

STREET SCENE

Inside **S²**

A clip-clop life

You can't help but notice the horse-drawn buggies along the road side, parked in front of the hardware store and elsewhere in Shipshewana, Ind. That's part of the charm of the community and one reason tourists flock there each year. For more on Shipshewana, see Page 5D.

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For the best dressed goblins

By Charlene Mitchell
special writer

The more than 130-year-old tradition of celebrating Halloween in the United States is regaining its popularity as an active holiday.

Despite the real horror stories of contaminated or tainted treats, families are starting to look forward to Oct. 31 as a time when the imagined witches and goblins can delight rather than frighten.

Unlike two decades ago, youngsters don't usually walk outside of their own neighborhoods as they knock on doors, repeating "trick or treat." Instead, groups of neighborhood youngsters — usually fol-

lowed close behind by their parents — sock out candy, bubble gum and homemade cookies from neighbors they know.

"It's a fun holiday that unfortunately lured all the creeps out of the woodwork," said one Southfield father of four. "I want my kids to enjoy trick or treating like it was when I was a kid, so my wife and I dress up with them and get involved."

More and more boys and girls are attending Halloween parties at each others homes after getting their bags filled with treats. In one West Bloomfield subdivision, a childless couple dress up and decorate their front porch and lawn in an elaborate Halloween display.

"THE KIDS absolutely love coming here," said Verna Beattie. "Last year we played haunting music from a tape on the porch and made an archway over the front door of fake spider webs. When the children rang the bell, we answered the door wearing long robes with our faces made up."

"It didn't scare them because we didn't have on masks and they could recognize our faces. It was just scary enough to make it exciting, but not intimidating."

Party shops in the metropolitan area report a boom in pre-holiday orders for things like plastic jack-o'-lanterns and other Halloween decorations.

"It's been crazy," said one of the owners of a Southfield retail outlet specializing in specialty items for parties. "We've got tons of orders for black and orange balloons and paper skeletons."

With Halloween becoming a fun holiday like it once was, costumes are taking on a new slant. Certain characters like witches, devils and Frankenstein are destined to remain popular, but for many, whimsical figures have a new appeal.

A company, called Whimsicality Costumes, of Barry, Va., has published a catalogue of adult and children's all-purpose costumes. The selection includes a colorful toucan, an alligator wearing a tropical floral print shirt, a stegosaurus, an elaborate unicorn in lavender with yards of sparkling white netting, an ice cream cone, and even a trio of garden creatures which include a daffodil and a caterpillar.

"IT'S A riot," said Cindy Ohron-Kahn of Kiddywinks in downtown Birmingham. "Some of our customers who bought from us last year put in their orders in advance."

"Halloween costumes started out as a very small part of our business, but now we consider it as essential inventory."

With Halloween drawing near, there are countless choices when it comes to selecting a costume. Drug store varieties are usually the least expensive, starting at around \$5. Whimsicality Costumes are more expensive, but if it's any consolation, the kids probably will dress up in them to play over and over again.

Today's Halloween costumes aren't just for Halloween any more.

And what shall I be this year?

OK, so it's almost Halloween and you're wondering what to wear.

If fairy princess has come to mind, better get your costume now. It's the most popular costume, according to a survey of suburban retailers. Ditto for her nemesis, the witch. It's second in line.

You might stand a better chance as Frankenstein and Dracula, they're tied for third place, but you may have a better chance being a pumpkin (fourth place), a clown (fifth), Minnie and Mickey Mouse (sixth), Donald Duck (seventh) or political celebrities

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Jessica Runco of Bloomfield Hills tries out a fairy princess costume for Halloween, while Julie Kriegel of Troy models a hippo ballerina outfit.



Jennifer Runco of Bloomfield Hills doesn't look too ferocious in a lion's costume from Kiddywinks of Birmingham.



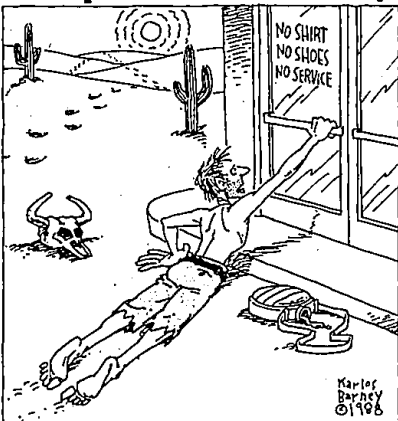
Costumes courtesy of Kiddywinks, Birmingham/photos by STEVE CANTRELL

His name's Magic and he certainly looks that way in a pet costume from Groom-A-Pet in Royal Oak. Magic's ready to go trick or treat-

ing with his master, Jonathan Rodgers of West Bloomfield, who's dressed as a prehistoric creature.

R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Sand.

That is what ties together the beach communities along Lake Michigan from the Indiana border to South Haven and Saugatuck. Sandy beaches, dunes and all the activities that goes with them — hang gliding, beach parties, picnics, boating, walks on the beach in a T-shirt or a sweatshirt.

Sand.

If you stay on the interstate you will never see it. The Red Arrow Highway is closer to the shore, but even then you must turn down side roads to reach the water. You never know what you will find at the end of a dead end street.

In New Buffalo, for example, you will find it all where the main street ends at the lake — boats, beach, condominiums and 1,000 docks on the waterway that leads from Lake Michigan into town. You can walk a wooden boardwalk across the dunes, or join the beach lovers who gather to picnic, party and play.

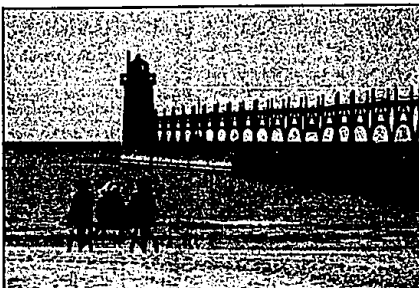
Slow down, so that you don't miss the great little bakeries and chocolate shops, the fruit market on the corner and the hamburger lovers crowding into Redamaks, a famous

little restaurant/bar on Highway 12. Other favorite hangouts are the Lighthouse Restaurant and Donna's.

There is one exception to the get-off-the-road policy. Hit the Michigan Welcome Center at Exit One on Interstate 94 and collect the maps and literature that will keep you off the

interstate for the rest of your tour.

You will come out with a handful of pamphlets about fruit farms, many of them pick-your-own places. U-pick farms are all over this southwestern section of Michigan, where warm lake winds make the climate perfect for fruit.



MICKY JONES

The pier at the South Haven public beach is a good place to sit and watch the world go by.

YOU WILL also find wiseries flourishing in the same weather conditions. It's harvest time, so go in and sip a sample. But don't sip too many; you've got a long way to drive today.

What you'll discover among the pamphlets are little things you would never find yourself — self-guided bicycle tours organized out of a great little Bicycle Museum in Three Oaks, also the home of an outlet store for the Gerber Babywear Factory.

Get off I-94 at the Bridgman exit and face your first dilemma. You must turn left to Warren Dunes State Park, where you can climb the sand dunes, hit the beach or join the hang gliding enthusiasts who launch themselves from the nearby 200-foot high Tower Hill.

If you turn right at the I-94 exit, you will find yourself at the Cook Energy Information Center. It's worth an hour to explore the handsome exhibits in the lobby and to see the three creative theater presentations about energy. Robots will explain energy to you, or you can see a large working model that shows how nuclear energy is converted to electricity. There's also a film of the nu-

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