

Third Graders Study Building

FARMINGTON — Rande Newman, third grader at Forest School, volunteered his daddy into quite an assignment recently.

Charles Neitz, Rande's teacher, announced a new unit of study on "People Who Make Our Homes."

Norman Newman, an area builder who is constructing a house for his own family in Rolling Oaks Subdivision, found himself getting into the act upon Rande's invitation as a "resource person."

This is a school term meaning "any good guy who will help out."

Newman brought cartons of every imaginable building material to the schoolroom. Blueprints, insulation, carpet and tile samples, linoleum, slate, moldings and bricks were just some of the items in his kit.

With himself as builder and Miss Neitz as house buyer, Newman gave the youngsters a thorough understanding of how a house is built.

The class visited a nearby model home, and each child was assigned a specific task in building an imaginary house.

Beth McCollum was a cement truck driver, Jeffrey Cohen a building inspector, Rande found herself on the clean-up squad, William Watt was an asphalt layer, Kevin Pattison a leveler, and Sara Kiela a carpet installer.

Julie Alati became a painter, Philip Denaro a Formica man, Gail Rice a tile layer, Kevin Bowen a cement paver, Philip Wright installed the insulation and Amy Hughes was responsible for the dry walls.

Steve Watson laid floors, Jeffrey Bur was a carpenter's helper, as was Ron Wilson; carpenter foreman was Kim Weston; Angela Dittmer put on the aluminum siding; Randy Moffitt was the plumber; Lisa Colbert the electrician; Billy Ford installed the furnace; Theresa Lapham and Rip Sheward were stone and brick masons; Carol O'Keefe the roofer; Annette Ordino was the bulldozer operator; Jon Kletter the block layer; Chris Farbolin, a dump truck driver; Candace Blesschup an excavator; and Jack Robinson was the architect.

As for builder Newman, he admitted that it was lots more fun than his everyday job.

Whip Up Some Halloween Witchery

BY WYLIE GERDES

How would you like to raise the Devil disguised as a goat? Or make a pact with a demon to do dreadful deeds to the neighborhood? Or maybe slip something helpful in your favorite girl's drink?

SOUNDS AS IF one could learn all these tricks by watching "Dark Shadows" on afternoon television.

However, anyone can become an apprentice witch or warlock by parking your broom at the nearest public library.

The best night of the year to begin a career in witchery is naturally the last day of October, Halloween. Most American Halloween customs are based on English traditions.

Halloween is the night before Allhallowes, which is also called All Souls Day. Allhallowes is a church feast honoring the sacred heroes. The word Halloween seems to be a corruption of hallow eve.

Halloween became connected with witchery, evil deeds and magic because of the anti-church feelings attributed to witches. Myths grew that witches picked the night before a sacred holiday to perform their rites.

The evening before Allhallowes became a bad time to be wandering about the English countryside. Late walkers might be suspected of attending sabbats, as the witches' gatherings are called.

Church sources reported a sabbat to be a blasphemous religious ceremony combined with a good old-fashioned orgy. Supposedly, a reclining nude maiden was used as a living human altar for the black rituals.

THE STANDARD witches' working costumes seems to have been either total nakedness or an elaborate costume. Christian sources described a sabbat as a general free-love-for-all, but books attributed to witches or sorcerers say otherwise.

Witches and warlocks appeared to feel one increased his professional magic abilities by abstaining from certain things, the foremost being sex.

The conflicting views on the subject seem natural. The Inquisition, the Catholic Church's official body for destroying heresy, turned up a lot of information about evil activities which was unknown until then. The Inquisition operated for about 200 years, beginning a few years before Columbus sailed.

THE LAST PERSON put to death for witchcraft got his due in 1934. A Jamaican man was convicted by British authorities on his home island.

The Inquisition has received a somewhat unwarranted reputation. Its methods certainly were not gentle, and its motivation mostly was the fact a heretic's property was divided between the church and state after his demise. Governments of the time weren't much gentler, however, and the general level of life was harsh.

The English were comparatively enlightened on subjects of harassing alleged witches. Their neighbors to the north, the Scotch, were more diligent.

Even the Scotch, however, refrained from burning convicted witches. In Scotland, witches were burned only if they had hexed a spouse. The run of the mill witch was merely hanged.

COLONIAL AMERICANS got into the witch-hunting act as the bad began to lose momentum. Salem Puritans hanged 19 witches and pressed another to death by placing rocks on a board laid on his body.

Records left by alleged witches portray the life of a witch as pretty tame. What infuriated witch-hunters was not their practice of magic, but the resemblance of witches' ceremonies to those of the church.

Magical recipe books called grimoires still exist.

Among the interesting facts found in a grimoire is included the following cure for the sting of a scorpion: a kiss to the ear of an ass.

Another useful hint concerns love charms. Use a substance called dragon's blood, which is the gum of an Indian tree.

THE MAIN method of getting something done by magic apparently is to summon a demon and outwit the fellow into performing the work.

Church myths say demons are the children of fallen angels and mortals. A witch or warlock who performed the ritual of summoning a demon took extreme precautions. Demons had a nasty reputation and often expressed overpowering interest in trading the summoner's soul for the labor to be performed.

To protect himself from the demon, the sorcerer stood in a pentacle. The pentacle is a double or triple circle or sometimes a pentagram drawn on the floor. Daggers, skulls, or cat heads were placed at strategic points about the figure.

The pentacle protected the witch while she discussed terms with a demon. Surviving witches seemed to correspond to present-day attorneys in this respect. The magicians said they seemed to promise the demon a soul in exchange for the work, but wasealed out on a technicality.

A GIMOIRE reported the following incantation for raising Old Nick himself in goat form:

"Lalle, Bacheera, Magotte, Bupha, Dajam, Bagoh Heneche"

Amml Nagar, Adomator Raphael Immanuel Christus, Tetragrammaton Agra Jod Lori, Kon-ig! Kon-ig!"

The Grand Grimoire, the largest magical cookbook of them all, says a demon named Lucifuge Rofocale is available for labor with the proper precautions.

BELIEF In the power of

witches apparently flourished among most of the population of Western Europe and England in the Middle Ages. Many educated men, however, thought the idea was ridiculous.



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SKI TIPS

By Jay Stoken

Those of you planning to purchase this season should know some of the factors considered in determining the ski length you need.

Ski length generally ranges from 125 cm. (4' 1") to 220 cm. (7' 3"). At 5'6" (168 cm.) you are in the 160-170 cm. size and on the other end, if you are 6'6" (198 cm.), you are in the 200-210 cm. size. In this range lies the one right pair of skis for you. In determining the correct length for you, your height, weight, and skiing proficiency in relation to the type of ski are major considerations.

The last factor in choosing a ski is to let a good salesman help you find the type and length you need. At DJ's Ski Shop we pride ourselves in being knowledgeable in this type of customer service. Getting the right equipment will make you a better skier and help us establish good customers and friends.

Michigan skiing is less than a month away. Now is the time to get the equipment and apparel you need. Stop in and let us show you the 1970 line of ski equipment and winter fashion.

Jay Stoken

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