

# Kids' KOrner

## Today's Gypsies are centered in Europe

GRANADA, Spain — Speak of Gypsies, and most people still picture caravans around campfires and fiery, dark-skinned wanderers wearing earrings and bannanas, playing tambourines and guitars, telling fortunes, and sleeping under the stars.

Gypsies are either romanticized or branded as thieving vagabonds. Author Jan Yoors calls them that "race of strangers who have lived among us for centuries and remained apart." Many people today wonder if they have vanished from the earth.

Outside Granada's Hotel Alhambra Palace, a woman wrapped in a shawl with her infant takes a single red carnation from a bunch of flowers and begs the American, "Senora, por favor...for the baby." She's Gypsy. A man waits to shine someone's shoes. He's Gypsy.

### Flamenco In Caves

At night in the whitewashed caves of the Sacromonte, Gypsy girls in flounced skirts take turns dancing the flamenco for busloads of tourists. The caves, hollowed out of the hill, once sheltered hundreds of outcast Gypsies. The shiny copper pots and pans that cover the ceiling and walls are reminders of the days when many Gypsies made their living as coppersmiths and tinkers.

At various intersections across southern Spain, when traffic lights turn red, Gypsy women with rags rush up to cars to clean the windows. Boys beg for pesetas.

The Spanish Gitanos, promoted as tourist attractions even while scorned for their squalor, are

easily encountered by travelers in southern Spain. It is estimated that there are more Gypsies in Spain than in any other Western European country — between a quarter and a half million.

"Most Americans tend to think all Gypsies are floating around in Spain dancing the flamenco," comments an American Gypsy.

Around the world, Gypsies may not be as visible as they once were. Nomadism is outlawed in most places, and most Gypsies have settled down. In England, for example, Gypsies are not allowed to stop anywhere except at official caravan sites, usually located at the worst parts of town, near city garbage dumps or in condemned neighborhoods.

Gypsies everywhere still usually live on the outskirts of society, and generally are illiterate and poor. But they have held fiercely to their Gypsy ways, are beginning to fight for their rights, and are actually increasing in numbers, experts agree.

Exactly how many Gypsies there are in the world today no one knows for sure. Estimates range from seven million to 11 million, says Ian F. Hancock, U.S. delegate to the United Nations for the World Romani Union, which represents Gypsy organizations in 27 countries. Hancock was born in England of a Hungarian Gypsy family and is now a professor of linguistics and English at the University of Texas.

### Centered In Europe

Gypsy populations are still centered in Europe, with the largest concentrations in Eastern



On the road to the springtime Appleby Fair, these Gypsies in England obviously hope to sell this old-style caravan. As more and more Gypsies settle down or travel in motorized vans, the decorated wooden caravans are prized mainly by collectors. Buyers come to the fair, where selling horses is a featured attraction.

Europe, particularly in Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union. In Yugoslavia, where Gypsies are striving for national minority status, there are whole towns of them. In Hungary, their numbers are increasing rapidly.

Within Europe, Gypsies are roughly divided into the Gitanos of Spain, the Manouche of France, the Sinti of Germany and Italy, the Romnichals of Great Britain, the Rom in Eastern and Southern Europe, and the Boyash in Romania. The Rom are further split into "nations," grouped by traditional occupation or place of origin. The Kalderasha, for example, were originally cop-

persmiths.

Sizeable groups of Gypsies are also found in the Middle East and Northern Africa — in countries along the original Gypsy migration routes to Europe, especially in Iran and Turkey. The only other region of the world with significant numbers of Gypsies today is the Americas, notably the United States, Canada, and Brazil.

Even in the United States there are no exact statistics in Gypsies. Estimates range from 50,000 to 500,000, even up to a million, most living along the East and West Coasts, in the biggest cities: New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Only 6,322 persons listed "Rom" (the name many Gypsies prefer) as their ancestry on 1980 U.S.

Census forms, but that number is generally acknowledged to be far too low. A Hungarian Gypsy, for example, may report as simply Hungarian.

Or may not report at all. Gypsies everywhere are fearful of filling out official forms. There also is the problem of identifying who is Gypsy. Gypsies don't even agree among themselves. Some groups don't consider others "real Gypsies." And the Gypsies who have remained nomadic don't count the sedentary groups as real

### Origins Remain Clouded

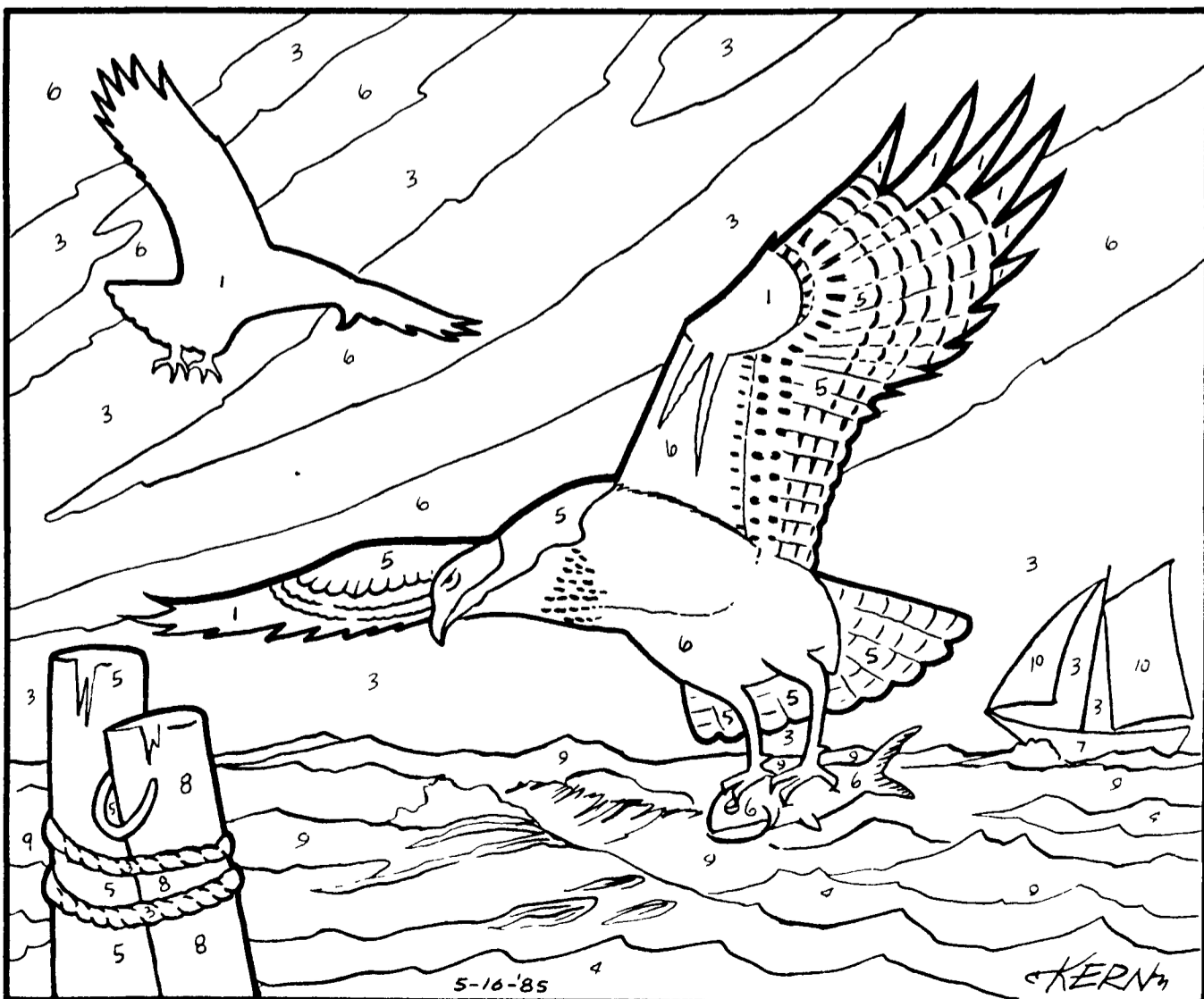
Where did all the Gypsies come from? Out of the East — from India, most scholars agree today. It

(Turn to Page B12)

## COLOR THIS!

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. BLACK  | 6. LT GREY    |
| 2. RED    | 7. GREEN      |
| 3. YELLOW | 8. LT BROWN   |
| 4. BLUE   | 9. LT. BLUE   |
| 5. BROWN  | 10. LT. GREEN |

THE OSPREY BELONGS TO THE BIRDS OF PREY GROUP WHICH INCLUDE HAWKS, EAGLES, OWLS, FALCONS AND VULTURES. IT IS CALLED A FISH HAWK AND FISHING EAGLE. IT PLUNGES FEET FIRST INTO THE WATER AND GRASPS THE FISH WITH ITS LONG SHARP CLAWS ON ITS FEET. THE OSPREY IS ABOUT 2 FEET LONG WITH A 6 FOOT WINGSPREAD.



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