

### *Slåttestev, slåttetrall, tralling, hulling and tulling*

That part of the vocal folk music that is related to the instrumental music has many local names.

*Tralling, hulling and tulling* are different names for singing without words; often it is a fiddle tune that is being imitated. Earlier, this song form was used for dancing to when there were no fiddlers available. At times when the fiddle was not looked upon so favourably, it was good to be able to fall back on the voice. The concentrated use of consonants in *Tralling (diddling)* helps to get across the rhythm of the tune. For those who don't play the fiddle or other instruments but nonetheless feel the urge to express themselves musically, *tralling* can be a way of performing tunes.

It is said that there were people who were particularly good at *tralling (diddling)*, or *tulle*, as it is called in Telemark. One of them was Hølje Plassen. His name is associated with a popular dance tune in Telemark, with its corresponding *slåttestev*. Hølje had a big repertoire, and was known for being able to diddle for dancing for a whole evening without repeating a single stanza.



*Marit Karlberg, Valdres*



CD 1 – 20 Marit Karlberg (Mattisgard), hulling (tune diddling): *Fanteladda* etter Ingvard Hegge og Ola Bøe (Valdres)



*Tone Juve, Voss*



CD 1 – 21 Tone Juve, slåttetulling (tune diddling): *Slåttestev* etter Ingjerd Berge Juve / Per Berge (Voss)

*Slåttestevet* or *slåttetrallen* can be a short text which is sung to snatches of a fiddle tune, or it can be an existing song which is used as the basis for the melody. A *slåttestev* from Vinje tells the story about Halling-Jorånn; she was one of the girls recorded as being a good halling dancer. It is said about Jorånn that she was just as good at kicking the hat as the boys, even though she was wearing a floor-length skirt.