

# Lathrup Village News

By LILLIAN DIEDERICH  
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## PTA Furthers Plans

A talk by Mrs. Donna Reincke, coordinator of instruction of the Southfield schools, highlighted the first meeting of the Lathrup PTA Wednesday, Oct. 19.

She briefly outlined her work in adjusting routine and said a program of home instruction for crippled children in the area is about to be launched.

Adoption of by-laws completed the organization of the group, formed last May. Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month.

Members also voted to relieve Lathrup teachers of three days a week of lunchroom duty. This project is under the direction of Mrs. Vincent S. Madison as chairman of room mothers. The plan is for mothers of Lathrup children to take turns supervising during lunch period at the school.

Hostesses for the social hour were the executive board members.

## Hear Safety Talk

Main Street Men's Club met in the Southfield Methodist church last week to hear Corp. John Chanut, state police safety officer, talk on defective home devices that cause mishaps through carelessness.

Last week the club distributed a Southfield directory that covered business addresses, a complete Southfield Township map and data of importance to residents. A similar edition will be circulated

again, according to the president, Thomas Lenahan. Proceeds from advertisements will be used to help finance a community building.

## Guard Your Pet

Dog owners beware! A yellow truck is out to get your dog if you don't watch out—and impound him! A new full-time dog warden has been appointed. So Fido dare not venture away from home, even at night. Better dress him fittingly with collar, tags and all, when he goes out or he may be impounded. The dog warden, Clifford Burkholder, reports he will keep dogs three days and then if not claimed, they will be disposed of.

## Costume Party

Treat a sight to behold! Such a variety of costumes all under one roof, and all out to get the prizes offered by Southfield Community Council, Inc., Friday night at the first old fashioned costume dance they have staged at Colony hall. Glows were there, and tramps galore, even the queen of Sheba, to say nothing of Indian chiefs, ballet girls, and Uncle Sam!

Walking away with prizes were Geraldine Gerdzial garbed as a Chinese girl; Jim O'Day as Robin Hood; Ann Bennett as Aunt Jemima; Marilyn Reanke as a country girl.

Bill Putnam, president of the organization and assistants were the judges. Mrs. Leo A. Ostrack was general chairman assisted by Mrs. William Delong and Mrs.

William Donner. Mrs. Emma Macdonald assisted with refreshments.

## Plano Recital

Mrs. Emma Macdonald has planned a recital for her pupil Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Piano selections will be played by Marilyn and Carol Starkley, Judy Lubra, Jim Eykias, Carol Pepper, Judy and Carol Pederson, Jackie Simmons, David Steer, Sarah Thornbury, Joan Walker, Sheila Ackles, Janet Hoagstra and Susie Hudgins.

## DAR Chapter

Three Plugs Chapter DAR met Tuesday at the home of Mrs. LeRoy Large for a co-operative luncheon and to sew on aprons for the bazars to be held in Detroit, Nov. 18.

The board will meet next Tuesday at the home of Mrs. LeRoy Large on Dolores avenue where more handwork will be done.

## Social Activities

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gosline, formerly of Los Angeles, are making their home temporarily with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vint of Sunset boulevard.

Mrs. Elizabeth Linaker of Cleveland, is spending the week with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Stover of East California drive. On Thursday they drove to Toledo to visit Mrs. Thelma Janice, another sister. A family dinner was given Sunday at the home of a third sister, Mrs. Leo Copeland of Alma, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wise was honored Sunday afternoon at a tea for 35 guests in the Ray Macdonald home on Glenwood boulevard. The Wise family has been transferred from Detroit to Buenos Aires. Mr. Wise is with Burroughs-Adding Machine company.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Inman of San Jose boulevard entertained their Detroit dinner club Saturday evening after which cards were played. The out-of-town members of the club are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kime of Ann Arbor.

Mrs. Maud Paulson has returned home after visiting a nephew and niece in Richmond, Va., where a number of parties were given in her honor. She then flew to Washington, D. C., and visited friends. A plane trip home last week completed her holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Carlson, relatives of Mrs. Uridge, from Seattle, Wash., spent a week with the Phil Uridges. Also visiting them were Mr. and Mrs. Theodore J. Regan of Orlando, Fla.

## Men's Chorus Engages New Director; Plans Two Public Concerts

Otto Brown of Ferndale has been engaged as the new director of the Birmingham Men's Chorus. He is an ex-member of the Ford chorus.

The group meets for rehearsal every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the basement at St. James Episcopal church. Men wishing to join the chorus, are invited to attend the rehearsals or to contact the president, Charles Savage, for further information.

Two public concerts are being planned for the coming months. The first will be presented at Christmas, with the regular spring concert planned as the second appearance.

# Ancient Superstitions Still Lend Influence to Halloween Celebration

By Alice E. Morgan

Halloween, in olden days, opened the two-day celebration of the dead, the church's most solemn occasion. It was the day of the "All Souls' Day" on Nov. 2. So solemn were they that should never be held on Sunday, the Halloween activities were held the preceding Saturday.

Actually, in the days of the Druids, from whom came most of the Welsh and Irish superstitions, it was celebrated as the Festival of the Dead. It was believed that on All Souls' Day the god Samhan (there are several spellings of this name) came to pass judgment on the souls of those who had departed this earth during the previous year. This was a very necessary function, since these souls had been wandering about in an airy nothingness waiting for the day to arrive.

The Saturday celebration of Halloween designated in order that families might visit the graves of their dead and complete the ceremonies before the Sabbath, when such things could not be tolerated. The solemnity of the day dates back to the year 998 when Abbot Odilon of Cluny instituted the celebration in all the monasteries of his Roman Catholic parish.

International and internationally grisly. Some sections went so far as to have the bones of their loved ones exhumed every two years and cleaned! Others provided the corpse with a change of clothes on Halloween, and doing husbands lavished expensive gifts on departed wives.

Being human and being alive, those who marked the event began to be bored with just visiting the graveyards, and soon more and more hilarity crept into it. As long lines of worshippers marched to the burying grounds, they could be heard calling out to friends who tavern they could be found at the way home. It was only a short while later that tavern keepers began building on the paths that lead to graveyards, eager to gather in the coins which came from the merry-makers.

Halloween then took on a variety of names. To the sedate and religious it remained "All Hallow Even" but to the more light hearted citizenry it became known as "Nutcrack Night," "Snapapple Night" and a host of other names. As the parties increased in popularity, superstitions began to creep up more and more. Spirits of the dead were supposed to stop their airy roaming long enough to make themselves known to a select few. Witches, devils and evil elves joined them, and entered the bodies of the living for this one night. Children born on Oct. 31 were said to be possessed of a mystic sight and to have frequent "airy visitations."

Superstitions survive. Many of these old superstitions are a part of Halloween celebrations, even though a great deal of their meaning is lost in the passing of time. The bonfires were then a symbol, and were burned in honor of Baal. Each had its own "conflagration" and as the flames died out it was the practice to throw white stones into the ashes. Should one of those stones be missing in the morning it was a sign of a death within the year. A variation of this was to make a pre-arranged design in the ashes with the stones. Franksters and neighbors with a peevish on took a great deal of pleasure in moving the stones about and watching their "victims" squirm for a year.

The Welsh people seem to have originated the custom of selecting one's future spouse on Halloween. There it became quite the thing for a young girl to assign the name of two young men to a couple of hazelnuts and cast them into the fire. The one which burned with a bright clear flame was the ideal catch, while it was advisable to leave the one which grew black and smoky for some other gal.

To Ireland goes credit for a gift or a trick. The peasants of that country armed themselves with sticks and clubs and went from house to house seeking donations of food for the celebration. It was a case of woe be unto the house which did not contribute.

Picking A Husband. Many humorous superstitions sprang up around the power of this night. Young women scattered hemp seeds with the hope that, at midnight, their future husband would be revealed to them as they reaped the harvest. Others pinned their faith in an apple paring, twirled about the head and dropped the floor. This was sure to form the initials of the man one would some day wed.

A hall of years, tossed from a window while one end was held firmly in my lady's hand, would be blown and returned to the window sill by a shadowy form, representing a future husband. A sneezing, a cough or a hiccup before the fire, would also bring a visitation from one's "future." He would then appear and the chimney and turn the garment so it would dry evenly.

Standing before a mirror and brushing one's hair would also call him forth from the foggy future. Another trick, not quite so glamorous but even more dangerous, was to take a mouthful of water and start walking. The first man who made one gulp and swallow the water was to become the "man." (No one seemed to consider the fact that this particular man might already have made some other maiden do this in the years gone by.)

Apple seeds, stuck to one's eyes and named after two men were sure to tell the proper choice. One or the other had to fall off first, and of course the

one remaining represented the steady, ideal husband. A husband's profession could be told by dropping melted lead on wax into cold water. It took the shape of whatever trade he worked in.

Lived Dangerously. Our hobbing for apples had its counterpart in ancient days. The apples, then, bore the names of men, and a last could tell which neighbor or friend to select by the apple she successfully captured.

That our ancestors liked to live dangerously was attested to by their method of working the apple-on-a-string trick. Two sticks formed a cross. Two of the arms bore apples (named) and two bore lighted candles. The trick was to cut an apple, and reveal one's future mate, without burning one's nose.

Many of us never have traced the origin of Halloween, nor derived into its ancient lore and superstitions. Few of us, though, who do not feel the spookiness of the night. Most of us watch today's youngsters and look back on our own childhood. True, a lot of different antics held sway in our youth, but simply because conditions were different. Watching we can see our own youth, with the variations time has wrought, as well as those of the boys and girls who lived when the good Abbot Odilon of Cluny began the celebration nearly a thousand years ago.

NO HUNTING—NO TRESPASSING. Signs for sale at Eccentric Office. (33)

## SPECIALS

Nylons 57¢  
Irreg. of Famous Brand 2 for \$1  
45GG.

Sox 4 for \$1  
White Cotton

Panties 3 for \$1  
French Style-Rayon

Knit Dresses  
Regular \$39.95  
Famous Make \$25  
Hand Loomed  
Hand Finished

Hankies 3  
Embroidered Linen for  
White-Hand Rolled \$1

Scarves  
Regular \$2.98 to \$5.98  
Famous Makes \$1.99  
Exclusive Famous  
Hand Rolled Silks

Mittens  
All Wool 99¢  
Patterns—  
Solid Colors

Nylon Panties  
Fine Denier 99¢  
French Style

Corduroy Suits Reg. Classic \$16.98 \$13.00  
Style

Pearl Necklaces  
2 and 3 Val. to \$1.99  
Strand \$600 Tax Incl.

Gloves  
Reg. \$2.98  
Double Woven \$1.99  
Hand-Sewn \$3.98

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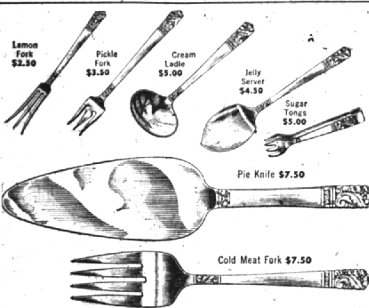
# Anniversary Savings UP TO 1/2!

Special Purchase DRESSES REGULAR TO \$24.98



11. SUITS - COATS Reg. \$39.95 all wool gabardine men's wear sharkskin. Sizes 9-15, 10-18. \$29  
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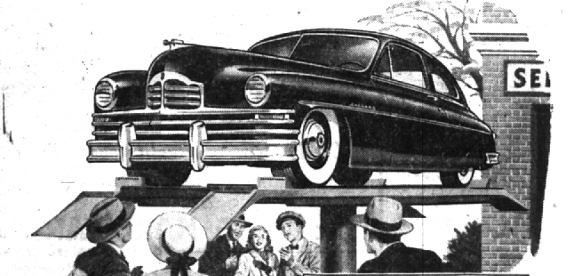


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