

## All Hallow's Eve

By Molly Hegman

My memories of Halloween are varied. When I was thirteen I had a birthday party on the same night as was assigned by the city as "Trick or Treat" night. There were about eight of us who went out in ordinary clothes ... no costumes. I had never participated in this custom. We only went to a few houses. The last house we approached was all decorated with spooky objects and had eerie sounds coming from under the door. I did not know this neighbor so it took some urging by my friends to shout "Trick or Treat!" We did and to our surprise it was great. There was a table filled with goodies: hot chocolate, spiced cider, donuts, popcorn, cookies and bowls of candy. We looked with great anticipation. Much to our chagrin we were told that if we wanted to get a treat we needed to give them one. We agreed to sing for them. Soon they joined in and sang with us. We all laughed and had a fun time.

Our elementary school usually had a party on Trick or Treat night. We always looked forward to it, especially when we reached the seventh grade. The very wise Benedictine nuns cleared the stage and set it up so that the junior high students could square dance. We could hold hands on Halloween!

As a single young adult I did attend a number of Halloween parties ... in costume and discovered what I had been missing.

The best part of the holiday came when I had two little girls who wanted costumes. I turned an old black dress of mine into two witches' outfits. Their aunts, who were both artists, painted holiday scenes on them. The next year I made a bat for one and a dragon for the other. Ben would take them out while I gave out candy. My neighbors insisted that I take a treat out of their bag. I reached in and pulled out a bottle of wine for my birthday. I was happy that I stayed home!

One year our church choir had a party. I made a spider costume for myself and a knight's costume for Ben. We had fun running through the backyards to get to the party. My daughter made good use of the spider costume years later when she was working in a nursing home ... no mask.

Fast forward and I find Adrienne asking for costumes when she was in college. My famous black dress and a flapper costume flew off to Annapolis.

Two years later a black and white dress with a coat to match went flying off to Philadelphia to Kate so that she could go to a party as Holly Go Lightly from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

Keep going forward and my old Hot Pants (shorts with a long split skirt) flew to St. Louis to win first prize at yet another Halloween party.

Should I find a costume and show up at our Windsor Gardens party?