
Until the day I die;
And may I always laugh and sing
Beneath God's clear blue sky!

Chorus:

Val-de-ri Val-de-ra
Val-de-ri Val-de-ah-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha
Val-de-ri Val-de-ra

Use the last line of each stanza for the last line of each chorus.