

Gypsies

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had been believed, even among many Gypsies themselves, that their origins were in Egypt, hence their Gypsy name, which was derived from the earlier English designation 'Gypcian, shortened from Egyptian.'

"It's still somewhat of a mystery," Hancock observes. "There's no real recollection within the Gypsy community, nothing handed down even orally." Scholars have traced their roots to India chiefly through their Romani language, which is akin to the classical Old Indic literary language, Sanskrit.

Ancient inscriptions place Gypsies in central India about 280 B.C. "That's about as far back as we can go with any certainty," Hancock says. The Gypsies' predominantly dark skin and hair and their tradition of "marime," or taboos, also point to an Indian ancestry.

Their long westward wanderings did not begin until about 1,000

years later from northwestern India. Why the Gypsies left India is still uncertain.

Because of language variations, most scholars conclude there was not one mass exodus, but perhaps as many as three separate migrations, moving in different directions, from about A.D. 800 to 1000. The record of early Gypsy wanderings is confused, but some of the first groups did settle in Persia and Syria, and later in Anatolia, or Asia Minor.

The conquering Ottoman Turks swept the Gypsies into the Balkan Peninsula early in the 14th century. Some groups were enslaved, but others journeyed farther across Western Europe, arriving in Germany by 1407, in Russia and the British Isles about 100 years later. Gypsies who reached Spain in the mid-15th century may have crossed from North Africa, and may have been one group that did pass through Egypt.

In Europe, Gypsies were eventually treated as outcasts, hounded and persecuted for centuries, banished from some countries, even put to death by hanging.

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



I'd like to share with you some entries from a farm girl's diary. They were written in 1910 and 1913. Life was different then as you can surmise from this notation—"Clarence's 17 hens laid 16 eggs."

She says the Uncle Harry Engle brought a new separator to their farm. For those who might not understand, this was a machine that separated the cream from the milk. I well remember the noisy one that my Grandmother Shreiner had in her back kitchen. One March day in 1910 they churned 35 pounds of butter.

This farm girl's father clerked

sales in the winter and when spring came the men filled the lime kiln and the next day started the fire. Here again, maybe some explanation is necessary. The kiln is a great outdoor "oven" built into a hillside. In it was placed raw limestone on a large pile of wood. This was then covered with clay and set afire. The temperature had to reach 850 to 1000 degrees Centigrade. The lump lime that was produced was spread on the fields to make them more productive.

On May 9th they planted tomatoes and then on May 11th there was ice on the water trough

used for the horses. I'll bet the tomato plants looked sad. That spring of 1913 it was necessary to close the school because of a measles epidemic. Two of her brothers were teaching school and another took an examination to go to high school.

In the summer they traveled to New York City where a brother was enrolled in Columbia University. They toured the town and then took a boat trip up the Hudson River to visit an uncle and aunt near Albany.

In the fall they boiled 20 crocks of pear butter and put beets, turnips, carrots, parsnips, radishes and salsify in the root cellar. It was their replacement for our freezers. That November Jonas Nissley came to "smell water." I'm sure this rather odd entry meant that they needed a new well and he would try to tell them the best place to dig.

In December they baked fruit cakes and a brother came home from Penn State. Also a sister and her classmates, from Millersville Normal School, came for a meal. They had a big family to gather together for Christmas.

Md. 4-H'ers get new headquarters

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The 40,000 young people who belong to Maryland 4-H clubs will soon have a new state headquarters at The University of Maryland.

Construction of the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation Inc. building

should begin by early next year, announced Dr. Frank L. Bentz, UM vice president for agricultural affairs.

The 4-H headquarters will be located at the intersection of Metzert Road and University

Blvd. This will be adjacent to the site of the University's proposed Veterinary Science and Research Center.

In addition to acting as a central meeting place for club members, the building also will serve as a

training facility for the 4,000 adult volunteers who help 4-H'ers learn about animal sciences, horticulture, nutrition and health.

Though originally designed as an informal education program for farm youth, 4-H today draws almost two-thirds of its membership from Maryland cities and suburbs. Open to young people between the ages of 8 and 18, 4-H is a youth program of The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service.

Financial support for the new building came from the Maryland General Assembly, which voted during the 1985 legislative session to set aside \$525,000 for construction costs.

"The state legislature realizes that 4-H plays a tremendous role in helping Maryland's young people learn new skills and become responsible adults," says Maryland Delegate Pauline Menes (D-21st), who introduced the funding legislation. "We're sure that the tax dollars we've invested

in 4-H will yield a significant return."

Other key supporters of the state headquarters included delegates Timothy F. Maloney (D-21st) and Thomas J. Mooney (D-21st); delegate Clayton Mitchell, chairman of the Appropriations Committee; and senators B.W. Mike Donovan (D-25th) and Thomas Miller, Jr. (D-27th).

"The state's support of 4-H could not have come at a more opportune time," says Grove Miller, president of the 4-H Foundation, a private, fund-raising organization that supports 4-H. "Our volunteer enrollment is on the rise. We are reaching a more diverse group of young people. The time for a central headquarter is now."



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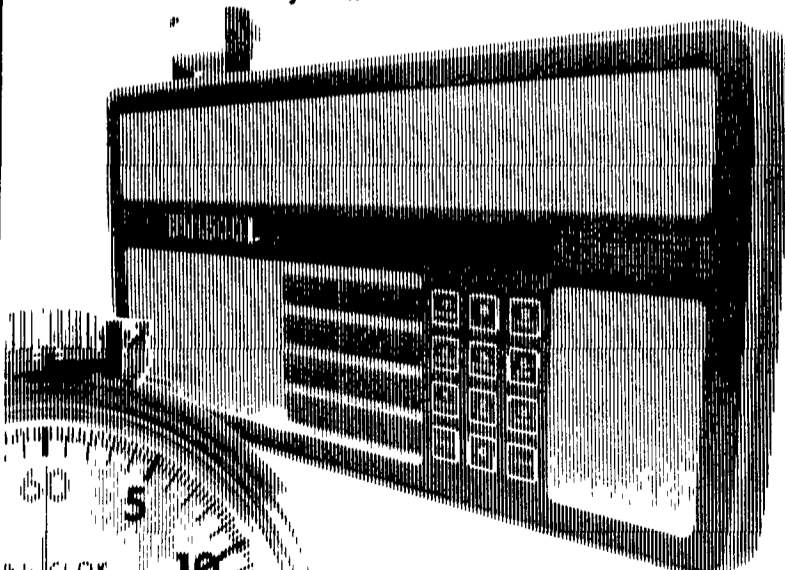
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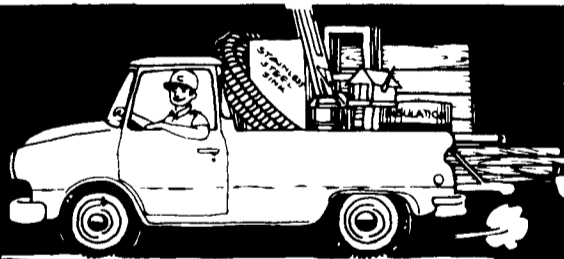
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