Age Old Tradition of Halloween Spooks Still Being Kept Alive, Even at Lindenwood

Nancy Hixey

Miniature goblets in the night
With thoughts on food and not on fright.
Laughing, sing out Trick or Treat.
Goodies, candies, things to eat.

From small toddlers to Lindenwood Ladies, the 20th century American is keeping alive the age old tradition of goats and spooks on Halloween. Rooted in ancient Roman pagan beliefs, Halloween has changed through the centuries from a feared and wicked night to a time of frivolity and mischief.

Equally important to the Latin church is the religious significance of the date. Commonly known as Allhallow Eve or All Saints Day in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Church, the day was set aside by Pope Gregory III for fasting after consecrating a chapel to all saints.

Dread belief continued to flourish even after the spread of Christianity as cults began worship of Satan and held frequent gatherings called witches' Sabbaths. Thus originated the witch and black cat folklore.

Although the Protestant church rejected the religious side of the holiday, there remained many superstitious beliefs and celebrations in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and parts of England. Bonfires were built, cauldrons roared, and shoes thrown over rocks.

Halloween in the U.S. with the Irish and English but it didn't become popular until the 19th century. Witches, black cats, deaths' head cut from a pumpkin, candles, bobbing apples, 'trick or treat' parties, and parties gained significance.

As the celebration caught on with the Americans it began to be synonymous with vandalism. Windows and doors were smashed among the numerous list of property destroyed. In order to combat the malicious mischief, civic organizations held masquerade parties for the children.

Today's Halloween is primarily a child's night but numerous other age groups join the festivities making the holiday eagerly anticipated and long enjoyed.

Lindenwood Remembrances Fill Cornerstones of New Hall; Unveiling Alumnae Weekend

None of you reading this will live to see the destruction and decaying of McCluer Hall, but we imagine that probably 3 centuries from now a puzzled and curious crowd will open the cornerstone of the new-not-yet-completed dorm and be surprised at Lindenwood's state in 1960.

A busy and fun summer of collecting items for the box was spent by members of the administration. The question they attempted to answer with the articles was: "What things about Lindenwood and Dr. and Mrs. McCluer would educators and onlookers be most interested three centuries from now?"

The openers will have to have a big imagination to conceive of features, tennis shoes, and quiet hour rules when they look at the Lindenwood viewbook, a copy of the 1959 Linden Leaves, dedicated to Dr. and Mrs. McCluer; the March 24, 1960 issue of the Linden Week, announcing plans for the new dorm; and a copy of the 1960-61 Rules and Regulations for Community Living.

A letter from Dr. McCluer is also included in the box stating: We hope that the articles which we have put in the box for the...