



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

What Were the Goblins Wearing That Year?

by Joanne Mason



“What are you going to be for Halloween?”

In the 1970s, in my neighborhood full of kids, this was a million dollar question. And secrecy was paramount! Nobody wanted to reveal their costume before Halloween night, although we all tried to trick each other into providing clues.

At my house, my mother encouraged my older brother and me to make our own costumes. When I was four, she helped me fashion a wand from cardboard and glitter for my fairy princess costume. When I was ten, she allowed me to sew ornaments to a green bathrobe – and stick a wire through the hem – so I could be a Christmas tree.

Sometimes, neighborhood kids teamed up. My best friend and I went as salt and pepper shakers one year. And my brother frequently went as the Unknown Comic from “The Gong Show.”

I look through old albums, and I see so many photos of my brother and me. But I’ve never seen any pictures of my parents celebrating Halloween as children. What kinds of costumes did kids wear in the 1930s and 1940s?

Online sleuthing brought me to several interesting links:

[The Most Popular Halloween Costume the Year You Were Born](#)

by Melissa Mills (*Reader’s Digest*, September 15, 2020)

[Halloween Costumes That Disguised, Spooked and Thrilled Through the Ages: Photos](#)

by Becky Little (*History.com*, October 23, 2019)

[125 Years of Halloween Costumes](#)

by Brie Dyas (*Good Housekeeping*, October 4, 2016)

What was your favorite Halloween costume? Or the most original one you’ve seen at your door? Feel free to share your story (and pictures if you have them) on the WMGS Facebook page!