

Old Betty Larkin

Informant/Performer:
Ritchie Family
Perry Co., KY

Source:
Jean Ritchie
A Garland of Mountain Song
New York, NY: Broadcast Music, 1953

Hop a - round, skip a - round, old Bet - ty Lar - kin,
Hop a - round, skip a - round, old Bet - ty Lar - kin,
Hop a - round, skip a - round, old Bet - ty Lar - kin,
Al - so my dear dar - lin'.

2. Steal, steal, old Betty Larkin,
Steal, steal, old Betty Larkin,
Steal, steal, old Betty Larkin,
Also my dear darlin'.

3. You took my partner, old Betty Larkin,
Took my partner, old Betty Larkin,
Took my partner, old Betty Larkin,
Also my dear darlin'.

4. I'll get me another one, old Betty Larkin,
Get me another one, old Betty Larkin,
Get me another one, old Betty Larkin,
Also my dear darlin'.

5. Needles in a haystack, old Betty Larkin,
Needles in a haystack, old Betty Larkin,
Needles in a haystack, old Betty Larkin,
Also my dear darlin'.

6. Hop around, skip around, old Betty Larkin,
Hop around, skip around, old Betty Larkin,
Hop around, skip around, old Betty Larkin,
Also my dear darlin'.

Game Directions

Action: This is played like Skip to My Lou. Players stand in a circle by partners, facing in. While all sing, one extra boy stands alone and starts the game by skipping around inside the circle and stealing one of the girls, and both skip on around to his place.

Immediately the player whose girl was stolen follows, and takes another, and so on.

Ritchie Family, Perry Co., Ky. *A Garland of Mountain Song*, and copied from there.

Background Information

"Old Betty Larkin was another favorite play party game - one for stealing partners.

'Old Betty Larkin,' would likely be the one they changed to after 'Jenny Put Your Kettle On.'

It is played very much like 'Skip to M'Lou,' a partner-changing game which gives everybody a chance to mix up and cool off after all the blushing and nervousness that comes with playing a kissing game like 'Jenny.'"

Ritchie, *A Garland of Mountain Song*