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Air Buddies Get Together

Discussing the week of fun and relaxation ahead are (from left) R. D. Nolan of Birmingham and William Bassel, AQPA staff member from Washington, D.C., who are among some 500 aircraft owners and pilots gathered this week for the annual convention at the Galat Ocean Mile hotel in Florida. The social-minded "aces" flew almost 300 private planes into Fort Lauderdale for the "family party" meeting of the AQPA, the largest aviation group in the world, numbering more than 75,000 members.

Halloweens, Like Everything Else—Change with Time

By RUTH VOIGT
Special Writer

Halloween a couple or three decades ago? It used to be such a simple thing. Whether the parents were to blame or the children, no one will ever know. Maybe it was merely the era?

Around supper time, on the night the Goblins and their creatures were allowed to roam one or two immediate streets, old sheets would be dragged out from the bottom shelf of the linen cupboard.

FROM THE attic would come down a couple hilariously funny ankle dresses and maybe a plumed hat or fratty squirrel scarf.

High button shoes with tiny heels might be dug out of a trunk along with a pair of elbow length gloves and a purse which could pass for a small suitcase.

Up from the basement might come some trousers so big that a pillow or two was needed to hold 'em in place. A lettered dirty felt hat, along with a coat whose sleeves had to be rolled over and over would complete the outfit.

SHEETS. LONG dresses. High shoes. Huge men's clothes. (Those were the creations which meant to scare the adults living nearby. To make everyone bow! lot of "black streaks" were rubbed on the faces or lipstick. There were masks for the occasion.)

At seven sharp everyone left to hunt everyone else. No bugs were carried. Why? Because only one old couple, (childless) had the habit of handing out apples.

But not before they insisted that the troupeurs do a "trick" or something. How very important this particular stop at their house was!

AND HOW THEY always exclaimed to each other: "Did you ever see anything funnier? And I wonder who these old people can be?" We'd shiver with joy.

At the other "stops" the neighborhood paraders would simply march silently around the homes, how low and then file out the door to the next house.

This was exciting. No one ever guessed who the visitors might be. "We fooled them, didn't we?" was always the remark asked to each other after the front door was closed on those old folks. Each one's parents. Then everyone would giggle and prance about doing

antics on the sidewalk.

ONE YEAR this procedure was broken because a Mr. Sauer, with his white haired wife, moved into a tiny clapboard house up near the school. Mr. Sauer was a magician. On the side, for a hobby, he pulled rabbits, balls and colored silk banners, miles long, out of a black hat.

One Halloween he sat rows of chairs along the wall in his front room and kept the "Hamlets" fascinated with a half hour of magic. After everyone offered thanks at the end of his program in most grateful voices we offered to make his yard full of leaves the next day. In appreciation.

Five days at home, after our two hour of ghosting, another hour was spent, not counting "lost" because there was none; but in reliving again the high points of the evening when everything was related, step by step, to the adults who stayed home.

Halloween used to be such an uncomplicated thing. Old clothes from trunks, an apple or two, and best of all, neighbors who waited and looked forward to being haunted!

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After 50 Years, Hardware Wears Well at Local Site

It's often a question of spelling—the question of success in business. The spelling varies with the business. One element, however, usually seems to be "hard work." For several Birmingham men, one of the other elements has been hardware.

ALL THREE—hardware, hard work and success—have occupied the same building on Woodward just north of Maple for 50 years. It all started when Elmer C. Huston and his wife Frances got their start in the hardware business on Oct. 4, 1909 at what is now 205 N. Woodward, although Huston, he was not the first to occupy the present stand.

As a matter of fact, someone has been selling hardware at the same spot since 1883, according to present owner Paul Kurth, 87½ N. Woodward, right next to the store, in the line of hardware dealers.

THE FIRST building was put up there by a Mr. Slaeck. L. E. Truax was on the set for a while, then George Hopps bought the business. Then Elmer C. Huston and his bride Frances (they had been married about three months) came to Birmingham that October, 50 years ago. Kurth bought the stock from Huston, who had been selling

hardware in his brother's store in Plymouth, Mich., heard of the business for sale in the village of Birmingham from a traveling salesman and bought it.

WOODWARD avenue was a tree-lined dirt road then, "and there was a house, owned by the now 205 N. Woodward, although Huston, he was not the first to occupy the present stand.

The house has been moved and Woodward widened. The trees are gone, but the hardware's still there. The stock and owner have changed but the business hasn't moved geographically. It's still in the building the Hustons purchased later from Hopps.

"My husband made many changes in the building," Mrs. Huston went on. Time and demands have made the changes in stock.

THE CHANGE in owners came about in 1940 when employee Paul E. Kurth bought the stock from Huston.

The two met one morning in 1918 when Huston called ten-year-old Paul Kurth in off the street, handed him a dust rag and started the hard-working farm-boy on a career.

The boy worked before and after school—Hill school and Baldwin high—every day. At 12 years of age, he recalled, he was graduated from "head duster and chief floor sweeper" to clerk.

THEN HE WAS graduated from high school and attended the Detroit Business Institute. But the job he always kept.

Kurth followed in the deep footprints made by Huston's hard work, and the business is as alive, as young and as growing today as

Three times as many traffic deaths occur in rural areas (including towns with less than 2,500 people) than in urban areas. Reason for this, according to the National Safety Council: the abundance of driving done on open roads, which most often are in rural areas, and increased speed.



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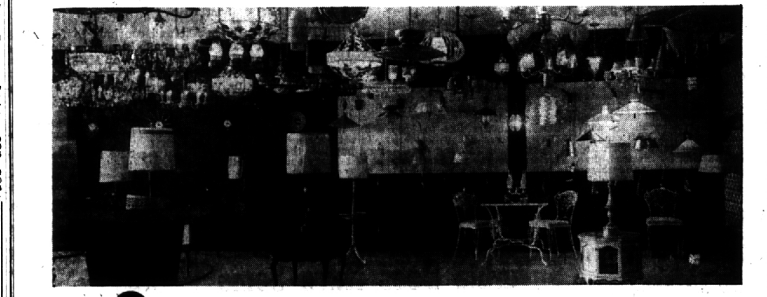
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