

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

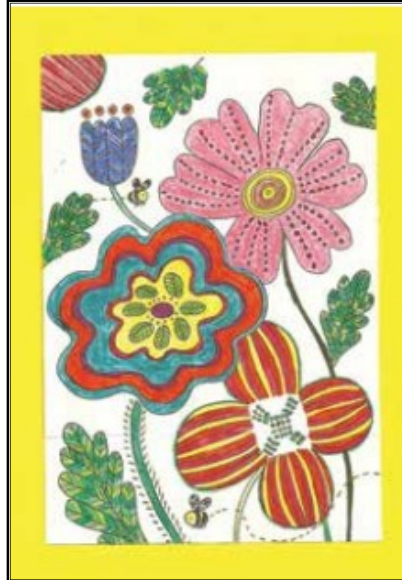
January 25, 2018

Column #172

The New Bedou – Part 7



*Darby Moss Worth said,
“well-behaved women rarely
have made history”*



*Darby also said
“someday I’ll become the soil
that saves our planet”*

ARE TRAVELING-GYPSIES CAMPING IN MONTEREY?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

*new bedou search here
for oases without palms
where their body rests*

DRESSING in colorful print blouses with bright beads, feathers and gold chains wasn’t the only reason Darby Moss Worth reminded me of a Gypsy. If one term sums her up it’s “Fortune Teller.”

Darby foretold and managed her own future masterfully.

When it was evident death was imminent, Darby celebrated by inviting friends to visit her Carmel Valley home where she wanted to be buried.

Well-wishers swapped stories, shared poems and reminisced, and on Sunday, January 14, a humorous version of the Last Rites was performed by a visiting minister. Later that night, by phone, Darby repeated the ritual to me, laughed, said “I love you,” and told me good-bye.

Mid-week came and Darby slipped into the soft orange-hued state of consciousness described by the Dalai Lama as preceding the natural transition from the physical to spiritual plane.

Loved ones with Darby when she took her final breath report her passing as peaceful.

It was also perfectly timed, which is why I compare Darby to a Romanian Gypsy “drabardi” who not only foretold her own transition, she timed it to perfectly fit into national socio-political protests.

The outspoken activist for social justice, who often cited Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's famed saying that "well-behaved women rarely make history" died on Sat., Jan. 20, 2018. She was 94.

Is it possible Darby led the second annual Women's Marches against Trump into posterity?

Are Traveling Gypsies Among The New Bedou?

Darby's vivid tastes appear in this coloring book page she did recently. Her fabrics remind me of an old Gypsy cloth Dad gave me. Intricately woven with metallic threads, it sparkled like fool's gold.

"My mother bought it as a baby blanket for me in Arkansas in 1907," Dad said. "Stay away from Gypsies if you ever meet any of them in California."

"Why? I asked, intrigued.

"They'll lie, cheat and steal whatever they can."

When I moved from California to Missouri in 1988, I encountered my first Traveling Gypsies in the Ozarks. Law enforcement agencies warned residents they were heading to Springfield. Shortly after their arrival, news stories were rife about Gypsy con-artistry.

Whether they've joined California's New Bedou movement is unknown, but here is what I learned in Missouri. Be warned!

Facts About Travelers' Modus Operandi:

Whole families travel in groups, driving vehicles like those that park along Lapis Road—RVs, campers, trucks, and trailers.

They sleep in low-cost motels, usually on the outskirts, and then spread-out all-over town in operations loosely resembling this scenario:

Neighborhoods are scoped out for racial/ethnic makeup. Then, a contact man goes door-to-door, giving a hard-luck story and asking for help.

If white, a fair-skinned man makes the contacts. If non-white, a man with darker skin covers the territory. They do a mass one-day sweep, pool their assets, and skip town or change operations.

For instance, one Easter Sunday afternoon a red-haired, blue-eyed man who looked Irish knocked on my door, introduced himself, and said:

"I'm a neighbor from two blocks over. My wife's in the hospital and I ran out of gas on the way to see her. If you can lend me \$20, I'll put gas in the tank and pay you back tomorrow on my way home from work." He offered to leave his driver's license in my care.

Of course, I declined, saying, "You need the license in case the police stop you." I gave him \$5.

He thanked me effusively and that's the last I saw of him or my money.

"Thanks for the warning, Dad," I thought.

Money-Taking Swindles:

Traveling Gypsies in the Ozarks kept their children from school but used them to sell chocolates for cash as fundraisers for phony school charities. Kids knocked on doors while adults loitered in the shadows around dusk.

Women sometimes read tea leaves and palms, but that was rare in Bible-Belt country where fortune-telling was against the law.

Men performed shoddy, cheap work like paving driveways, cutting down trees and repairing roofs, often requesting advance pay to buy needed supplies, then vanishing without finishing the work.

To learn more about Gypsies in California, read “Santa Cruz Spirituality: Romani People” by Paul Tutwiler online at <https://www.santacruzpl.org/history/articles/496/>.

As to Darby Moss Worth, if she had been a true Gypsy, her body would have been buried standing.

Instead, after her long legal action failed to permit Darby to be buried in her Carmel Valley yard, she told her final visitors, “My remains will be sent to Washington state to be composted as soil to save our planet.”

Grow in peace, Darby!

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