



# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2010

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open

Fridays and Saturdays,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 4-7 pm

Website: eaglehistorical-  
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Doug and Natalie Kornmeyer  
Jerry Buscher

## MEMBERSHIP

### Family Membership

Carol and Mark Lake

## Memorials

Kathryn Ruby \$100.00

Beatrice Nowicki \$25.00

Mildred Breidenbach \$330.00

## Museum Happenings

Our Thanks to:

\* Barbara and Bob Hegwood for donating approx. 3000 bricks to be used for new front walk. Willing to lay the walk? Call Jeff at 594-3425.

\* To Doug Kornmeyer (Owner of Prism Sportswear) for donating his time and art work for our new tornado T-shirts.

\* To Dorothy and Tom Schuette and Estelle Serena for donating time and work to make our newly acquired loom and spinning wheel (on loan) functional. Both will soon be available for demonstration.

\* To Jerry Buscher (owner of Liquid Escapes) Shane Suhms and Jeff Nowicki for cleaning up the tornado dam-

aged trees in the yard.

\* To Jerry Buscher for sharing over 2000 tornado photographs, Carolyn Rosprim and Jerry worked together selecting exhibit photos. Jerry also donated \$100.00 to help defray the cost of the Tornado Aftermath Exhibit.

\* To Ace Hardware in Mukwonago for donating plywood for our new exhibit.

## Another Oops

Robert Curran was incorrectly referred to as Roger Curran in the listing under Family Membership in our July Newsletter. The listing should have been Robert and Joyce Curran.

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## HALLOWEEN– HOW DID IT ALL START?

Jean Cisler

There are several avenues of thought as to the origin of Halloween and why and how we observe it. Historian Nicholas Rogers, exploring the origins of Halloween, notes that while "some folklorists have detected its origins in the Roman feast of Pomona, the goddess of fruits and seeds, or in the festival of the dead called Parentalia, it is more typically linked to the Celtic festival of Samhain. The name is derived from Old Irish and means roughly "summer's end". The ancient Celts believed that the border between this world and the Otherworld became thin on Samhain, allowing spirits (both harmless and harmful) to pass through. The family's ancestors were honored and invited home while harmful spirits were warded off. It is believed that the need to ward off harmful spirits led to the wearing of costumes and masks. Their purpose was to disguise oneself as a harmful spirit and thus avoid harm. In Scotland the spirits were impersonated by young men dressed in white with masked, veiled or blackened faces. Samhain was also a time to take stock of food supplies and slaughter livestock for winter stores. Bonfires played a large part in the festivities. All other fires were doused and each home lit their hearth from the bonfire. The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into its flames. Sometimes two bonfires would be built side-by-side, and people and their livestock would walk between them as a cleansing ritual.

The word *Halloween* is first attested in the 16th century and represents a Scottish variant of the fuller *All-Hallows-Eve*, that is, the night before All Hallows Day. Although the phrase *All Hallows* is found in Old English (*ealra hálþena mæssedæg*, the feast of all saints), *All-Hallows-Even* is in itself not attested to until 1556. The name 'Halloween' and many of its present-day traditions derive from the Old English era.

Thus we have the pagan side of the rituals of Halloween and the Christian observance of All Saints Day, the day after Halloween which is held in some Christian churches. All Saints day came about when, in the early church, they began to have more and more saints than they had room for on the calendar. All Saints day was originally celebrated in May but later moved to November 1, perhaps as a way to offset the pagan ritual of Halloween.

The imagery of Halloween is derived from many sources, including national customs, works of Gothic and horror literature (such as the novels *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*), and classic horror films (such as *Night of the Living Dead* and *The Mummy*). Elements of the autumn season, such as pumpkins, corn husks, and scarecrows, are also prevalent. Homes are often decorated with these types of symbols around Halloween.

Halloween imagery includes themes of death, evil, the occult, magic, or mythical monsters. Traditional characters include ghosts, witches, skeletons, vampires, werewolves, bats, and black cats. The colors black and orange are associated with the celebrations, perhaps because of the darkness of night and the color of fire, autumn leaves, or pumpkins.

Modern day Halloween customs originated in the late 19th, early 20th Century.

Also at this time of year, satanistic rituals rear their ugly heads.

But today's children have no interest or worry at this. They mark the date by dressing in costumes of all sorts, going door to door with the familiar chant of "Trick or Treat" and in Eagle participating in the Village wide "Pumpkin Party" which includes pumpkin carving, of course, a visit to the Museum's Haunted House, which is not too haunted as to frighten the younger ones.

Halloween seems to be more popular every year as a time for children to just have fun and eat candy until they're sick or Mom stops them.



## **HALLOWEEN IN EAGLE THROUGH THE YEARS**

A collection of stories from your friends and neighbors in Eagle and the way things were—recollections from the 30's through the 90's. Several stories repeated the wonderful memories of crisp leaves underfoot and the great thrill of going out on Halloween night to gather the treats in their crumpled up bags, the magic of dressing up as a monster or ghost and trying to fool everyone, the aroma of popcorn popping, pumpkin seeds roasting in the oven and of course, caramel apples. Finally, when all the homes were visited, the joy of opening those crumpled up bags and pouring out the mixed contents. With permission of the Crawley family, we have included the story we received from Jack Crawley. We all feel he would have wanted us to.

### **Horror Movies and Animated Goblins**

Growing up, Halloween was one my favorite holidays. I think every little boy grows up fascinated, on some level, by the ideas of ghosts, skeletons, ghouls and goblins parading around on Halloween night. For me, though, the holiday was just a few days before my birthday, which made it feel extra special.

The beginning of the Halloween season always began as the air started to chill and Autumn began approaching. On that day (always a big, exciting day) my father would go up to the attic and start to bring down our family's Halloween decorations. Paper bats mingled with handmade ceramic pumpkins. My Dad had many of the early store bought decorations, which came prior to the commercialization of Halloween. That occurred as I was in my Elementary/Middle School years.

My Dad would bring in Indian corn and decorate the living room with it. New, fresh red apples would be found in profusion in the refrigerator. Candy from the Variety Store or popcorn balls in black and orange cellophane would often be treats for us kids.

A few days before Halloween, my parents would take us to Elegant Farmer or Papa Stienke's and we would pick out the biggest pumpkin we could find. We would then take the pumpkin home and carve it.

Usually, around Halloween my dad would make a big kettle of popcorn and we would all watch some older horror movie that had graced the movie screen when my parent's were young. For example, it was always special watching Abbott and Costello run for their lives from Bela Legosi (as Dracula) or Glenn Strange (as Frankenstein's Monster).

On the Sunday nearest Halloween, we would have breakfast (with freshly made Apple Cider) and then my parents would get out our costumes. We would be dressed up like cowboys, skeletons, or pumpkins. One year, I remember being dressed up like a then new, popular cartoon character, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. We would then go out to join other kids, also dressed up like Care Bears, Clowns, or even Barney the Dinosaur. Trick or Treat lasted only a few hours during the day. We would visit all of our neighbors on Eagle Street, then go down Park Street. After filling our bags, we would go back home and then head out, after the last of the Trick or Treaters had retired to their homes, to my Grandma's house to show our costumes to her.

Yes, Halloween holds many cherished memories of being a child...things that I will never forget.

**Ryan Hajewski**

## Watch Your Step!

Halloween in Eagle in the 40's and 50's was probably much like all the other small towns in WI. Kids soaped the windows on the stores and the school, put corn stalks around the bandstand in the village park and maybe moved some signs. There were three noble exceptions. One time the more ambitious put a backhouse on an empty flat car at the depot and it ended up in Janesville. Another time the village druggist J.J. Lorge sat in his palace back of the drugstore and the boys tipped it over and he was trapped inside. The best I can remember was when Frank Breidenbach got even with a bunch of boys from Waukesha who came to do him problems. The Breidenbachs lived across the street from the Methodist church with their four children, Bob, Rita, Jean and Helen. The two youngest girls attended Waukesha High School and were quite popular. Somehow Frank got word that he was going to have visitors and so he moved the backhouse ahead about three feet and when the boys went around to the back they fell into the pit. End of story. **Jack Crawley**

## More Tricks than Treats

Halloween has forever been a time for ghosts, goblins, witches and other scary creatures. However it has also been a time for mischief and a variety of pranks. When I was growing up in the 1930's and 1940's there were still outdoor toilets which were left over from the day before running water and in some homes were still being used. A popular prank in those years was to tip some of them over. They were not seriously damaged and just caused the owners the inconvenience of putting them back up. In the 30's and 40's all of the businesses on Main Street had park benches in front of their stores. One of the common pranks was to relocate the benches to various other locations such as the roof of the lumber company sheds, or up the flag pole in the village square. The morning after Halloween was somewhat like a scavenger hunt with people searching for their benches and anything else that had been left outside. Soaping windows was another popular prank. A bar of soap was used to cover all or parts of the store windows. Occasionally someone would use paraffin which was much more difficult to remove. Bundles of corn which farmers had cut and shocked were brought to town and placed in various locations on Main Street for decorations. None of these pranks were destructive, just mischievous.

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*The morning after Halloween was somewhat like a scavenger hunt with people searching for their benches and anything else that had been left outside.*

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My father was born in 1896. He told about their Halloween pranks. One year they acquired a milk wagon which was a small, light duty wagon. He and his friends took the wheels and tongue off and raised all of the pieces including the main body of the wagon to the top of the grain elevator and reassembled it on the roof. I don't know the actual height of the building but it was quite tall. (It was demolished in the 1960s). Anyway, the next day the sheriff came and rounded up the boys and made them take the wagon apart and bring it down and put it back together as the people of the village watched. They were not charged with any crime.

Trick or Treat had not become the big thing when I was younger. I don't remember when it was started. In my time it was just a lot of tricking and no treating. **Bill Thiele**

October 2010

## No Apples or Oranges, Please.

With autumn approaching colored drawings of witches and spooks, black cats, corn stalks and pumpkins filled the walls of Miss Watt's class room. Halloween was coming and weeks before the kids of Eagle would be talking of what kind of monster they would be on that evening. Most costumes were made at home in 1950's- sometimes a mask would be bought at Crosswait and Kresten's store. But for the most part they were made from things found in the home – an old sheet with holes for the eyes became a ghost, cardboard was made into a space helmet, witches hat, robot or any number of creatures.

The week before Halloween we'd pile into the car and go to a farm to buy pumpkins to carve Jack O Lanterns. Once home we cut a circle around the stem for the lid. Once this was done the seeds and fiber were removed from the inside. Now finally the pumpkin was ready for a face, which was usually just a Jack O Lantern face-some with a smile, some a frown, some with vampire teeth and some with only one tooth in the middle of its' smile. Once the Jack O Lantern was finished, a candle was placed inside. When the Jack O Lanterns were done, decorations were placed in windows and doorways. We were ready for the second best kid's day of the year, only surpassed by Christmas and maybe Easter.



*You compare your take with others to make sure you didn't miss out on a good house, as you rushed to the next house and call out "Trick or Treat" along the way.*

The day is here finally. "It's Halloween!" That school day seems as if it would never end. We'd draw more half moons with witches on brooms-so many that they would partly cover one another on the walls. The excitement was so thick you could cut it with a knife. Finally school ends and we rush home and wait for the sun to set. We start to get into our disguises, hoping no one would know who was inside. Now it was time for friends to meet and to start to scare the residents of Eagle into giving them a shopping bag of goodies. We start at neighbors and work down one street and up the next collecting all sorts of candies, plus little bags of popcorn, potato chips, peanuts, apples and oranges... "apples and oranges I can get those at home." You compare your take with others to make sure you didn't miss out on a good house, as you rushed to the next house and call out "Trick or Treat" along the way. Mishaps would happen-the rubber band under Lone Ranger mask broke or tape holding cardboard robot suits broke and you would have to hold it together. The worst things were to find wax filled juice had leaked and your bag had a hole in it trailing all your goodies along the sidewalk, or the big kids did a raid on your bag. With no more houses with lights on it's time to go home and enjoy some of the take. When reaching in the bag, you find the popcorn has spilled out of the little bag and mixed with the M&M's you had sampled earlier and stuck to the sucker you couldn't wait to try, the whole thing resembling, what we call today, trail mix, except it's all stuck together and the peanuts are still in the shell. And for the next week you hear those words over and over-"Don't eat that now, you'll spoil your supper!" **Phil Hall**

## Finding the Best Treats

We always would go Trick and Treating on the 31st after dark. As a group we would talk over who each of us knew would give the best treats. You would always go to Martin Breidenbach because he would hand dip ice cream cones for everyone. It was the best. Yum! Some people would want you to sing a song or recite a poem or tell a joke before giving you a treat. There were some houses we would avoid because the people were a bit different or a little scary. Some people would give you a few pennies and once in a while a nickel instead of candy. Some of the special treats we would get were Caramel apples and popcorn balls.

### Jackie Adams

#### PUMPKIN PARTY

Eagle community will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pumpkin Party October 30<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 4 pm.

Join us at the museum to meet Ghouls, Ghosts & Haunts. Visit with our charming witch,

Jean Bowey, and listen to her enchanting story.

OPEN HOUSE October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 pm – 4 pm

#### NEW EXHIBIT

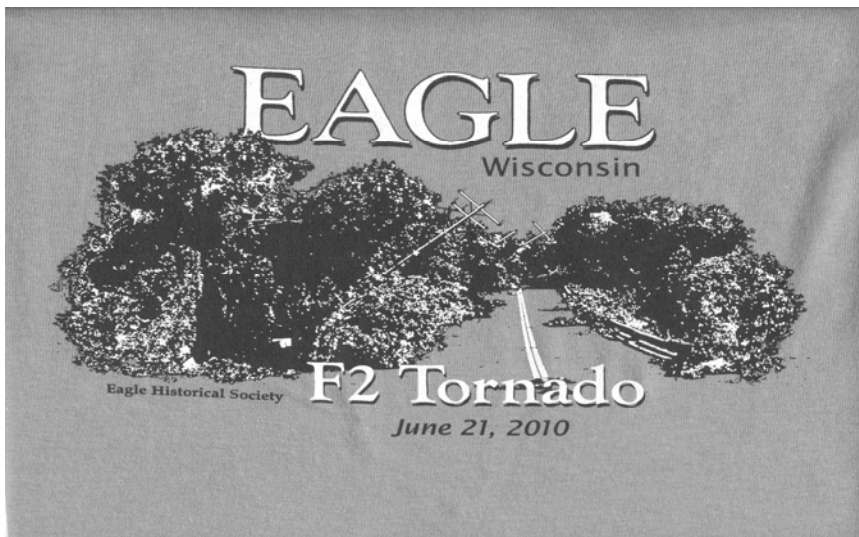
Who can forget the night of June 21<sup>st</sup>? Visit our new Tornado Aftermath Exhibit featuring a photographic record of the event.

#### TEE SHIRTS

Tee shirts are available for \$15 with \$2 being donated to the Eagle Tornado Disaster Relief Fund.



Good Witch Jean Bowey



#### ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Dorothy Saylor,  
Mabel Finney,  
Luella Bowey,  
Steve Pett

Tornado T-Shirt, done in tan and brown shades



## A Community Comes Together

Looking back, June 21 seems like a long time ago. Most of the blue tarps have disappeared but Eagle will bear the scars of that night for many years to come. A drive through the subdivision, down South Road, along Highway 67 and past Oak Ridge Cemetery will stand out because of the lack of trees.

Our annual ice cream social and Palmyra-Eagle Community Band Concert, held this year on July 11th, turned out to be a benefit for Oak Ridge Cemetery. The scouts of Eagle pack 54, under the guidance of Scout Master Amy Butenhoff set the tone of the day with an inspiring flag ceremony that brought tears to many in the audience. The Palmyra Eagle Band, under the direction of Mr. Ed Pierce, played a variety of music that had toes tapping and all voices joining in on the Sing-A-Long.

Free cake and ice cream were provided with the generous help of Tasty Z's/Eagle BP, who provided all the ice cream and EHS members and other area residents, who provided all the baked goods. Donations were requested.

In addition Bob Younger of Younger's Woodery suggested we raffle off an eagle carved from a downed tree in the cemetery. He carved it on Saturday and had it finished Sunday morning. Ed Rowland of Sullivan was the lucky winner of the beautiful carving.

The efforts of the Eagle Historical Society and the Palmyra-Eagle Community Band and the generosity of many people raised \$5500 for the Oak Ridge Cemetery restoration.

Most memorable were the three young children who emptied their piggy banks into plastic bags and brought their donations of coins, mostly pennies to add to the donations.

Thanks, everyone for your tremendous support.

Elaine Ledrowski, Curator



Concertgoers enjoy a great afternoon



Ed Rowland, the winner, with his newly acquired Eagle.



Oak Ridge Cemetery after the June 21 Storm

## OBITUARY



### John Earl 'Jack' 'Doc' Crawley

Nov. 5, 1929 – Aug. 25, 2010

John Earl "Jack" "Doc" Crawley died Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010, at Fort Atkinson Memorial Hospital of pulmonary fibrosis. He died as he lived – surrounded by love.

Doc was born Nov. 5, 1929, to Eleanor (Wilton) and Earl H. Crawley in Ashland. He graduated from East Troy High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his doctorate of veterinary medicine from Iowa State University. Doc was a member of the ROTC at Iowa State. He served in the Air Force in Savannah, Ga., and for many years in the Air Force Reserve. He retired with the rank of major.

Upon completion of his Air Force active duty, Doc moved to Palmyra to begin his veterinary practice, which spanned over 50 years. His "COW DOC" license plates were a familiar and welcome site to farmers in three counties, and he cared for innumerable family pets from the clinic behind his house. Doc loved Palmyra, and he put his heart and soul into making the community a better place to live and raise a family. He was a member of the Palmyra-Eagle School Board for nine years, including serving as president. He was an active member of Kiwanis for more than 40 years, and loved his involvement in providing Christmas baskets for families, and with their sponsored youth programs. He was a leader in working to help young people avoid alcohol and other drug abuse, and he helped establish the first AODA program at PEHS. He was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and served on the parish council on multiple occasions. Doc loved his family, and anyone who ever spoke to him was well aware of that. He is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Olive; his children, Kevin (fiancée Yvonne Bitticks-Maruniak), Kathleen (Timothy Dybevik), Ellen (Mark Thorn), Sara (Steve Poser), Colleen (Doug Schell), Dennis (Jane Pacheco), Ann (Jeff Gerner) and Patrick (Kerry Odell); and 16 adoring grandchildren, Andrew, Robin and Joseph Dybevik, Elizabeth, Kathleen and Hannah Thorn, Samuel and Gabriel Poser, Lauren and Patrick Schell, Gavin and Kierra Crawley and Liam and Emmett Crawley. He is further survived by his brother, Gerald Crawley, who was also his partner in veterinary medicine and friend for his entire life; his brothers-in-law, Patrick and Larry Curtin; and his sisters-in-law, Mary Curtin, Dana Crawley and Carol Anchor. He is preceded by his parents; his daughter-in-law, Diana Paulina; and many brothers and sisters-in-law. Doc loved to fish – in addition to special trips with his brother Jerry and fishing buddies, he enjoyed many hours of fishing at the Castle Rock and Pettenwell lakes with very special family and friends. Doc loved to play cards, and was a longtime member of the Dirty Old Men's Poker and Spannferkel Society. The group provided more than good company and cards. They also raised funds for many causes in the Palmyra-Eagle School District, including athletic field lights and band uniforms. Doc loved his trombone music. He was a proud member of the University of Wisconsin Marching Band, and in his later years a very active member of the Palmyra-Eagle Community Band. He was an inveterate story teller, and he had a joke for every occasion. Doc said he had three goals in life: to be a veterinarian, to marry a beautiful woman and raise a good family. He lived a long and happy life and endured his more recent health challenges with courage and grace in anticipation of his journey to heaven.

Visitation was held on Sunday, Aug. 29, at Mealy's Funeral Home, 320 Main St., Palmyra. A Mass of Christian burial was held Monday, Aug. 30, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 919 W. Main St., Palmyra. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Doc's name may be made to the Palmyra-Eagle School District Memorial Foundation, St. Mary's Catholic Church or the Fairhaven Foundation.

Mealy's Funeral Home in Palmyra, assisted the family.



## OBITUARY

*Mildred Breidenbach*

*August 2, 1918– June 25, 2010*

Mildred “Mickey” Breidenbach (nee Ortmann) 91, passed away on Friday, June 25, 2010 at Ridgewood Care Center.

Mickey was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 2, 1918, the daughter of Robert and Anna Ortmann. She was united in marriage to William Breidenbach on March 21, 1939.



Mickey was truly a remarkable woman who lived a rich life during which she touched many hearts. In a number of ways she was ahead of her time, as she designed her own home in Eagle, Wis-

consin, held leadership roles in various civic organizations (e.g. past President of the Eagle Lioness Club, etc.) and traveled the world with her husband, Bill. Mickey excelled in entertaining in her home and enjoyed sewing (especially formals, party dresses) and spoiling her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her “bubbly” spirit will always be remembered as a blessing by those who knew and loved her.

Mickey is survived by her loving children, Cynthia Song of Racine, Terry (Rosemary) Breidenbach of Racine and Bonnie Pettit (Harvey McDonald) of Chandler, Arizona; grandchildren, Rob(Terri) Sorg, Mark (Leslie) Breidenbach, and Michelle (Mike) Lovey; great grandchildren, Katie, Alex, Lauren, Kar, James and Gracie. She was preceded in death by her husband, William on November 2, 1986.

Mickey was laid to rest next to her husband at West Lawn Memorial Park. Memorials to the Eagle Historical society or the Eagle Lioness Club have been suggested.

## OBITUARY

*Esther M. Stead*

*May 13, 1912– July 26, 2010*

Esther M. Stead, 98 passed away Monday, July 26, 2010 at the Masonic Home in Dousman. Esther was born May 13, 1912, the daughter of the late William and Bertha (nee Brandt) Lutz.

Esther was retired from Northwest Telephone Company, where she was an operator. Esther was a member of the United Methodist Church in Eagle and served on the women’s society. She was a scorekeeper for Land O’ Lakes baseball team and enjoyed fishing, cooking and baking, sewing and crocheting.

Esther will be missed by her children, Arthur Stead of Dousman and Karen (Jerry Sagert) of Eagle; grandchildren, Raymond Raatz, Gerald (Linda) Raatz, Carol (Vernon) Percell, Deborah Garbukas, Deidre “Dee Dee” Runyan, Glen (Lori) Sagert and Jill (Michael) West; 14 great-grandchildren and “one on the way” great-grandchild. Esther is further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Esther was preceded in death by her husband, George; daughter, Virginia; four brothers; and one sister.

Visitation was held at the United Methodist Church, 305 E. Main Street, Eagle on July 29th with the Rev. Lawrence Turner presiding. Burial followed at the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to the United Methodist Church in Eagle or the Masonic Home, 400 N. Main Street, Dousman, WI 53118.

Mealy’s Funeral Home assisted the family.



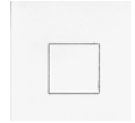


Eagle Historical Society, Inc.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Who?**

By a Mystery Writer

**Who** put farm machinery in the park and put a skunk up on the flag pole and a long time ago put a buggy on top of the feed mill? **Who** tipped over out houses and soaped all the business and car windows? **Who** was the first to Treat or Treat for UNICEF? *Who* was mean enough to break all the pumpkins? **Who** was the nice lady on Main Street that had a talking pumpkin that scared the Trick or Treaters as they came to her door? **BUT WHO TOOK THE MYSTERY AND FUN OUT OF HALLOWEEN?** Times have changed., now there are those who say, Look out for bad men, don't walk alone, be careful of bad candy and remember breaking things is vandalizing. The whos now have faded into the past. The whos did have fun in a slower time. The ghosts of the past are at rest and I will not tell who they were.   ?????