

GEDDY GARDEN NEWS

In October dung your field and your land, it's wealth shall yeild
Old English Proverb

The slaves called October the yellow month due to they golden hue of the fall leaves. Unfortunately the leaves this year do not seem as colorful, which is probably due to the dryness of the past summer so we do not have the usual color show this season.

Albert has cleaned out the perennial border. Now is a good time for you to plant some bulbs in your gardens at home. Be creative now and enjoy the results in the spring. The fall vegetables, collards, cabbage, broccoli, and lettuce are doing well.

We enjoyed the second batch of figs this year, so although our apples were scarce the figs compensated by being so abundant.

I realize the fall season brings feelings of sadness to many. The end of the productive summer can be condusive to melancholy, but I love the way it satisfies my senses.

My sight is delighted with the colorful leaves every autumn and my ears enjoy new bird sounds, mingled with the crackling and crunching of the leaves under foot. The cool air in the mornings and evenings is warmed by the sun at midday and the contrast is invigorating.

The C.W. News printed on the front page a picture of our scarecrow, Matilda. I felt just like a proud parent.

One of our junior interpreters recently asked me about the origin of Halloween so I decided this would be a good time to think about this interesting holiday. It's origins go back 2000 years to the Celts in Ireland and Britain. The coming of the winter season was caled Samhain, and was celebrated with a festival. On October 31st when the sun was at it's lowest, the pagan belief was that the sun entered the underworld and through the

open gates evil spirits entered and roamed about the earth. In an attempt to hide from these evil demons the Celts dressed as ghosts and witches. There were bonfires lit to frighten the spirits away.

When Christianity spread, the holy day of All Saints Day also known as All Hallows, was celebrated on November 1. The eve of all Hallows became known as Halloween. Martin Luther attempted in vain to abolish the celebration of Halloween. It was not celebrated in the manner in which we do today until the 19th century.

In England, Protestants today burn scarecrows in bonfires and combine the festivities of Halloween with Guyfawkes Day on November 5th.

There is an herb farm in Mason, New Hampshire called Pickity Place, that features a Witches Garden. Such herbs as monkshead, May apple and hemlock grow in the Witches Garden and all have poisonous parts and could concoct a potent witches brew. It would be a wonderful place to visit on Halloween.

Today, in our country, the pagan and religious customs have been combined to create the rather light hearted, costumed, trick or treat party that we know as Halloween.

*“Witches fly skyward into the Blackness.
Their passengers are always cats of the darkest.
Halloween is with us, Eve of All Saints, and
Spirits are stirring.”*

John Patton

**Happy
Halloween**

Janet Guthrie