

Halloween . . . It's Fun to Be Scared!

Man's fascination with the supernatural is an emotional balancing act between fear and fun. The hearty laugh of those who sneer at ghost stories frequently has an embarrassing resemblance to a nervous giggle.

There's an irresistible appeal about the shadowy world of the occult that has attracted poets, playwrights and authors for centuries. And throughout the history of mankind, this appeal has spelled success in the entertainment business — from William Shakespeare, with the ghost of Hamlet's father, to Rod Serling and his probes of the "Twilight Zone."

Current manifestations of the allure of the weird are three new television programs. Two of the shows caricature eerie families in haunted houses; the third features a contemporary witch in the guise of a normal housewife.

Come From Man's Tribal Lore

All three are intended to produce laughs but basic ingredients of the gags are found deep in man's tribal lore — centuries before television was even a bad dream. And, presumably, there was nothing funny about superstitious beliefs of those early times.

For instance, Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia relates that the ancient Druids believed spirits of the dead roamed abroad on Halloween and they lighted bonfires to drive them away.

They also thought that cats had once been human beings but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds. This curious notion found its way into 20th century melodrama with the broadcast of Arch Oboler's hair-raising radio play, "The Cat Wife," which starred Boris Karloff.

Another Bonfire Explanation

A more neighborly explanation of the old European custom of blazing bonfires on Halloween is found in Sir James Frazer's classic book on primitive customs, "The Golden Bough." He points out that souls of the departed were supposed to revisit their old homes in order to warm themselves by the fire and to bask in good cheer provided by their affectionate kinfolk.

The Irish say that jack-o-lanterns originated with a man named Jack who was doomed to walk the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day because he was unable to enter either heaven or hell.

Cling to Pagan Beliefs

Even after Nov. 1 became a Christian feast day, honoring all saints, the peasants clung to the old pagan beliefs and customs. According to Compton's, the holy day traces back to 610 A.D. when Emperor Phocas gave the Roman Pantheon to Pope Boniface IV as a church.

But when the Druids were calling the shots, they combined their fear of ghosts with fun and rejoicing. A three-day celebration centered around Halloween; festivities included roasting of nuts and apples as symbols of harvest.

Today, the trappings of ancient rituals are still with us on Halloween — grotesque masks, black cats, white ghosts, witches. But the glamour of mystery and awe that clung to the annual observance has long since been dissipated.

Technology Uproots Fear

There are very few practitioners of black magic in today's enlightened space age. Superstitious fear of the unknown has been uprooted by technological advances.

Only squares dig all that spook nonsense. Of course, even the most sophisticated take a dim view of walking by a cemetery at night. And, sometimes when you're alone at night you can hear some awfully strange noises and see some mighty peculiar shapes in your own house.

And when this happens, you can always turn on the television, watch an old Dracula film and remind yourself that it's fun to be scared.

Susan Moran Sustains Head Injury While Playing on School Equipment

By Mrs. Waldo Smalley

APPLE VALLEY—Susan Moran was hit on the right side of her head with a ring on the school trapeze while playing during the noon hour last Thursday at Apple Valley school.

The object cut a gash in her head which required three stitches to close.

Mrs. Ramona Shaul and children of Boise were Sunday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Griffin and later in the evening were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Riblett.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Honey visited Sunday with Mrs. Grace Honey of Boise.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rucker were Sunday visitors in the Jim Correll home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Pitman and sons of Boise were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pitman. Harvey hunted pheasants while here.

Recovers From Surgery

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pitman received word recently that Mrs. Kirby Pitman is recovering nicely from major surgery which she underwent at Madigan hospital in Fort Lewis, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hall of White Horse Ranch, Ore., Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ray were Sunday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Hill.

Mrs. Emma Tuning was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Fritts.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Correll of Marysville, Wash., arrived last Thursday for a 10-day visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Correll. The latter couple entertained Tuesday with a family dinner. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Correll, Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Whitton of Weiser. On Friday the Jim and Gordon Corrells drove to Lowman on a sightseeing trip.

Youngster Drinks Clorox

Saturday morning little Shelley Boston drank some Clorox bleach. Her mother administered first aid and went to the Ken Otani home for help. Shelley remained at Malheur Memorial hospital all day to be sure of no serious reactions.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bowman and family of Parma were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Fritts.

Mrs. Bertha Rapp is reported to be very ill with the flu.

Mrs. Louise Piercy and Dale returned Oct. 20 from Moscow where they purchased a registered Duroc boar from the University of Idaho for Dale's 4-H pig project.

Mrs. John Boston entertained with a birthday anniversary dinner last Thursday for her husband and Bob Shippy of Weiser. Other dinner guests were Mrs. Shippy and Danny, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Boston.

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GRANDDAUGHTER MODELS CLOTHING AT BOISE REVUE

Mrs. W. O. Peterson visited Friday in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Larry O. (Joy) Christensen at Boise. That morning she accompanied Mrs. Christensen and daughter, Tawni Joy, to an early-bird breakfast and KEST radio broadcast at the Stardust motel.

Tawni Joy, three years of age, modeled many items of fall clothing at a fashion revue staged by Minnesota Woolen Mills during the breakfast hour and broadcast.

Mr. and Mrs. John Weeks of Seneca were weekend guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Weeks, and also visited other relatives.

Army Private Hoare Named Squad Leader

Army Private Jerry D. Hoare, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hoare of 624 North Second street, Nyssa, and other members of the First Infantry division are scheduled to participate in Exercise Gold Fire I, a 16-day field training exercise to be conducted in the vicinity of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., beginning Oct. 29.

Hoare will participate as a squad leader with Joint Task Force Sioux, one of the combat forces involved in the exercise. About 20,000 men will take part in the maneuver.

The exercise, involving two opposing forces, Joint Task Force Sioux and Joint Task Force Oz-

ARRIVE FROM KENNEWICK

Mrs. George Bauer, Michael and Brian of Kennewick arrived last Thursday evening by train to visit her mother, Mrs. R. G. Larson, Sr., and other Nyssa relatives.

ark, is designed to test and evaluate the suitability of the U.S. Air Force concept for improving the use of aviation in support of Army ground forces.

Sioux forces will use current doctrines and procedures of troop tactics while Ozark will employ the new concept of support and attack.

Private Hoare is a member of Company C, 2nd Battalion of the division's 16th Infantry, regularly stationed at Fort Riley, Kan.

Drivers License Tests Set Nov. 6 in Nyssa

A drivers license examiner will be on duty at Nyssa city hall Friday, Nov. 6, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., according to announcement from the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles.

All persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license examination.

VISITORS FROM BOISE

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Palmer and family of Boise were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Froerer and family.

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