

WHAT SOCIETY IS DOING



PERSONAL notices of visitors in the city, or of Coos Bay people who visit in other cities, together with notices of social affairs, are gladly received in the social department. Telephone 133. Notices of club meetings will be published and secretaries are kindly requested to furnish same.

CONTRIBUTIONS concerning social happenings, intended for publication in the society department of The Times, must be submitted to the editor not later than 6 o'clock p. m., Friday of each week. (Exceptions will be allowed only in cases where the events occurred later than the time mentioned.)

HALLOWEEN EYE falls on the last day of October, the day following being All Saints' Day, or Allhallowa. The celebration of Halloween dates back to the religious rites of the Druids. During the entire year the Druids kept immense fires burning on stone altars in honor of the Sun God. On the last night of October the Druids in white robes gathered at the altar and at a given signal solemnly extinguished the fires. A crowd always gathered to see this ceremony, but absolute silence always reigned.

After the fires were extinguished, new fires were kindled. As the flames leaped up the people shouted and then obtained live embers from the altars and returned with these to their own homes to extinguish the old fires burning on their hearts and to kindle new ones with the sacred coals of the priests. This custom was believed to protect the home from danger as long as the fire remained burning.

When Christianity put the Druidic faith to flight this heathen custom lost its significance. Gradually people came to believe that on October 31 the fairies, forsaking their hiding places, danced in the woods and witches, goblins and all other evil spirits held revels in deserted abbeys, or plotted against mankind in the shadows of ruins of castles.

One can easily see how the early Halloween fires later came to be looked upon as a charm against evil spirits; and even as late as the seventeenth century we read about farmers making the rounds of their raccos on this mysterious eve carrying a lighted torch and chanting some rhyme which was supposed to protect the farm from evil during the coming year.

Bobby Burns tells us about the tradition of the "luggies," the dragging of the "grap" in the dark outdoors and the eating of "sowans." He calls October 31 "Hallowmas," and England's custom was to call the thirty-first of October "Nut-Crack Night."

So our fondness for ghostlike figures on this evening can be traced back to the white clad Druid priests and our games and ceremonies originated from the faith of the Druids believing that supernatural agents are about on that night.

Everything about Halloween should be informal and full of innocent merry-making. The invitations should be strictly informal and a little unusual, such as either of the following:

SITTYTON GROVE

Oct. 25, 1915.
Dear John—The Witches and Spirits of Darkness will hold sway in my barn on the night of October 31 at 7 o'clock
JULIA MARLOWE
BELLEVIEW FARM

Dear Mary—The Spirits are expected to arrive at my house at 8 o'clock on Halloween Eve. Come prepared to learn your fate.
JANE ADDAMS

Any one with a little ingenuity can send unique invitations on cardboard made in the form of jack-o'-lanterns, witches or ghosts.

The barn is an ideal place for the party. The floor can be cleaned and the hay mows and stalls form a most appropriate background. If the barn is not available the kitchen quickly lends itself to the occasion. The basement is frequently used for the revels if it is large and dry enough.

Wherever the revels may be held the decorations should be of Nature's own selection and should be as grotesque as possible. Jack-o'-lanterns made of apples, cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, etc., are excellent. Use Grace Gray. Remove the pulp, make incisions for eyes, nose and mouth and place a lighted candle within. Green branches, autumn leaves, tomatoes, corn, grape vines with clusters of grapes and cat-tails are reminders that this is an autumn festival.

I can think of no better way to begin the frolics than to receive your guests in witch or ghost costume and tell them that they are not to remove their wraps, as they fully expect to do. This of itself arouses curiosity. After all are assembled take them to the open field where the family have built an enormous bonfire. Tell your guests that the air all about is filled with evil spirits of all kinds.

There are witches and hobgoblins all about. If you are a good reader, read, "The Goble-uns'll Get You, if You Don't Watch Out," or perhaps some friend in ghostly attire will do this for you.

Explain that the fire is consuming these evil spirits so the charms of the evening will work. Let the bonfire roar for a while and you will find all the guests are talking and chatting with each other and all the formality of getting the evening pleasures has disappeared. Soon you can say, "Now our magic may avail," and return to the barn or house, remove your wraps and put the charms to work.

Games for Halloween

Bobbing for apples always puts a company into a jolly mood. In bobbing for apples the hands of the players should be tied behind them. A tub filled to the brim with water should be set at a convenient height on a table. The apples float tipily about. In each apple can be inserted a three-cornered or square piece of tinfoil which protects from the water the slip of paper inside, on which is written a little fortune, or an initial letter may be cut on the skin of the apple which will be the initial letter of the future husband or wife. (And by the way, some people say, "I write only unmarried friends, for married couples are rather bored on this fortune hunting night.") The apples should be stemless. Each player draws an apple with his or her teeth from the tub of water in which they are bobbing. Each one is privileged to eat the apple if he can get one.

THE TEST OF THE THREE "LUGGIES"—The "luggies" are merely dishes or saucers all three alike except in contents. One dish holds clear water, one dark water and the third no water at all. One by one the blindfolded guests are led before the "luggies," which should stand in a row either on the floor or a table. The floor always causes more amusement. The player kneels before them and gropes for one; the future hangs upon the choice, which is directed by the fates. Dipping the fingers into the clear water means that he or she will marry a maiden or a bachelor; the dark, a widow or a widower; the empty dish predicts no marriage at all. The dishes should be shifted before each choice so the fates alone may guide.

APPLE-PARING INITIAL—Each guest pares an apple, keeping the paring whole; then swings the unbroken paring around the head and lets it drop on the ground. A letter will be formed that shows the initial of the future life partner's name.

NAMING CHESTNUTS—This is an ancient custom, once familiar in Ireland. Roast three chestnuts before the fire. The nuts may be placed upon the bars of the grate, on a hearth before a fire or on the top of the stove. Name the chestnuts for three lovers. If any one of them cracks in the flames or jumps forth, the one for whom it is named will prove unfaithful. Another trick is to put two nuts into the fire as close as possible. Name one for a man and one for a maid. If he leaps from the flames it is a sign he will desert her; if she leaps forth she will be the unfaithful one. If one of them hisses and steams it indicates a fretful temper in the owner of the chestnut; if both equally misbehave in that manner, it augurs strife. But if both burn to ashes tranquilly side by side a long life of matrimonial happiness will be the lot of the two concerned.

Charles Graydon defines these omens thus:
"These glowing nuts are emblems true
Of what in human life we view;
The ill-matched couple fret and fume
And thus in strife themselves consume;
Or from each other widely start
And with a noise forever part.
But see the happy, happy pair,
Of genuine love and truth sincere;
With mutual fondness while they burn,
Still to each other kindly turn;
And so the vital sparks decay,
Together gently sink away,
Till life's fierce trials being past
Their mingled ashes rest at last."

THE DUMB CAKE—A small unbaked cake of stiff dough is furnished each guest. The rule must be read: The cake must be kneaded

with the left thumb while the kneaders maintains absolute silence. Done properly the act brings good fortune. If you forget and use the right thumb or any other finger misfortune will follow you. Absolute silence must reign. Those who succeed in uttering no word or exclamation will be fortunate the coming year, but if one speaks, misfortune will come. This always causes lots of fun and some one is sure to talk.

MELTING LEAD—Each person melts some lead and pours it through a wedding ring into a dish of water. The lead will cool in various shapes, which will be prophetic of the future. An ingenious person can interpret the shapes, and furnish much amusement for his listeners; thus, a bell-shaped drop indicates a wedding within a year; a drop resembling a torch or lamp signifies fame; a pen, pencil or ink bottle, that the future companion is to be an author; a horn of plenty, wealth; a bag or trunk, travel, etc.

THE ALPHABET GAME—Cut the alphabets from a newspaper and sprinkle on the surface of water; the floating letters may spell or suggest the name of the future husband or wife.

THE RAISIN RACE—A raisin is strung in the middle of a thread a yard long, and two persons take each an end of the string in his mouth; whoever, by chewing the string, reaches the raisin first has the raisin to eat and will be the first to be wedded.

APPLE SEEDS—Name two wet apple seeds and stick them on the forehead. The first seed to fall indicates that the love of him or her whose name it bears is not steadfast.

THE RING AND THE TUMBLER—Tie a wedding ring to a silken cord and have the guest hold it suspended within a tumbler. Begin to repeat the alphabet slowly and whenever the ring strikes the goblet, begin the alphabet again, and in this way spell out the name of the future mate.

THE BOWL OF FLOUR—A bowl is filled tightly with flour. During the process of filling a wedding ring is inserted vertically in some part of it. The bowl, when full and packed solid, is inverted upon a dish and withdrawn, leaving the mound of flour. Each guest cuts off with a knife a thin slice, which crumbles. The guest who cuts off the slice containing the ring, will be the first to be married.

THE SAND PILE—Have a little mound of sand in which are buried letters cut from paper. Each guest is given a spoon to dish up one spoonful of sand. If a letter is drawn, it indicates the initial of the first name of future wife or husband. If two letters are drawn it indicates the initials of first and last name. If no letter, it means a future unmarried life.

A clever hostess will have several "atoms" going on at the same time, in fact, her barn or house will represent a three-ringed circus. One group may be shouting with laughter at the frantic efforts of their friends to bob for apples, another group may be speechless awaiting the names of future wedded partners and another may be paring apples. After things are started, it is very easy to keep them going.

When supper time arrives, an easy way to pair off guests is to distribute walnut shells among them. Place in the walnut shells, from which the meat has been removed, some seeds, such as peas, beans, nasturtiums, celery, raisins, nutmegs, cloves, allspice, whole peppers, pearl tapioca, etc.; using only two of each kind and placing but one in each shell. Tie the shells with a ribbon, using one color for the ladies and another color for the men. Each guest takes a nut and when opening it the man discovering his lot, goes in search of the lady who has its mate and takes her to supper.

THE HALLOWEEN REPEAT—The supper table should have no cloth on it, but a large square of fringed yellow cheesecloth in its center on a yellow paper tablecloth may be used. Use candles to light the table. In the center of the table should be placed the "fortune cake." This is made like a birthday cake,

dropping into the batter a ring, a thimble and a dime. Care must be taken in the cutting and eating of this fortune cake, for it tells the future fate of the three who get one of the three symbols. The one who finds the ring will soon be married; the dime brings wealth and the thimble denotes celibacy, and he or she who gets it will remain in single blessedness.

Platters of owls, black cats and bats, with blinking white eyes should be on the table. Also a plentiful supply of "creep things" such as turtles made from raisins, prunes and cloves.

When the distribution of the owls, bats and cats begins the curious guests are not long in discovering an envelope pasted on the back of each from which a delicious sandwich is extracted.

Apples and nuts should be heaped in suitable dishes and bowls and placed here and there in conspicuous places for the guests to enjoy at their pleasure.

During the supper each guest should be given a peanut shell, the peanut having been removed and a fortune placed there. These fortunes may be written with milk on white paper and after being allowed to dry, are placed in the nut shells. Each guest selects a nut and placing the paper near sufficient heat to brown the milk will be surprised to see his fortune stand out on what appeared to be a blank paper. Holding the paper over a candle or lamp flame will be sufficient.

These fortunes must never prophesy anything like ill-luck, but still may introduce any little element of the ridiculous which has no sting. Much merriment will be created by watching the fortunes reveal themselves and hearing each fortune read aloud.

To produce a weird effect as the guests are departing, pour into a pan (do not use a dish, for it may break) some alcohol; extinguish all the lights and then apply a match to the alcohol; as soon as the alcohol is fairly in flame, sprinkle salt freely into the dish. Every one shrieks and laughs and runs out into the night to get away from the ghastly faces.

When one goes to a Halloween party go prepared for a good time; wear appropriate clothes, such as hard time costumes, white sheets and pillow cases, gingham aprons or overalls or a witch's costume. Frequently the hostess indicates on her invitation how she wishes her guests to appear.

Remember there are candles to sputter grease, apples to be bobbed for, wheat cakes to make and apples to pare, so wear something that will cause no worry about being spoiled and go for a good time and in this spirit you will surely have one.

YOUNG FOLKS' PARTY

Misses Helen, Alice and Elizabeth Flanagan were hostesses last evening at a delightful Halloween Masquerade at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Flanagan, which was beautifully decorated with huckleberry, chrysanthemum and dahlias. The evening was spent by the young folks in contests and games befitting the season and at a late hour the hostesses served appetizing refreshments.

Those invited were: Dorothy and Lavina Painter, Maxine and Elizabeth Jones, Margaret Powers, Helen Merchant, Gertrude Stubblefield, Jane and Lucile McLain, Margaret Stauff, Edna Rees, Mable Sneddon, Marjorie Drews, Evelyn Mirrasoul, Bernice Mirrasoul, Stella Storgard, Stella Christensen, Frances Luse, Lucile Douglas, Guendolen Hedges, Dorothy Ferguson, Anna Storgard, Eleanor Flanagan, Anna Roderick O'Conner, Eugene Jones, Morten Coke, Ira and Richard Jones, John Mirrasoul, Tom McGinnis, Geo. Ferry, Joey McKeown, Pasquin Bradford, Ernest Immel, Jim Eddy, Rudolph Johnson, Robert Ferguson, Tom and Jimmie Flanagan.

CLASS LUNCHEON

Miss Evelyn Fourier entertained the Loyal Legion at her home Thursday afternoon, and this was followed by the election of officers with the following results: Irene Fourier, Pres.; Helen Rees, Vice-Pres.; Clara Ferguson, Sec. Treas.. The remaining time was spent very pleasantly in a social way, and Miss Elsie Thomas was taken in as a new member. A pretty feature of the afternoon was the Halloween atmosphere which the decorations created. Those present were: Helen Rees, Clara Ferguson, Irene Fourier, Wilma Hoagland, Edith Ayre, Elsie Thomas, Mrs. C. H. Walter, the teacher and the hostess Evelyn Fourier.

EPISCOPAL CLUB MEETS

The Anglican Young Peoples' Association of the Episcopal church enjoyed a Halloween masquerade party last evening at the home of Miss Emma Lou Douglas on West Cen-

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(Words in Red, Figures in Black)

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