

Ghoulish ideas for Halloween

OH, I LOVE this weather — sunny and cool. I set out on the front porch with a steaming hot coffee and a fresh doughnut in my hand and listen to the acorns fall and hit the road. Often with a loud "crack" they hit a neighbor's roof, roll down the shingles, rattle across their metal awnings, then finally hit the driveway and roll down towards the sidewalk. There they sit until they pop as kids run over them with their shoes or a carefully aimed bicycle tire. Sounds like an exciting life doesn't it? Sittin' on the porch listening to acorns!

Of course, there is so much I love about this time of year. I love the cool, the colorful trees, the food, the stormy dark clouds, the food, the cool weather. Halloween and probably the food.

Halloween brings out the artist in every Mom and Dad as the little face in the family asks the very import-



artifacts
David Messing

ant question, "What am I going to be this Halloween?" My boys have "had it made" as their father stands poised ready to take a creative leap into whatever character they decide to be. It doesn't matter how difficult it is or how gory, whatever is required they know Dad kind of flips his lid at Halloween time.

I REMEMBER ONE terrible Halloween years ago. I was so depressed. The boys were little and they both wanted a Snoopy outfit they saw at K mart. Well, that was years ago and since then my wife and I have made many outfits for

the boys. So here are a few tips: If you have to paint on clothing for a costume, there are several options. Dekka makes a wonderful fabric paint that stains the material and is never stiff. Dekka is best painted on light colored materials.

You can buy Fern-Air which is prethinned for air brushing or sprinkling colors out of a squirt gun. If you need to paint white bones (for example) on a black outfit, just use white acrylic tube paint as it is the most opaque. Palmer paint makes a neat glow-in-the-dark paint. It is slightly greenish and really works. I love to see that display when we turn off the lights at night.

If you want to make teeth or bones, use Friendly plastic. It is a non-toxic with a low melting temperature. It can be brought to a moldable state simply by immersing it in hot water. I made a set of teeth that even impressed my dentist.

Now if you really get into the spir-

it and want to make your own masks, you need pure latex. For masks, I think it's best to use the white latex which dries to a yellowish color. You can color liquid latex with acrylic paint. When you paint it out and it dries the color will darken considerably. Now let's see what kind of costume you can create.

BUT WHEN IT comes to decorating your pumpkin you can leave that up to us. We're going to be having a lot of fun air-brushing pumpkins at the Art Store and More in Livonia. We'll be painting anything you want, ugly, gross, funny and cute faces on little pumpkins, medium and big pumpkins.

We will have refreshments and discounted artist supplies and frames. Gary Steffens is our very talented airbrush teacher. Gary and I will be out in front of the store air-brushing pumpkins. So come on over Oct. 15, 22, and 29 to see how it's done!

designing ways

Eve Garvin

The new Kittinger showroom in the Michigan Design Center is absolutely spectacular. The Kittinger name is synonymous with quality, good taste and understatement.

The magnificent foyer is replete with its marble floors of cream with the faintest touch of gold veining. The burgundy walls are a faux leather finish. The high ceilings are accented by deep crown moldings, dental molding and then again banded in still another wood trim. The wood is antiqued in a cafe au lait finish that resembles bleached oak. The combination of the two is quite smashing.

Kittinger is known for its wonderful 18th-century English reproductions — in the past a rather staid look in the upholstered pieces.

Here in this showroom we see a complete departure from that. The new look is avant garde as witnessed by the Queen Anne arm chair upholstered in a cloth that looks and feels like satin, its pattern, a ribbon of leopard skin running down either side with nosegays of roses through the center. When I complimented their representative on the great new look I was told that all their showrooms were undergoing a "face lift."

The Brent Furniture Co. in West Bloomfield has something unique to offer people who want their furniture yesterday. Their store on Telegraph and Square Lake Road offers 3,000 covers from which to select. Each piece of upholstered furniture is made expressly for them and can be ready for delivery in 30 days. This store is devoted to upholstered furniture only while the Clawson store concentrates on case goods (wood and metal).

Check used equipment carefully

Each year, millions of new cameras, lenses and photo accessories are sold. An almost equal number of used items is either exchanged, sold privately, buried in a drawer or discarded.

Much of this old equipment is obsolete or damaged beyond repair. But some of it can be found hardly used and in excellent condition. Substantial savings can be made and a worthy piece of equipment added to your photo gear if you can distinguish between bargains and junk.

The best sources for locating used equipment are photo stores, classified ads and local photo flea markets.

With basic items such as tripods, flash units and darkroom accessories (trays, measuring cups and tongs) very little can go wrong, so buying them is a pretty safe bet. But with cameras and lenses, you need to be more cautious and check them closely. Here's how.

First, carefully inspect the exterior of that used camera you're interested in. A lot can be learned from its general condition. Some wear and tear is normal, such as worn corners and marks from neckstrap fittings. Just be sure the wear isn't excessive.

Be wary of dents, large scratches and especially distortion of the camera body. These indicate a dropped or abused camera and serious damage could be concealed inside.

Look through the viewfinder to ensure that focusing devices, readouts and so on are all clearly visible.

Be sure to check the battery compartment for any damage from old, corroded batteries. Wind the advance lever and snap the shutter at all speeds. It should operate smoothly down the scale.

Open the camera back and check for cleanliness. Then set the shutter at "B" and watch through the opened camera back as the shutter closes. There should be no sluggishness.

At different ASA settings, check the meter out by using a spare or friend's camera as a reference. Readings should be within one-half stop.

Finally, focus at infinity and look through the viewfinder. Distant objects should be clearly in focus. If not, the lens mount, mirror or focusing screen may be out of alignment.

Good lenses can be terrific bargains. You may be able to pick up a top quality used lens at the same price (or lower) as a new, but inferior model. Even at the same price, you're better off with the used lens.

Everything should operate smoothly on the lens. It should focus easily and the glass should be free from scratches.

Buying from a distant seller when you can't check out the equipment

photography

Monte Nagler

can be risky indeed. Better to buy locally so you can check the equipment before you buy it.

1988, Monte Nagler

Monte Nagler's photo of Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, Maine, was taken with a camera he bought many years ago.

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OPEN SUN. 5-8. 1959 VILLA DR., SOUTHFIELD. UPDATED CONDO! Living room has studio ceiling, ceramic tile, alabaster glass windows. New kitchen. Lower level with family room, fireplace. \$87,900. 848-4700.

IDEAL CONDO LOCATION. 2nd floor unit, spacious living quarters, carpet, patio view overlooking courtyard. Walk-in storage room in condo plus 2nd floor laundry and storage. \$29,900. 859-2300.

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