



Photo Credit: Michael Kangas

It's Halloween! It's Halloween!  
The moon is full and bright  
And we shall see what can't be seen  
On any other night.

Skeletons and ghosts and ghouls,  
Grinning goblins fighting duels,  
Werewolves rising from their tombs,  
Witches on their magic brooms.

In masks and gowns  
We haunt the street  
And knock on doors  
For trick or treat.

Tonight we are  
The king and queen,  
For oh tonight  
It's Halloween!

-Jack Prelutsky

To see even more Halloween articles  
and pictures check our blog site:  
<http://halloween-tghoa.blogspot.com>



Trick or Treating  
1920 Style





# THE GREATEST HOLIDAY OF ALL



“Halloween: The Greatest Holiday Of All” Volume One

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# Introduction

**H**alloween.

This book isn't going to be one of those books that goes in-depth into the history of Halloween. It isn't going to describe in great detail the ancestry, the rituals, the things passed down through thousands of years to become the thing we now know as Halloween.

Sure, there will be some of that. But there's so much conflicted information and nearly-unfounded speculation that I'm not going to add in my two cents. I'm no historian.

What this book is, instead, is a celebration of Halloween. Since you picked up this book(or are thinking about it), I assume you have a love of Halloween like I do. And not just the actual night -- the entire month of October feels like Halloween now.

The pumpkins sitting on front porches waiting for their faces to be carved. The smell of burning leaves in the air on a chilly night. The decorations of witches and ghosts hanging in the windows or in the bare trees of a neighbor's front yard. Fake spider-webs stretched out in awkward places. Marathons of horror movies on many cable channels.



**H**alloween has always been my favorite holiday. Of course I loved Christmas for the presents, but it was Halloween I looked forward to every year. And not just for the candy, though that was a great bonus. Picking out a costume was a special time--would I be mummy or superhero or vampire? Would I wear a mask or have makeup on my face?

Then to head out into the cool night with friends--yes, back then no one trick-or-treated if it was daylight out--going house to house in our costumes, pretending to be someone else.

I have a vivid memory of the year I went out as a mummy. I had a Topstone vinyl mask on and I'd been wearing it for a while, so I stopped the walk for a moment--told my buddies I'd catch up--and lifted the mask so I could breathe. The night air was sharply cold but felt great, and as I stared up and down the street at the other kids going door to door, all the colorful costumes, the smiling faces...it was a perfect moment for me.

Then I pulled the mask back down, anonymous once again, and headed after my friends.



**Me as Superman in 1976**

**T**his book is a collection of things meant to remind you of memories thought forgotten, and of anecdotes and facts to entertain and fascinate you.

For me this book is a reminder and a celebration of Halloween. Writing it is the most fun I've had writing in a long time. I learned a lot in the research, and even though most of it was not written in October, it kept me in the Halloween spirit all year 'round.

This book is for the kid in you who still longs to knock on that neighbor's door, hold your plastic pumpkin out and say "Trick or Treat". The kid who's so happy when that neighbor says "What a great costume!" and drops an extra candy into the hole in your pumpkin. The same kid who went home to dump all that candy on the floor to sort through it and see what was in the haul.

I hope that kid enjoys this book, because I made it for him.



**My son in 2005**





# A Very Brief History of Halloween

It's that time of the year again...

The leaves have browned and fallen from the trees. The crisp, cold air foreshadows winter, and once again witches, vampires, ghosts and pumpkins are back in the vernacular.

But perhaps you don't really know about Halloween. How did it start and what's with those candy-corns? Does anybody really like them?

I can't answer that, but I can tell you a little bit about Halloween.



## ALL HALLOW'S EVE

All Hallow's Eve got its origination from All Saints' Day, which was originally on May 13th, and was a Christian holiday honoring all saints, known and unknown. It wasn't until Pope Gregory the 3rd moved All Saint's Day to November 1st that All Hallows Eve became October 31st. Many people believe he moved it because it was the date of the Celtic festival of the dead, Samhain, and he thought it would help convert the Celts to Christianity.

Samhain(pronounced Sah-Win or Sow-In), was the original Druid holiday. It began many hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, but later enemies of the church ridiculed Christians by worshipping the devil on Halloween.

Some believed it was an evil night, when the spirits of all who died that year would roam the land. Lord Samhain would come to earth, seeking to collect all the spirits to take to the underworld.

The Druids(also called "Men of the Oaks") were members of a Celtic religious order who celebrated their New Year's Eve on October 31. They believed their sun-god receded to the underworld for a time, which was their way of explaining less sunlight in the winter and more darkness. They lit bonfires to honor the sun god and frighten away evil spirits.

Many Halloween traditions are associated with Samhain. The practice of giving offerings of food and drink to costumed revelers and the lighting of bonfires were two such traditions. October 31st has also been known as the Eve of All Saints, the Eve of All Hallows, or Hallow Even. Halloween the word was derived from the name Hallow Even.

The custom of celebrating Halloween was brought to the New World by Gaelic immigrants. Today's celebration follows ancient customs involving a combination of Druid practices and other religious beliefs.





# FLASHBACK



1953 Coca-Cola Tray



1899



1970



## DID YOU KNOW?

It's believed that if you see a spider on Halloween, it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you.



# HALLOWEEN POSTCARDS

Long before Halloween became as popular as it is now there was another Halloween tradition that's become nearly extinct: Sending postcards.

Between 1900 and 1915 hundreds of thousands of postcards were sent on Halloween each year. Many of them featured festive rhymes and incredible artwork. They're miniature works of art.

They're also a fascinating look at the past, and the ones presented in the following pages are just a glimpse at the thousands out there. I encourage you to google image search "[Vintage Halloween Postcards](#)" to see more.

Circa 1910-1920





**Ah!  
My favorite brews!**

*Elvira*  
MISTRESS OF THE DARK™

To Contact Elvira's Fan Club Write:  
P.O. Box 38246 • Hollywood, CA 90038

**DRINK SAFELY**

*"I was curious..."*

*"I tasted it..."*

No wonder Schlitz is...  
The largest-selling beer in America!  
The Beer that made Milwaukee Famous!

*Schlitz*

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**Your face will light up, too!**

JUST the sight of a sparkling glass of Blatz Beer puts a big smile on thirsty folks' faces. And Blatz tastes as refreshing as it looks, for this grand old Milwaukee brew has been brewed to the very peak of flavor. For 96 years, we've brewed Blatz only in Milwaukee... some of America's finest beers... and we're pleased to say that Blatz is Milwaukee's first bottled beer. If you can't get Blatz, please be patient. We're growing as fast as good building and good brewing will let us, to bring Blatz to your neighborhood—soon.

*Blatz*  
BREWING BETTER BEER FOR THE 96th YEAR

Milwaukee's first... America's finest... Bottled beer

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**If Michelob were a ghost...**

all the other spirits would be out of business.

**Surprise people**

**Serve MICHELOB**

BY ANHEUSER-BUSCH, INC., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • SINCE 1896

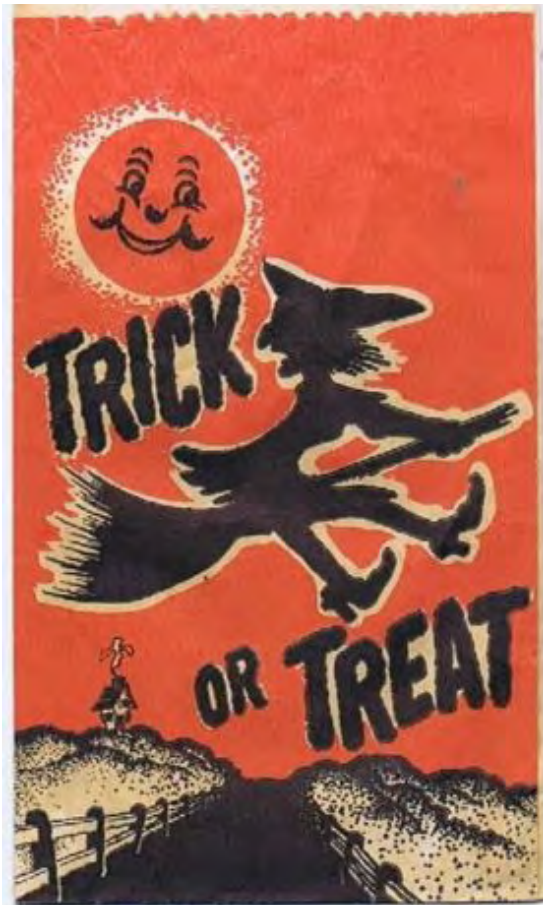


# The top five best-selling candies on Halloween as of 2013

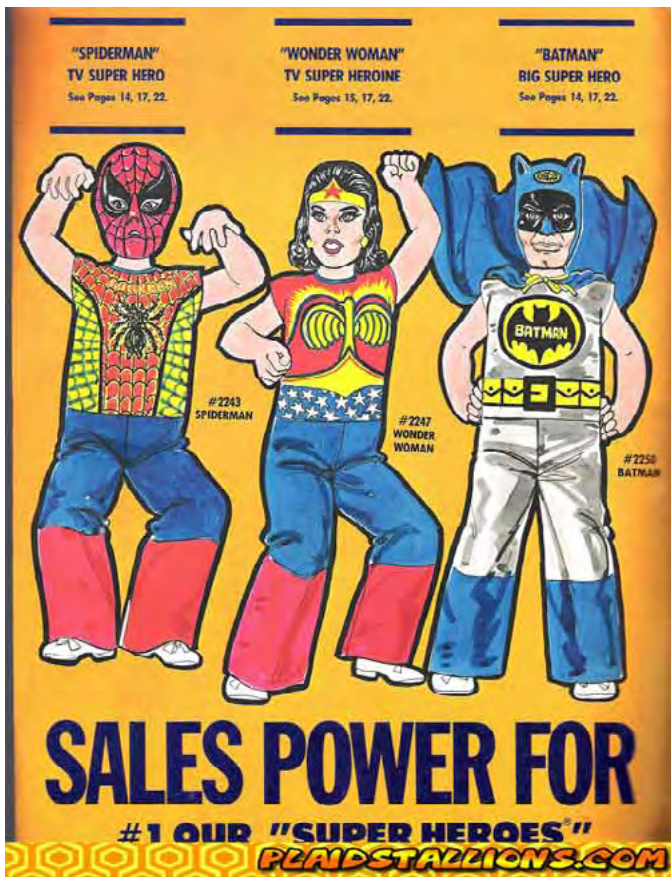
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. M&Ms
3. Snickers
4. Hershey's Chocolate Bars
5. Kit Kats













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## THE BEST THINGS ANYONE EVER SAID ABOUT HALLOWEEN

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**"I met this six-year-old child, with this blank, pale, emotionless face, and the blackest eyes... the devil's eyes."**

--John Carpenter, *Halloween: A Screenplay*

**But I love Halloween, and I love that feeling: the cold air, the spooky dangers lurking around the corner.**

--Evan Peters

**The farther we've gotten from the magic and mystery of our past, the more we've come to need Halloween.**

--Paula Curan, *October Dreams: A Celebration of Halloween*



**There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch.**

--Robert Brault

**If human beings had genuine courage, they'd wear their costumes every day of the year, not just on Halloween.**

--Douglas Coupland

**My dad loved to 'arrange things' to take us kids to that scared the crap out of us on Halloween. He'd take us to the old 'Hermit's House' at the edge of town. He'd park the car 100 yards down the street and say, 'Go back there and get something off the front porch!'**

--Bill Moseley

# CREEPY VINTAGE PHOTOS





# About The Author

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Kevin Kangas is an American horror filmmaker whose films include “Hunting Humans”, “Fear of Clowns”, “Bounty” and “Garden of Hedon”. He’s been writing since he was twelve, finished his first novel when he was eighteen(it was terrible), and has written over thirty screenplays.

He wants to thank his family for the help and support that went into the creation of this book. He also thinks writing about himself in third-person is very strange.

His obsession with Halloween is probably obvious now that you’ve gotten to this page.

The title of this book is going to drive his mom completely mad(because of how sacrilegious it is to Christmas), but that’s just something he’ll have to live with.

You can find his movies at his web site [www.kangaskahnfilms.com](http://www.kangaskahnfilms.com) or search Amazon for “Kevin Kangas movies”.



Photo Credit: Michael Kangas



SAMPLE ONLY