

# Folklore of Halloween

By USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL  
Battalion Staff

While some Aggies are putting on freaky masks and costumes for the all-or-nothing frightening holiday rites of Halloween, one party-goer will study their activities in depth.

Halloween and its observance in almost all American families has sparked Dr. Sylvia Ann Grider's interest. She is one of three folklorists in the Department of English at Texas A&M University.

"It's unusual that it is observed almost all over the United States," Grider said. "It's a holiday that is totally traditional and not sponsored by anyone."

Grider studies Halloween characters and the origins of the holiday.

"Hallowe'en, as it is spelled correctly, means All Hallow's Evening," Grider said. The traditional holiday has ancient pre-Christian origin, possibly with the Celtic tribes of England and Western Europe, she said.

Halloween traditions are not known by many, but have a lot of symbolism.

"It symbolizes the end of harvest

and the advent of winter or the death of one year," Grider said.

Halloween also means worshipping ancestors, which can be recognized by the personification of skeletons, jack-o-lanterns and ghosts, she said.

"The carving of pumpkins is to create the jack-o-lantern, who is a goblin — a wandering ghost — or the spirit of an ancestor," Grider said. "Trick-or-treat is ritual begging that was done by students to get money or food in the Middle Ages in Europe.

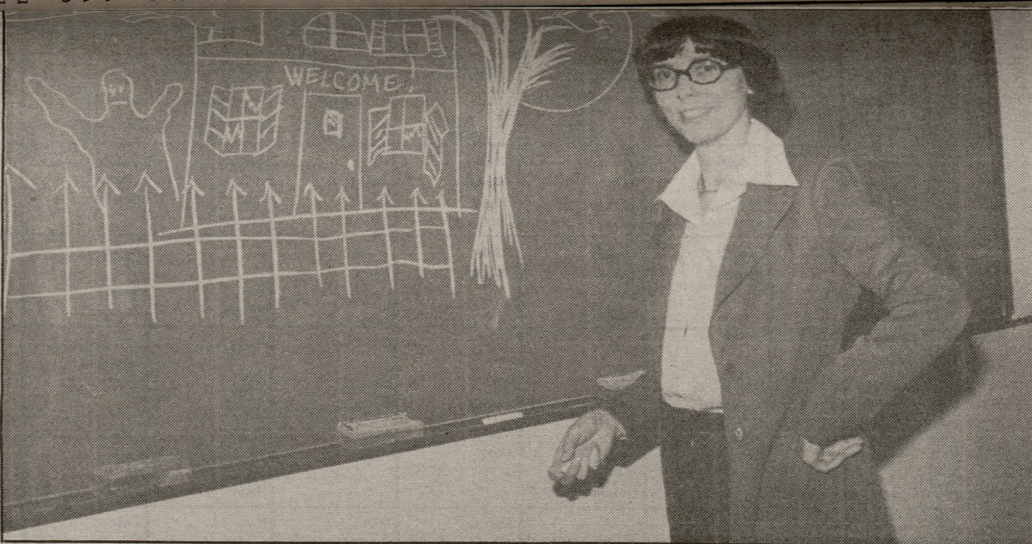
Bobbing for apples symbolizes baptism when the person trying to catch the apple puts his head under water.

All these traits of Halloween exemplify its ancient origin and history, Grider said.

This year, as in the last six years, Grider will go to as many Halloween activities as she has patience for.

She has also spent some time in local department stores that sell Halloween costumes.

"Children are not buying most of the costumes. It's Aggies who buy all the characters of Star Wars,"



Dr. Sylvia Grider, a folklorist at Texas A&M University, has learned that just about everyone draws a haunted house

the same way — complete with broken shutters, ghosts and picket fences. She is studying the celebration of Halloween.

she said, after observing the customers for five hours.

When she goes to parties she watches the traditions that people follow.

"I'm in no hurry to study Halloween, because it's not going to die out any time soon," she said.

"A definite part of Halloween is telling ghost stories, which helps

children deal with their fears," Grider said.

But Grider herself is not scared by ghosts.

## Saturday Movies

### MORNING

9:30 **8** ★½ "Riders Of The Rockies" (1937) Tex Ritter. A cowboy becomes part of a rustling gang in order to halt their nefarious deeds.

10:00 **89** ★★★ "Western Union" (1941) Robert Young, Dean Jagger. The building of the first transcontinental telegraph wires causes conflicts to develop.

### AFTERNOON

1:00 **36** ★★★ "The Prisoner Of Zenda" (1952) Stewart Granger, Deborah Kerr. An Englishman fights off usurpers while posing as the king of a small country, whose actual king has been kidnapped.

2:00 **11** ★★ "And Now The Screaming Starts" (1973) Peter Cushing, Herbert Lom. An 18th-century English lord brings his fiancée home where she encounters five dead bodies, bloody faces in the window and a disembodied hand.

**39** ★★ "The Black Cat" (Part 2) (1934) Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi. Two archenemies battle each other, endangering a stranded newlywed couple.

2:30 **59** ★★ "Murders In The Rue Morgue" (1932) Bela Lugosi, Sidney Fox. Based on a tale by Edgar Allan Poe. A fiendish doctor victimizes young women as part of his experimentation with apes.

HBO "Something Short Of Paradise" (1979) David Steinberg, Susan Sarandon. The attitudes of a cynical New York City theatre manager are changed drastically when he meets and falls in love with a dizzy writer who has just come to Manhattan from the Midwest. (PG-1 hr., 27 min.)

3:00 **8** ★★★★★ "The 39 Steps" (1935) Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. A man becomes the quarry of both the police and a secret group of foreign agents operating in England when he is framed for a stranger's murder.

3:30 **11** ★★★ "Yellow Sky" (1948) Gregory Peck, Anne Baxter. Two men battle over a woman and a quantity of gold.

### EVENING

6:30 HBO "Arabian Adventure" (1979) Christopher Lee, Mickey

Rooney. An evil sorcerer holds a beautiful princess captive while a young prince gets assistance from genies and flying carpets in a brave attempt to rescue her. (G-1 hr., 38 min.)

8:00 **7** **11** "The Return Of Frank Cannon" (Premiere) William Conrad, Diana Muldaur. A former private eye comes out of retirement to investigate the questionable suicide of an old friend and former Army intelligence colleague.

8:30 HBO "Something Short Of Paradise" (1979) David Steinberg, Susan Sarandon. The attitudes of a cynical New York City theatre manager are changed drastically when he meets and falls in love with a dizzy writer who has just come to Manhattan from the Midwest. (PG-1 hr., 27 min.)

10:30 **7** ★★★★★ "The Great Ziegfeld" (1936) William Powell, Myrna Loy. The great Broadway showman stages a major show.

**11** ★★½ "Oklahoma Crude" (1973) George C. Scott, Faye Dunaway. A young woman attempts to regain possession of her oil-field interests.

**13** ★★½ "Sybil" (Part 2) (1977) Sally Field, Joanne Woodward. Based on the novel by Flora Rheta Schreiber. A young woman develops 16 different personalities as a result of a traumatic childhood with her sadistic mother.

**24** ★★★ "Hawaii" (1966) Julie Andrews, Richard Harris. A missionary tries to change the Hawaiians' customs, but time and his wife's death change him instead.

10:45 **3** ★★★ "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon" (1949) John Wayne, John Agar. Indians attack an understaffed cavalry outpost.

11:00 HBO "Gorp" (1980) Dennis Quaid. Camp Oskemo, a summer haven in the Catskill Mountains for wealthy youngsters, becomes the site of mayhem for the cafeteria waiters and kitchen help. (R-1 hr., 29 min.)

1:05 **13** ★★½ "Three Violent People" (1956) Charlton Heston, Anne Baxter. Two men and a woman become involved in a triangle while fighting an unfair provisional government.

4:00 **13** ★★ "Cauldron Of Blood" (1968) Boris Karloff, Viveca Lindfors. A wife presents the skeletons of her murder victims to her blind sculptor husband to be used as models for his work.

## Saturday Sports

### MORNING

9:00 **89** DALLAS COWBOYS WEEKLY Host: Tex Schramm.

9:30 **89** TOM LANDRY

10:30 **8** SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

11:00 **3** **13** **24** NCAA FOOTBALL Teams to be announced

11:30 **86** SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

### AFTERNOON

2:30 **7** NFL REVIEW AND PREVIEW

2:45 **3** **13** **24** NCAA FOOTBALL Teams to be announced

3:00 **2** **6** **36** SPORTSWORLD Boxing bouts, featuring "Tomorrow's Champions" (from Lake Tahoe, Cal.); Legends of Bowling (from McAfee, N.J.).

3:30 **7** SPORTS SPECTACULAR Battle of the NFL Cheerleaders, Part 1 (from Atlantic City); Acapulco Cliff Diving (from Mexico); Minnesota Fats / Willie Mosconi pool exhibition (from Lake Tahoe).

4:00 **15** SOCCER MADE IN GERMANY FC Bayern Munich vs. Fortuna Dusseldorf

5:00 **2** KEN STABLER

5:30 HBO AMERICAN BODYBUILDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### EVENING

6:30 **7** DALLAS COWBOY WEEKLY Host: Tex Schramm.

10:30 **89** WRESTLING

12:00 **2** NFL REVIEW AND PREVIEW

**6** WRESTLING  
**27** AUTO RACING "1980 U.S. Grand Prix From Watkins Glen"

12:30 **86** WRESTLING

1:00 **13** COLLEGE SCOREBOARD

## Saturday Specials

### AFTERNOON

12:30 **7** **11** WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT Walter Cronkite and Christopher Glenn explain to young people the steps of the election process.

4:00 HBO SNEAK PREVIEW

4:30 HBO STANDING ROOM ONLY: GLEN AND TANYA Popular singers Glen Campbell and Tanya Tucker are featured in individual numbers and high-powered duets in a perform-

ance taped at Harrah's in Reno, Nevada.

### EVENING

7:00 **2** **6** **36** HOPE FOR PRESIDENT! Bob Hope catches a case of Potomac fever and runs for president in a satirical look at the electoral process. Guests include former President Gerald Ford, Johnny Carson, Jonathan Winters, Tony Randall and Mr. Bill.


9:00 **6** **36** THE TOM AND DICK SMOTHERS BROTHERS COMEDY SPECIAL I Guests including Martin Mull, Pat Paulsen and Fred Willard join the Smothers Brothers for an hour of music and comedy.

10:00 **8** HAROLD LLOYD FILM FESTIVAL

More madcap antics from the king of slapstick sight-gag, with narration by Dick Van Dyke.

HBO A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE Host Steve Allen is joined by Norm Crosby, Nipsey Russell, Jayne Meadows and Bob and Ray in a no-holds-barred spoof of news coverage of the 1980 presidential campaign.

12:30 HBO DISCO BEAVER FROM OUTER SPACE Zanies from "National Lampoon" join Lynn Redgrave in telling the comical, satirical story of a beaver who arrives on Earth in a wooden flying saucer.



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