

The Spirit of Halloween

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Pale tapers glimmer in the sky,
The dead and dying leaves go by;
Dimly across the faded green
Strange shadows, stranger shades, are
seen—
It is the mystic Halloween.

ALTHOUGH this writer is no seventh son of a seventh son and therefore possessing "second sight" and the gift of prophecy, he feels perfectly safe in making a prediction. It is this:

On the night of October 31 there will be unusual activity among the juvenile population of the United States of America. Parties of them will gather in houses in which the decorative scheme will include grinning, jack-o'-lanterns, dry and yellowed stalks of corn, black cats, witches et cetera. But the principal activity will be outdoors rather than indoors. In the cities and towns white-sheeted figures will roam the streets, and other figures, lacking any special costume, will flit furtively among the shadows in alleys and back streets. In the country the roads and lanes will see more night traffic than usual and dogs will bark at shadowy intruders in farm yards.

The next morning merchants in city and town will find the front windows of their stores decorated with long sprawling lines of white—soap put there, but not to clean the panes. Gates will be missing from their accustomed places, benches and chairs will have disappeared, water will be gushing forth from unguarded taps and in general there will be such a transposition of any object left out doors by the careless householder as to cause one to wonder by what strange magic have hitherto-inanimate things come to life. Farmers, finding wheels missing from their wagons—hung, perhaps, high up in a tree, or even, perhaps, discovering the wagon itself perched astride the ridgepole of the district school—will mutter the same thing that the merchant is muttering under his breath—"The little heathens!"

They shouldn't call the children that, however. "Pagans" is the word, rather than "heathens." For October 31 is Halloween and on that night young America is a throw-back to their pagan ancestry of thousands of years ago. For the boys and girls who go about on Halloween playing pranks on their elders, even though probably not one out of a hundred knows it, are simply keeping alive a custom born in England in the far-off days of the Druids—with this difference: their ancestors of ancient days observed this custom to keep away or propitiate evil spirits, whereas their descendants assume the characters of evil spirits, or at least, mischievous ones, and act accordingly.

The origin of Halloween goes back to the respect and homage paid by ancient nations to the sun. The pagans of those days, whether Egyptian, Greek or Roman, assigned a place of great importance in their pantheon to the sun god, the giver of light and heat and life. The sun marked out for them the time of work and the time of rest; it divided the year into seasons; it made possible bounteous crops of grain and fruits and under its warming rays flourished all that was beautiful and splendid and wonderful on this earth.

So it was only natural that the early pagan should set aside a day of grief for the ending of summer when his beauty and splendor declined under the frosts and winds of the coming winter, when the earth fell under the spell of the evil powers and was not to be free from them again until the coming of spring. But mingled with this grief over the passing of summer was the joy which he felt as he beheld the golden harvest of the autumn and in his heart he felt a song of thanksgiving for the ripened grain and fruit. The duty to whom the Romans were accustomed to render their thanks for these gifts was the goddess, Pomona, and they were accustomed to set apart October 31 or November 1 in her honor as a festival day in which nuts and apples, representing the winter store of fruits, figured prominently.

The Celts, the original inhabitants of the British Isles, worshipped the spirits of the forests and streams. Their priests, the Druids, held their rites beneath the great oaks which are characteristic of that land, since this tree was held in special veneration by the Celts. The Druids in time became skilled prophets in interpreting the will of the gods. They kept their sacred lore from the people and handed it down only among themselves. They taught that souls were immortal and that they passed from one body to another when life became extinct.

On October 31 the Druids taught that the Lord of Death gathered together the souls of all those who had died during the year just passed and assigned to them bodies of the animals they were to inhabit the coming twelvemonth, according to their condemnation.

Samhain, "summer's end," was November 1 to the Druids. Flocks were



brought in; people rested from labor; fires were built to ward off evil spirits; and the season's close which brought harvest in abundance. Altars were lighted, and after midnight rites on October 31, fire was carried to every dwelling by the people. The old fires were quenched and the new ones kindled.

From this custom, and that of burning a sheep, arose the practice of delving into the future. In the dying sheep's struggles were read omens of the morrow. Evil spirits that came out of Samhain in Ireland lived for the rest of the year in Croagh Cave in Connemara, called the "hell gate of Ireland." On this yearly drive the cave was opened and evil spirits in the form of "copper-colored birds" came out. They preyed on families, stealing babies from their cribs, leaving in their places goblins and hideous changelings. These evil spirits had the reputation of being very cunning and the peasants, in order to get rid of them, and around their evil visitations, performed various and sundry acts of propitiation. They boiled egg shells in the sight of the changelings, treated the children left them and did other weird and strange things.

The Celts placed great store in tests. Samhain was the great time for these. Individuals were blindfolded that they might be the better guided by fate.

In the practice of these superstitions the Celts were not alone. They were universal over Europe in the ages previous to the Christian era. Christianity and the Roman emperors put them to rest. Augustus forbade his subjects to be initiated into the Druidical worship when he occupied Britain. Tiberius drove the priests out from Gaul and Emperor Claudius stamped out their belief. The Romans pursued the Druids ruthlessly to the island of Mona, near Wales, where they exterminated them at one fell blow and destroyed their oaks. Christianity in time succeeded the Druidical worship. On the old religion and old festivals were grafted new names and new customs. The midsummer festival was dedicated to St. John; Lughnasadh gave way to Lammas. The berries of the mountain ash or rowan tree, which had been food for Tuthia, "the people of the goddess Dana," now served to exorcise the very spirits in whose honor they at one time had been eaten.

All Hallowe, or All Saints' Day, on the church calendar, was assigned to November 1. In the beginning it was celebrated in May, the month in which Pope Boniface IV. in 609 consecrated

the Roman Pantheon to the Virgin and all the saints and martyrs of the church. The latter day assignment was made by Pope Gregory IV in 853 in order that the crowds which came up each year to Rome for the religious services might be fed sufficiently from the bountiful harvest of the year. In the Tenth century November 2 was made All Souls' Day.

Since America is the melting pot of the nations it is only natural, perhaps, that this observance, like so many others, partakes of the customs and traditions of many lands. Hence our Halloween lore is a combination of Irish, English, Scotch and German traditions, not to mention contributions from the French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Austrian, Italian and Slavic states as well as Nordic. The original celebrations in this country were mainly English in origin, even though in Colonial times the day was not much celebrated. A few of the English in the colonies kept up the mother country tradition but for the most part it was left pass. This was due largely to the wide settlements, the hardship of communal association and the necessity for the colonists to be busy at this time of the year tending in the harvest and preparing for winter. But despite this one could find now and then old Halloween customs in full force. There followed then such games as apple ducking and apple snapping as well as apple peeling and throwing the peel over the left shoulder, comb and mirror tests and ballads topped off by a round of ghost stories.

A party of twelve may learn their future if one will get from a churchyard a clod of earth and set twelve candles in it, naming them as he lights them. The future of each is governed by the light the candle emits, wavering, steady, sputtering or going out.

Fairies come in for especial attention in Ireland. Good and bad they hold the Irish heart in their power, and so the story runs. St. Patrick was not immune to their wiles. One lulled him to sleep before Samhain. These spirits dwell in grassy mounds and in streams and on the eve of All Saints' Day troop forth to work their will on countryside. To this day one may hear authentic accounts of the appearance of fairies in Ireland and the necessity of doing certain things in order to hold their good will.

Scottish Halloween traditions seem to be more clearly defined and more purposeful than the Irish ones. There is a lightness in Irish character that is not to be found in the Scottish and for this reason the Scots take more seriously the traditions in regard to witches, evil spirits and fairies, all of whom they believe to be abroad on Halloween.

The Scotch invented the idea of "Samhainach," a goblin who comes out just at "Samhain." It is he who in Ireland steals children. The fairies pass at crossroads, and in the Highlands whoever took a three-legged stool to where three crossroads met, and set upon it at midnight, would hear the names of those who would die in a year. He might bring with him articles of dress, and as each name was pronounced three new garments to the fairies. They would be so pleased by this gift that they would repeat the sentence of death.

—Dr. J. J. Western, Seaside, Oregon.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Assembled for Information of Our Readers.

Approximately 160 tons of evergreen blackberries were handled by Scio dealers during the campaign which has just closed.

Road construction work in the Florence section is progressing rapidly and all but one sector is almost sure of practical completion this year.

Apple blossoms in October is an unusual sight at Oakridge. A Gravenstein tree on the property of A. Wood has a number of blossoms on it.

The commercial fishing season on Rogue river, which closed September 29 after a fair run of salmon, is said to have been the best in the past few years.

Patrick Smith, 40, was fatally injured when rocks, loosened by a blast tumbled onto him as he stood in the pit of the Choderick rock crusher near Yamhill.

Barbara Jean, the 5-months-old daughter of Winifred Tuhand of Salem, smothered to death when she pulled a rubber garment over her head while asleep.

Accidental discharge of a gun carried by one of his sons brought instant death to Francis L. Akeley, Salem, as he was hunting deer in the woods near Yoncalla.

The new concrete bridge over Rock creek in the center of town was opened to traffic at Vernonia. It is 145 feet long with a 27-foot roadway and a five-foot walk on each side.

Extensive plans are being made for the 31st annual convention of the Oregon Woolgrowers at Burns November 14 and 15. W. P. Mahoney, Heppner, woolgrower, is president of the organization.

A number of potato buyers from distant sections of the state have recently been on the McKenzie making growers in the valley offers ranging from 90 cents and \$1.10 to \$1.25 per hundred.

The benefit of lime on red clover was demonstrated on the Anthony brothers farm in northern Benton county, where limed fields yielded a good hay crop, while untreated plots dried up.

Members of the American Legion at Cottage Grove assembled at the city hall with hammers and saws, to assist Judd Doolittle construct a new home on the site of the old home recently destroyed by fire.

The fish hatchery at Enterprise recently turned 4,000,000 stick-salmon into the Wallawalla river. 500,000 yanks were sent to the lake and 350,000 eastern brook trout are ready to be placed in the mountain lakes.

With a view of saving \$40,000 a year to the consumers of gasoline in Tillamook county a proposal to secure a reduction in price from manufacturers and distributors has been taken up by the Tillamook Kiwanis club.

Albany's net indebtedness has been reduced to \$194,545, according to the city's financial statement completed by City Recorder Nutting. The gross debt of \$240,527.33 is offset by \$62,679.33 in unpaid assessments.

Old-time fiddle music, old-time songs and reminiscences of other days; addresses by prominent speakers and an old-time basket dinner were featured at the all-day pioneer meeting held in Nehalem on October 19.

A ledge 200 feet above Rogue river at the top of Hell Gate canyon crumbled beneath the feet of Leta Whisman, high school senior, and she plunged to her death. Her body was recovered from the river, but Sheriff Lister said death was due to injuries inflicted as she struck rocks on the way down.

THE MARKETS

Portland
Wheat—Big Bend Muehlen, 56½¢; soft white, western white, 74½¢; hard winter, northern spring, western red, 71½¢.

Hay—Buying price, f. o. b. Portland: Alfalfa, \$13@15.50; valley timothy, \$16.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$18.50; clover, \$14; oat hay, \$14; oats and vetch, \$14.

Butterfat—24@37c.
Eggs—Ranch, 26@33c.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.50@8.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.75@10.
Lamb—Good to choice, \$5.50@6.50.

Seattle
Wheat—Soft white, western white, northern spring, 75¢; hard winter, western red, 74¢; bluestem, 85¢.

Eggs—Ranch, 30@35c.
Butterfat—32c.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$6.75@7.15.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$10.25@10.55.
Lamb—Choice, \$5.50@6.50.

Spokane
Cattle—Steers, good, \$6.25@6.75.
Hogs—Good to choice, \$9.75@9.55.
Lamb—Medium to good, \$4.25@4.55.

Salem was chosen for the 1931 meeting of the Oregon State Federation of Labor at the final session held in Medford recently.

The Marshfield volunteer fire department issued a paper of eight pages, setting out the reasons for fire prevention week, and all homes were supplied with copies. The custom has been followed for several years.

Rogue river valley pears shipped from Medford this season total 2074 cars. Although the major portion of the pear shipping is completed, about 200 cars of fruit still are leaving the city for eastern markets each week.

Douglas county has 800 miles of road to maintain out of the general fund, in addition to 1000 bridges, representing an investment of practically \$1,000,000. The county court budgets the sum of \$22,500 for bridges, but has been spending nearly \$50,000 annually.

John Holombo, 21, leader for the Benson Timber company, was killed when he stumbled and fell under the wheels of a logging locomotive near Clatskanie. He had thrown a switch and was attempting to jump on the running board when he lost his footing.

Plans for collecting wearing apparel for the relief of the Navajo Indians, who are said to be suffering from the present business depression because of the lack of sale of their rugs, were discussed at a recent meeting of the Baptist missionary society of Springfield.

Mrs. O. W. Prum now has a winter banana apple tree on her town property in Halsey which has both apples and blossoms on it. During the summer Mrs. M. C. Bond had a pink zinnia with five distinct and perfect centers, each having petals and stamens in them.

Loans of the Multnomah county veterans for the first nine months of 1929 totaled \$372,500, according to figures released by Frank Moore, secretary of the commission. During September this year, 21 loans totaling \$51,700 were approved by Moore for county veterans.

Ashtand granite may be used for the trim on a new apartment house in Klamath Falls, the builder of which became interested in the Ashtand granite following publicity given the material as a trim for the new federal building to be constructed in Klamath Falls.

Hood River Post, American Legion, has again decided to sponsor a big Halloween party for the kiddies of Hood River county. The previous party relieved business men of much of the work entailed in preceding Halloween parties in the cleaning of store fronts and windows.

Two hundred and ninety-eight pictures of the Hebo district of the Sitka national forest have been taken from airplanes to aid in the forest resource survey now under way in the northwest. When the survey is completed in the area the entire forest will have been photographed.

The Klamath county court has authorized placing of a levy of 1.4 mills on the November ballot for the county's proportionate share in the construction of an armory in Klamath Falls. The city council authorized a bond issue of \$45,000 to be placed on the ballot, for the city's share.

Contrary to general impression, the automobile and not the motorcycle is the most generally used by state traffic officers in patrolling Oregon's highways. At present there are 46 automobiles and 17 motorcycles used for patrol duty. There usually are from two to four traffic officers incapacitated for duty or in a hospital due to injuries on motorcycles.

Fires in Oregon during 1929 either partially or totally destroyed 2353 homes, entailing losses aggregating \$2,649,521, according to posters being sent broadcast over the state by Clare A. Lee, state fire marshal. Ninety per cent of these fires, Lee declares, were due to carelessness and home owners are urged to check up on the fire hazards existing around their premises and to clean up.

A coast guard patrol encountered a whale in the Columbia river near Astoria. The last whale of this kind that was seen in the river went aground and had to be rescued because he threatened to tear up a log raft.

Ira Hull, who is employed by the Apple Growers' association, now holds what is perhaps the state record for hiding apple boxes. Mr. Hull hid by hand 2253 boxes of apples in a single day. This is in excess of machine work.

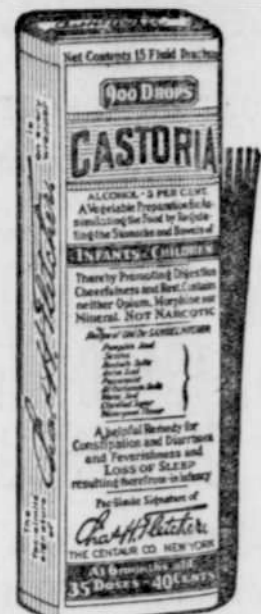
The cold weather of the past few days in the Hood River district has set the spray on the fruit to the degree that it is necessary to install heaters in the acid-bath solution in order to remove the spray residue from the apples.

The Roseburg chamber of commerce will ask of the Oregon delegation to congress that a bill be introduced setting aside a strip of timber one mile deep on each side of the North Umpqua highway to be preserved in its natural state, for its scenic value.

Can't PLAY Can't REST —child needs Castoria

WHEN a child is fretful and irritable, seems distressed and uncomfortable, can't play, can't sleep, it is a pretty sure sign that something is wrong. Right here is where Castoria fits into a child's scheme—the very purpose for which it was formulated years ago! A few drops and the condition which caused the trouble is righted; comfort quickly brings restful sleep.

Nothing can take the place of Castoria for children; it's perfectly harmless, yet always effective. For the protection of your wee one—for your own peace of mind—keep this old reliable preparation always on hand. But don't keep it just for emergencies; let it be an every-day aid. Its gentle action will ease and soothe the infant who cannot sleep. In more liberal doses it will



effectively help to regulate sluggish bowels in an older child. All druggists have Castoria; it's genuine if you see Chas. H. Fletcher's signature and this name-plate:



Record That Somehow

Made No Hit With Dad

Speaking about records, one of the Hunter brothers, who made a flying endurance mark, declared that knowledge was the prime requisite for success.

"Whatever it is, you have to know your stuff; have had plenty of experience and above all, know what to do in case something goes wrong. I am afraid that there are too many record chasers like Billy Johnson."

"A friend stopped Billy's father on the street one day and remarked: 'I thought your boy was coming to set up a record with that new motorcycle of his.'"

"He did," snorted the father, "eight times in the hospital in two months."

WOMEN SHOULD LEARN USES OF MAGNESIA

To women who suffer from nausea, or so-called "morning sickness," this is a blessing. Most nurses know it. It is advised by leading specialists: Over a small quantity of finely cracked ice pour a teaspoonful of Phillips' Milk of Magnesia. Sip slowly until you are relieved. It ends sick stomach or inclination to vomit. Its anti-acid properties make Phillips' Milk of Magnesia quick relief in heartburn, sour stomach, gas. Its mild laxative action assures regular bowel movement. Used as a mouth-wash it helps prevent tooth decay during expectancy.

How the Time Was Spent

Artist—You'd be surprised to know how much time was spent on this painting.

Friend—Yes, I've heard that people stand here by the hour trying to make out what it represents.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Vain Regret

"And why does the death of the rich Mr. Goldman affect you so deeply?"

"Ah! If I had married him I should now be his widow."

INDISPOSED?



Headaches come at the most inconvenient times, but there's one thing that will always save the day. If you have some Bayer Aspirin you can soon be on your way. The sooner you take it the less time you'll lose—the less you'll suffer.

Shopping frequently brings on a headache. Over-exertion of any kind. Eye-strain. Or just "nerves." Often it's the time of month. Regardless of the cause, you want relief. And you get relief when you take Bayer Aspirin. Take promptly! It will relieve the pain at any stage, but why wait until you are miserable? Bayer Aspirin

can't harm you, because there is nothing harmful in it. Remember this, when you're tempted to try some product that costs a few cents less!

BAYER ASPIRIN