

HALLOWEEN JOURNAL

Monday, October 4

I saw a variety of Halloween masks at the White Rabbit. Perhaps the funniest was the mask which looked like Richard Nixon and was placed against a witch's robe; this "stood out" more than any of the others because I thought that it was rather original.

Tuesday, October 5

Today I saw a mug which looked like a skull in the drive-up window of the Eastern Heights Branch Bank.

Wednesday, October 6

I have been told about "Devil's Night" in some towns of Michigan. On this night, everyone can throw eggs, usually rotten, tomatoes, or anything else that will splatter at passing cars especially police cars. The best part is that the pranksters don't get arrested for this, but only on the night before Halloween.

When did this happen?
Where?

by whom?

Friday, October 15

My neighbor girl has put up her original Halloween decorations.

They consist of construction paper and colored paper jack-o-lanterns. I think they are cute.

Also in the windows of the gift shop on the corner of

Sixth and Walnut there were several Halloween decorations.

Ghosts, haunted houses, witches, goblins, and jack-o-lanterns (all store-type of course) were in the window boxes on the sides of the building.

Saturday, October 16

This morning 97WB had a ghost story about a U-boat captain. It seems that a U-boat was sunk by an enemy sometime before another U-boat^{or ship} arrived.

(Long enough before that he had disappeared.) Just before the unsuspected enemy was getting ready to attack the ship, the phantom U-boat blew the enemy up and then appeared to the ship. Just before

the phantom ship disappeared,
the 'long-lost' Captain waved at
the ship. He wasn't seen again
until the next day they found
his body floating in the water.
E-er-er!

Today I also went through
all of last week's newspapers
and found some interesting
articles and ads, as well as
pictures. (From Herald-Telephone).

Here they are:

*Cindy, try to give
sales and pages
for each
cut-out.
Also name
of newspaper.*



**BLACK CAT SPECIALS
OCTOBER 13 - 31**

- ALL BLACK PIGMENTS 13% off
- LUMINAIRE LAMPS \$13.00
- BLACK STYLIST PENS 13¢
(with every \$5.00 purchase)

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Hrs. Mon-Sat 9-5:30 · Sun 1-5
332-0025

Sunday, October 17

My neighbors have put up more decorations. They were skeletons,

This afternoon our church had a fall festival. Among the festivities was a jack-o-lantern carving contest. (I was unable to attend this since it was held outside because I am recently trying to get over a 'common' cold and sinus infection.) I'm sure there were some interesting ones, because last year there were. Last year, some had smiling buck-toothed faces, some had pointed teeth and beady eyes, while the fierce ones had fangs, beady eyes and arched eyebrows. Ferocious.

Monday, October 18

Today I saw four 'real' jack-o-lanterns. Two were on Tenth Street. These both had menacing jagged-tooth grins and normal-type eyes (triangles like this $\Delta\Delta$) with the same kind of nose. One even had a jagged scar, about three

Tylenol deaths spur warning on Halloween treats

In response to the Tylenol murders in the Chicago area, Indianapolis police officials Tuesday urged parents to examine the treats their children bring home on Halloween.

Parents should inspect all treats for signs of tampering, Indianapolis Police Chief Joseph G. McAtee and Marion County Sheriff James L. Wells said.

Parents should look for signs that wrappers on candy and other treats have been opened, which may indicate they have been tainted. Also parents should determine if foreign objects, like needles or razor blades have been inserted in the candy, they said.

IF PARENTS are suspicious of any candy they should call police immediately.

McAtee and Wells suggested that children not trick-or-treat at the homes of strangers. Children should be fed a large meal before going out so they will be less likely to eat the treats before parents can examine them.

The Tylenol murders prompted the Massachusetts village of Dudley on Monday to ban trick-or-treating this Halloween out of fear of "copycat" poisonings. Police in many cities are taking extra precautions, but most say you can't outlaw a tradition.

"THERE'S KIND of a sick situation right now," said Bernard J. Wielock, the Dudley village chairman. "It is the atmosphere around the world. It is sad."

But Los Angeles police Lt. Dan Cooke said, "I don't know how you cancel trick-or-treating. People are going to do it anyway."

Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne said Tuesday: "I would not allow my children to take candy this particular Halloween."



Halloween often is dangerous. Police at Muncie found some lick-on stickers picturing Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck that had been laced with LSD. A Louisiana man last year shot and killed a 13-year-old boy who showed up at his door wearing an Army costume and carrying a toy submachine gun.

BUT THE DEATHS of seven persons in the Chicago area 2½ weeks ago after they took Extra-Strength Tylenol spiked with cyanide prompted warnings that this year could be worse.

"Bad things come out at Halloween," said Illinois Attorney General Tyrone Fahner, who heads the task force investigating the poisonings. "This year has particular problems."

Since the cyanide deaths, products such as mouthwash and eye-drops have been found laced with acid or poison in isolated cases in several states, including California, Florida, Ohio and Colorado.

Saturday, October 23

I stayed home all day today, and since I cannot see a house from any window or from the back or front yard, except for our elderly neighbor's house, but she never puts up holiday decorations (except, sometimes Christmas), I again turned to the newspapers. I found this article on Bloomington ghosts.

Bloomington has had its ghosts

Though most everyone knows there is no such thing as a ghost, throughout the history of Monroe County there have been persons who have been willing to swear that there are a few ghosts around, if only you know where to look them.

Take for example Bloomington's oldest ghost. Back in the 1830s, after the Millen family had built their state-ly brick house on the site of what is now 112 N. Bryan, a servant woman was making soap for the family in the basement/kitchen. As the soap was bubbling away in the fireplace, she accidentally fell into the huge kettle and died of her burns.

How did the tale of her haunting of the basement get started? Today no one seems to know, but the sound of her moaning could have been no more than the wind whistling through a chink in the foundation of the house.

"Crook" Mershon's untimely death was the stuff of which ghostly legends are made. Mershon, also known as "Cornelius," had the reputation in the 1870s of being the kind of person who was usually up to no good.

In April of 1871 an out-of-towner by the name of John Moore was attracting attention because he was innocently flashing a wallet full of a lot of folding money. He walked into a local saloon one evening, but didn't walk out. It was said that he was murdered by "Crook" Mershon and stuffed into the fire box of a Monon engine that was conveniently halted in the station behind the saloon.

Mershon was convicted of the crime, but the state supreme court ordered

Looking Back

By Rose McIlveen

another trial. Before it could be held, a lynch mob took temporary custody of the Monroe County jail and saved their fellow taxpayers the expense of another trial.

Apart from his own

funeral, Mershon's only other appearances in Bloomington have been in the vicinity of Dunn Street and Kirkwood Avenue. Grace Gall, who lived at 412 E. Sixth, used to tell the story that some people believed Mershon's aban-

doned house on the northwest corner of Dunn and Kirkwood was haunted. Children, at least, believed it, and little schoolgirls were seen to hurry past the house, lest the ghost of "Crook" Mershon might be lurking about.

Around the campfire of Girl Scout Camp Na-wa-kwa in McCormick's Creek Park back in the 1940s, there was told the haunting story of the girl whose ghost kept falling from the nearby bridge over White River.

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Like many another ghost story, it was rooted in a tragic happening. In 1938, 18-year-old Helen Isom was very proud of the dress she was going to wear for high school graduation and had it on when she and a friend went for a walk.

Their route took them over the old narrow bridge that spanned the River. They were already halfway

across the bridge when a truck carrying newsprint to Spencer sped across the bridge. Though both girls tried to get out of the way, Helen was hurtled screaming into the river and drowned.

No blame was heaped upon the driver, an Ellettsville youth, but according to the tale from the 1940s, Helen in her graduation dress can occasionally be seen falling into the swift current below the bridge.

As usual, the tale of Helen in her fancy dress couldn't be traced back to any person who actually saw the ghost, but it had just enough credibility to inspire a troop of Girl Scouts to wheedle their leaders into taking them on a hike to the bridge. No ghost obliged them.



I thought these stories were interesting, but Rose McIlveen took out all the fun and scare by always saying "there's no such thing as ghosts" or "the ghost was never seen"

good