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EC543 Community Program with Halloween Suggestions

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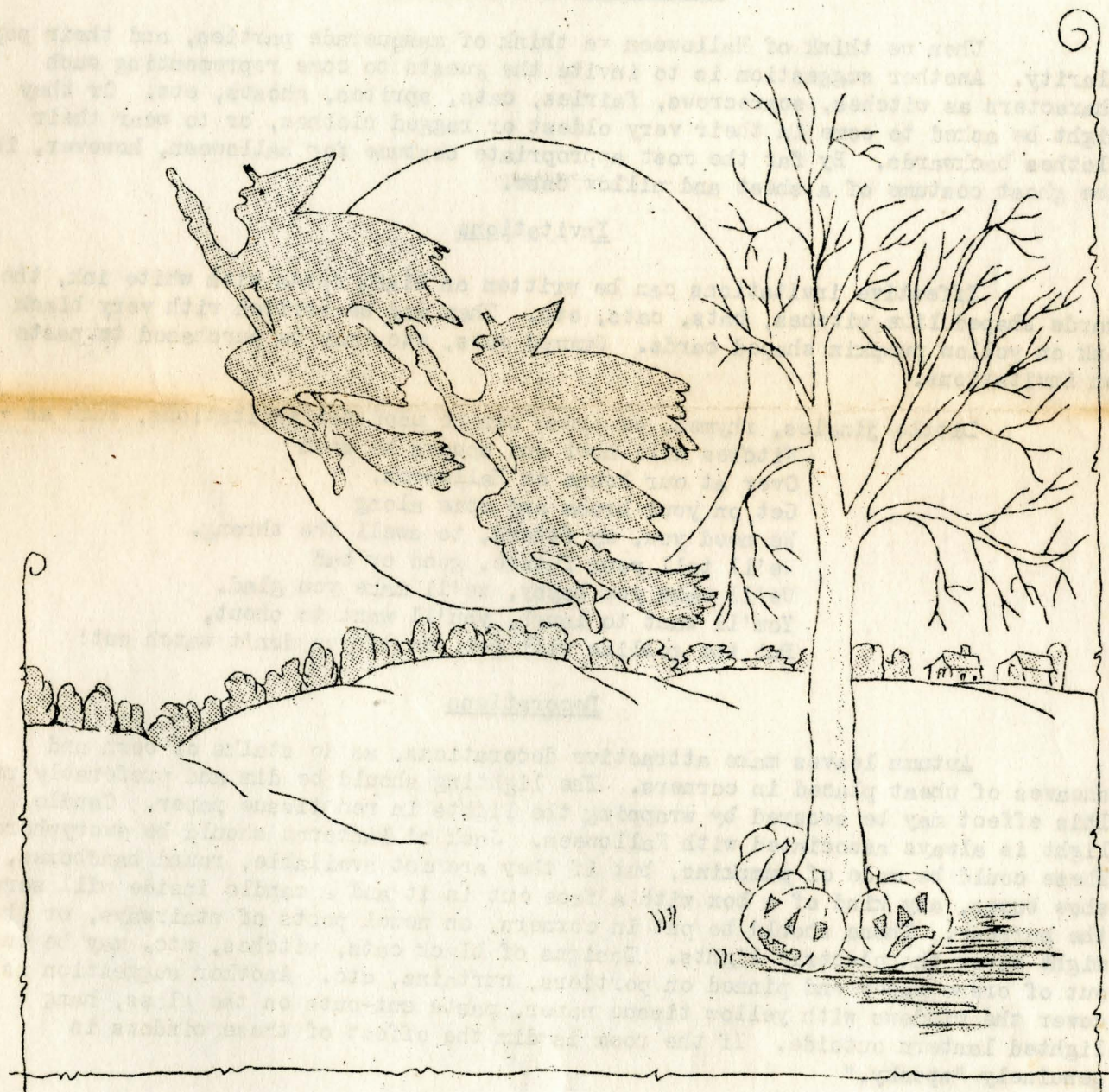
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Extension
Circular
543

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

With Halloween Suggestions



FOREWORD

Twenty million boys and girls in our country have been back in school long enough to have well settled down to work. Now let all of us do our part in furnishing recreation and entertainment, both home, school, and community, for the fall and winter months.

Suggestions for Both Party and Community Meetings

We are giving herewith more material than can be used in one evening. Do not make the program over one and a half hours long at most. It would be interesting for Halloween to have the program made up of games, stunts, readings, and songs.

Suggestions for Costuming

When we think of Halloween we think of masquerade parties, and their popularity. Another suggestion is to invite the guests to come representing such characters as witches, scarecrows, fairies, cats, sprites, ghosts, etc. Or they might be asked to come in their very oldest or ragged clothes, or to wear their clothes backwards. By far the most appropriate costume for Halloween, however, is the ghost costume of a sheet and pillow case.

Invitations

Effective invitations can be written on black cards with white ink, the cards shaped like witches, bats, cats, etc. They may be written with very black ink on yellow pumpkin shaped cards. Gummed cats, etc. may be purchased to paste on invitations.

Little jingles, rhymes, or prose can be used for invitations, such as -

Witches will howl and spooks be seen
Over at our house on Halloween.
Get on your broom and come along
We need you, my friend, to swell the throng.
We'll tell your future, good or bad
We'll make you happy, we'll make you glad.
You'll want to laugh, you'll want to shout,
But the goblins will get you if you don't watch out!

Decorations

Autumn leaves make attractive decorations, as do stalks of corn and sheaves of wheat placed in corners. The lighting should be dim and preferably red. This effect may be secured by wrapping the lights in red tissue paper. Candle light is always associated with Halloween. Jack o' lanterns should be everywhere. These could be made of pumpkins, but if they are not available, round handboxes, shoe boxes, any kind of a box with a face cut in it and a candle inside will serve the purpose. These should be put in corners, on newel posts of stairways, or they might cover the electric lights. Designs of black cats, witches, etc. may be cut out of crepe paper and pinned on portiers, curtains, etc. Another suggestion is to cover the windows with yellow tissue paper, paste cut-outs on the glass, hang lighted lantern outside. If the room is dim the effect of these windows is genuinely "spooky."

Reception of Guests

The only time ghosts are popular is at Halloween so station a ghost on the porch to greet the guests. Even live ghosts are not supposed to talk, and these are no exception. The ghost on the porch points to a sign which reads "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here". Should you desire, the guests could start their fun at once by having the ghost point to a sign such as "Follow the chain which bars your way". This chain (or rope) leads thru house, into basement, between rows of chairs, etc. Various wet and clammy pieces of apparel such as gloves, shoes, etc. may be hung in the dark rooms so they will hit the guests as they pass. Weird sounds can be made, doors banged, etc. Drill a hole about an inch from the regular one in an old phonograph record - use an especially squeaky vocal record and put it on the machine. The sounds are weird to say the least, and might be assumed to come from a witch in agony..

Entertainment

Fortunes

Guests are paired off and their wrists tied together with handkerchiefs. The leaders of the march go upstairs and down, outdoors and in. Music may be played, either piano or a comb orchestra. They may march backwards, on one foot, on knees, on tiptoes, or on heels.

Another suggestion would be to have a string woven in and out, tied in knots, leading all over the house with a fortune written on paper deposited in some hiding place at the end. The end of each string is given a guest and he spends a long time unravelling it, untying knots, till he comes to his fortune at the end. At the end could be found such direction as "Look under the big chair in the hall". Guest looks there and finds another slip saying, "Go up into attic and look under the family album in the red trunk". Here he finally finds his fortune.

Another method of telling fortunes is by "snapping" apples and counting the seeds.

Candles are placed in an open window. They are lighted and named for some of the guests. The one that remains lighted longest will be married last.

Three bowls are placed on a table in a row. One is filled with milk, one with water, and one is empty. Guests are blindfolded. They are turned about until they cannot place bowls, then they dip their fingers in. The one with milk means the person will marry a widow or widower; with water, they will marry a bachelor or old maid; the one with nothing, they will remain single all their days.

A fortune pumpkin can be hollowed out and filled with fortunes written on paper and done in small parcels. Each one is fastened to a thread which hangs over top of pumpkin. Each guest draws a fortune out by the thread.

Nothing is more popular than fortune telling by a gypsy. Fix up an attractive corner for the person dressed as a gypsy. If the person is well acquainted with the guests, she may make up very clever fortunes for them.

An old witch can preside over a caldron. Josh sticks may be put in the pot and give off a smoke. Witch stirs fire constantly and draws out fortunes for everybody. With a little effort her cave could be decorated with dead or bare tree branches.

A wheel of fortune could be made by using an old wheel off a wagon and fastening pointers on every spoke. This wheel is fastened to a hub on the wall and made to

revolve. On the wall about it are pinned fortunes. Where the wheel stops is the fortune of the person who started it revolving.

Date Fortunes - Blindfold a guest and lead her to a table on which are arranged a row of dates. The date which she touches foretells her future.

Date stuffed with pink fondant - a rosy future.

Date torn to bits - a broken and disappointing love affair.

Date stuffed with white fondant - peace and prosperity.

Date covered with gold-foil - wealth

Date covered with green paper - travel

Date rolled in sugar - many love affairs

Two dates fastened together - an early marriage

Date covered with blue paper - long life.

Nut Fortune - Turn out all the lights, except candles and jack o'lanterns. A bowl of English walnuts is passed and each guest takes a nut and cracks it while the hostess repeats in a solemn tone: "Hold over the candle what you find within, careful not to scorch it - that would be a sin." Inside the walnut is a tightly rolled bit of paper on which a weird message is written in lemon juice and which appears completely blank until it is heated. The candles will furnish the heat to make the writing visible. Some of the messages:

You'll be married within the year.

A blonde is jealous of you.

A dark man is on your trail. Beware!

A long journey to a foreign land is near at hand.

A clever hostess knowing her guests well may make these messages quite apropos.

Hoop Fortunes - A hoop is hung by two strings from the ceiling, around which at intervals are placed bread, apples, cakes, candies, peppers, and candles. The strings are twisted, then let go, and as the hoop revolves, each may step up and take a bite from whatever comes to him. By the taste he determines what the character of his married life will be - whether wholesome, acid, soft, fiery, or sweet. Whoever bites the candle must pay a forfeit.

—Kelley, Book of Halloween

GALES

Date Race - Stuffed dates are wrapped in waxed paper and each one tied to a piece of string five yards long. These are placed on the table side by side, the free end of each string being held by a contestant. At a signal each contestant puts his piece of string in his mouth and without help of either hand, chews rapidly at the string until he gets all of it in his mouth. The first one to reach the date is declared the winner of the prize.

Apple and Candle.— Suspend by a twisted cord a three-foot stick to one end of which is fastened an apple, to the other a lighted candle. The string keeps the stick whirling, making it doubly hard to bite the apple. Care must also be taken not to bite the candle instead.

—Kelley, Book of Halloween

Raisin Race - A raisin is strung in the middle of a string a yard long. Each of two persons, a man and a girl, takes an end of the string in his mouth. At a signal, they begin to chew it. Whoever first reaches the raisin has it to eat and will be the first married.

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4 — Culp, What to do on Halloween

Jolly Witches (Variation of "Jolly Miller")
while all sing:

Girls are witches and men goblins,

"Jolly are the witches that live on the hill;
The fire goes on with a right good will.
Snakes in the grasses and frogs in the pond;
The witches step forward and the goblins turn round."

--Mabel Horning, Brooklyn, Mich.

Three Candles - Three lighted candles are placed in a row on the floor. Each guest in turn is blindfolded at a distance of six steps from candles. He is started forward and told to take six steps and blow. If he blows out the first, he will be married inside a year; the second, two years; the third, three. If he blows none out, he will never marry.

--Van Derveer, Halloween Happenings

Closing Number - A good way to end the party is to have a ghost story told at exactly 12 o'clock. Every one should sit in a circle upon the floor while a burning pan of alcohol (to which salt has been added) is placed in the middle.

Choosing Partners for Supper - An old witch pokes the girls, hit and miss, thru a door. The man in the moon or old Father Time pushes the boys thru another door. The ones that come out are partners for supper. This like life, so the pokers say, we never know who are going to be partners thru life.

Refreshments

Homely, wholesome food should be served. Shingles would be fine on which to serve the food and wooden bowls to hold the food. Pumpkin pie, baked beans, doughnuts, coffee, cider, graham sandwiches, gingerbread, ginger cookies, apples, etc. are welcome after a strenuous Halloween evening.

The Last Thing

If you are having a masquerade and are closing your party with old fashioned dances, have the unmasking take place at exactly 12 o'clock, to the accompaniment of sad, dreary music.



The suggestions above may be used where you are having an entire evening of entertainment, or some of them may be used following the regular community program. Three or four of the older people in the community might be asked to bring and read some of the Halloween stories or poems that were popular when they were younger. The following are a few suggestions for a community program to precede the games.

Paper to be read on "Halloween"

"The custom of lighting Halloween fires survived until recent years in the Highlands of Scotland and Wales. In the dying embers it was usual to place as many small stones as there were persons around, and the next morning a search was made. If any of the pebbles were displaced, it was regarded as certain that the person represented would die within the twelvemonth."

--Encyclopedia Brittanica

"There was a time, long ago, when the people were really in earnest about a good many of the superstitions and stunts now common on Halloween. When Christianity became a power in religion, the church had many Saints it wished to honor. November first was chosen for honoring all together, and was called 'All Saints Day'. This brought the harvest festival and the Saints Day together and the evening of October 31 became known as 'All Hallows' Eve' which has now been shortened to 'Halloween'. Thus the customs of the two days became confused and we have our Halloween colors of yellow, the color of the ripened grain, and black that of the magic and unknown. Many of the customs have remained long after the superstitions have passed. We have the fun of this night now without the belief that the wicked rule. Altho after seeing some of the things done in the name of Halloween we are inclined to believe that the "old imp" is still lurking around in some of our natures looking for a means of escape."

Suggested Songs

(Others of your own choice may be used)

See Community Song Circulars 1, 2, 3. (Your Agricultural agent can supply you with copies of these circulars)

The Optimist, page 1, Cir. 3
Fair Nebraska, page 1, Cir. 3
Four Leaf Clover, page 2, Cir. 2
When the Organ Peeled Bananas, page 2, Cir. 2
The Bear Went Over the Mountain " "
Pack up Your Troubles, Page 1, Cir. 1
Carry Me Back to Old Nebraska, Page 2, Cir. 1

Recitation by a Boy

Halloween! Halloween! The eve of all the year
When hilarity should be replaced with right good cheer
We'll have a good time - you bet we'll whoop 'er up.
From Grandpa clear down to the bull pup.
Even at home we'll romp and play with hearts so full of glee
With maybe - just Dad, and Ma, and me.

They're my Halloween pals, now don't you think they aint.
Mother's not too good for fun - and Dad's no saint.
They know how to do that it makes a feller like 'em
True, when he shows his faults they spike 'em
They don't jaw and they don't scold
But when they talk worth while things - ye're sold.

So tonite we're having a Halloween jamboree
Dad and Ma and me
Dad and Mother first
Dad and Mother last
Dad and Mother! Dad and Mother!
Till Gabriel blows his blast!

Extension Circular 550 contains several recitations.

A Small Girl's Halloween Charm

They told me that on Halloween
You'd find out whom you'd marry
If you'd walk backward down the stairs
And watch the glass you'd carry.

And so I got up out of bed,
Just as the clock was striking,
And took my little looking-glass -
It wasn't much to my liking -

But still I started down the stairs;
Afraid? Yes, I was, rather;
But, oh, it all came out just right!
I'm going to marry father.

The Farmers Club

(Tune - Tramp, Tramp, Tramp)

Men and women from the farms
We're united as you see
In a farmers club we're surely going strong
We have joined to work and play
And then have some time that's free
Then you'll hear us sing our chorus loud and long.

Chorus -

Farmers club, we're going forward
For Nebraska we will cheer
And we'll have our little fun
When our daily work is done
And we'll join our hands in fellowship tonight.

N. E.

Reading for Some Man

How to go broke farming -

- (1) Grow only one crop
- (2) Keep no livestock
- (3) Regard chickens and garden as nuisances
- (4) Take everything from the soil and return nothing
- (5) Don't stop gullies or grow cover crops - let the top soil wash away then you will have "bottom land"
- (6) Don't plan your farm operations - it's hard work thinking - trust to luck
- (7) Regard your woodland as you would a coal mine - cut every tree, sell the timber and wear the cleared land out cultivating it in corn
- (8) Hold fast to the idea that the methods of farming employed by your grandfather are good enough for you
- (9) Be independent - don't join with your neighbors in any form of cooperation

When the Frost is on the Punkin'

When the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in the shock,
And you hear the kycuck and gobble of the struttin' turkey-cock,
And the cluckin' of the guineys, and the cluckin' of the hens,
And the rooster's hallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence;
Oh, it's then's the time a feller is a-feelin' at his best.
When the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest,
As he leaves the house, bareheaded, and goes out to feed the stock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

There's somethin' kind o' hearty-like about the atmosphere
When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here---
Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossoms on the trees,
And the mumble of the hummin' birds and the buzzin' of the bees;
But the air's so appetizin', and the landscape through the haze
Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days
Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock,---
When the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in the shock.

The hisky, rusty rustle of the tassels of the corn,
And the raspin' of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn;
The stubble in the furries---kind o' lonesome-like, but still
A-preachin' sermons to us of the barns they grewed to fill;
The straw-stack in the meddor, and the reaper in the shed,
The hosses in their stalls below, the clover overhead,---
Oh, it sets my heart a-clickin' like the tickin' of the clock,
When the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in the shock!
---James Whitcomb Riley

The Goblin Folk Will Get You If You Don't Watch Out

Do you know the fearful watchword of the cheerful Halloween
When the eyes of all the bogie men come glaring on the scene,
Oh, 'tis something to remember and to whisper round about
Or the goblin folk "will get you if you don't watch out."

But perhaps 'tis vastly better that you shouldn't even ask
When you know a rouguish damsel lurks behind each awful mask;
Then your heart will pluck up courage and you'll boldly roam about,
So the goblin folk will get you for you won't watch out.
---Percy Shaw

STUNTS

For 2 good stunts see Extension Circular 538, page 9 and 11 (your county agricultural agent will have these circulars. If you have no agent, write to the Community Specialist, Agricultural College, Lincoln, Nebraska)

DIALOGS

Two good dialogs will be found in Circular 515, page 4 and page 9.

CURRENT EVENTS

Have some one gather from farm papers things that have taken place in agriculture and are of interest to all (Do not devote more than 5 min. to this)

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

November program will be a general entertainment program but will contain Thanksgiving and armistice day suggestions.

Suggestions on "Time Savers in the Home"

Announce at the October meeting that the November program will be on women's work. Women will be asked to write out and read (standing by their seats) things they have changed or done in their homes to save time or make their work easier.

Another plan is to have 3 women each read one of the following 3 sets of things women have reported as -

- (a) Time savers
- (b) Step savers
- (c) Making hard jobs easier

Time Savers

1. New plan to get everybody up and ready for breakfast at the same time.
2. Saved 30 minutes a day by using a dish drainer and not wiping the dishes.
3. Pasted oil cloth on pantry shelves. Now I clean them in 20 min. whereas it used to take 1 hour to replace old papers and put on new.
4. Bought a waterless cooker.
5. Bought a fireless cooker.
6. One woman reports six handfuls of cobs cooking a kettle of navy bean in a pressure cooker whereas before getting the cooker she had kept a fire for 5 hours to cook beans and had to carry the cobs herself.
7. Taught children to put things away. Dad couldn't be taught. He still hung his shoes on the hat rack and scattered his clothes all over the floor.
8. Never allow agents or peddlers to stay longer than is necessary. Either buy what's wanted or quickly and emphatically, altho courteous, say "no".
9. Wasted no time at the phone.
10. Didn't do things for children that they should do for themselves.

Another woman reported the following methods of

Saving Steps

1. Moved dishpan from pantry to a hook on end of table where dishes are washed and saved 65,000 steps or 25 miles walking in the year.
2. Took basket with me to cellar and brought things that saved me several trips back and forth.
3. Had family eat more meals in kitchen.
4. Used tray to clear off table.
5. Made kitchen cart out of old wash stand.
6. Used my husband for a dumb waiter to bring things from the cellar.
7. Saved 2 blocks a day by having chicken feed placed near where chickens were fed.

Another reported methods of

Making Hard Jobs Easier -

1. Bought motor power washer.
2. Had wash bench made higher so I could stoop from hip line instead of waist line and thus saved a backache.
3. Used more soap in washing and did less rubbing.
4. Used little wagon to haul basket of clothes along the line in hanging out clothes.
5. Husband, woman's greatest labor saver if properly used, helped with the washing occasionally when not busy.
6. Stopped ironing flat pieces, knitted underwear, etc.
7. Raised iron board to more comfortable height.
8. Covered my rough board floor with linoleum and now scrub only one half as often and it is not one-fourth as hard.
9. Provided a place outside the kitchen for overshoes and rubbers and trained Dad, the kids and the whole bloomin' family to remove them before coming in.
10. Bought a good mop wringer.
11. Had to carry water all in but a \$6.50 sink saved me carrying it out again.
12. My husband hauls a barrel full of water to the porch every morning.
13. Am going to have water system next year.
14. We are renters but carry sink and pitcher pump to each new farm. Landlord will generally help to get water.



The End

