

From Laurie and Linda

TRICK OR TREAT !!!

October is all about Halloween. It's a time of mystery, magic and superstition originating with the ancient Celts who wore costumes to ward off roaming ghosts who might come back to earth. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks and place food outside their home to prevent the ghosts from entering their home.

In the U.S, the first celebrations were for the harvests and featured telling ghost stories and mischief making. Farmers would go to houses asking for money or food which eventually evolved into our version of trick or

treating.

Some strange Halloween traditions of long ago centered on helping young girls identify their future husbands! They'd name hazelnuts for each suitor, toss them into a fireplace, and the hazelnut that burned to ashes first represented her future husband. Or they tossed apple peels over their shoulders hoping they would fall on the floor in the shape of a future husband's initials. Some stood in front of mirrors in the dark holding candles, and then looked over their shoulders hoping to see their future husband's face. Some women tried to predict their future by peering at egg yolks floating in a bowl of water.

Around 1920, the centuries-old prac-

tice of trick or treating was revived. Families could prevent tricks being played on them by providing the children with small treats. Today's superstitions are quite different and include such things as avoiding crossing paths with black cats which brings bad luck. This idea was based from the Middle Ages beliefs that witches avoided detection by turning themselves into cats. Or not walking under ladders which emanated from the Egyptians who believed that triangles were sacred.

Today, it is the second largest commercial holiday with \$6 billion being spent annually!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN !!!!!!!