

HAUNTINGLY GOOD HALLOWEEN FUN

Halloween Through The Ages

(NAPSA)—Here's a trick question you may find it a treat to answer: Where did our Halloween customs come from?

The Name Halloween comes from All Hallows' Eve. November 1st, All Hallows or All Saints' Day, is a day to honor saints.

Ghosts, or at least the idea of them, come from ancient Ireland where it was believed the spirits of all those who had died throughout the preceding year would come back in search of living bodies to possess. People would dress up to confuse and frighten the spirits.

Trick-or-Treating may have originated in the European custom of begging for soul cakes—a kind of raisin bread—that would guarantee prayer for the souls of the dead.

These customs mostly came to the U.S. with Irish immigrants in the 1800s. By the early 1900s, Halloween had become a time of parades and parties. In the 1950s it evolved into a holiday mainly for the young.

The Holiday Halloween is now this country's second largest commercial holiday and very popular with adults as well as children. Back in the 1970s, just as Halloween was becoming an adult occasion again, one retailer began importing high-quality theatrical masks from Europe and other exclusive costumes and decorating items from around the world.

Halloween Today: the store, Spencer Gifts continues to offer unique Halloween accessories made to scare and delight young and old alike. Among these are Mr. and Mrs. Skeleton. This couple is dressed to party with faux fur trimmed coats, top hat and cap and canes. There are flaming skull lamps and hanging lamps (actually a fan blows silk "flames" and an orange light casts an eerie glow), flaming and fogging cauldrons,



An enticing vixen costume can help keep any foxy lady from getting hexed this Halloween.

pumpkins and skulls, floating ghosts and more. There are even adorable infant and toddler costumes created by famous baby photographer Tom Arma. All of which may explain why the store has been called the "world's headquarters for Halloween."

You can view all these and learn more about costumes, masks and other items online at www.spencergifts.com.