

The Mourning times


NATIONAL WOES.

Six Perish in Flames

Philadelphia, May 12 - Three persons are known to have lost their lives and it is feared that others may have perished in a fire, which originated in the wholesale toy and fireworks establishment of McCadden Bros., about 11 o'clock today. The bodies of the three persons who were burned to death are so badly charred that even their sex cannot be learned. About 100 persons were employed in the McCadden store and nearly all managed to make their escape before the flames reached the upper floors. The three bodies were found on the second floor of the burned structure. On account of the inflammable nature of the contents, the big six-story structure was a mass of flames in less than a half an hour. The fire spread quickly to the building on the east occupied by the Reading Hardware Company, and the big building on the west occupied jointly by the National Wallpaper Company and the Brainerd & Armstrong Spool Silk Company. The McCadden building was completely destroyed and the other two badly damaged. The total loss will reach about \$500,000 well covered by insurance.

Three other persons are missing, the engineer, fireman and porter. The fire originated from an explosion of fireworks.

Preferred Death to Prison Life

Spartanburg, S.C. May 12 - Dr. S. J. Bivings, who last March killed T. J. Trimmier, committed suicide in his cell at the jail at an early hour this morning. Bivings' trial ended Tuesday night when he was convicted of murder with a recommendation to mercy, which meant life imprisonment. This morning he was found dead in his cell, having opened an artery in the thigh with a case knife and bled to death. 

A Ghost.

It is rumoured about today that ghosts and various other visible objects were flitting about through space last night, overturning sidewalks, curbstones, gates, etc., and then chicken roosts were emptied of their occupants and suspended on the railroad crossings.

These goblins evaded the police all quarters except one, and in this instance it is stated that Policeman Koepflin ran square up into the arms of a frightful ghost while superintending the operations on Third street last night. Some of these witches are said to have exerted a powerful hypnotic influence and in this particular instance the very atmosphere seemed to be filled with the stupefying odore. However, both objects seemed to have been investigating each other and the ghost unaware that a policeman was approaching nailed right on the latter and a mutual investigation was begun.

The mysterious spells of the goblin is not related by the policeman and the apologies to either party will perhaps remain a secret—better ask Koepflin.

it "Drake Kill", "drake" being a Swedish word for dragon, and "kill" meaning channel or arm of the sea (river, stream, etc.).

The most accepted origin of the story as far as New Jersians are concerned started with Mother Leeds and is as follows:

"It was said that Mother Leeds had 12 children and after given birth to her 12th child, she said if she had another, it would be the devil. In 1735, Mother Leeds was in labor on a stormy night. Gathered around her were her friends. Mother Leeds was supposedly a witch and the child's father was the devil himself. The child was born normal, but then changed form. It changed from a normal baby to a creature with hooves, a horse's head, bat wings and a forked tail. It growled and

The Jersey Devil

The Jersey Devil, sometimes called the Leeds Devil, is a legendary creature or cryptid said to inhabit the Pine Barrens in southern New Jersey. The creature is often described as a flying biped with hooves, but there are many variations. There are many possible origins of the Jersey Devil legend. The earliest legends date back to Native American folklore. The Leni Lenape tribes called the area around Pine Barrens "Popuessing," meaning "place of the dragon." Swedish explorers later named

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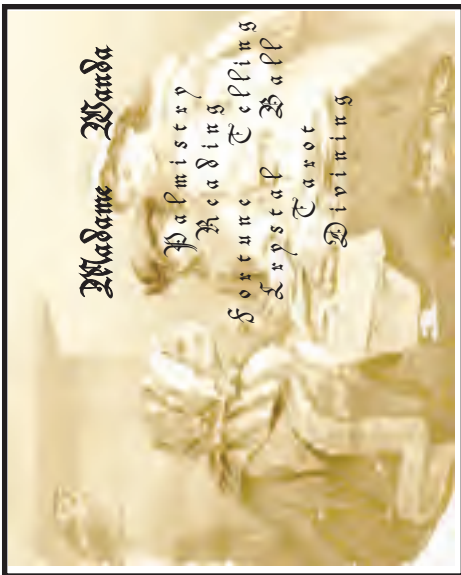
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screamed, then killed the midwife before flying up the chimney. It circled the villages and headed toward the pines. In 1740 a clergy exorcised the devil for 100 years and it wasn't seen again until 1890."

"Mother Leeds" has been identified by some as Deborah Leeds, who was the wife of Japhet Leeds. This identification may have gained credence from the fact that Japhet Leeds named twelve children in the will he wrote in 1736, which is compatible with the legend of the Jersey Devil being the thirteenth child borne by Mother Leeds.

Reportedly, between 1816 and 1820, Commodore Stephen Decatur, a naval hero and Commissioner responsible for testing equipment and materials used to build new warships visited the Hanover Iron Works in the Barrens to test cannonballs at a firing range, where he allegedly witnessed a strange, pale white creature winging overhead. Using cannon fire, Decatur punctured the wing membrane of the creature, which continued flying apparently unfazed to the amazement of onlookers.



In 1840, the devil was blamed for several livestock killings. Similar attacks were reported in 1841, accompanied by strange tracks and unearthly screams. The devil made an 1859 appearance in Haddonfield. Bridgeton witnessed a flurry of sightings during the winter of 1873. About 1887, the Jersey Devil was sighted near a house, and terrified one of the children, who called the Devil "it"; the Devil was also sighted in the woods soon after that, and just as in Stephen Decatur's encounter, the Devil was shot in the right wing, but still kept flying.

Joseph Bonaparte (eldest brother of Emperor Napoleon) is said to have witnessed the Jersey Devil while hunting on his Bordentown, New Jersey estate around 1820.



STATE NEWS.

Clairvoyant Under Arrest

👁 Bancroft, Neb., Oct 28 - C.O. Corbitt, the clairvoyant who jumped his board bill at the Commercial hotel last week, was arrested at Wayne, Neb., and turned over to Constable Rossiter and brought back to this place for trial. Corbitt is also wanted at Elk Point, S.D., where he went under the name of W.J. Paullington, which is supposed to be his true name, an where he is charged with numerous offenses.

AREA NEWS.

Hallow'een.

👁 Last evening was celebrated in the usual style and in a variety of ways. The solemnity of the occasion was observed by some religious sects, and the opportunity for amusement was not neglected by the fun-loving classes. Some houses were nicely decorated and old-time observances remembered, but the youths gave themselves up chiefly to decorating the streets with old broken crossings, planks, boxes, etc.

👁 Notwithstanding the warning of the mayor every quarter of the city displayed signs of jolly activity this morning. Besides the planks displaced an occasional curbstone was put out of position and one or two broken. However, no serious damages are so far reported.

👁 The Hallow'een party at W. H. Thompson's was well attended last evening considering the conditions of

the weather. The usual amusements games etc. were indulged in and a good time is reported.

👁 Some of the boys took the hose cart out of the Ott Hose Co's house near the court house and pulled it up alongside of Bartenbach residence. It might have been a costly trick in the event of a fire.

👁 Miss Cathleen Ferrar gave a very pleasant Halloween party at her home on West first Street last evening. After participating in several cake dances and parlor games each person was given an opportunity of forming as many words as possible from the letters contained in the word 'Halloween.' One young lady, whose name we failed to learn, found twenty five words containing the required letters and received the prize while the young gentlemen could do no better than twenty three. The booby prizes were two shining pumpkins.

After partaking of dainty refreshments the young people went out Halloweening and had a very enjoyable time.

Reward

👁 I hereby offer and agree to pay to any person returning my hayrack which was stolen from me last night, and furnish sufficient evidence to insure the conviction of the thief who stole the same, the sum of ten dollars upon the conviction of the said criminal. John W. Lambert

👁 Last night was Halloween and, as usual, the young idea observed the event. As a result numerous strange things were observed this morning. Sidewalk were turned up, gates missing and wagons and other vehicles, which were not under lock and key, went out on a wild career until they were finally upset somewhere and left standing. It is very difficult for some to see where any great and lasting pleasure can come from such celebrations, but the observance of the day with each passing year is closely carried out.

👁 Some boys, who were out destroying property last night, will probably be arrested. So far the complaints have not been made out, but it is said that they will be.

👁 There were some lively times last night over the Halloween celebration, and the second ward seems to have been the scene of some of the greatest mischief.

Jack O'Lanterns

The use of Jack O'Lanterns dates to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, where carved out turnips or beets were used as lanterns for the festival. The lanterns represented the souls of the dead



or goblins freed from the dead. When the waves of Irish immigrants came to the United States, they simply replaced the readily available and much easier to carve pumpkin for the beets and turnips. But do you know why it's called a Jack O'Lantern?

Irish legend has it that a man named Jack, known for a quick temper and frequent drunkenness spent an entire day and evening in a pub one All Hallows Eve. He had drank too much and his life was slipping away from him. The Devil, always eager for new souls arrived to claim Jack. Jack wasn't willing to give up life so easily so he bargained with the Devil for one last drink, but as he was short of money, he asked that the Devil turn himself into a sixpence so Jack could pay for the drink. After all, the Devil could turn himself back as soon as the drink was purchased. The Devil agreed and changed himself into the coin, which Jack quickly snatched up, shoving it into his wallet which had a cross shaped catch on it. This action threw the Devil into a rage. He demanded to be freed. Jack agreed to free him, provided that the Devil would promise not to bother him for a year. The Devil was freed, and Jack, knowing that he had barely regained his soul decided to mend his ways. Jack remained good

for many months, but old habits die hard and by the next All Hallows, Jack had returned to his evil drinking ways. The Devil once again found Jack in the gutter, but Jack wasn't ready to give the Devil his due. Jack pointed to a nearby apple tree and asked the Devil to climb up and get him one last apple. Once the Devil was up the tree, Jack quickly carved a cross on the trunk with his knife. Trapped again, the furious Devil promised to give Jack 10 years of peace if he would let him out of the tree. Jack and the Devil had struck a bargain. But in a years time Jack was dead, a victim of his way of life.

Jack tried to enter heaven, but was not allowed in because of his evil lifestyle. Jack then tried to enter Hell, but the Devil, still angry at Jack for tricking him, not once, but twice, refused to allow Jack into Hell. As parting kindness, the Devil threw Jack a piece of coal, so that he could find his way in the dark of limbo. Jack put his piece of coal into a turnip and this became know as the Jack O'Lantern. On All Hallows Eve, if you look very carefully, you can still see Jack's lantern as he tries to find a home.

MYTHS OF HALLOWEEN

Origin fo Some of the Legends That Attach to Oct. 31

(As seen in the Grand Island Independent Nov. 28, 1889)

A Period Dear to Romantic Young Men and Maidens - Old Formulas Used to Decide All Important Question as to Who

Would Be the Bride or the Groom.

From its first organization Halloween has been invested with a peculiarly mystic character. It is almost universal superstitions that supernatural influences then have the unusual power; that devils, witches and fairies are abroad; that all spirits are free to roam through space, and that the spiritual elements in all living humanity can be detached from corporeal restraint and made to read its own future or to reveal to others what fate may have in store for them. As there is nothing in the church celebration of the ensuing day of All Saints' to justify these singular ideas and customs associated with Halloween, and as none of them are of a religious character we may justly regard them as relics of pagan times.

READING THE FUTURE

In all ages and countries Halloween has been deemed, as it still is, the occasion par excellence for divining the answer to that momentous question which absorbs so large a share of the thoughts of romantic young men and maidens, "Who is to marry whom?" The means employed to gain this much desired information are as quaint and curious as they are numerous and varied. For this purpose every time and every country—almost every district of every country— has had its own charms and spells peculiar to itself, and they have furnished an almost inexhaustible theme to folk poets and compilers of folklore.

Those of Scotland have been most graphically described by that greatest of all poets of the people, Robert Burns. In his poem of "Halloween" he has given us a most vivid account of more than half a score of Halloween charms and spells peculiar to the Scottish peasantry.

In a very old book of folk lore called "Ye True Arte to Reade Ye Future," is found the following:

If a maid would know ye name of ye man she is to marry let her on All Halloween steal out to a lime kiln and throw therein a clue of blue yarn, still holding to ye other end. Presently ye end in ye kiln will be shrpely pulled. Then ye maid must say "Who Holds?" Whereupon ye voice of her future husband will pronounce his name—both ye Christian and ye surname.

The only obstacle to the successful performance of this spell is the difficulty of finding an old lime kiln, but as lime kilns will be in great demand among our women when the important statement made in the above paragraph becomes generally known, and as a demand for any article in this country is speedily met by an abundant supply the number of lime kilns will doubtless be largely augmented, to the great delight of anxious, match-making mammas and their dutiful offspring.

YE MYSTERIES

Water, nuts and apples bear a prominent part in the spells and charms of Halloween. A quaint old book of charms published in Edinburgh in 1670, entitled "Old Father Time's Bundle of Faggots Newly Bound Up," declares that an in fallible means of getting a view of your future husband or wife is to go to bed HAlloween with a glass of water, in which a small sliver of wood has been placed, standing on a table by your bedside. In the night you will dream of falling from a bridge into the river, and of being resued by your future wife or husband, whom you will see as distinctly as though viewed with waking eyes. This charm is thus alluded to by the English poet Gay:

*Last Halloween I longed my love to see,
And tried a spell to call her up to me.*

With wood and water standing by my side

I dreamed a dream and saw my own sweet bride.

In a folk-lore book, called "Ye Mysteries of the Wytchcraft," there is given a charm "by which a maid may know if ye man she loves be true." To perform this, the maid is directed to pluck at midnight on All Halloween two monthly roses with long stems, naming one for herself and the other for her lover. She must then go directly to her sleeping room without speaking to any one, and kneeling beside her bed must twine the stems of the two roses togethr and then repeat the following lines, meanwhile gazing intently upon the rose named for her lover:

Twine, twine, and intertwine;

Let my love be wholly mine.

If his heart be kind and true

Deeper grow his rose's hue.

If her swain be faithful, the color of the rose representing him will grow darker and more intense. Of all the many Halloween spells and charms associated with nuts, one of the oldest is that which prevails in some of England's northern counties, and which is to the effect that if a young man or woman will go at midnight Halloween to a walnut tree and walk around it three times, crying out each time: "Let him (or her) that is to be my true love bring me some walnuts," the future wife or husband will be seen in the tree gathering its fruit. The poet Gay thus refers in his "Pastorals" to this custom:

Last Halloween I sought a walnut tree

Inhopes my true love's face that I might see;

Three times I called, three times I walked apace,

Then in the tree I saw my true love's face.

—Chicago Times.



Ghost Bride Spotted in Railroad Town

Concerned Citizens are Once Again Reporting the Appearance of the Ghost Bride in Railroad Town. It is the time of year when tales of the Ghost Bride are repeated and sightings begin. The first sighting occurred last week, when Miss Korn was walking home just at dusk. Spotting a whitish figure moving in the general direction of the Henry Glade Mill, she quickly noted the ethereal aspect of the creature and retreated to the safe confines of hearth and home. Since that time, several other sitings have been made. The Ghost Bride reportedly appeared about twelve years ago, soon after the Henry Glade Roller Mills were completed. The Ghost Bride is said to be the sad remnants of a young lady who lost her true love to a tragic accident at a nearby mill. Why she has chosen to haunt our mill is a mystery.

Recipies from Our Readers

Toad Soup

Boil cabbage and toads until tender. Parsnips and leeks may be added for a more full bodied flavor and should

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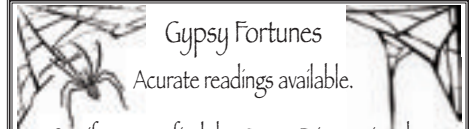
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be boiled before the cabbage and toads. Not recommended with poison toads.

Witch Fingers

Take lady fingers and cover them with red frosting.



Invitation

*In the name of spooks I've come to ask,
If sheet and pillowcase and mask
You'll don on Hallowe'en at eight,
And sally forth to meet your Fate.
But remember — elt none know
Where you have planned this night to go,
You'll be expected rain or shine
Where swings the Jack-o'-lantern sign.*

St. Swithin's Chair

*On Hallow-Mass Eve, ere yon boune ye to rest,
Ever beware that your couch be bless'd;
Sign it with cross, and sain it with bead,
Sing the Ave, and say the Creed.*

*For on Hollow-Mass Eve the Night-Hag will ride,
And all her nine-fold sweeping on by her side.
Whether the wind sing lowly or loud,
Sailing through moonshine or swath'd in the cloud.*

*The Lady she sate in St. Swithin's Chair,
The dew of the night has damp'd her hair:
Her cheek was pale — but resolved and high
Was the word of her lip and the glance of her eye.*

*She mutter'd the spell of Swithin bold,
When his naked foot traced the midnight wold,
When he stopp'd the Hag as she rode the night,
And bade her descend, and her promise plight.*

*He that dare sit on St. Swithin's Chair,
When the Night-Hag wings the troubled air,
Questions three, when he speaks the spell,
He may ask, and she must tell.*

*The Baron has been with King Robert his liege,
These three long years in battle and siege;
News are there none of his weal or his woe,
And fain the Lady his fate would know.*

*She shudders and stops as the charm she speaks;—
Is it the moody owl that shrieks?
Or is that sound, betwixt laughter and scream,
The voice of the Demon who haunts the stream?*

*The moan of the wind sunk silent and low,
And the roaring torrent had ceased to flow;
The calm was more dreadful than raging storm,
When the cold grey mist brought the ghastly form!*
Sir Walter Scott

Tests To Tell Your Fate

Pass a bowl of dried peas or beans to each guest, who, helping himself to a few, counts them out repeating the following lines as he counts:

*One is for wealth, and two is for health;
With three, you will journey afar;
Four, you're a miser; five, you'll grow wiser;
While six gives you sad days not a few,
But seven, the lover that's handsome and true.*

Continue until all the seeds have been counted, the final one settling the owner's fate.

A popular apple test consists in paring an apple round and round in one unbroken strip. The paring is swung over the head three times and the following rhyme repeated:

*'Apple, I pare and swing to know
Who I soon will marry;
From my hand I now thee throw,
Mystic letter carry.'*

WALNUT BOATS

Open English walnuts, remove meat, and in each half shell fasten short pieces of differently colored birthday candles, each of which is to be named for a member of the party and, after lighting, set afloat in a large pan or tub of water. The behavior of these tiny boats reveals the future of those for whom they are named.

If two glide together, their owners have a similar destiny; if they glide apart, so will their owners. Sometimes candles will huddle together as if talking to one another, while perchance one will be left alone, out in the cold, as it were. Again, two will start off and all the rest will closely follow. The one whose candle first goes out is destined to be a bachelor or old maid.

These nut-shell boats may also be made by pouring melted wax into halves of walnut-shells in which there are short strings for wicks.

FORTUNE-TELLING PEANUTS

Prepare these by removing the nuts and putting in tiny folded bits of paper on which are written such words as "journey," "wealth," "success," "brunette," "blond," etc. Give one to each guest.

The Shadowlands. Truth or Fiction.

Sadly, the wits of this area do not feel that having one spirit in the area is enough. There annual rant by the local wags have once again stirred the pot, so to speak, on mysterious doings in the area in front of Glades Roller Mill on the north edge of Railroad Town. This reporter has made several trips to the alleged location following closely on the heels of a breathless lad or two, only to find an empty field. Around corners and at social gatherings whispers move quickly between parties describing the "Shadowlands," as a place haunted by a Corn King and demented hags sell-

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ing all types of unusual wares. Granted, there was also once a tale of a small boat being wrecked in the Platte River in the very early 1850s which gave birth to a pirate ship legend, but since the area was largely unpopulated at that time, there is not one record of the wreck. It should be noted that it is mostly young people who have seen this wreck and the strange Shadowlands, most certainly after hearing the tales repeated by their elders. Perhaps the older members of our community are playing a huge trick on our youth in repayment for the many "tricks" they have played in the past. Only time will tell. In the mean time, please report any and all strange sightings to this office.



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LOCAL MOANS AND GROANS

- 👁️ For a hauntingly good time don't miss Shadowland Field near the Glade Mill.
- 👁️ Visit Mummies Yummies - the best snacks under wraps since 1757 - has a fine line of treats available for purchase for all you tricksters. On South Front Street.
- 👁️ The Miss's Butler & Company extend to you an invitation to attend them at her home on the corner of Depot and College street for reading of ghost stories off their porch in honor of All Hallows.
- 👁️ Mr. Dack and Mr. Hunt have vowed to keep all the riff-raff out of Railroad Town during Hallowe'en. They will be patrolling the streets of town into the wee hours in order to keep hooligans from their annual shenanigans. Gentlemen, we wish you luck!
- 👁️ There will once again be a high demand for tricks of all visitors on Hallowe'en. The antics demonstrated last year on front porches about town were highly entertaining. Many a youngster did many silly things in order to receive a piece of candy.
- 👁️ Mr. Miller reports that very strange things start happening in the Tin Shop around this time of year.
- 👁️ We have been given to understand that the catalogue store on Depot Street is running a special on skelton keys.