

Halloween: More Tricks Than Treats

By Peggy Moore

Halloween is on just about every calendar as one of the most significant holidays we celebrate. October 31st is set aside for this observation. And though it's exciting for kids to dress up in their favorite costumes and knocking on doors holding brown paper bags, it is more concern today than at any time prior to it's origin.

Many families and individuals take part in the fun holiday time, but few could tell you its meaning or how it came into being.

Halloween was observed by a group of people called the Celts. The Celts origin is traced back to Northern France and the British Isles. The Celts had a tremendous fear of what they referred to as "Halloween". During the fall months the Celts could see the change in the length of daylight.

The sun, which they worshipped, was thought to have been killed by darkness. Daylight hours decreased, and darkness began to set-in between 5 o'clock and 5:30 p.m. After December 21st it was believed that the days went back to their original length of time.

On Halloween night the Celts believed all spirits of the dead were called together. Wicked spirits would take the form of cats. Because of this, people believe cats have evil powers.

During this time those who dared to dress as a witch, would have probably been killed. Witches were greatly feared because it was believed that they, as well as cats, possessed evil powers.

As children we remember Halloween in a scary-fun way. Scary? Costumes were not always pleasing to the eye and we knew that it

represented something unpleasant. On the other hand, knocking on doors and receiving treats from pleasant

smiling faces was indeed a pleasure.

When young people were ask "What is so

exciting about Halloween," they responded: "I like receiving candy, food and some liked the idea of

getting money. Whether it be five, ten, fifteen, or even twenty-five cents, the knock...the smile...the

thank you, were all worth it."

Much of Halloween's luster has been tarnished because of more tricks than treats. Objects have been found in apples and other treats. Drugs are also high on the list of anti-

Halloween persons.

There are many things to be shared with you concerning Halloween. Hopefully this will arouse your suspicions. Go to your local public library and find out more about why we celebrate Halloween. And find if it is worth it or not.

The Meaning of Homecoming

The crisp air fills with excitement as hundreds of voices ring out with joyous calls, for it is time for Homecoming to begin. From many different places they return to share the joys and sadness since the last gathering. It is a time to relive days gone by and tell of how time has made the passing so much more pleasant than when the reality occurred. What makes one return to the place of yesterday? Is it the maturing of appreciation, the need to let others know you have etched a place of your

own in society, or is it to see who else will be present? It is a composite of all of these things that bring people together again. They loyalty to the school plays an important part in all of the activities that abound and makes for pleasant memories. The more people begin to realize that isolation is not a pleasant mode, the more they tend to gather for homecomings and other such gatherings. The undefinable bond that exists seems to be much stronger during this period of time. It erases

position, status, or whatever individual concerns that have kept individuals apart previously, and leaves a warm, inner feeling of comradery because each has his or her own story to tell. Homecoming means that you belong to an important group that has been a growth process unfold and you have been a part of that unfolding in some way. This has created memories that will always be etched in your mind. Homecoming means a time to renew friendships that perhaps have slipped

by the way because of distances. Homecoming means a time of release of tensions that have been caught up in the day-to-day living of making things work and meeting the needs of what must be done to sustain life. It is a time

when the ego, more or less, has a field-day, and realities can be pushed aside for a short while. Homecoming is a return to the place where new beginnings took root and sprouted to help make you who you are and add a deeper dimension to your existence.

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