

Katharine DuClos – Halloweening

Everybody made a jack 'o lantern. Each kid tried to make one better than the other fellow's. We decorated them with a carrot nose and cornsilk eyebrows and whiskers. We kids made our own candles. We had an old-fashioned candle mold. And beforehand we'd take some tallow and string up that, so we had homemade candles. [13:39] Come the night that it came for Halloween, the parents would come and they would all bring lanterns or lamps to light the schoolhouse, of course there was no lights there. And we'd have the program. Then after the program they usually had refreshments of cider, donuts mostly.

Sometimes after that we kids would go out Halloweening. One time, I never went but once, my dad found out about it and he never let me go again, we found where one old fellow picked up a lot of apples the day before, let it go to the cider mill, and we dumped those all out. Then we went over through where Lester Flint lived. The next place is where Arbuckle lives. There was two brothers that lived, Lester and Waldo. We took Lester's wheelbarrow and wheeled it over and put it on Waldo's land. They didn't speak to each other. Lester wouldn't go and get it off of Waldo's land, we knew that. That was what we did to be bad. Besides that we took the stove out of the schoolhouse and took it down over the bank. So when they went the next morning didn't have any stove. So see dad didn't let me go again, he found out some of the things we did. [15:10] Lester had to pay his nephew 50 cents to go get the wheelbarrow off from his brother's field! But they did, they cut up. They put wagons, take people's wagons to pieces and put it up on barn roofs. They did all those kinds of things. And then it was permissible to go around with a spool and scare people. You take a spool and cut notches all around it, thread, spool. You put a spike through it and a string on it and pull on, wind it up and pull it, it would make an awful noise on a window. And you'd find somebody sitting in there, and then you'd do that. They did a lot of damage in those days, more like that, practical jokes more like taking people's steps and things like that.