HAUNTED HAPPENINGS 00

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the Druids built massive bonfires on the hilltops of Europe. They danced and sang around the fires in grotesque masks dashing frantically through the flames to hide from evil spirits.

The intense frenzy increased as the night wore on and reports of mysterious disappearances and unexplained happening filled Hallow's Eve with ever more fear

The bonfires were not always enough to save these ancient tribes from the hands of evil. For high above the full harvest moon lurked vicious witches who swooped down on their broom sticks to collect unsuspecting victims for the Lord of Death.

The witches sold their prey to the Lord of Death who devoured their entrails and made their bones into bagpipes

The ancient observance of Halloween also presented another element of dread. Druid priests had the power to foretell events of the coming year. But these fortunes could have deadly results

The priests carefully cut animals open and from its entrails could read the future of the owner. If the bleeding animals did not live through the night however, the owner would not live to see the next Hallow's Eve.

It is easy to understand where the spirit of Halloween contracted its spooky supernatural elements. Yet our modern Halloween is certainly much more calming on the nerves.

-Jenny Carey



One-year-old Madeline Boehmer totes an oversized load of pumpkins she picked with her family.

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most of the fun, said Hugh Caldwell, who brought his sons Mason, two, and Lucas, three months.

'Mason was very, very excited," Caldwell said, while videotaping Mason riding on a cart filled with pumpkins.

Two-year-old Joshua Howard was jumping up and down awaiting the trip, his mother Kathryn said.

When we were coming here in the car, he kept saying. 'We're going to get a pumpkin! We're going to get a pumpkin!' That's pretty good for being only two," she said.

But it's not just the kids who look forward to the occasion. Adults such as Susan Brazell, who has come to Detering Orchards "many, many times," brought her mother-in-law from Florida to share the fun at the pumpkin patch.

And Davis, who has come to the pumpkin patch for the past nine years, has enjoyed her family's traditional event as much as her children have.

When I was little, we just got our pumpkins at a grocery store," Davis said. "So this is really special.

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