

Witch Stirs Up A Treat

By TIM RICHARD

What does a real witch do for Halloween - trick or treat?

Treat, if she's the Great Witch Gundella, of Garden City. She treated a gigantic party to bat's blood soup and bandaged fingers, and she treated a little girl with a deformed mouth to part of the price of expensive orthodontic care.

Gundella, the rotund former teacher, threw a party at Tombstone Hollow, a fully decorated hall near Metropolitan Airport, in order to raise \$1,500 for Joanne Berkowitz, 12, of Ferndale.

The party raised \$807. Gundella plans to make the rest through a benefit performance later this year to be sponsored by the Eiks.

Gundella has taken Joanne under her broad wing because "she is suffering from what one dentist described as 'the worst possible dental problem you can imagine.' Not only Joanne's teeth, but also her bone structure must be altered if she is to live a normal life. She is already suffering from speech problems, personality problems and social problems."

Joanne's mother and dad have insurance to cover her hospital stay, but the dental treatment will cost more

than the family with five children has, so Gundella agreed to underwrite the rest.

The party was by - invitation - only, but apparently a lot of persons crashed the gate and failed to make a donation. Some 528 attended. Those who attended and didn't understand the nature of the party can send a check to Joanne Berkowitz, care of Gundella, Box 434, Garden City, Mich. 48135.

"We had a wonderful party," Gundella bubbled. Gundella always bubbles, and bounces.

"Liver head" on the menu turned out to be heads carved from liver sausage by her young son. "Bat's blood soup" was tomato soup, and "bandaged fingers" were hot dogs in crescent rolls. "Scrambled brain" sandwiches were a hamburger - onion mixture. "Vampire's delight" was punch.

There was something hanging by the neck who appeared very human. He was indeed human, and he would talk to people who came close. Actually, he was suspended by a parachute harness.

The raising of the dead ceremony at midnight was the highlight. "We had a young man in a casket who practices self - hypnosis.

People said it was the most lifelike dummy they had ever seen," said Gundella. A midnight ritual revived him.

Her husband, a carpenter, made mock tombstones which her children decorated with rollicking epitaphs.

Everyone had to come in costume. "We had lots of King Henry VIIIs, and some versions of King Richard - Nixon, that is. And there were several Raggedy Anns and Andys, and hordes of ghosts and goblins," Gundella bubbled.

Halloweena for Gundella, whose ancestry stretches to the green witches of Scotland, is one of four religious holy days of the year.

She and the other 12 witches of the Ann Arbor coven will hold their winter rite. "Each witch writes down all the things she has done in the past three seasons she thought were not right - nasty, unkind, uncharitable. Then these papers are burned in a ceremonial fire. It's an occasion of repentance," she said.

She was reminded that initiates into the Boy Scouts' Order of the Arrow have a similar ceremony. During their hazing weekend, they cut a notch into a stick they wear around their necks for each offense. At the end of

Make Halloween Safe And Fun



GUNDELLA
'A Wonderful Party'

the ordeal, the sticks are burned.

"Hmmmmm," said Gundella. "One of the founders of the Boy Scouts must have been a witch."
A witch who treats, no doubt.

The American Legion dept. of Michigan is interested in making Halloween a safe and fun night.

"Children are entitled to the innocent fun and festivity associated with the observance of the Halloween trick-or-treat custom which involves masquerading in costumes and visiting neighbors for treats," said State Commander Charles E. Larson of Southfield.

Halloween is usually accompanied by happy thoughts, but in some households this year it could be a sad occasion because of the death or injury of a child member of the family.

Children cross dark streets on trick-or-treat expeditions and many are injured or killed annually by automobiles.

Still other types of catastrophes have happened in the past, such as candy dipped in ant poison, lead poison or some other caustic material, being given to children as a treat.

What can be done to prevent these accidents? Here are some simple rules by the National Safety Council which should curtail Halloween accidents:

•Parents shouldn't send youngsters out after dark by themselves without adult supervision.

•Parents shouldn't let children eat any treats until the goodies have been sorted through to eliminate any suspicious items.

•Children have difficulty seeing when they wear Halloween masks because of the small slits for eyes.

Pheasant Crop Grows

Southern Michigan rural mail carriers observed 2,341 pheasant broods in their annual mid-summer survey this year, an increase of between 35 and 40 per cent over the number reported in 1972.

The 560 carriers responding with survey data traveled more than 375,000 miles on their southern Michigan routes during the July 23-Aug. 4 survey period. About the same number of carriers responded last year, reporting a 20 per cent increase over 1971 sightings.

"Unfortunately," recalls Department of Natural Resources' pheasant specialist Vic Janson, "last season's rainy weather dampened hunter enthusiasm and the pheasant harvest was relatively small."

This spring's rainy, soggy weather, however, was a boon to pheasant hunters, Janson notes, because it

forced many farmers to postpone hay-mowing operations, thus increasing young pheasant survival.

Aside from the fact that last season's reduced harvest meant more breeding birds this spring, Janson links last winter's mildness and an abundant food supply with the boosted brood survey results - the highest since 1966.

Of the 36 counties - all in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula - surveyed, counties boasting areas of high pheasant density were Otsewa, Hillsdale, Van Buren, Eaton, Livingston, Ingham, Berrien, Lenawee and Allegan.

Janson says the Thumb Area, despite a considerable brood sighting increase, continues to support relatively low pheasant densities, excepting portions of St. Clair County.

Noting that 33 of the 36 counties surveyed showed a pheasant brood increase, however, Janson predicts that the Oct. 20 - Nov. 10 regular lower peninsula pheasant season should be a very good one, possibly best since 1969.

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