



San Gabriel Valley Council PACK 730 SCOUT NEWS



October 2006 Issue

www.pack730.us

Diamond Bar, California

Cub Scout Shipbuilders

Ships have played an important role in the history of our country since the earliest colonial days. Build a model of a ship and tell your den what it was used for – whaling, transportation, fishing, military or commerce. Learn to tie a square knot and other knots used by sailors. Visit a boatyard or a museum and learn how ships are made.

THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in).

The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By A.D. 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Even later, in A.D. 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', were called Hallowmas.

The Myth of The Jack-O'Lantern

People have been making jack o'lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he



would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets are used. Immigrants from these countries brought the jack o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, make perfect jack o'lanterns.

Next Pack Meeting

Cubs in Shining Armor

Let our heroes shine as they welcome new "Cub Knights" into their den and pack. Learn about chivalry and the rules of the round table. Make medieval costumes and design your own coat of arms, find out what life was like in the times of castles and knights.



What Outings are Planned?

Dec 16 – Caroling at the Senior Center, afterwards the pack will meet and have hot coco, cookies, snacks while watching movies

Jan 14 – Pinewood Derby, build and race your own car!

Feb 25 – Blue & Gold Banquet, annual scouting birthday party, with food, games and fun.

Mar 10 – Service Project, Help the community we live in!

May 19 – Raingutter Regatta, build and race a sail boat!

June 9&10 – Campfire Pack Meeting, with option family overnight campout.

Aug 4 – USS Midway, family overnight outing to aircraft carrier in San Diego!

Pack Calendar

Oct 18 Committee Meeting

7:30 PM It's A Grind

Oct 30 Pack Meeting

7:00 PM Deane Homes

Nov 15 Committee Meeting

7:30 PM It's A Grind

Nov 27 Pack Meeting

7:00 PM Deane Homes

Dec 16 Caroling (in place of Pack Meeting)

6:00 PM Senior Center

Dec 20 Committee Meeting

7:30 PM It's A Grind

Cubmaster Final Thought

I Had Three Turtles



Boys, I want to tell you a story that has a meaning. When I was a boy, I had three turtles. They had a beautiful terrarium with rather low sides. They had everything they needed except one thing . . . freedom. Every chance they had, they would climb out.

People in many countries in this world lack the same thing... freedom. But not in America. In America, we have freedom of speech, Freedom of the press, freedom to go wherever we please, freedom to worship God as we wish, freedom to choose people to govern us.

A boy like you can grow up to be whatever he dreams of being: This is why I love America. Don't you?

Pack Leadership

Cubmaster: Ken Kuhlman

Assistant Cubmaster: Open

Treasurer: Martha Alfaro

Committee Chair: Chris Whatley

Secretary: Mary Udengwu

Recruiting: Open

Advancements: Betty Kirchgraber

Training: Ralph Rodriguez

