



**GRAND COMMANDERY of MONTANA**  
 Information and stories for October, 2021  
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## Halloween History or hearsay!

For this month again, I did not want to talk about Covid this or Corona that, however it is a bit comical to think about the fact that we are approaching the only time of the year when we traditionally enjoy wearing masks.

While sitting in a hotel room in Missoula, I got to thinking about the masks we have been wearing, which pointed me to some of the comical or scary masks that some people have been putting on either for fun or as a protest to being forced to wear a mask, which pointed me to Halloween masks which brought me to the history of Halloween so I jumped on the ol' internet to see what I could see.

Did you know According to History.com, the Halloween we know today can trace its roots back to the ancient Celtic end-of-harvest festival of Samhain. During Samhain, people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off evil spirits. In the eighth century, in an effort to spread Christianity, Pope Gregory III decreed Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day and incorporated some of the rituals of Samhain. All Saints' Day was also called All Hallows and the night before, when the traditional Samhain festival used to take place in Celtic regions, was called All Hallows' Eve.

Candy Corn was originally called Chicken feed. Though many would argue that candy corn tastes like chicken feed, that is not how it got its original name. Created in the 1880s by George Renninger, it was sold to the masses by Goelitz Confectionery Company (now Jelly Belly Co.) at the turn of the century. Because corn is what was used to feed chickens, the creation was called "Chicken Feed" and the box was marked with a colorful rooster.

Samhainophobia is the medical term for a pathological fear of Halloween.

In the 1940s, trick or treating was halted because war-time rationing had curtailed the use of sugar.

Although full moons are also associated with Halloween, a Halloween full moon is quite rare. The most recent Halloween full moons were in 1955, 1974, and 2001. A full moon is also expected on October 31, 2020.

Dressing up as ghouls and other spooks originated from the ancient Celtic tradition of townspeople disguising themselves as demons and spirits. The Celts believed that disguising themselves this way would allow them to escape the notice of the real spirits wandering the streets during Samhain.

Halloween joke, “What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o’-lantern by its diameter? —Pumpkin  $\pi$ .”

Did you know there are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, the color of pumpkin.

Harry Burnett Reese sold the Lizzie Bar and Johnny Bar, candy bars he named after his daughter and son, respectively. But his chocolate-covered peanut butter cup creation, which he named after himself and called Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, was his real hit.

The 2 M's on the M&M candies come from the surnames of the two businessmen—Forrest Mars and Bruce Murrie—who developed and financed the candy-coated chocolates.

President Ronald Regan loved Jelly Belly jellybeans so much that Air Force One was outfitted with special jellybean holders, lest turbulence cause his beloved beans to spill.

Respectfully re-submitted by: Daniel Koch Jr. PM, REPGC

