

Halloween Blog



I have always loved Halloween. The crisp air, the costumes, the goodies. Yum. Yum. Fun. Fun.

It's a great time for acting out, playing dress up. I figure that's why we love it so. We get to be someone else and, better still, we get to eat lots of goodies.

As a kid, my brothers and I would raid the closets and create all sorts of crazy costumes. We'd go out. Collect our candy and have a great time. A good house was place where 'good' goodies were handed out.

When became the adult, I made sure the Halloween larder was well stocked with the 'good' stuff - Snickers, Almond Joys, Gummi Bears, etc.

I saw an article today on how to make Halloween 'correct'. It was tips and hints on making it eco-friendly and safe. I mean Halloween is slightly decadent, not abjectly correct, so I was a little put off by it.

As I said earlier, this is a time for creative play. In my family we never bought store costumes. We made our own. The fun was working up an idea and then finding the clothes to make it happen or creating something out of cardboard boxes, paper bags, and tape. It was exciting, raucous, but most of all adventurous.

Halloween's a time of dark crisp nights, fragrant candles, piles of fallen leaves, strange autumnal smells and in all of that something pre-civilized lurks. Maybe that's why some parents are cautious.

Anyway, here are some of those tips offered up by the Political Correct.

- use soy or beeswax candles, no oil products.
- get creative and dive into your closets for costumes
- latex masks are safer than vinyl
- use 'natural' cosmetics
- hand out 'fair trade' or organic items
- hand out nontoxic crayons with coloring books

FACTOIDS

There are an estimated 37 million trick or treaters.

Halloween is the 3rd biggest 'holiday' in the US after New Year's eve and Super Bowl Sunday

American consume 28 pounds of candy a year, most of it during the Halloween 'season'.

Halloween is one of the oldest celebrations in the world, dating back over 2000 years to the time of the Celts who lived in Britain

Tip: If your pumpkin lantern shrivels up, you can restore it by soaking it overnight in water to re hydrate in water

- avoid fake jewelry, it was probably made in China and has lead in it
- have pumpkin recipes ready for the post Halloween recycling of your jack 'o lantern
- use a recyclable bag to collect your booty in.

Don't get me wrong, some of these suggestions are great. Being creative, recycling stuff, yeah, that's good stuff, but they make it sound so righteous, even dour. Halloween is neither. It's adventure with candy and laughter tucked in with a few scares.

Am I becoming a grumpy old Crankee Yankee rather than a Frugal Yankee? What do you think? How does your family make Halloween special? I'd love to hear what you have to say.

Oh, before I go, there is one thing more. On November 1, there will be some great sales on next year's Halloween stuff. Look for those 70% off sales. That's fun, too.

