



# The Adventures of Meg

By M. M. McCallum

## A Halloween joke backfires

Eerie sounds filled the night. The hair on Rex's neck stood straight up.

"Meg," called Mother, "Are you practising with the rosin again? Don't lose all my sewing needles. It is still ten days till Halloween."

"But Mum" answered Meg, "its such a wonderful trick. Are you really sure you never played it on Halloween yourself?"

"No indeed, I did not. Nor any of the other tricks your Grandfather has taken such pains to explain to you so carefully; and yes before you ask, I did put out an old white sheet for you."

"For the life of me I don't know why you prefer to spend Halloween at Grandpa's farm instead of going door to door here in town. You can certainly have your slumber party here as well as there."

"Well but, its so much darker in the country and real owls hoot and oh, I don't know."

"Well I know," said Mum. "It's more fun to splash water

bobbing for apples out of a real old wash tub, and Grampa always remembers to tie the apple string long enough for even the littlest one to get a good bite. Yes I remember. They certainly do spoil you Meg. Well maybe that's why we love them so. Everyone needs a Grandpa and Grandma."

"Off you go and gather up the things you need to take. Here's a big box for you 'tricky stuff'."

Finally it was Halloween. Meg and her guests, Judy and Bonnie arrived at the farm. It was crisp clear weather; the leaves underfoot crunched just right, and the girls scouted the neighbourhood to see just who they would play their new tricks on.

They finally settled on John, a bachelor on the next concession, and the Smith house where seventeen year old Alice was babysitting. Oh! and the community center of course.

Giggling gleefully, the girls took their 'tricky box' down to the barn to practice.

"First we need a needle with double threads; long enough to let us hide behind a hedge. Push the needle point firmly into the

putty of the window sash. It must touch the glass. Then hold the thread firmly as we hide," said Meg. "Then we rub the tight thread with this lump of rosin." As Meg demonstrated her chums covered their ears and their eyes really popped.

"Oh Meg, its marvelous. So scary. I can hardly wait said Judy. "Now show us the sheet trick."

"We have to stand right back, one on each side of the drive. Behind a tree trunk is good Grandpa said," reported Meg. "Stretch this light rope, hang the sheet on it and by jiggling the rope on a slant the sheet passes just like a giant ghost."

"Grandpa will drive us to the community center and we will scare some people in the dark end of the parking lot. Lets hurry."

Early supper was over, they were all ready. Off to the center first dressed in their witches costumes, the girls were hard to see in the fast falling dark.

They set their sheet trap by the exit path. Before long youngsters rushed out from the center, anxious to get home

before the goblins got them.

Suddenly, shrieking wildly they turned back on their tracks and rushed for the other exit, the ghost white sheet swaying and waving behind them. Even the little ones would have a real ghost story to tell now.

Meg, Judy and Bonnie almost helpless with suppressed laughter bundled up their stuff and Grandpa drove right over to the Smith's.

Sneaking a peek in the living room window, they saw Alice with the children all gathered round.

Quickly and quietly they set up thread and needle. Leaving Judy and Bonnie to peer in the window and report the reactions Meg scraped her lump of rosin on the thread.

Faster and harder went the rosin; clearly and shrilly came the horrendous squeaks. Inside the house panic erupted!!!

Alice stood stock still. Four year old Teddy clutched her round the waist. Nine year old Anne screamed, then pointed to the window

Judy had forgotten to duck! Eleven year old Andrew yelled.

"HALLOWEEN TRICKS"!!!

Alice, Andrew, and Anne charged for the doorway. Wee Teddy followed as fast as he could.

"Girls" cried Judy "we're caught! - lets get out of here."

Three pair of legs just flew. Bonnie and Judy held hands and raced down the laneway. Meg did not stop to climb the fence but took off over the field in the pitch black.

"THUNK" Meg found herself sitting on the ground. Her face felt as though she had hit a brick wall. She couldn't see a thing. Something warm and wet draped itself over her neck. Meg moved. Jumping up her hand hit something. She felt hair. She moved her hand further. More hair.

The warm wet thing moved away from her neck. Meg turned her head. In the light of the October moon she could see herself reflected in another set of eyes. Meg laughed aloud in sheer relief.

NED! good old Ned. Smith's old black percheron. It looked as though the biggest scare of all was on Meg.



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### 4-H news

This fall project has got off to a great start. The Russell No. 2 "Crafty Creators" have already completed four meetings and still have three to go. The fall project is entitled "Accessories, The Final Touch". Each member must sew one or two selected accessories. This project enables

us to build a wardrobe around a basic color, select and care for hats, shoes, purses, scarves and jewellery.

This year's Achievement Day will be held Sat., Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m. in Russell. All are welcome to attend

### Majority cards required at Metcalfe

Complaints of underage drinking at social events held at Metcalfe Community centre have prompted the centre board to require Age of Majority cards from those attending certain events.

Groups wishing to sponsor dances where liquor will be served now have to pay an additional rental charge for an attendant to verify cards, board secretary Kay Stanley said.

Activities such as wedding receptions are exempt from the new ruling. Mrs. Stanley explained.

"We don't want to prevent young people from attending their brother or sister's wedding," she said. "Most people are on their best behavior at weddings anyway."

The secretary said the board has received complaints from parents and "older teenagers" about underage drinking at the community centre.

Age of Majority cards are issued by the Liquor Control Board of Ont. and application forms can be obtained at LCBO outlets.

### UCFL women take "WEN-DO"

Nobody had better mess with certain members of the Union Culturelle des Franco-Ontariennes — they might just get a judo chop in the kisser.

Eight members of the Union's Russell unit were enrolled during September and October in a "WEN-DO" course at Algonquin College. "WEN-DO" is a self-defense program for women.

The art of self-defense isn't the only thing keeping UCFO members busy these days. They're preparing a bazaar, bake sale, and craft sale to be held Oct. 28 in the basement of Russell's Notre Dame church. Everyone is welcome.

Members have also designed a petit-pointe which will be drawn Nov. 11 at Russell arena during the harvest dance.

UCFO meetings are held regularly on the first Monday of the month, at 8 p.m., in the Russell Catholic church basement. All are welcome.

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