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# Halloween: Monsters and Myths

By  
Dawn Boarman  
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Folklore and The Media  
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Halloween (the name) means the evening before All Hallows or All Saints' Day, which is November 1. All Saints' Day is observed by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans, to honor all the saints in Heaven, whether known or unknown. The day also used to be called Hallowmass from Old English word hallow, meaning solemnity, considered one of the most important observances of the church year. It is a day on which all Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. It is preceded by a vigil of preparation on the evening of October 31. And it is this vigil, All Hallows' Eve or Halloween, that is the most widely known feature of the observance.

Halloween is a rite with pagan, demonic roots. The Celtic people who lived over 2,000 years ago, feared the evening of October 31st more than any other day of the year. It was the eve of the Lord of the Dead. To celebrate, the people built bonfires, wore masks and rituals and divination were part of their celebration. However, the American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced, in a direct line, from pre-Christian time. Although Halloween has become a night of celebration to many, its beginnings were otherwise.

Since then a lot has happened to Halloween. It's has had it's ups and downs through the decades of celebration. With the threat of hidden razor blades and child snatching we as Halloweeners look at the celebration in a different light. More protective than ever through the coming years and traditions changing with every trick or treat.

These reasons were the cause of my observation. My research came from the Courier Journal taking one day from the last 5 days of October then dating it back to 1992 from 1996.

When I First went into this research I imagined there were going to be a tremendous amount of data

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found in the Courier Journal but I was proven wrong. I began to think maybe I was looking at the wrong days but the harder I searched the more I found that almost all the days I had observed came up with the same conclusion. Nothing, hardly anything on what I was researching. There was only 1 article on safety tips to Mothers of trick or treaters. I had imagined an abundance of these articles would be found but only the one. This article was almost overlooked if not checked closely with the other articles surrounding it. During my observation of the data I found that many have forgotten the worries that go along with Halloween. They are more involved with the celebration of the feast and the many activities that follow it. Proven by the rest of the data I collected.

Among the other articles found there were only 1 article on the telling of Ghost Stories, 2 on Hauntings, 3 on Mall Advertising, 4, with Advertising Ploys and Comics, and 5 dealing with Costumes. All seeming to deal with the selling or celebration of the festivity at hand. Also noting that the closer to Halloween the more articles there were. More of them being advertisements than anything else. Using Halloween as a way of drawing us in and selling us our so called needs. Some of the articles used the mall for children to trick or treat as a way of selling us that it's safer there. But in reality they draw us for shopping purposes only. A reason behind everything it seems. Through all the data I had looked through none still dealt with the horrifying tales that could accompany Halloween. What to what for, beware of and most of all who not to go to during your tricking. It all seemed to be candy coated for our viewing eyes. Giving you just enough information for one to digest then taking it away if it is too close to handle. As if there was something we must beware of or ignore.

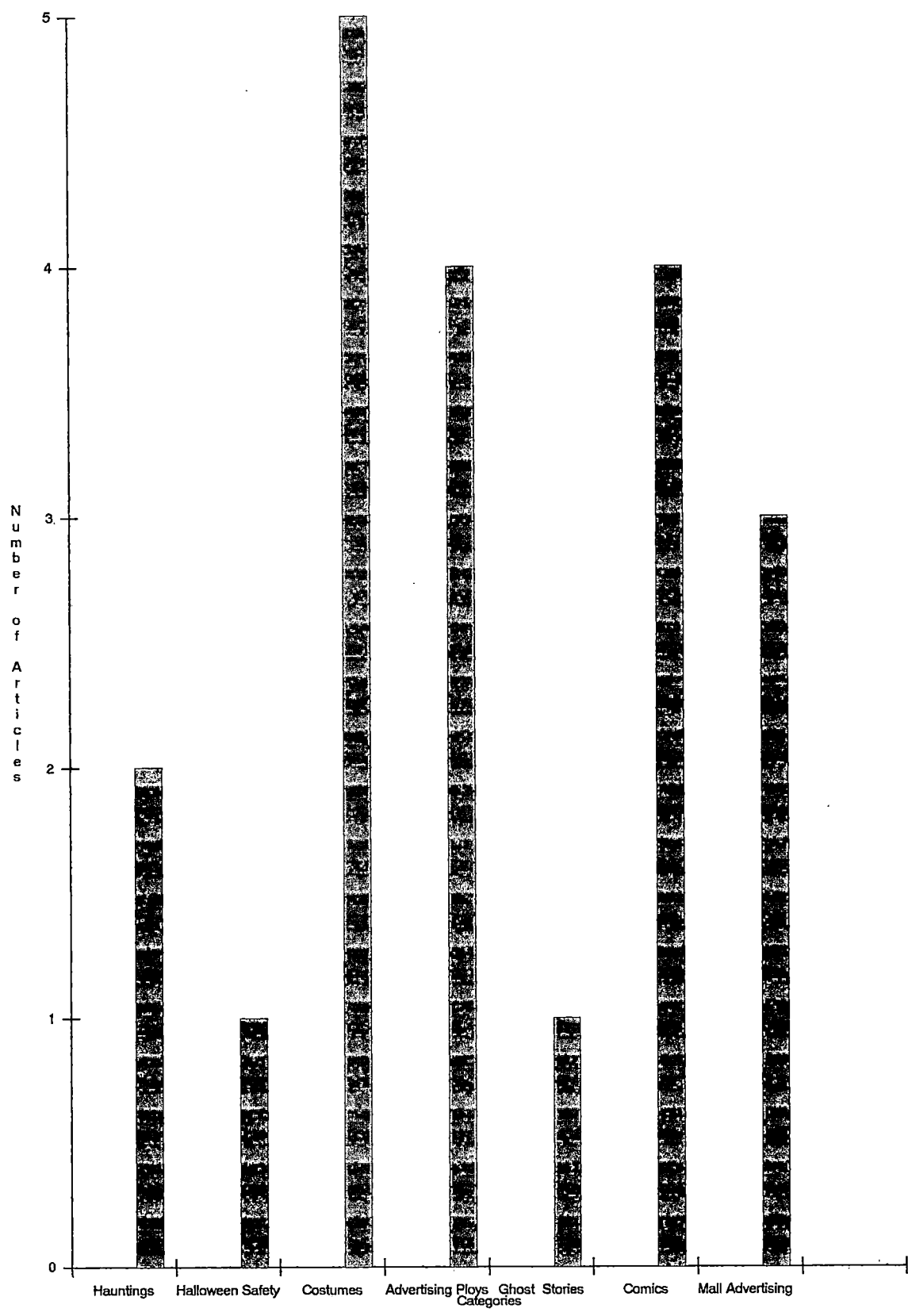
Halloween has become a holiday as famous as any other celebrated today. People decorating houses, dressing for the occasion, trick or treating, setting the mood for the celebration. But I have seen the cycles change and with it the motive of what Halloween was and what it has become today.

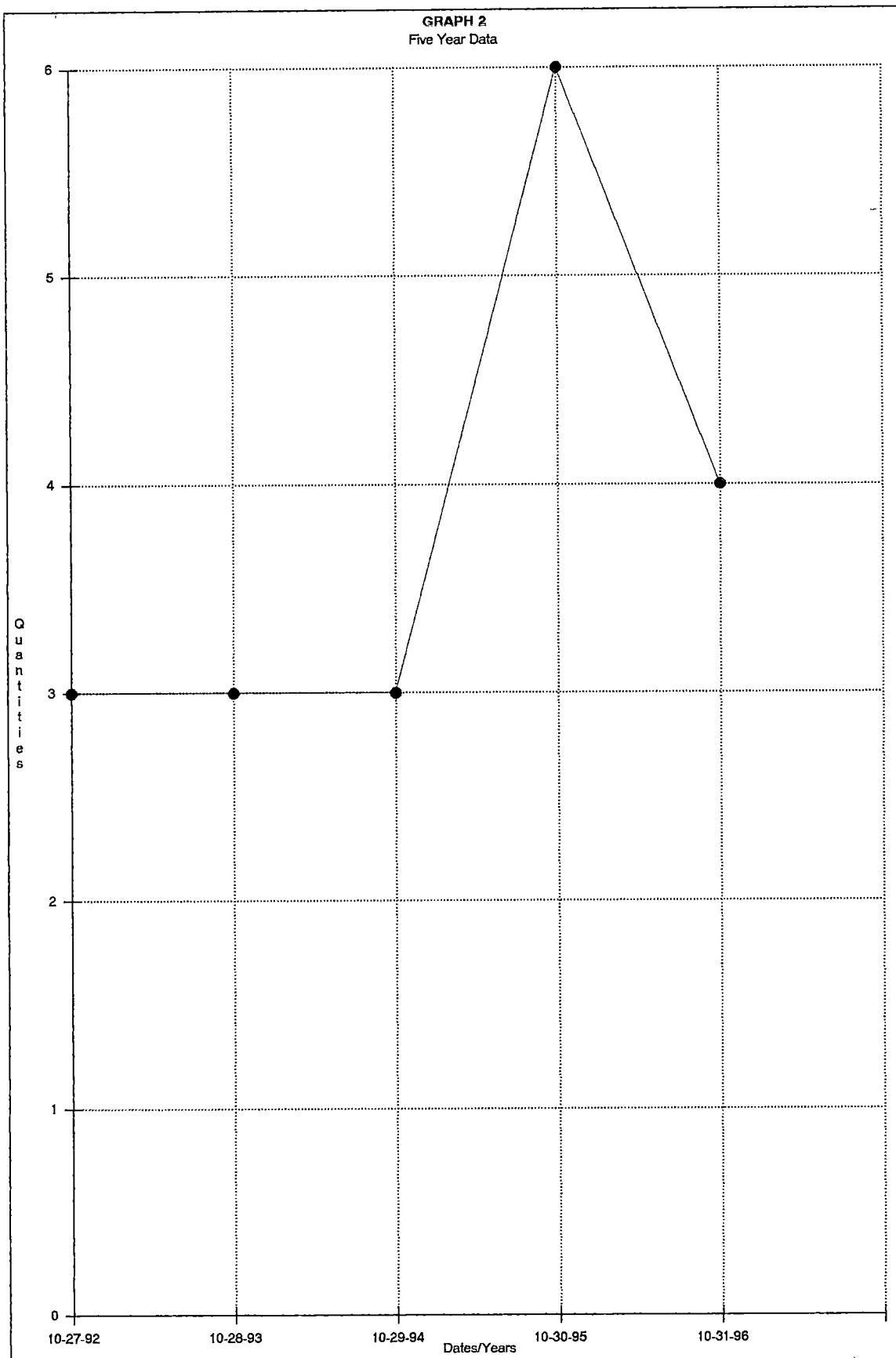
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A name used for the purposes other than a celebration and more a ploy. A way of sucking people into the realm of folktales and money. I saw nothing but ads for drawing people into a power packed fantasy of what they established as Halloween. All I saw was a way of making money for the advertisers. Yes there were some good out of the articles I had collected. For example the articles on the children dressed in there festive costumes. But nothing sells more than children being children. We love the aspect of children having fun and celebrating something we can all can act with them. Yet in today's society we are frivolous to the fact of what the festival can attribute to. The excuse of letting lose, doing what we want , and blaming them on others just because of the time of year it is. Halloween has become more than just a feast ,it's become a way of drawing in on others wants and fears.

I had never examined Halloween quite like this before. I was always the one sucked into the latter half of the festivities and now I observe it with improved eyes. No longer seeing Halloween as just a word but as a celebration of the past and future.

**GRAPH 1**  
Article Types



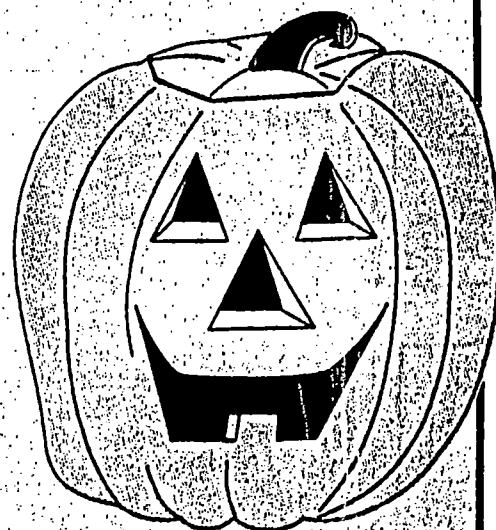


# HALLOWEEN

## SAFETY TIPS

If you are going Trick or Treating, here are a few tips to make sure you have a safe Halloween.

- Wear light-colored costumes
- Only visit homes in your own neighborhood.
- Small children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Check all candy before eating.
- Only eat packaged candy.
- Trick or Treat in the hours allowed for your community.
- You may also want to paint your face because masks can block your vision.



**Source: 1995 World Book Encyclopedia**

October 30, 1995

# GHOST STORIES

**They frighten us, entertain us and never seem to die**

By Brien Shea, Special Writer

**D**O YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS? Perhaps. Perhaps not. But who hasn't sat with friends in the dark, hearing and telling stories of strange sights and visions in the night.

While we live in a modern age that often scoffs at the thought of the supernatural, people still seem fascinated at the thought of spirits — from Freddie Krueger to Casper.

"There is the mystique that surrounds the whole concept of ghosts," says Lynwood Montell, a Western Kentucky University folklore professor who has written two books based on "true" accounts of ghost stories.

From medieval times to today, from William Shakespeare to Edgar Allen Poe and Hollywood's Patrick Swayze, the ghost has remained the most enduring figure in supernatural fiction. The ghost itself is indestructible, and though it changes with styles in fiction, it never goes out of fashion.

## THEY MAKE GOOD STORIES

"Many believe spirits exist. Others say it is a hoax. It's part of the unexplainable, the mysterious that fascinates us," Montell says. "Whether or not ghosts exist is a mystery, and because of that, they make good stories."

"We tell ghost stories almost every weekend," said Jeff Schaad, 12, a student at Meredith-Dunn School in Louisville. "I like some of them that are scary and some that are funny. Whether some of the stories are true, I don't really know. It probably could've happened."

"Such uncertainty leads to anxiety or fear," says Abby Shapiro, a Louisville psychologist. Telling the stories is a way of dealing with fears of what we don't know and never will know.

Many people claim to have experienced haun-

tings. Believers and unbelievers debate whether such things really happen.

"Imaginations can do amazing things," Shapiro says. "Since we are never completely certain that ghosts exist, it leaves room for anxieties, and the imagination can take over."

## A HAUNTED BRIDGE

Ghost stories are often passed from generation to generation. Details change, but the core of the story remains intact.

Schaad's classmate Chris Caudill recounts a story of a bridge in Taylorsville that is believed to be visited by a ghost. This yarn has been spun for

generations, and people still claim to have viewed this phantom.

"You don't know whether it's true or they've been drunk or something and are just seeing things," Caudill said.

But that's the beauty of ghost stories. Is there really a presence which cannot be rationally explained?

"I wouldn't say I believe, but I don't disbelieve," says Professor Montell. "The ghost stories I've been told are told to be true experiences, but I'm not saying they are true."

This much is certain: Such tales can be truly frightening — and truly fun.



# Home haunted by tales of an eerie presence

**BYRON CRAWFORD**



One summer night in 1978, Lisa Fields was lying on the living room floor reading a newspaper when she came across an article she wanted her mother to see.

"Something caught my eye in the hallway, walking through the living room and out of the dining room, and I said, 'Mom, look at this,'" Lisa remembers.

"She didn't answer, so I got up and started following her out to the kitchen. She reached the kitchen before I did, and when I got there, she was gone."

Lisa then discovered that her mother had been in the bathroom the entire time. And no one else in the family was home.

She was only about 16 then, and now has a family of her own and lives across town. But she never goes back to her mother's place — a typical older, three-bedroom, two-story frame house off Preston Street near the Audubon neighborhood — without thinking about the woman she followed through the house that night and about some of the other strange things that have happened there.

Her mother, Carol, 60, has lived in the house most of her life since 1938, 10 years after the house was

built. Carol, who asked that her last name and street address not be used because of the nature of this story, cannot recall experiencing any eerie occurrences in the house until her daughters began seeing the form of a young woman with long dark hair.

Lisa's sister, Debbie Brocar, 31, was skeptical of Lisa's alleged sighting of the woman until one night when Debbie was about 17. She was returning home from a date, and she and her boyfriend stepped onto the front porch.

"It was dark, and I was knocking on the door. . . I looked in the house through the door and saw somebody walking right through the living room toward the door," Debbie recalled. "It was the figure of a girl. I thought it was Lisa. So I told the boy I was with that Lisa was coming to let me in. But nobody ever opened the door."

Finally, Debbie went to the side of the house, pecked on Lisa's bedroom window and awakened her and asked her to open the door. But first she cautioned her to be careful because someone else was in the house.

Then there was the night Lisa and her grandfather, who owned the house at the time, were the only ones home and she overheard him talking to someone in the living room after she was in bed.

"I thought you were going to bed," she heard him say. "What are you doing walking around the room?"



Lisa Fields, left, and her sister, Debbie Brocar, say they have seen the ghost of a woman several times in a house near the Audubon neighborhood where they lived as teenagers.

STAFF PHOTO BY BYRON CRAWFORD

She yelled to ask who he was talking to. He yelled back to ask where she was.

"I'm in my room," Lisa told him.

"He said, 'Never mind. Go to sleep.' Of course, I didn't get much sleep," Lisa said.

She and the six other children in the family thought it curious that their grandfather often walked through the house at night blessing their rooms with holy water. Now, they wonder if he was concerned for their safety.

"He would never have told us if he had seen anything," Lisa said. "He wouldn't have wanted to upset us."

Numerous other incidents have occurred in the house, but none more frightening than the time

many years ago when Carol awoke with a headache late one night and got up to get an aspirin. As she turned toward the door in the darkness, she said, a woman with a look of rage came at her with what appeared to be a pillow held above her head.

"I screamed loud, and Lisa ran to the door and turned on the light, and when she turned the light on, it was gone," Carol said.

After her father was well up in years, Carol recalled, she had to show him through the house when he complained that there was a strange woman in his room.

"I took him to every room in the house to show him" there was no one there, she said, "and he just said, 'Well, she was here.'"

October 27, 1992

# Ghostly dwellers replay history at Cynthiana station

CYNTHIANA, Ky. — Halloween is getting to be pretty much a year-round affair at radio station WCYN-AM/FM in Cynthiana. Many employees of the station claim the place is haunted.

Ghost tales have persisted for years about the historic log building, circa 1790s, which served as Harrison County's first courthouse and in which statesman Henry Clay practiced law in 1817. Later, Cynthiana's first newspaper was published in the building, and at the turn of the century, it housed a photographic studio. The radio station moved into the building on the town square in 1973.

Chris Winkle, the program director and morning co-air personality, said that soon after he came to the station in 1991, he often noticed shadows moving on the windows between studios, as he signed the station on the air in the predawn hours alone in the building.

"I knew there really shouldn't be shadows there," he said, "but I got to where it didn't bother me. Then one morning I was sitting there and something actually turned the corner and went down the stairs, and that put the fear in me."

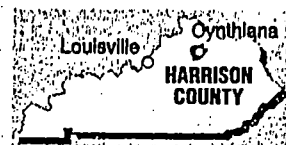
Winkle described the form, which he now has seen twice, as that of a man of medium build with gray hair. He last saw the figure early one morning in February of this year. Winkle said he came down the back stairs to the kitchen, opened the refrigerator and, as he turned

noticed the form of the man disappearing around the corner into the darkened hallway at the bottom of the stairs.

"This time it apparently had been following me . . . and from what I remember, when I looked, I saw a left shoulder facing me, with him going in the opposite direction, and then I saw the back. I've never seen his face, but he appears to be the same guy, with gray hair, and wearing maybe a brown pullover sweater."

Anne Anderson, the station's owner and general manager, says that she has yet to see or hear anything supernatural at the station. But she says that one former female employee is convinced that the ghostly figure she saw in the control room early one morning was that of Anderson's late husband, Reed, an electronics engineer who co-founded the station with his wife in 1956 and died several years ago.

"I don't know whether she'd talk about it or not, but she worked here for 22 years," Anderson said. "She was up at the control board and she said she felt like something was at her back. She sort of turned around, and she said that there was my husband — just as solid as we are in the control room behind her. For a split second, she said, she didn't even think that it was not him; until she turned her face back to the board and thought, 'That can't be Reed,' and she turned back around



and he was gone."

Staff members say that heavy doors — even when left locked — are often heard slamming loudly and repeatedly at all hours. A commode upstairs often flushes by itself, and a motion-detecting alarm in the station frequently goes off without explanation. Footsteps and clanging metal are often heard, and the police have even been called to search for intruders.

Lee Hamovitz, a former news director at the station, said he left late one night without locking the place after he went into the kitchen for a glass of water and the lid on a box of doughnuts on the table flapped up and down several times.

"I was terrified," Hamovitz recalled. "I'm a skeptical person, but I can figure no natural explanation for this, because it went up and down a good half dozen times, quickly, like a playing card in a bicycle spoke."

George Slade, 79, a local historian, had his own ghost experience at the log house when he was 10. One stormy afternoon he crawled through a hole in the wall at the rear of the building near an old stairwell to take shelter from the rain.

"I heard a squeak, like someone coming down those steps," Slade remembered. "Everything seemed to get real warm and still, but it was



STAFF PHOTO BY BYRON CRAWFORD  
Though ghost stories persist about the historic log building that houses WCYN-AM/FM radio in Cynthiana, owner and general manager Anne Anderson says she hasn't come across anything supernatural.

still pouring rain. Then I heard this voice say, 'Mac,' and I heard another voice say, 'Elizabeth,' kind of in a whisper. I was standing back against the wall with water dripping down on my head. I kind of moved away and got into some cobwebs, and I heard this voice again say, 'Mac,'

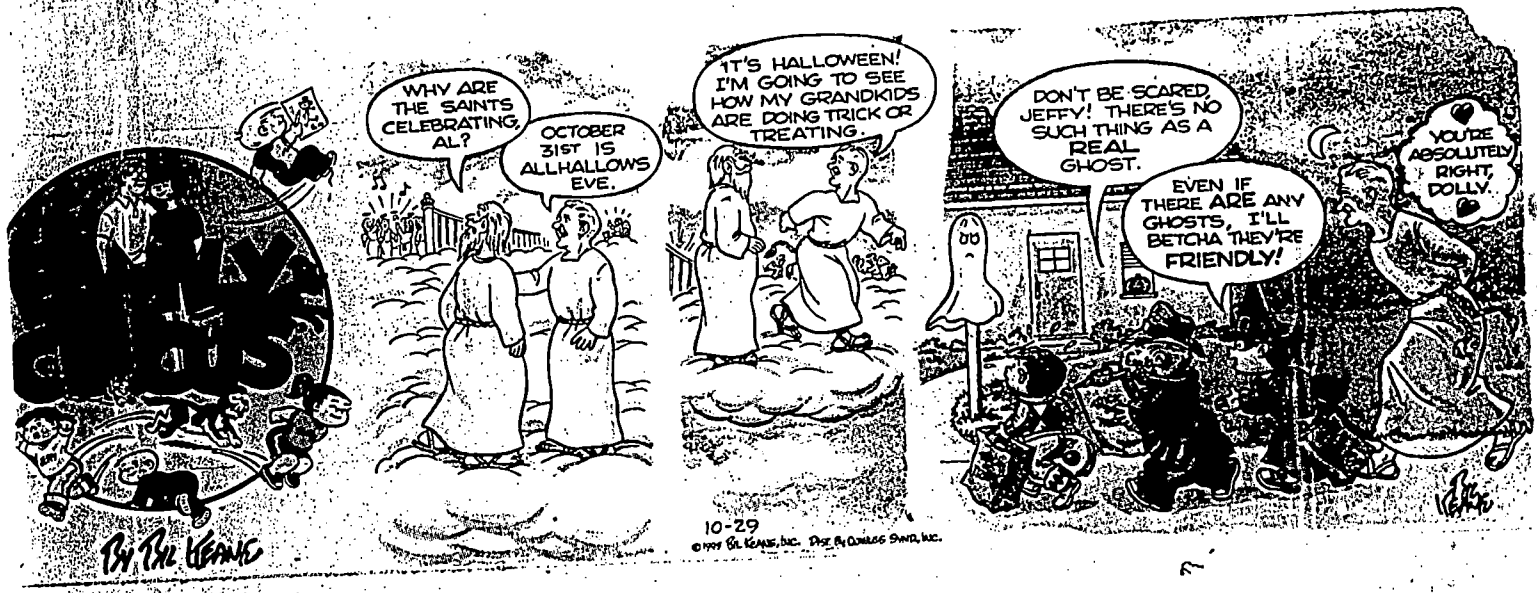
and 'Elizabeth,' and I took off in the rain — and didn't tell anybody for years."

Not until many years later did Slade learn that one of the building's early owners was a man named McPheeters. His wife's name was Elizabeth.



BYRON CRAWFORD  
COLUMNIST

October 28, 1993



October 29, 1994



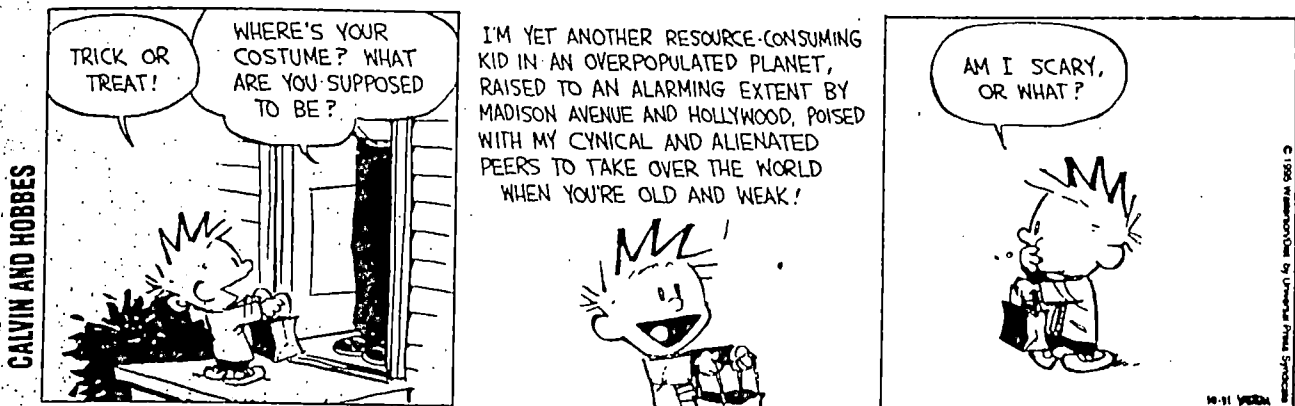
October 30, 1995

## OR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

**BY LYNN JOHNSTON**



October 29, 1994



October 30, 1995





STAFF PHOTO BY STEWART BOWMAN

**YOU LOOK BEWITCHING, MY DEAR:** Deeandra David, 6, had on her Halloween duds as she competed in a costume contest yesterday at the Kenwick Community Center in Lexington. The city's Park and Recreation Department sponsored a Halloween party for youngsters 12 and under.

October 28, 1993

## Plucky ladybug tries her musical wings



STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES H. WALLACE

Micah Rondol was dressed as a ladybug as she performed yesterday with the Halloween Harp Ensemble at the Ursuline School of Music and Drama in Louisville. Eight students taking harp lessons dressed in costumes for their recital at the school on Lexington Road.

October 30, 1995

## Whatever it is, it's catching



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cassandra Rusle went to a "Howl-O-Ween" party dressed like Logan, her Dalmatian. Pet Food Warehouse of Roseville, Mich., sponsored the owner-pet contest over the weekend.

October 27, 1992

## The lion's share of a beastly task



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eric Vannatta, 2, let his mane down as he took a broom to a pile of leaves in front of his home in Upper Arlington, Ohio, on Thursday. The youngster had just returned from a Halloween party at a local library.

October 30, 1995



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL LUSTER

**SCARY SIGHT:** Debbie Owen took her dog Toni on a Howl-O-Ween Dog Walk last weekend at Bowman Field. The event was sponsored by the Kentucky Champions Group of Canine Companions for Independence, an organization that trains dogs to help the disabled.

October 28, 1993

# House Haunting?

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October 31, 1996

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**zation program has begun!**  
**s a day. Listen for Option 5**

October 27, 1992

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October 31, 1996

October 31, 1996

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October 31, 1996