

# The Very Scary...

# CARROLL



# CHRONICLE

A NEWSPAPER FOR CARROLL ELEMENTARY SINCE 2013

ISSUE no. 13, Fall 2016

## HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

BY ELLA TRACY AND OLIVIA EDMISTON

Halloween, the creepiest holiday of the year, is when children of all ages dress up as their favorite storybook, movie, TV show, or comic book character. All over the world Halloween is celebrated in different ways and under different names. In America, Halloween has many traditions such as wearing costumes, and going from door to door hoping to get candy. There are places all over the world that celebrate holidays, just like ours, but differently.

Ireland has it's own way of celebrating this scary holiday. Did you know that Ireland is thought to be the birthplace of Halloween? Halloween there is called "Samhain" meaning the end of summer. It is celebrated on October 31 and has been celebrated for 2000 years! Children go trick or treating and dress up just like us. After they go trick or treating, they usually attend

parties with their neighbors and friends. They play games that you probably haven't heard of such as snap-apple. It is a game in which an apple is tied to a string and hung up on a doorframe or tree, and players try to eat the apple. They also like to play card games and have a treasure hunt. Children also play pranks on their neighbors. They do a certain prank that we call Doorbell Ditch, but they call it "Knock-a-Dolly". It is a trick where you ring someone's doorbell and then run away before they can open the door. During Samhain they eat a food or treat called barn-brack, which is like fruitcake. In Ireland they light bonfires and dress up in animal skins and head, hoping to scare away evil spirits. Ireland has it's own ways of celebrating Halloween, just like us.

*See "Halloween Traditions" on p. 6*

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## Mayor's Race to the Top

By Mia Wagley and Aeyla Buño



Steve Ly



Joel Broussard



Kevin Spease

Most of us know that we are going to choose our new president of the United States this year, but did you know that the current mayor of Elk Grove, Gary Davis, is stepping down from his position from a five year term? This new mayor will be our second mayor in the city of Elk Grove's History. There are seven candidates competing to take his spot as mayor. Here are three of the seven candidates: Steve Ly, Joel Broussard, Kevin Spease

*See "Mayor's Race" on p. 5*

# CREEPY SEA CREATURES

BY ELLA TRACY

The ocean is filled with amazing sea creatures. Most of them are beautiful, but some can give you the creeps. In fact some are so crazy looking that if they looked at themselves in the mirror, they would even be scared. We have explored less than 5% of the ocean. That means we don't know about most of the sea creatures out there, but we do know some that are very interesting and..... creepy!

Take the Sarcastic Fringehead for instance. It is found in the Pacific Coast of North America and can grow up to 1 foot long. The first part of their name, Fringe-head, is a result of an attachment at the top of their eyes. The "sarcastic" part is a result of their aggressive behavior.



The Giant Squid is also a frightening sea creature and its name isn't what makes it scary. First of all, the Giant Squid's maximum length is 43 feet and their eyes can be as big as basketballs. It's found along the New Zealand Coast and near the Pacific Islands. These creatures are also seen along the Atlantic Coast of Africa.

The Black Dragonfish is a sea creature most people haven't heard of and might not want to. The Black Dragonfish is mostly found in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. A female can grow up to 15 inches, unlike a male which can only grow up to 2 inches. The Black Dragonfish has some interesting features such as producing its own red light!

The Anglerfish has some hair-raising features as well. You probably have seen the Anglerfish from Finding Nemo. They can grow to over 3 feet long and they are found in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The females have a spine that goes over their mouth like a fishing pole and it is tipped with a light of luminous to attract its prey!



All of these are interesting and frightening sea creatures. We don't know about 95% of the ocean, so we don't know what other eerie things could be out there. Something could be more creepy than these sea creatures.

# History's Mysteries

By Isaac Solaiman

Have you ever wondered what happened to Amelia Earhart, where the members aboard The Mary Celeste went, or how the dancing plague started? These are some of the mysteries of history that have yet to be answered.

Amelia Earhart was an aviator that vanished along with navigator Fred Noonan during an attempt to fly around the world in 1937. No one knows what happened. People think Amelia's plane was forced down by the Japanese around the Marshall Islands. Others believe she was given a secret identity when she returned to the U.S. Amelia was on her last segment flying from Lae, Papua



Amelia Earhart

New Guinea to her destination 2,500 miles away. If her plane crashed before refueling in Howland Island, the remains are most likely 17,500 feet below the surface of the ocean. With new technology, it has been made possible to explore deep in the water. Some expeditions have offered some evidence that the plane could be near Nikumaroro Island in the South Pacific.

The twin-mast merchant vessel Mary Celeste set sail from New York on November 7th, 1872, headed to Genoa, Italy. On board the ship were Captain Benjamin S. Briggs, his wife Sarah, their daughter Sophia, and eight crew members. Less than a month later, on December 5th, a passing British brig called Dei Gratia spotted the Mary Celeste at full sail about 400 miles east of The



The Mary Celeste

Azores. There was no sign of the captain, his family, or the crew. Aside from the several feet of water in the hold and a missing life boat, the ship was undamaged carrying six months supply of food and water. Some suggest there was fear of an explosion caused by fumes from the 1,700 barrels of crude alcohol in the ship's hold.

See "Histories Mysteries" on p. 7

# HALLOWEEN COSTUMES WORLDWIDE

BY: VIVIAN HOANG

Some of the most popular costumes of the year are Harley Quinn, Superman, any Star Wars character, and Disney princesses, but those are just America's favorite Halloween costumes. What about in other countries?

In Germany, Halloween is called "Süßes sonst gibt's Saures" which translates roughly into "Trick or Treating". Some of Germany's most popular costumes include "The Leprechaun", and you'd be surprised at how many kids would dress up as one of the legends for Germany. Turns out, children and adults can enjoy Halloween. Usually a woman would dress up as a beer maid, and a man would wear... a Pinocchio costume!

Meanwhile in Romania, Halloween tends to be called "The Feast of St. Andrew", the patron saint of Romania. On St. Andrew's Eve (or Halloween), the most popular costume among the Romanians is... you guessed it: The famous or rather, fanciful Dracula originated

from Bram Stoker and Vlad the Impaler. Most costume celebrations occur in Sighisoara, a citadel, (a stronghold for people during a battle) where Vlad the Impaler was born, making the theme much more entertaining.



Girls dress up as a Naga, an under water spirit with the tail of an eel and the body of a woman. The Naga is vicious towards adults and gentle towards children. While boys would dress up as Gavato, a legendary knight that saved his whole town from an evil spirit.



Most of their costumes were based on legends.

See "Costumes" on p. 8

# Tales of The Winchester Mystery House

BY DOMINIC PRICE

Scooby Doo where are you? We got a mystery for you in the Winchester Mystery House. First off, this mysterious and creepy house is located in San Jose, Ca. The history and legend of Sarah Winchester is one that will make you shiver. Sarah Winchester was the wife of William Winchester who passed away from tuberculosis, in 1881. Tuberculosis meningitis is an infection of the tissues covering the brain and spinal cord. After his death, Sarah became the heiress to the Winchester Repeating Rifle fortune. The Repeating Rifle was the top selling gun at the time and was referred to as "The Gun That Won The West".

Sarah believed she was cursed because her husband and daughter had died at young ages. A medium, a person claiming to be in contact with the spirits of the dead, told her that the Winchester family was cursed by the spirits of all the people who had been



Sarah Winchester

killed by the Winchester Rifle. The medium recommended Sarah move west to build a house for herself and the spirits. The medium finally told her that if the construction ever stopped on the house, she would join her husband and child in death. So for nearly 38 years construction never stopped! Sometimes after a room was finished being built, the next day she would have the construction workers tear it up and build something new. Sawing, sanding, and hammering could be heard around the clock. Money wasn't a problem for



Sarah, so she had the finest of everything in her house. The house ballooned to an enormous size. It consists of 160 rooms, 40 bedrooms, 2 ballrooms, 47 fireplaces, over 10,000 panes of glass, two basements and three elevators. But what makes this house so creepy, are the stairs that lead to the ceiling, doors that lead to nowhere, secret passageways, long twisting hallways, all to

See "Winchester Mystery House" on p. 7

# Jack-O'-Lanterns

BY ALJEENA HUI



When we celebrate Halloween, do you know why we carve pumpkins and light them up? Halloween (also known as All Hallows' Eve) started on October 31st, on the eve of the Western Christian feast. One of the symbols for Halloween is the jack-o'-lantern because it

was thought the lit pumpkins would keep Stingy Jack away. Stingy Jack is an Irish myth or legend. Nicknames for Jack are Jack The Smith and Jack of the Lantern.

The legend goes: One day Jack invited the devil to have a drink with him. He convinced the devil to turn himself into a coin so he could pay for the drinks. Once the devil turned into a coin, Jack put the coin in his pocket next to the silver cross he had, so the devil could not turn back into its normal form. Jack made a deal with the devil saying he would let the devil out if he would not bother him for a year and when Jack dies the devil can't claim his soul.

See "Jack-o-lanterns" on p. 8

## Last Issue's Staff Members



Ms. Ellis

## Guess the Carroll Staff Member



Look for the answer in the next issue of the Carroll Chronicle!

# Left Brain or Right Brain? Take the Quiz and Find Out!

By Aleeze Ali

The brain is split into two halves: a right half and a left half. These two are both part of your brain, but they're so different you could call them opposites! The dominating half of your brain ( the one that has the most control over you ) influences many of your habits, choices, qualities and more! Below are the descriptions for each brain:

### RIGHT BRAIN:

*The right brain is creativity  
A free spirit  
It is passion  
Yearning  
Sensuality  
The sound of roaring laughter, taste and the feeling of sand beneath bare feet.  
It's also movement and vivid colors.  
Or the urge to paint on an empty canvas.  
It is boundless imagination, art, poetry, sense and feel  
If you are the right brain you are everything you ever wanted to be...*



**LEFT BRAIN:** The left brain is science or math. It categorizes, is accurate, linear, analytical, and strategic. The left brain is practical, and is always in control. It is a master of words and language, and realistic, too. It calculates equations and plays with numbers. It is order. It is logic.

Ready for a pop quiz? Let's see which side of YOUR brain influences you the most! Choose *A* or *B* for each question... and **ANSWER TRUTHFULLY!**

- If you had to clean your room, would you carefully organize your stuff, or dump them in boxes?*  
A- Organize it no matter how long it takes.  
B- Just dump them to get it done.
- Put your hand on your head. Which hand did you use?*  
A- Right or B- Left
- Cross your arms on your chest. Which one is on top?*  
A-Right or B-Left
- If you had to put away your laundry, would you shove it in the closet or take your time to organize it neatly?*  
A-Take your time to organize or B- shove it all in
- Look at any random object and close one eye. Which one is still open?*

A- Right or B-Left

If you chose *A* for more questions, your **LEFT BRAIN** is more dominant. If you chose *B* more than not, Your **RIGHT BRAIN!**

*Question: Why do you want to be the mayor of Elk Grove?*

*Steve Ly:* "I want to be the mayor of Elk Grove because I saw a lot of opportunities which I could contribute to and make this city better."

*Joel Broussard:* "I want to be the mayor of Elk Grove because Elk Grove is a growing city that has gaps, and I can close that gap faster than the other candidates."

*Kevin Spease:* "I want to be the mayor of Elk Grove because I grew up in Elk Grove and had a great experience. I want you to have the same experience."

*Question: What are you most concerned about in Elk Grove and how are you going to change it?*

*Steve Ly:* "I am most concerned about jobs in Elk Grove, public safety in Elk Grove, and strong neighborhoods in Elk Grove. We have a city that has grown very fast and I want to make sure we have great schools, safe streets, and police officers who make us very safe."

*Joel Broussard:* "I am most concerned about the number of police officers. We need to increase the ratio and work with communities to assist with police."

*Kevin Spease:* "I am most concerned about crime and we have to keep the police officers we have now, hire new officers, equip them and train them, and get kids to interact with police officers."

*Question: What makes Elk Grove schools the best?*

*Steve Ly:* "I think what makes Elk Grove schools the best is the students and the teachers. The teachers work very hard."

*Joel Broussard:* "Elk Grove schools are the best because of the relationships between students and teachers."

*Kevin Spease:* "Elk Grove schools are the best because the teachers care and parents are committed"

*Question: How can kids get involved in their community?*

*Steve Ly:* "Kids can get the involved with their community by clubs, honor societies, and volunteer for community cleanups."

*Joel Broussard:* "Kids can get involved by non-profit organizations, meeting city leaders, and going to city hall."

*Kevin Spease:* "Kids can get involved with Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and food banks."

*Question: What was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid?*

*Steve Ly:* "My favorite Halloween costume was The Lone Ranger."

*Joel Broussard:* "My favorite Halloween costume as a kid was Spiderman at the ages of 8 and 26."

*Kevin Spease:* "My favorite Halloween costume was a record player."

We hope you learned more about the race for mayor and our community.

So who would you vote for?

# CREEPY CRITTERS OF THE AMAZON

BY MIRAIYA PHILIP



The Brazilian Wandering Spider is a terrifying and venomous spider found in Central and South America, where they can be spotted running across the jungle floors at night. They are a frightening sight, with a hairy body, legs as large as 4-5 inches, and eight beady eyes! When provoked, they stand up on their hind legs and they show off their angry red jaws. The Brazilian Wandering Spider has a curious habit of hiding in banana plants and have occasionally even been found in shipments of bananas, which is how they got their nickname, the Banana Spider. They like to hide in cool, dark places during the day, such as boxes, boots, cars, log piles, and even houses! This leaves them more likely to come in contact with people by accident. Their venom is so strong, it can cause severe pain, convulsions, cramping, and even shock in humans.

The Amazonian Giant Centipede is an extraordinarily large centipede, growing up to almost 14 inches! It is one of the largest centipedes in the world, with twenty-three segments, fangs at the first segment, dozens of yellowish legs and a long antennae at the last segment. They attack their future dinner using a deadly venom, and can take down animals bigger than themselves. They have very poor eyesight and are quite dependent on their sense of touch and smell when hunting to find their food. They eat just about anything, including bats, tarantulas, lizards, and frogs. Though they are not deadly to humans, their bite can cause severe pain and lead to swelling and fever.



Glass frogs are ghostly little creatures, lime green, and semi transparent so that you can see through to their organs! These frogs can be anywhere from less than one inch, to three inches in size, and are rather cute, resembling Kermit the Frog. They are mainly nocturnal, and live in the canopy layer of the Amazon forest.



“Creepy Critters” continued from p. 5

When it is time to breed, they go down to rivers and streams to lay their eggs on leaves that extend over the water. Glass frogs can be very difficult to see because they blend into their surroundings due to their see-through skin.

The poison dart frog is one to two centimeters in size and is draped in bright hues of blue, yellow, orange, red, white, and many other colors. These beautiful colors identify that this frog is poisonous,

and in fact, one poison dart frog has enough venom to kill 10 grown men! The indige-



nous people of Colombia used to use the deadly poison in the tips of their darts when they went hunting. With one long slurp of their sticky tongue, the poison dart frog attacks its prey. Interestingly enough, scientists believe it is probably from their prey that the poison dart frog makes its poison!

## TO BE SCARED OR NOT TO BE SCARED..

BY ANGELA ORTIZ AND ANDREA MANEZ

Vampire bats are commonly found in Mexico, Central America, and South America. There are mainly three types of vampire bats: *Desmodus Rotundus*, *Diphylla Ecaudata*, *Diaemus Youngi*. What do they eat you ask? You guessed it, blood from animals like pigs and cows. Watch out, they may even go after humans!

The most tender spots bats go for are the ankle or behind the ears, not the neck. They don't drink the blood; they slurp it. Vampire bats don't just fly, but can also jump, and walk on four legs.



The size of the vampire bats' bodies can reach up to 3.5 inches (9 cm), and their wings get up up to 7 inches (18 cm). They can weigh up to 2 oz (27 g). They are so small that they can fit in a teacup.

“Halloween Traditions” Continued from p. 1



Día de los Muertos also known as “Day of the Dead” ( November 1st-2nd) is a Mexican holiday similar to Halloween. On this scary day, people believe that the gates of heaven are open, allowing people to honor

their dead loved ones. They do this by decorating the graves with flowers, photos, candles, food, and drinks. Marigolds are famous flowers used to decorate the graves. People decorate their faces in bright colors and wear skull masks. Like Halloween, people dress up, but not as Superman or a Witch. Instead, women wear dresses that have full skirts and loose blouses. The outfits are usually bright and colorful and embroidered with many designs. Men usually wear top hats and a tailcoat. Maybe it's not our Halloween, but Día de los Muertos does have it's own unique traditions.

In France, Halloween is called la fête d'Halloween and that translates into “the day of Halloween”. It is celebrated on October 31st, like us. Halloween was not introduced to the French until 1996 (20 years ago). Léa Meyer, a foreign exchange student from France, told me a little bit about "la fête d'Halloween". “My family and I, when we were young, went in the village with any costume, a witch or ghost... like you. All the kids of the village

went around and knocked on the doors for trick or treat, but it's during the day not the night. My family has a dinner for my sister's birthday (Salomé), and in general, my mom likes to decorate the house and the table in the theme of Halloween.” Costumes, other than what Léa noted, include mummies, goblins, and vampires. French children and adults go to Halloween house parties or even host their own parties. Other than “trick or treating” or Halloween parties, the French sometimes stay home and watch horror movies with friends and family.



Samhain, Día de los Muertos, and a fête d'Halloween are like our Halloween, and too are very interesting. We know that our creepy holiday has the trick and the treat. Imagine how all the other countries celebrate their holidays. Halloween may be different for other places, but they all seem to have one thing in common..... it's a creepy holiday!

# The Last Known North American Vampire

*(Caution: Reader discretion is advised)*

By Nichole Morris and Jaelyn Tesnado

Mercy Brown, the last North American vampire, died January 17, 1892. She lived with a rural family in the late eighteenth century in New England. Mercy's family lived in Exeter, Rhode Island. There were twelve reported cases of vampire attacks in Exeter during the 1800's. Frightened families knew that death was right at their doorsteps. People say that the mysterious deaths were caused by undead vampires. The deceased family members who had returned from their bloody graves to drink the blood from their loved ones.

In the 1880's, a disease was spreading around the town. Both Mercy's mother and her sister died. A few days later, Mercy's brother Edwin caught the disease and became ill. Mercy also caught the disease and died that very night. At night, Mercy's vampire body went into Edwin's room. He said that he could feel Mercy sitting on his chest trying to suck the remaining life out of him. Rumors spread through the village that Mercy Brown was a vampire. Local residents thought that she was ready to claim the lives of others including her entire family. Mercy's father and an inspector went to dig up the graves of Mercy, her mother, and sister.

After digging up the graves of Mercy, her mother, and her sister, they started to compare the three bodies. Mercy's mother and sister's bodies had decomposed, proving that they were not vampires. As they dug up Mercy's grave, they discovered that her body's position had changed and most importantly, her hair and nails continued to grow! Did this mean Mercy Brown was a vampire?

People say that if you go to her grave at night, you will see her vampire ghost. Her name and legend will carry on through the centuries.



*"Winchester Mystery House" continued from p. 2*

Sarah died in her sleep in the house in 1922, and the construction finally stopped.

Mrs. Perkins has been to the Winchester Mystery House two times. She was very curious about the house and feels that the stories about Sarah and the house are true. I asked her which Carroll staff member she would pick to have to spend the night in the Mystery House, and Mr. Hauder was her choice. She said because he would tell "ghost stories" to the ghost!

You can visit the Winchester Mystery house and go on a tour, if you are brave enough, or check out the link below.

<http://winchestermysteryhouse.com>

*"Histories Mysteries" continued from p.2*

The 2007 documentary titled, "The True Story of The Mary Celeste", didn't offer a definite answer, but suggested that a bad chronometer (compass), rough seas, and a clogged pump could have led the captain to abandon the ship after he spotted land on November 25th, 1872. Other theories to the disappearance include pirates, crew mutiny, and a sea monster, but no solid explanation has been given.

A "case of dancing mania" happened in Strasbourg, Alsace in July 1518. It started with a woman, who began to dance on a street in Strasbourg. She danced nonstop for 4-6 days. Within a week, 34 others joined. Within a month there were 400 dancers, mostly women. Authorities prescribed "more dancing" to cure the affected dancers, but by the end of the summer, dozens had died of heart attacks, strokes, and exhaustion



from non-stop dancing. Modern theories suggest that it could have been caused by food poisoning from the ergot fungi, a toxic mold that grows on damp rye and causes spasms and hallucinations. Others think that the dancing was a result of a religious trance caused by Saint Vitus, the saint of epilepsy. Although no solid answer is known, what is known is that little by little the dancing stopped and ended just as mysteriously as it began.

# Word on the Blacktop

## *What are you going to be for Halloween?*



Mahod

Mr. Milburn

“I want to be a clown.”



Lina

Mr. Deitsch

“I don’t celebrate Halloween.”



Cailie

Mr. Burke

“I want to be a pirate.”



Ellis

Ms. Gonzalez

“I don’t know. I’m going to be a clown or something.”



Zayiu

Ms. Bristle

“I don’t know. My sister wants me to be a princess.”



Sophia

Ms. Cha

“I’m going to be Black Widow, the superhero.”



Tylor

Ms. Hickman

“I’m going to be Prom’s Zombie.”



Gabriel

Ms. Lee

“I’m going to be Sonic.”



Isabella

Ms. Leon

“I’m going to be a vampire.”



Damari

Ms. Ghilain

“Ant-man!”

### *“Costumes” continued from p. 3*

Finally in England, Halloween is called, “All Soul’s Eve” (I can see a pattern here). Families in England would light candles in every room to have lost souls come back to receive their offering. The most popular costume for boys are Paul Revere and Macbeth. For girls, Marie Antoinette takes the cake! (Who by the way, died on the guillotine.) English costumes are mostly based on historical figures, which surprises me still to this day!



Every country has their own traditions and costumes. Now that you know some more costume ideas, what’s going to be your costume this Halloween?

### *“Jack-o-lantern” continued from p. 4*

The next year, Jack tricked the devil again by telling him to go up into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While the devil was in the tree, Jack carved a sign of a cross into the tree’s bark. Jack would not let the devil come down until he promised not to bother him for another ten years. Once Stingy Jack died, the spirit of jack-o’-lanterns were still alive.

Through the year’s, pumpkin carving is still a tradition. Many kids in different countries still go trick-or-treating and carve pumpkins. We now also have pumpkin contest to see who can carve a pumpkin the fastest. Carving pumpkins can be fun, but to keep the Halloween spirit, light ‘em up!