



# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Nov. 3, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 21, October 27, 2005

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## Seldovia's Halloween Carnival

[PhotoStory click here!](#)

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### The History of Halloween

by *Tamara Blodgett*

*A synopsis on the origin of our "spooky" holiday...*

Halloween is a collection of different cultural belief systems rolled into one holiday. This unique holiday is celebrated somewhat differently in various parts of the world. Most historical accounts concede that Halloween is Celtic in origin and began Ireland as an end-of-summer rite. This celebration was called Samhain (pronounced sow-in) meaning end-of-summer. The Celtic New Year begins on November 1 and the Celts believed that this day fell between the current year and the new year, making October 31st what we call, "Halloween." They felt that the barrier between the "worlds" (the living world and that of the spirit world) was very thin at this time; that it was a time to communicate with their dead loved ones. They also believed that it presented a problem for them as spirits of an evil nature could slip through that thin membrane to this world. The Celtic Priests, called Druids, were said to have higher success of divination and prophesy. During Samhain, huge bonfires were burnt as a heralding of a short winter and the eventual spring to come.



### *Convolutd Customs...*

In AD 43, The Roman Empire conquered The Celtic Region. Some of their

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beliefs became incorporated into the celebration of Samhain. The first of these beliefs was Ferialia, a date of memorial for the passing of the dead. The second was Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruits and trees. The symbol of Pomona was an apple; this is likely where the “bobbing” for apples comes from.

By the 800’s Christianity had spread its influence into The Celtic Lands. Pope Boniface the 1V announced All Saints Day would now be observed on November 1. This is widely believed to be an attempt to give Halloween Christian undertones and enhance its acceptability to the Christian populace.

In the year 1000 AD All Souls Day was initiated on November 2nd as a day to memorialize the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain with costumes and bonfires. These holidays became a combined three-day affair that was called Hallowmas; Hallow means ‘saint.’ This holiday was anglicized to All-Hallows Eve and eventually became Halloween.

**School**

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*“Cute” costumes....*



Wearing costumes by the ancient Celts was thought to afford protection during this time so the “spirits” and “devils” would think they were one of them and would not cause them undo mischief.

Treats and finer foods were put out on doorsteps to appease spirits that wandered in the night at this time. Another belief held by European custom was called “souling,” which was the offering of “soul cakes.” Beggars would wander and ask for these cakes while promising to say prayers for each cake that they received for that person’s dead loved one. In many areas of Britain and Ireland this was also called “mischief night” a night where people could go unpunished for playing practical jokes and small misdemeanors.



*Halloween symbolism...*

Traditional symbols of Halloween (black cats, witches, bats, pumpkins, candles, masks, parties, and pranks) were largely inserted into American culture via the introduction of huge numbers of Irish Immigrants in the mid 19th century, who proudly did not want this Celtic holiday forgotten. An anecdotal item is black cats were thought to be witches in disguise. Other nocturnal creatures ( bats, owls, etc.) were seen as being able to view the “spirits” more easily because of their nighttime nature.

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### *About the Jack-o-Lantern...*

A guy named Jack, who was a notorious trickster, beguiled Satan into climbing a tree. Jack then carved the image of a cross on the tree to trap the devil. He made a pact telling Satan that if he would not tempt him again, then he would let him down. When Jack later died, he was denied entrance to heaven because of his evil ways, but also denied entrance to hell because he tricked the devil! The devil then gave him a lighted ember to put in a carved turnip that would light his way forever in the "netherworld." These lanterns were originally called "Jack's Lantern." Later they were renamed Jack-o-Lanterns. Irish Immigrants came to America and discovered a new use for pumpkins and they quickly became the new host for the Halloween Lantern.

### *The darker side of Halloween...*

To address the 'human sacrifice' issue, there *is* historical basis that speaks to *animal* and *crop* sacrifice in which huge bonfires (bonfire literally means bone fire) burned and the weak animals (or non-breeders) from the herds were culled by burnt sacrifice. The bad part of the harvest was also said to be burnt as well. There is sharp division amongst groups as to the truth of human sacrifice. With some groups saying it ended in 1600 AD and other groups saying that is an embellishment entirely and only animals and crops were sacrificed with the possibility of human sacrifice being unlikely.



### *Famous fortunetelling...*

To explain further some of the attributes people devised for the original Halloween Celebrations; some innocent Halloween activities we now employ actually have roots in ancient Halloween tradition for the purpose of fortunetelling. Apple Bobbing was a divination practice that was used to forecast who would be the first person to become married in the new year. To successfully "bob" would mean that the "bobber" would be the first lucky bride or groom of the new year. Similarly, when peeling apples it was said the longest peel slice would mean a long life, and an apple piece tossed over a shoulder would show the initial of a future spouse. A stone inserted in the fire at nights' end, if moved from its position during the night, told of a death in the coming year.



### *Current time...*

In present time we are celebrating Halloween in the United States by integrating several of these original traditions, as well as new ones that we have “Americanized” or created through the generations. We no longer have beggars as trick-or-treaters, just kids collecting candy. There are no “spirits” or “netherworlds” to concern with but costuming is great fun! Nobody’s soul mate is discerned from a “bobbed” apple, but it’s fun trying! Here in Seldovia we can enjoy bonfires at Outside Beach and *nothing* is sacrificed but some wood! Pumpkins are fun to carve and black cats are pets, not witches. This holiday is not as it was originally but has evolved into something that uses some of the original things in combination with new and interesting elements. Halloween is definitely what we make of it. Have a fun and safe holiday.



**Happy Halloween!**

## **Flat Tire for Homer Air Delays Flights**

*by Tamara Blodgett*

### *Safety First . . .*

A flat tire delayed at least one flight on Wednesday afternoon. When Pilot Zack Tappan was asked about this thorn in his side he responded, "The Nose-Wheel went flat as I was taxiing from the runway to the building so somewhere on the ramp ...it <tire>...picked up a nail or something, not sure yet."



When asked how it would be repaired (do the pilots have to change tires? or not!). Tappan said, "The maintenance will switch out the tire, bring a brand new tire over, we'll put the brand new tire on the airplane, fly it back, and then take the flat one apart completely, and make sure everything is 100% with it." When questioned about safety being a priority he responded with an emphatic, "absolutely." Tappan added the delay would not be a long one; onward and upward.

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### **City Council meeting October 26** *by Tamara Blodgett*

Seldovia City Council Meeting had all council members and Mayor Wyland were present except two excused council members: Boscacci and Gain. Prior Council Meeting Minutes were approved for the October 12th Meeting. The current agenda was approved and the Treasurer's Report was discussed.

*Planning and Zoning Commission Chair, Paulie Carluccio, presented her report on The Commission's most recent workshop on the 24th of October. The Commission has decided in order to encourage community involvement, a survey will be sent out with the next water bill. The survey has been given to the City Manager Kurt Reynertson pending final approval from him. The committee is working toward refining and reformatting, and is on the right track with their plans. The feedback received from other planning committees and the Borough mentioned that more graphics, plans and charts should be included. Areas of concern will be emphasized and incorporated. The timeline for completion will be spring of 2006. The committee wants a high quality result and needs the extra time to achieve this with its all-volunteer staff. A longer timeline will be necessary for people that hold down jobs independent from their P & Z Commission obligations. Allowing time for the public to comment is another crucial reason for this timeline and Carluccio is hoping that the survey will "kick this off."*

Mayor Wyland thanked P & Z Chair Carluccio for her, and the other members of P & Z, for their combined efforts and high work ethic. Councilman Glover volunteered to assist with the maps and graphics that will need to be done.

Councilman McInnes mentioned with appreciation that new binoculars were given to SOS manager, Sharon Bond.

Next Chamber of Commerce Meeting will be on Thursday, November 3rd.

There will be a large meeting between The Borough Planning & Zoning Commission and The Assembly about changing/strengthening the regulations for gravel pits.

**In Old Business:**

- A motion to postpone **Ordinance 06-03, Change in Sundry Fee Schedule**, to the next City Council Meeting on November 16th was decided upon due mainly to The Council having only 4 out of 6 members and it was felt by The Council that action would need to be taken when all Council Members were present.
- Councilman McInnes emphasized that the top item on the **FY 06 Legislative Priority List** should be 05-08, The Village Safe Water Act. Councilman Massion agreed with Councilman McInnes, but would like to speak to this at the next workshop (November 1 at 6:30 pm) when all the Council Members will be in attendance.

**New Business** is the appointment of **Ferry Steering Committee Representative**. A Council Member will need to be appointed for this position.

**Action:** none.

**City Manager** on vacation, no **report** available this week.

Next City Council Meeting on November 16th (one meeting only in November; combined and moved from November 9 and 23)

Councilman Massion feels that the workshop should include the Sundry Fee Schedule as well as the Legislative Priority List in the discussion as all the Council Members will be present and it may be the last time to recap before the holiday upswing; Mayor Wyland agreed.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Time elapsed 34:26

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## Rep. Paul Seaton's October Newsletter

Of interest to Seaton is a cancer research seminar conducted at the University of California. He mentioned a successful fishing season coming to an end followed by a heavy meeting schedule this fall, with many things to be discussed in the areas of gas development, local projects and economic proposals.

The *Ways and Means Committee* has met twice regarding retirement issues for the State of Alaska.

*Health and Education Social Services* has also met to work on issues of mandatory overtime hours for nurses; and to address Medicaid waivers to cover adult companion services.

*Skyline/Diamond Ridge Paving* should be taking place in the summer of 2006.

*Dangerous Corners: Milepost 168 & Gwin's Corner, Milepost 52, Sterling Hwy.* is something that Rep. Seaton supported for safety measures as this area has a high accident rate.

*Seward Pedestrian Pathway* ~ Seaton has contacted the DOT/PF and the Alaska Railroad Corp. in writing asking when this will move forward.

A maintenance proposal is being worked on for Snug Harbor Rd. Cooper Landing Senior Center.

*Seward Ferry Move*~ The Alaska Marine Highway System will no longer have service to Seward.

Seaton is urging state residents to contact their legislature regarding *Kachemak Bay/State Park Funding* so the park has better support and funding for additional staff for park maintenance, etc.

The governor is still working to secure a natural gas pipeline contract with BP, Conoco-Philips and Exxon Mobil (*Alaska Gas Pipeline*).

(*Dissolved Oxygen Standards*) There may be a change in the regulations governing the levels of dissolved oxygen.

The DEC has made a revision in the *Proposed Pollution Mixing Zones in Spawning Streams Regulation*.

Representative Seaton did quite a bit of in-state traveling to attend meetings regarding fisheries and gas and propane distribution.

[Click here to view entire newsletter \(pdf\)](#)

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## **PAC meeting synopsis**

*by Jenny Chissus*

October 25, 2005 at 7:07pm , the PAC meeting held its monthly meeting in the school commons with Trinket Gallien, Jenny Chissus, Karen Bornheimer, Renee Purpura and Curtis Liberty in attendance. Laurel Hilts attended as a guest and teacher.

Mr. Liberty mentioned that there was a site survey on the playground area, and that we have been authorized to select a piece of playground equipment to replace the broken tire swing. It is important to present our request as soon as possible, and we all agreed that the piece of equipment Mr. Liberty brought to the table would be great, and that we would all take a look at the recommended website, and make suggestions, but that between Karen and Curt, they could make the final decision this week. While the crew was here doing the site inspection, they took a look at the area for the Head Start playground, and felt that was a great place to develop for that age group.

Regarding the synopsis of our PAC meetings posted in the online Gazette newspaper, Mr. Liberty mentioned that he had received positive feedback and a "thank you" from folks as they appreciated the summary of what is

transpiring at our meetings.

Mr. Liberty has extended the job to an applicant for the Girls Basketball Coaching position.

The annual Halloween carnival was fun and interesting, and Mr. Liberty noted that it appeared that everyone was having a great time. He also mentioned how great it was to see the large group of kids and adults working hard to break down at the end of the carnival. Renee also mentioned that everyone did a great job cleaning, as there wasn't much extra for her to clean up, and she really appreciated everyone's hard work!

Trinket mentioned that in speaking with Savannah Lewis regarding the Booster Club webpage, she was informed that the Herald will not be continuing, and therefore we will need to find an alternative way to publicize and give out information about the Booster Club. Trinket is working on solutions to that situation.

As we welcomed Trinket into her new 3 year term, we elected the officers for the 2005-2006 year to be as follows: Jenny Chissus – President, Alvin Swick – Vice President and Trinket Gallien – Secretary.

Laurel Hilts came to the meeting to announce some coming events for the school.

- A musical play will be put on by the 4th through 8th grade classes on November 5th, 2005 , and it will be a dessert theater, with funds going towards a school assembly on the 10th.
- There will be a Christmas performance “Santa’s Rockin’ Christmas Eve” which will be an all-school musical on December 12, 2005 .
- There is also the School board meeting on November 7th in Homer, and SBE is presenting, so we need to have something prepared.
- There is a musical festival in April up in Delta Junction, and Laurel said that she really works with the students towards performing, and has plans to take them up for the festival. Michael Behl with SNA has offered the hotel in Anchorage on both ends of the trip, as well as some assistance with a van out of Homer. So she is working on making that come together.
- Joy Smith received the full 4 year scholarship for academic achievement, congratulations to Joy!! Way to go!

Mr. Liberty also mentioned that he and Mr. Chissus are getting together to complete the application for the Carl Perkins grant. Also, SBE may be a candidate for a Vocational Tech provider, as opposed to a receiver, in that WE could provide the class and teacher, and others could come into our school to receive the services and education offered. This program idea must be initiated from our end, and the people in charge have been receptive to the idea for SBE. We have the facilities, and there may be a variety of ways that it could work here, from 3 week intensive courses, to a vocational high school set up with lodging for boarders and a focus on the construction trades. Mr. Liberty reiterated that we need to take care of those students who won't be going on to a 4-year education, these kids tend to be underserved in the traditional setting, and yet could flourish in a Voc. Ed program. The district is trying to be proactive for the future, and this is a good thing!

Trinket applauded this idea, and gives the pursuit of this idea her full support. "Great things can happen if you can bring everyone together for this." She stated that it has been proposed before, but not pursued, and it is exciting.

Thank you for your support, and we'll see you at our next meeting on October 29, 2005 at 7:00pm !

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## Hello from Chip & Missy & Adeli!



Chip & Missy McMillan & Adeli are all settled in Juneau now that Chip has a new job. Chip is working for the Dept of Education and Missy has a half-time job as a reading specialist at an elementary school.

They miss Seldovia and wanted to say Hi to everyone!

If anyone is interested, they have put their [kayaks up for sale](#): If interested call Chip/Missy 907-463-2684 or 465-2826.

### Tidbits . . .

**Halloween and bad luck black cats go hand in hand.  
What evil lurks behind the eyes of this cat at Halloween,  
we'll never know . . .**



**City Manager's Corner***by Kurt Reynertson*

>No City Manager Report this week <

**Seldovia Police Report***by A.W. Anderson, Chief of Police*

> No police report this week <

**Repeats & Notices**

- ▶ *Comprehensive Plan Public Final Version  
Dated August 10, 2005*
- ▶ *Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)*
- ▶ *Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)*

