

under the sun

Halloween Fun Can Be Spooky And Safe

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

Young would-be Halloween ghosts, goblins and vampires everywhere are getting ready for tonight.

Well-known local ghost stories, including the Maco light and the colonial apparitions at Brunswick Town, will be re-told for those who like to speculate on the possibility of haunts.

Eerie grins and triangular eyes have been carved on pumpkins, and the jack o'lanterns are sitting outside to welcome Halloween visitors.

Candy awaits young trick or treaters, who are busy making last minute decisions such as whether to dress up as the Wicked Witch of the West, Smurfette or Madonna.

An old-fashioned hayride and a campfire were on tap 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the county government complex in Bolivia, a project of the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

Felecia Hardy was to tell ghost stories while listeners of all ages sat around the campfire roasting marshmallows.

For parents who would like their children to have an alternative to trick or treating at strangers' houses, Town Creek Baptist Church has a free carnival planned for tonight (Thursday) from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for children aged two to 12 in the fellowship hall.

Free activities will include a lollipop tree, bean bag toss, fish pond, apple bobbing, and refreshments.

Parents should make sure children who do go trick or treating observe safety rules such as carrying a flashlight, wearing bright reflective colors and staying away from traffic as much as possible. Trick or treaters should only visit homes they are familiar with.

To promote Halloween safety, Brunswick Hospital will X-ray children's candy tonight from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at no charge to detect harmful objects.

Hospital spokesperson Betsy Lewis pointed out the X-ray would only detect objects such as razor blades and pins, but not poison.

Anyone wishing to have candy X-rayed should enter the hospital through the Emergency Room door at the rear and ask for assistance.

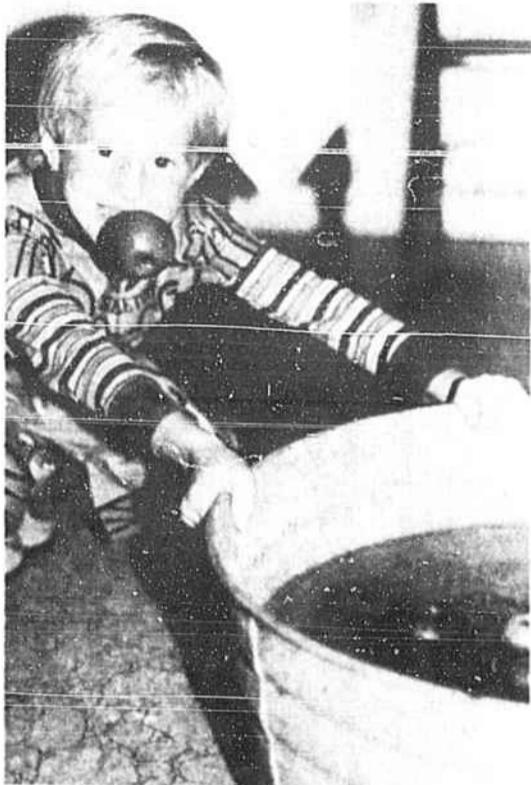
Halloween is the day before All Saints Day (Nov. 1), observed in Roman Catholic and Anglican churches as the day to glorify God for all saints, both known and unknown. In medieval England the day was known as All Hallows; the day before was called Hallows' eve, and eventually known as Halloween.

Many Halloween practices, such as bobbing for apples, can be traced to the Middle Ages.

The ancient Celts regarded Nov. 1 as the first day of winter, and they observed practices such as fortune-telling and building bonfires on the day now known as Halloween.



LATOYA FULWOOD, a second grader at Union Primary School, examines a Halloween witch on a school bulletin board.



BRIAN INMAN, son of Thomas and Sue Inman of Shallotte Point, exhibits his prize at the Village Point Methodist Church Halloween Carnival. The practice of bobbing for apples dates from the Middle Ages.



SHANE STANLEY, costumed as a pirate, tried to catch the donut his mother Tina Stanley dangled above his open mouth. Halloween fun at Village Point Methodist Church Saturday night included bobbing for apples, a haunted house and refreshments.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

MAD SCIENTIST Jason Leigh Benton examines the "pumpkin patch" at Saturday night's Village Point Methodist Church Halloween Carnival. Jason, the son

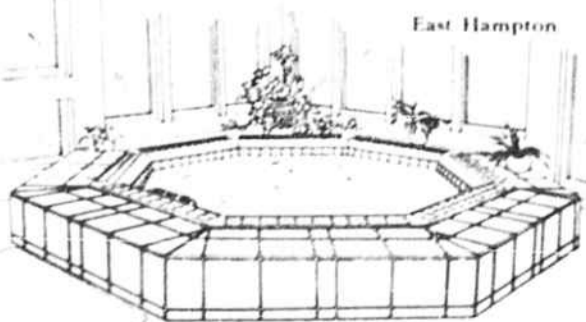
of Odell and Jean Benton of Shallotte Point, is a fifth grader at Shallotte Middle School.

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