

## HALLOWE'EN FESTIVAL LURES SHADOWY HOSTS

Great Community Frolic at Center Attracts 2,000 Spook-hunting Villagers

BY AN OBSERVER

The merry old man in the Halloween Moon beamed down upon the unseasonable quiet and order of our famously lively village, evincing no surprise whatever at the stable positions of doormats and ash-cans. For he, too, was playing a part of all "Spooks" and youngsters.

This gentle shadow-maker matched with affectionate interest the dark forms moving, as at a given signal, from all directions toward the village center. Long before the appointed hour the shadows massed at the outer doors which finally opened upon a scene of traditional witchery. Then dark forms became fair lassies, sturdy lads, witches, fairies and clowns.

J. W. F. "Chief" Davies, with half a hundred white-badged hosts, greeted strangers, indicated interests and kept the massive company comfortably moving through the labyrinth of continuous performances. A visitor could not possibly, see all, and the temptation to linger selfishly under one spell was only overcome by the realization that another's turn had come.

The gymnasium, with watchful directors in charge, tempted energetic youths to test their skill and strength at rope climbing, curious tug-of-war and boxing bouts conditioned by unique handicaps.

Just around the corner a Punch and Judy show lured, and the shrieks of merriment emitted whenever the door opened testified to the entertainment

in that quarter. The "Grab-Bag" offered a six-to-one chance of obtaining a fitting souvenir, the alternatives being the blood-curdling sensations of claspings cold, slimy, reptile-like objects.

In the higher regions a few of our townsmen in fierce piratical regalia conducted a Captain Kidd contest of fascinating interest. A much-like-a-man, monkey courted concentration as he dodged balls thrown at him from a distance of a few yards. An apple rewarded each successful aim and we hope the monkey sensed the appreciation of those few who knew that he played the game for an hour and a half uninterruptedly.

The spooks monopolized the basement, and here shocks and thrills were administered to tiny tots and burly braves with a rarely super-natural discrimination. Horace Mann pupils, under the direction of the Community Drama club, contributed pretty shadow pictures and pantomime illustrations for readings of Riley poems.

Fair fortune-tellers granted audience in incense haunted grottoes which sprang up where Scout and Camp Fire rooms now appear. Refreshments? Yes, indeed! Forty-five gallons of ice-cream whisked into two thousand cones failed to supply the demand—but lollypops met the need. Ten o'clock brought a satisfied, ready-for-bed feeling and thus it was, forgetful housewife who left your broom or Sunday roast in back porch insecurity, that you were spared righteous wrath upon that first of November morn.

Chief Davies and company, you are cleverly meeting a problem which happily accompanies our village wealth of healthy, normal, exuberant youth and enthusiasm. We lookers-on marvel at your success and the self-effacing co-operation which insures it—and we thank you!

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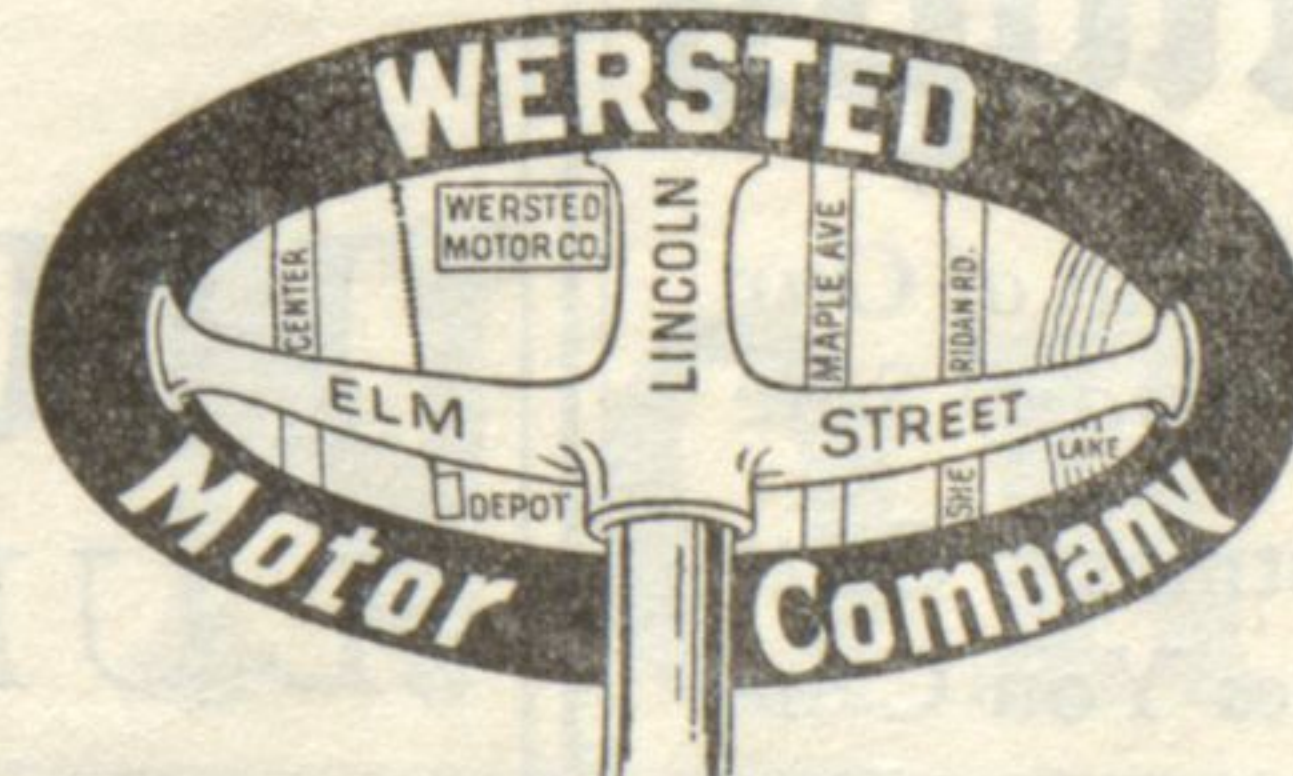
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