

New Religions Research Collection
 GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION
 2451 RIDGE ROAD

BAKERSFIELD - Since the Festival Of Lights and Yule come so close together, we knew some of the out-of-town people wouldn't make it for the festival. So we had only one ritual that time...conducted beautifully by Gail and Les, Jeannie and Dean (Long Beach) conducted the Pagan Way ritual for Yule. That is probably the longest and most difficult ritual and they had little time to prepare but it was done perfectly. Later, Cinda and I conducted the Craft ritual. Main problem we all had was to prevent our feet from freezing. It was very cold and no one even considered going skyclad.

We were most happy that Gail made it down from San Jose. Too bad Mike couldn't come but he had to work.

We were also happy to see our favorite silver-gowned person arrive from the L.A. area get here.

MODESTO - The Yule Sabbat went very well. Manon and Morgan conducted the ritual. All joined in song with Adonis on guitar. Wassail flowed freely, and Yule time cheer was shared by all. The evening was ended by singing Happy Birthday to the Sun God, and He made His appearance that morning with soft flakes of snow covering (4 inches)...that is, the northern part of Modesto, and rain and hail covered the rest. Anyone who knows members of the Coven Of Ceres, and is receiving this newsletter, and didn't order it, can bet that it is a gift from us.

* * *
 STAR GAZER by Lady Fauna

Certain days of the month look better than others for certain projects. Working with The Old Farmer's 1980 Almanac and a few hints my Mother gave me... I came up with a few suggestions for the month of January 1980.

- 2nd - FULL MOON, best hours 4 P.M. and 11 P.M. Learn through divinations and dreams. Use green and yellow candles.
- 3rd - 5 P.M., midnight. Protect money. Use red candles.
- 6th - 6 P.M., 8 P.M., 10 P.M. Break off unwanted relationships.
- 7th - 6 P.M. Guard against psychic attack. Use black, blue and white candles.
- 13th - 6 P.M. Avoid travel.
- 15th - 7 P.M. Self-blessing or purification ritual. Use black and blue candles.
- 17th - NEW MOON. 1 P.M. , 8 P.M. Excellent day to plant root vegetables.
- 20th - 4 P.M. , 6 P.M. , 11 P.M. Compose a piece of music; renew a relationship. Green and red candles.
- 31st - FULL MOON. 8 P.M. The Lady shines on fertility and money matters.

* * *
 BEING A WITCH IS from Manon in Modesto

...convincing the police that the baggies that they found were really full of consecrated herbs.

1980

G
me

MAKING CRAFT CONTACTS

by Seanara of Arcane Crafts

They say that there are thousands of Witches and Pagans throughout the country, although nobody's been able to come up with an accurate count. Still, many of us are still more or less isolated from other Crafters, particularly those of us in small towns who get the impression that we're the only Witches around.

It's not easy to find friends in the Craft when you don't know where to start looking for them. It's rather uncool to go around saying to all your neighbors, "I'm a Witch, are you?" in the hopes of finding one who is. Beginners seeking a coven to train with, and High Priest/esses trying to start a coven, have an even tougher time of it. They not only need to find friends in the Craft, they have to be able to work with them in the Circle. That means a greater degree of compatibility, common goals, etc. than they need with someone they write to or have coffee with once a week.

The best start you can make in your search for Craft contacts is to send out a call on the astral, letting the Goddess know what you need. Even beginners can do this. A very simple way is to relax, close your eyes, and visualize yourself making compatible Craft contacts. Ask the Goddess for Her help. You can keep this preliminary ritual simple or elaborate on it all you wish. But remember, even the most powerful High Priestess won't just work magic, then sit back in her apartment and find twelve suitable Pagans ringing her doorbell next day asking for initiation. You have to go out and do the legwork.

Your local occult shop is usually a good place to meet Witches and Pagans. Unfortunately, some will frown on members of groups not controlled by the shop's owner hanging out in the shops. Beware of such psychic ripoffs. Most places are pretty decent, though (We've only found one in New York that isn't). To find the occult shops, check the Yellow Pages of the phone book under "Occult Supplies", "Bookstores" (look for mystical-sounding names), and "Religious Supplies". (Most of these are Christian, so you'll have to weed through them to find the ones that are Pagan.) Once you've found some likely-looking places, go down and browse. Check the bulletin board. Some occult shops hold lectures, classes, or open Pagan circles, or know who gives them. Sometimes you can strike up conversations with other customers. You'll meet a lot of curiosity seekers, but the odds are that sooner or later you'll meet someone who is into the Craft. Be cool, though, when talking to people you've just met--most Witches are not likely to give you a talk on the Craft or invite you to a Circle after two minutes' conversation. Unlike members of most other religious groups, we tend to keep a low profile with strangers, and don't proselytize or actively recruit.

If your local occult shop is not a friendly place, or if there is no occult shop in your area, try looking elsewhere. Look in the newspapers for mention of talks on the occult. Also check your local college for open classes. Witches tend to be interested in folklore and mythology, so try these courses. Even if you don't meet any Witches at them, you'll be contributing to your own magical education, and may get ideas for personal rituals.

Unless you live in a larger town, or a small place with a good occult shop, it's tough to meet kindred spirits in person without first making contact with them by letter. There are some "fanzine" type publications, like this one, which often mention people looking for Craft contacts. Write a letter to the newsletter, telling some things about yourself, and what you are looking for. Let them know if

(continued)

CONTACTS continued

they can print your name (it's usually first name & last initial, or Craft name) and a post office box number that people can write to. It's better to use a P.O. box than your home or work address to protect your privacy. If you read of people looking for contacts, and no address is given for them, the newsletter will probably forward mail. Include a stamp for postage and an envelope for them to send your letter in.

Which brings me to a bit of advice I'd better give sooner or later. Most of the people you'll make contact with are very nice people. But there are some nuts and ripoff artists hanging about on the fringes of the occult world, often claiming to be Crafters, who are just waiting for unwary stooges to come along. Be careful of your contacts. Try to pick up the vibrations of the writers from their letters. Trust your instincts, and take it slowly. Don't pour your heart out in your first letter to an unknown contact. If you're invited to meet the members of a coven or Pagan group, or to attend an open Circle, think about what you see or do and whom you meet. A group worth joining won't pressure you to become too involved too quickly. Many covens work on the year-and-a-day system-- that is, they will make you wait 13 lunar months and one day (one solar year), studying and going to Pagan Circles before they will initiate you. Some will know whether you're ready or not after a few months. Be prepared to wait if you're sincerely interested. But beware of any group that offers you initiation on the spot.

Another common pitfall is the supposed "school" of Wicca or coven or teacher who charges for instruction in the Craft. Lecturers, speaking before a public group, usually get paid for their services. There may be a small admission fee to the lecture. College courses charge tuition no matter what the subject. But I would honestly doubt the integrity and sincerity of any group that charges a fee, be it \$3.00 or \$300. , for a class or course in the Craft or for admission to one of their rituals. Expect to buy your books, ritual tools, robe, etc. and to expect to bring food or drink to a Circle (traditionally, everyone brings wine or a home-cooked dish to the Sabbat festivities), but be suspicious of demands for a fee or mandatory "contribution". Also watch out for mail-order courses. It's impossible to teach the finer points of the Craft without in-person, face-to-face instruction. Mail-order courses that claim to teach the Craft are usually a ramp to make money.

Above all, don't get discouraged if you have trouble making contact at first. We believe that those who are meant for the Craft, especially if they were Witches in a former lifetime, will eventually find their way back onto the Path. In magic time is infinite, and there is no need for hurry. Good luck in your search, and Blessed Be!

* * *
BEING A WITCH IS.... from Miranda in Hawaii

Feeling the support of our Lovely Lady, and being rocked in the arms of our Protective Lord in your time of need.

from Puck in Michigan

Giving the 5-fold kiss so many times you get athlete's mouth.

460364

HERBAL ELIXIRS by Karen in Colorado

An herbal elixir is a prepared liquid that contains in it the properties of the planet(s) and/or elements introduced into the liquid by a Magickian or Witch through herbs that possess the equivalent vibration (or property) of the planet/elements. In an herbal elixir the herbs are blended with the physical, astral, and spiritual aspects in mind so that the vibration of the final result is one where all three are balanced. This way the physical, astral and spiritual being of an individual is effected when the elixir is used.

An herbal elixir may be used for many purposes. You may wish to increase your receptive psychic abilities and so prepare a lunar elixir. You may have chronic migraine headaches, and decide to prepare an herbal elixir combining Jupiterian herbs along with herbs associated with Aries.

The elixir may be prepared in the alchemical fashion (which is rather involved) or in the way of the Condenser. I will illustrate the Condenser here for the sake of brevity and simplicity, and use a Sun elixir for my example.

Sun herbs give ambition, courage, self reliance, self esteem, strength of body and will, dignity, and creativity.

Take a handful of Saffron, place it in an enamel pot, (you don't want to use a metal pot because you don't want the metal of the pot to mix with your herb, unless, of course, you have a pure gold pot!) and cover the saffron with water. Let it boil for twenty minutes. Allow it to cool, leaving the lid on. When it is cold, strain out the saffron, and return the liquid to the pot, and boil again until it's boiled down to about half. Cool and mix with grain alcohol equal to the volume of the liquid. Now add about ten drops gold tincture, or, if you don't have any gold, your own blood or sperm. Bottle it in a dark bottle and store it in a cool, dark place. Shake before each use. You can use more than one Sun herb in your Sun elixir if you prefer. You may also like to combine herbs from different planets for specific personal effects.

The use of the elixir in ritual will cause the result of the magickal operation to be more potent because by preparing the elixir with the exact planetary/elemental influence in mind and then partaking of it physically, it will bring the physical, astral, and spiritual levels of an individual more closely attuned to that particular vibration. In a healing ritual this is very important because until a person's illness is cleared up on all levels, the healing will not be permanent.

Some points to keep in mind when preparing the elixir are:

- 1- if using fresh homegrown herbs, you need to cut them in the proper moon phase, proper planetary day and hour for your purpose.
- 2- if buying your herbs, purchase them in the correct moon phase, proper planetary day and hour for your purpose.
- 3- begin the operation with the same correct three aspects listed above.
- 4- after you have prepared your elixir, consecrate it as you do your other tools.

GEORGIA

Finally Rhea is caught up enough in all her work to start writing again. Two nice letters from her this month...and a very nice Yule gift...a knitted warmer for part of the anatomy. Love your sense of humor, Rhea! Rhea says she keeps busy when not on her job by feeding her wood-eating monster. "Not only keeps one warm by radiating heat, you can work up a sweat cutting wood, hauling it in, stacking it, carrying it into the house, and loading the stove - again and again and again! But it do feel good on these chilllllly mornings." Rhea forgot to mention the great exercise value. I'll bet it's great for keeping slim. Any of you guys who have a wood-burning stove might find it advantageous to stress this point when trying to talk the old lady into taking care of the stove. Rhea says the weather there keeps bouncing back and forth from the teens to the sixties.

Mississippi

Georgia says Jerry tried to avoid hitting a couple of dogs, and rolled his car 3 times. Fortunately, all he got was a bruise, but she says the car top is smashed flat to the body. Georgia says it is difficult finding other Crafters in her area, and I'm sure she'd be happy to hear from others anywhere. Write to: Georgia, P.O.B. 93, Wheeler, Miss. 38880.

Oklahoma

SanDee has made contact with Vicki, and that should be helpful to both of them. SannDee says there are 7 of them in her area who will be gathering for a Yule ritual.

CALIFORNIA

Bethea was attacked by two young men in a market parking lot recently. One of them cut the purse strap, the other grabbed the purse...and ran. Bethea opened her car door, Mr. Dog attacked the guy with the purse, he dropped it, and both young men were breaking records for the 50 yd. dash as they fled the parking lot. Mr. Dog got a reward...a super special bone.

Bethea got Mr. Slats a big carpeted cat tree for Yule. Now Mr. Slats teases Mr. Dog, then climbs to the top of the tree...and laughs at him.

Bethea says weather in England has been bad...rain, cold, gale winds. And there has been some bad publicity for the Craft. Who needs it? Bethea also suggested we get something going for rain. Ha! I think the Yule weekend supplied more than enough.

BEING A WITCH IS

from John in Wisconsin

- ...explaining the noise that comes from your apartment every full moon.
- ...coming home and finding a voodoo doll with a nail through its head.
- ...playing solitaire with a Tarot deck.
- ...being hauled off to the hoosegow for talking to a tree.
- ...being in a cast after dropping a crystal ball on your foot.

The Correspondence School by Anon E. Mouse

A magazine ad this fellow did spy,
said, "what the hell, I'll give it a try".
He sent his cash to that "Craft School",
and it was recieved by a crafty fool.

"Lessons" came soon by the U.S. Mail,
and a letter, "make payments without fail!
every month, you send the cash...
or on your head, the collectors will crash!"

He studied those lessons he got in the mail,
even tried out the use of a flail!
Lesson 3 said, "Witches, you see, should not be bores,
you take my wife, and I'll take yours.

Next year we may swap a few old whores.
Swapping these chicks will open more doors.
We'll keep these broads so very confused,
it'll be years 'til they know that they're used."

This yokel sent in his money for years and years,
even though he was laughed at by all his peers.
In time this fellow had a baby girl,
That really did put his head in a swirl,

A new mother each year, but the girl grew up,
even though some of them made her throw up.
She did grow pretty as girls will though,
and at age 12, they sent her a real dildo.

Father by now had financed his initiation,
though it seemed he was paying the debt of the nation.
Only 50 more payments, and he'll get a charter...
by now this poor sap felt just like a martyr.

The years did pass, and his money did dwindle,
not enough left to buy him a spindle.
One day, these "lessons", he decided to review,
and the waste of his life came into full view.

The "lessons" he carefully packed into a box,
wrapped it in chains and myriad strong locks,
Said, "I know just where this treasure should be"
and with that...he buried it in the deep, blue sea!

* * *

BEING A WITCH IS

from Rhea in Georgia

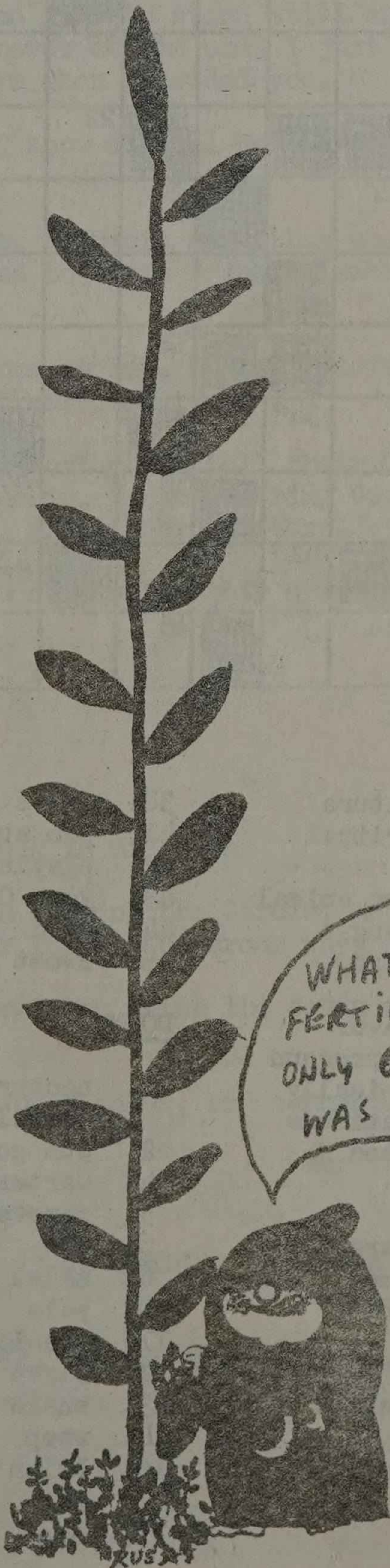
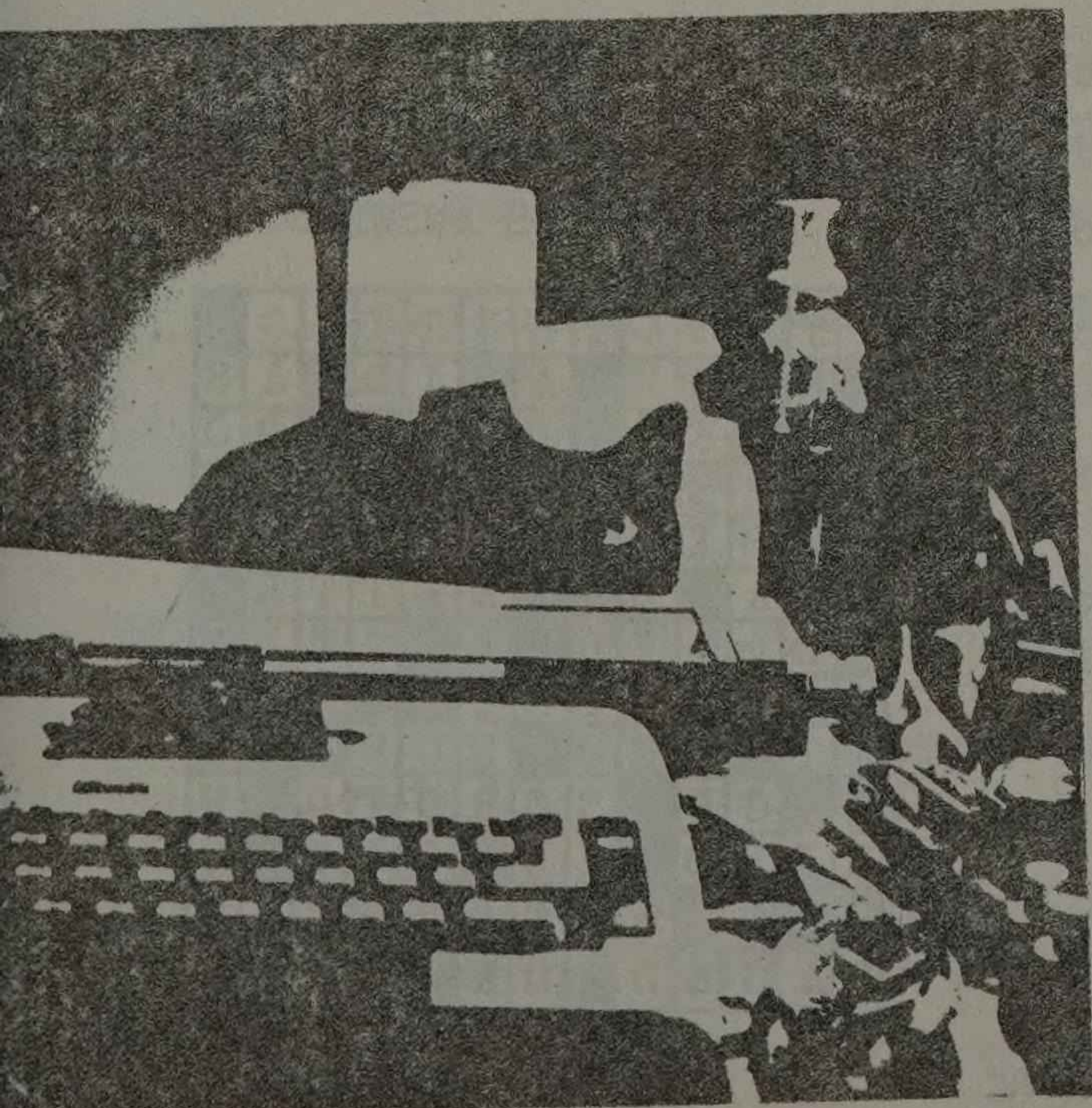
watching your dogs dis - appear, and your cat re - appear (from nowhere)
as you begin casting your Circle...

Church Of Micra
Of Bakersfield
108 Verde Street
Bakersfield, Ca. 93304
(805) 323-3309

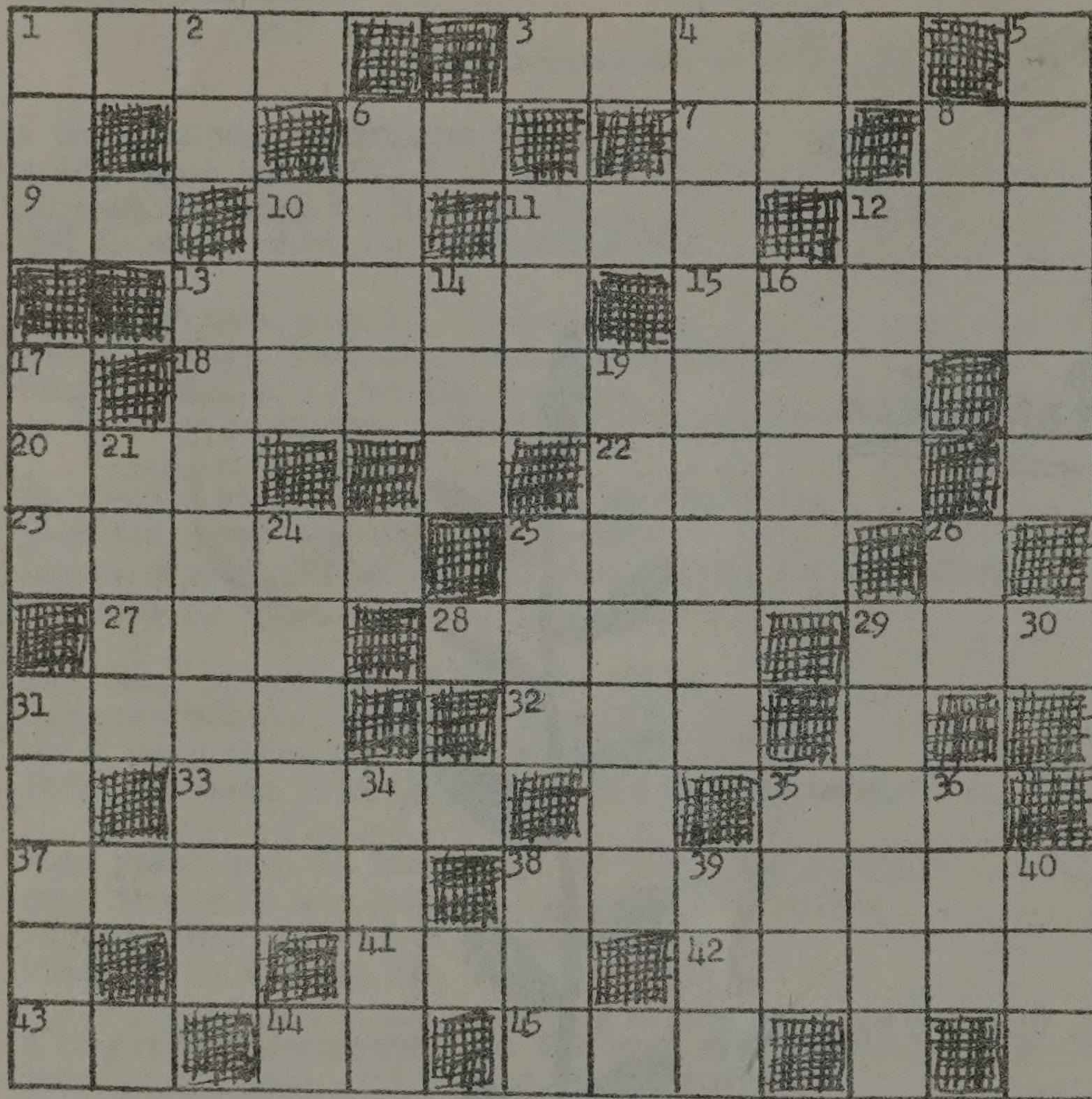
Lwenkin

BELOW

Morgan Le Fay,
working late at
the offices of
Arcane Crafts
(Dictating "Being
A Witch Cat".



WHAT GOOD WAS A
FERTILITY SPELL, WHEN
ONLY ONE PLANT
WAS LISTENING?



- 19. cup
- 21. little bit
- 24. Yoga position
- 25. girl
- 26. aloft
- 29. overseas
- 30. former; prefix
- 31. saucy
- 34. whisker's home
- 35. mulberry fruit
- 36. not in
- 38. clouds' home
- 39. Aries
- 40. fishes' home

ACROSS

- 1. flight creature
- 3. Full Moon ritual
- 6. exist
- 7. large strong animal
- 8. mother; slang
- 9. _____ and fro
- 10. he and I
- 11. Sodom survivor
- 12. possessive pronoun
- 13. move rhythmically
- 14. express gratitude
- 18. lion's friend
- 20. goal
- 22. assist
- 23. of good character
- 25. woman's name
- 27. Lao-tse's Path
- 28. peaceful
- 29. imitate
- 31. sodium chloride
- 32. _____ to lip
- 33. good fortune
- 35. to and _____
- 37. slit

- 38. grave
- 41. pen and _____
- 42. playing marble
- 43. you; Old English
- 44. amid
- 45. sweet potato

DOWN

- 1. nocturnal mammal
- 2. Sun god
- 4. Cartesian devil
- 5. remove light
- 6. bow
- 8. males
- 10. pale
- 11. the Lion
- 12. clasp
- 13. snake god
- 14. weep
- 16. Xtian's burning pit
- 17. bar

NOVEMBER'S ANSWERS

I	T		G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G			
	H	A	R	P		A	M	I	D		A	S		
B	E		E	H		D		T			D	O		
O		H	E	R	O		S	U	E	T		B		
B	O	O	K	O	F	S	H	A	D	O	W	S		
	R	A		D			E	L	I	T	E			
		B	R	A	I	D		L		T	E	E	M	
H	I	D		T	E	N	T				M		U	
A	T		N	E	O		E	O	N			G		
R		G	O		S	O	R	D	I	D		W		
B	I	R	D		I	N		O	L	E		O		
O		O		A	L	T	A	R		E	A	R		
R	A	G	E	D		O	N		U	P		T		

Mariah (California) requested that we print this letter.

Dear Craft Friend,

I am pleased that the Gods had our paths cross in the Craft. Honoring the oath of secrecy, I will not reveal your name. We all learn from each other in the Craft, this is what I have learned from you:

When I felt I was at the end, you showed me just to stand still and see around me, become more aware to see that it was never at the end. I just didn't see. Just as nature takes a rest. You were there when I needed you.

With you, I can tell my deepest secret and know it will not come back on me to harm me, you taught me "Perfect Trust".

You were my sister in need, and of comfort. You were my mother when I had tears of life to shed. You were my special friend to share laughter with, you taught me "Perfect Love".

With you, I was taught how people can become as one. We are all different like nature, but nature is whole, you gave me "Perfect Harmony".

I do not want to sound mushy, but people almost never tell their Craft friends the things they have given to their friendship. It would bring Crafters closer together if we could hear what we received from other Crafters.

May the Blessings of the Old Ones hold you softly in their care.

Blessed Be.

Mariah

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BEING A WITCH IS....

from Puck in Michigan

- ...getting 3/4 of the way through casting the Circle, and suddenly realizing you set up the altar facing the wrong way.
- ... finding out that your kids have been using the coven wand to train the dog to fetch.
- ... having someone find your Book Of Shadows, and commenting on your "unusual Family Bible".

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM W. C. PASTURE

There would be no energy shortage if we could only find a way to put kids into containers.

I suppose hers is a pretty good kid, as far as kids go....and I do wish the little monster would go far...away!

MORE VERSES TO "OLD TIME RELIGION" from Rus (Arcane Crafts)

Oh, the Xians worship Jesus
but their sermons sure don't please us;
It's a SIN each time ya sneezes!
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Oh, the Moonies worship Moon
(not the Goddess, but the goon)
they'll eat his crap without a spoon,
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Oh, the Jews adore Jehovah,
but they're BOUND by rules all ovah,
so their life is not all clovah,
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Oh, the Trekkies worship Spock;
to the movies they all flock;
(but science-fiction's such a crock!)
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Oh, the Muslims worship Allah,
and obey the Ayatollah,
and they can't drink alcohollah,
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Oh, the Thelemites worship Crowley,
'cause they think he's so damn holy;
I'd rather roast him very slowly!
'cause that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Hare Krishnas worship Rama
with the cymbals and the drum-ah
but their lifestyle is a bummah
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Oh, the Satanists worship Satan;
they behave so aggravatin',
all of them deserve castratin'
and that's not good enough for me.
(Chorus)

Every one of these will say
they possess "The One True Way";
But give me WICCA any day,
AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!

* * *

CIRCLE WATCH from Bobbi in Pittsburgh

My Lady of laughter and light
Watch over my Circle
on this joyful night

I wonder into Your silver light
and ask Your aid
with a magical plight

Ride with me
on an astral plane
I'm filled with awe
as I chant Your name

The law in my Circle
that is a must
is simply
Perfect Love and Perfect Trust.

* * *

BEING A WITCH IS....

from Armeeta in Pittsburgh

- ...creating a parking spot near the entrance on your way to a mall or shopping center.
- ... instantly stopping a fierce thunderstorm when out driving on the highway.
- ...sitting silently by her mate while he's driving the car, and keeping a protective and safe aura around the car.

This from Selene..Enchanted Herbs, 12099 County Line Rd., Chesterland, Ohio 44026

Yes, we DID visit many occult sites in England and Ireland. We covered almost 3000 miles in 4 weeks! We saw Stonehenge early in the morning before the crowds arrived. In spite of the awful fences etc. , it is still an awesome sight in the early morning. I risked the wrath of the guards, by going over the fence to get a closer look. They did not understand my Pagan philosophy which insured no harm to the stones!

We also saw Silbury Hill, West Kennet Long Barrow, Avebury, Glastonbury. I felt that I had lived before at Glastonbury - as you know, Glastonbury is where several ley lines intersect, and the power one feels there is quite overwhelming. I had a feeling of stepping out of time. I didn't want to leave, but Gordon was, fortunately, more practical!

We spent a lot of time in Cornwall and at Tintagel where the Arthurian legends abound. There are many holed stones, standing stones and circles, dolmens, etc. near Land's End in Cornwall. We would both like to return there to spend more time.

Just outside of Conway, Wales, we stayed in a mansion whose owner now rents out rooms (like a hotel). Our host turned out to be an exceptional man with a great interest in the occult. There I found an old, old oak carving of the Green Man (about 13" x 18"). To our delight, our host agreed to part with it, and it is now hung in a place of honor in our home.

The Witches Museum at Bocastle was very interesting but obviously designed to appeal to the tourist who believes in the more negative aspect of the Craft. We took a lot of slides there. Anyone who has seen that museum would have a difficult time believing the PR that Witches are a benign religious group practicing healing, herbology, and living in harmony with nature - doing harm to none!

Ireland was glorious! The Celtic past is very much alive there - there is a cultural resurgence there, and it is evident everywhere. We only had a week there but talked to many people who were really in touch with their heritage. Western Ireland is especially beautiful - circles and stones are abundant all over the island. We saw Long Meg and her Daughters which I especially liked. The Burren with its wild alpine and tropical flowers blooming side by side - growing out of glacial rock - was captivating. I did not want to leave Ireland. We would love to go back but it is expensive! The dollar devaluation really hurts! I hope this gets me out of your dog house!

ED NOTE: Okay, Selene, you're out! Thank you for the pleasant travel guide. Wish we could go. By the way, how about you or someone doing an article on ley lines?????

* * *

BEING A WITCH IS from Horus Tehuti Neterkhiet in Wisconsin

...having Crystal balls.

...having a pendulum that wants to rock and roll instead of swinging.

...drinking the wrong herb tea, and turning into a toad.

...seeing your last incarnation as a tax collector...or an insurance salesman.

Selene of Enchanted Herbs says: if your readers would like an excellent source of herb plants, I highly recommend the following: Sunnybrook Farms Nursery, 9448 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, Ohio 44026. Pete and Jean Rhu, the owners, are beautiful people and very sympathetic to Wiccans. They have been in the herb business since 1928, and also sell wild flowers, succulents, geraniums, etc. But herbs are their specialty. They ship anywhere. Send \$1. for their catalog. If you have anyone interested in unusual seeds - for dried arrangements, wild flowers and some herbs - including the herbs of Shakespeare - write to Applewood Seed Co., POB 4000, Golden, Col. 80401. I don't know if there is a charge for their catalog.

Tell Isabel from Texas to try Dura-Mold Co. PO 225, Englishtown, N.J. 07726 for her statuary molds. Also, tell her to call her phone company, and order the Manhattan Yellow pages. It is free and a good source for many products - including molds. One source leads to another and ... Also, a good craft shop will have books on various crafts - in these magazines are ads, and she could probably find sources there. Another is Jon Brock Enterprises, Inc. 331 6th St. N., Hudson, Wisc. 54016. Free catalog.

Well, that's all for now - except to tell you that we had a lovely Samhain. Outdoors - our Circle is surrounded by ravine, woods and water (a large pond). We have a new altar, made by us from a beautiful pinkish-beige sandstone. The top slab weighs 300 pounds! It looks very nice with our huge cauldron (a Civil War antique).

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BOOK NOTES from Armeeta in Pittsburgh

David St. Clair's Lessons in Instant ESP, a Signet book, New American Library, \$1.95...No. 8853, pub. Sept. 1979. The stuff works instantly & like magic. It deals with contacting the little man in your Superconscious mind, and is especially good for quick recall, remembering something forgotten, finding lost and misplaced objects, and a lot of other stuff.

How To Become A Sensuous Witch, a paperback by Abigail and Valeria, Coronet Publications, 315 Park Ave. South, N.Y., N.Y. 10010.

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BEING A WITCH IS..... from Rus, Arcane Crafts

-having a funny tasting stew after somebody put incense in the wrong cauldron.
-not being able to banish a spirit, because the animal whose shape it assumed is on the endangered species list.
-laughing at banks that offer 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % interest, because you did money-magic for someone, and it came back threefold.

WORDS OF WISDOM

People who talk when you're watching TV should have muzzles.

When I suggested that you should unwind, I did NOT mean you should go widdershins in the Circle.

Here is some very sad news that we wish we didn't have to print. It is from Elizabeth Pepper of The Witches' Almanac. (continued)

Thanks, Pat, for giving me this chance to tell your readers that The Witches'

Almanac is no more. The climate of

opinion has turned hostile and it seems

wise to slip back into the shadows.

I promise to return - - if not in the same form then surely in another.

Ed. Note: The loss of the Almanac is certainly a great loss to all Pagans. If you wish to express your thanks for the wonderful job Elizabeth Pepper has done, write: The Witches' Almanac, POB 740, Newport, Rhode Island 02840.

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The following are children's rituals for the Moonfire Grove written by Brita, Gardnerian HPs of the Windwalker coven.

VERY YOUNG CHILDREN'S CIRCLES OF MOONFIRE GROVE

Preparation: Have everything on the altar before you start. This would include a rough branch for a wand, altar candles, 4 point candles, any statue(s) you are using, a bowl of water with salt already mixed in (consecrated if desired) and punk incense and holder for it. Also any seasonal decorations you feel are appropriate. The candles and incense are lit already. A man and a woman preferably would run the Circle, but only one person could do it.

Woman with one child goes to the N with a lit point candle, and they say:
I CALL THE OLD ONES FROM THE NORTH TO BE WITH US NOW.
The candle is placed on the floor to the north.
This is done at each point, with a different child doing each one, if possible.
Then return to the N and stand for a moment, then back to places.

The man takes the wand and says:
WE DRAW THE CIRCLE AROUND US TO MAKE A PLACE OF PEACE AND LOVE. WE ARE SAFE
HERE.

He draws it on the floor around the group.

Then the woman says:
WE SPRINKLE AND CENSE THE CIRCLE TO TAKE OUT ALL SADNESS AND KEEP IN ALL HAPPINESS.

She takes one child around to sprinkle, and the man takes one around to cense. Always let the children do as much as is safe for their age.

AT THIS POINT FESTIVALS OR FULL MOON ARE DONE.

(continued)

After that, cakes and wine. Put the plate of bite-size pieces of cake or cookies and a glass of wine on the altar. The man holds his hands over it in blessing and says:

WE BLESS THIS FOOD IN THE NAMES OF THE LORD AND LADY, TO THANK THEM FOR GIVING US THIS WORLD AND ALL THAT IS IN IT.

Then libate, saying:

WE SHARE OUR FOOD WITH THE LORD AND LADY AS THEY SHARE WITH US.

Each takes a sip of wine, and one piece of cake. Then the rest of the refreshments can be taken, such as water or kool-aid. We don't recommend more than one sip of wine for the children! Further libation is not absolutely necessary - go by the age of the children. Then songs, etc., may be done.

When you wish to end the Circle, the man says:

NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE CIRCLE TO END. WE THANK THE MIGHTY ONES FOR BEING HERE.

The woman goes to each point in turn, with one child, and they say:

THANK YOU OLD ONES OF THE NORTH FOR BEING HERE. AS YOU LEAVE HERE TO GO HOME, WE SAY HAIL AND FAREWELL.

Then the child blows out the candle. This is done at each point. Go back to places. The woman says:

THE CIRCLE IS BROKEN. BLESSED BE. Repeat. BLESSED BE.

All the candles get blown out by the children. All can kiss those of opposite sex, if you wish, and then everybody (again, if you wish) depending on how the kids feel about kissing!

I think it is very important to let the kids do as much as is at all possible. Even a two year old can do a lot with a little grown-up help.

MOONFIRE GROVE VERY YOUNG CHILDREN'S FULL MOON CEREMONY

Open the Circle in the usual way for children. Have a small cardboard model of both the moon and the sun. Choose one child to be the moon (preferably a girl, but not necessarily) and one to be the Sun (again, preferably, a boy, but not necessarily). The sun stands at the S of the Circle. The moon starts at the E.

The woman says:

THIS IS THE MOON, A SYMBOL OF THE LADY. WE KNOW AND CAN LEARN TO TALK TO THE LADY INSIDE ALL OF US, JUST AS WE CAN LOOK AT THE MOON AND SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS.

The man says:

THIS IS THE SUN, A SYMBOL OF THE LORD. WE CAN SEE IT IS BRIGHT AND SHINING, BUT ITS IS SO BRIGHT THAT WE CANNOT LOOK AT IT WITH OUR EYES. WE CAN BEST LEARN FROM THE LORD BY WHAT HE TELLS THE LADY, THE MOON.

(add the word "directly" between "it" and "with")

The woman says:

AT THE NEW MOON (the moon now moves to the south and holds hands or stands next to the sun) THE LADY IS WITH THE LORD, AND THEY TALK AND LOVE TOGETHER.

(ritual continued)

(The moon now moves slowly deosil around the Circle to the north, and stands there)

BUT THEN THE MOON MOVES TO THE FULL MOON, LIKE TONIGHT. AT THE FULL MOON, THE LADY GODDESS, OUR MOTHER, REMEMBERS WHAT SHE AND THE LORD TALKED ABOUT, AND SHE WILL GIVE US THIS KNOWLEDGE, IF WE KNOW HOW TO GET IT. CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR AWHILE NOW, AND TRY TO FEEL WHAT THE LADY IS TELLING US THIS NIGHT.

(Wait a short while...depending on the ages of the children, from 30 seconds to 2 or 3 minutes. This is fairly advanced but it can give very young children an idea of communing, and sometimes there are even results. The child seems to feel this an important part of the Circle, and seems to like it, so we do it even if they are restless.)

The the woman says:

THANK YOU, LADY, FOR SHARING THE GOD'S AND YOUR WISDOM WITH US.

Then have the children tell if they think they heard anything, or felt anything that the Lady was trying to tell them. Accept anything they say, and talk about it if they are old enough. Never push them to talk if they do not want to, or give the feeling that they must have heard or seen something.

Then go to cakes and wine, or a festival if there is one.

* * *

I'm certain everyone knows that there is often a water shortage in various parts of the country, usually caused by lack of rainfall. But did you know that farms take a large percentage of available water...to supply YOUR food. Plants must have water, animals must have food and water, etc. The following tells you how much water is needed to produce various food items.

1 glass of milk	65 gallons	1/2 ounce of margarine	92 gallons
1 ounce of cereal	18 gallons	1 vegetable serving	18 gallons
8 ounce steak	2607 gallons	1 slice of bacon	1.630 gallons

SO DON'T WASTE WATER.

* * *

BEING A WITCH IS..... from Ellen in No. Hollywood

...deciding to send a copy of a Pagan anthology with one of your poems in it to members of your family...and wondering whether your born-again brother would want one.

...standing in ritual with the whole Circle holding hands, and wanting to be big enough to gather all of them in your arms.

...trying to find a way to hook a battery onto your broom, so you can fly at night.

from Rus, Arcane Crafts

...doing a crossroads esbat at Exit 13 of the interstate highway.

HAWAII

HONOLULU - Miranda has moved and now has a new business address: Miranda Unlimited, 1013 Prospect St. #413, Honolulu, Hi. 96822. Miranda says a chill has been in the weather recently...a chilly 60 degrees and rain. (Don't you people in the north feel sorry for poor little Miranda?) Besides her occult business she's keeping busy with special education kids. Miranda says they were planning Yule on the beach...and watching the sun rise....also an initiation.

ILLINOIS

A very nice letter and some rituals (on another page) from Brita, Gardnerian HPs of the Windwalker coven and the Pagan, Moonfire Grove. Not really much news, though.

NEW YORK

- Janis now busy with the pre tapes, and also busy ordering the recommended books. Janis is a lah assistant and a Scorpio.

NEW MEXICO

Marsha says, "I always do a lot of baking for Yule, and I love to try recipes from different countries. Last year I made some Egyptian rose cookies. Now I know what rose tastes like. This year I would like to make some cookies from Algeria that call for orange flower water. That is not the same as orange flavoring. I was wondering if anyone might know of a place where I could get some. For Yule I always make a rich cake filled with nuts, dates, raisins, and anything else I feel is good, then I pour rum over it and let it mellow. After that I bless it and give pieces to my friends and family.

About my God statue: I found it in a ceramic shop in Lubbock, Texas. Since I do ceramics, I bought the statue in greenware and finished it myself. I am planning to return to Lubbock soon and I will find out if people might be able to order and perhaps have it shipped already fired once.

BEING A WITCH IS.....

from Rus, Arcane Crafts

- ...paranoia when you realize that thing they're putting up in front of the courthouse is too short to be a telephone pole.
- ...trying to remember the combination of herbs that caused your tea-strainer to turn to gold.

from Leonard in El Cajon, Cal.

- ...standing in front of a sprinkler at San Diego's first Pagan Festival
- ...and praying to the Mother Goddess that the Circle breaks before the sprinkler comes on.

from Rhea in Georgia

- ...explaining to your "Bible-touting" rural neighbors that you keep all those candles in case of a power failure.

Ellen in No. Hollywood says to tell Bethea to check office supply stores for the colored sealing wax. She says they often carry it. And if she still can't find it, write to Ellen, POB 9513, No. Hollywood, Ca. 91609...and she'll arrange to get it. Ellen would also like to mention that she puts out a newsletter, RUNES, but says nothing about price.

Ellen also wants to remind you of her referral service.

Okay, Ellen, you're out of the dog house.

NEW YORK

MASTIC BEACH - Demeter says the 1st Pagan Festival near Kingston was delightful. Tzipora & Frank did a great job in planning and carrying out the whole works and certainly deserve credit. They are planning another festival in February but don't know the details yet. Would like to share the following Bedtime Prayer. It doesn't hurt for adults either as we are all children at heart.

Guard us all, Goddess	while we all sleep
while we are small.	Thy powers ever strong and deep.
Watch over us all	Guard us all, Spirits,
'til we grow tall.	as you must
Guard us all, Goddess	In Perfect Love and Perfect Trust.

BLESSED BE!

It's followed by kisses. I usually add a light and lilting giggly touch to the "Guard us all, Spirits, etc." so Erica knows they are not the boogie-men her schoolmates are so afraid of much of the time.

Would like some advice if possible from anyone, and they can write direct.

Demeter has not found Goddess statues in the star position, so she is trying to make some inexpensive ones herself to carry in the shoppe. She has made one of Mexican Pottery Clay, but now that it is drying, it is cracking at the joint areas. Write to Demeter, Ye Full Moon Wicca, 366 Neighborhood Rd., Mastic Beach, N.Y. 11951.

WORDS OF WISDOM

from Ellen: How many Witches does it take to change a light bulb?
Depends on what they're going to change it into.

She liked small men so she thought she'd find one at the movie house because they advertized "Selected Short Subjects".

Have you seen the new female traffic lights? They take a long time to change.

She thought he must be German because he promised to take her to Der Wienerschnitzel for dinner on their first date.

Doctor, I don't understand why this patient is so upset. I'm just following your instructions. You misunderstood, Miss Jones. I said you should clean his SPECTACLES with hot alcohol.

COLORADO

FT. COLLINS - Tanya has found a nice book of parchment, and is now re-doing her B.O.S. She's also busy ordering books. And now she's making her own Tarot deck. All this in addition to her school work. Scorpios do keep busy.

Louisiana

NEW IBERIA - Karen is still hoping to hear from other Pagans in her area. She has promised to send photos of her paintings for the newsletter. She also keeps busy making stained glass jewelry: necklaces, bracelets, and rings.

NEW JERSEY

HACKENSACK - Finally a letter from Ellen. Ellen had a few complications but her Witchling, Keith, arrived 10/9/79 and both are okay. She was looking forward to a visit from Paul and Connie. We hope they made it. Ellen says Marion Weinstein's annual Samhain ritual on WBAI at midnite was fantastic.

CALIFORNIA

Mariah attended the party at the Crystal Cave occult shop. She says they all sang this song but she doesn't know who wrote it.

THE THIRTEEN MOONS OF YULE

On the first day of Yuletide my true love gave to me.... etc.

- 1- A Golden Bough in an Oak tree
- 2- Two Lovers Loving
- 3- Three Pentagrams
- 4- Four Blowing Winds
- 5- Five Trees Of Life
- 6- Six Ways Of Sensing
- 7- Seven Cauldrons Swirling
- 8- Eight Sabbat Fires
- 9- Nine Stones For Stepping
- 10- Ten Pagans Dancing
- 11- Eleven Stags A Leaping
- 12- Twelve Signs Of Changing
- 13 - Thirteen Moons A Shining

-Harraya!!

NEW YORK

BUFFALO - Rhadamanthus & Galadriel went to Cleveland recently to attend the workshops led by Selena Fox & Jim Alan. It was sponsored by Cleveland's Chameleon Club and a Gardnerian Pagan Grove. They really enjoyed it. There are now plans for a three hour radio program on Wicca.

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY WE TURN PEOPLE INTO:

Jittery, jumpy, jerky jetsam.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM W. C. PASTURE

Kids should be seen and heard only on TV by satellite!

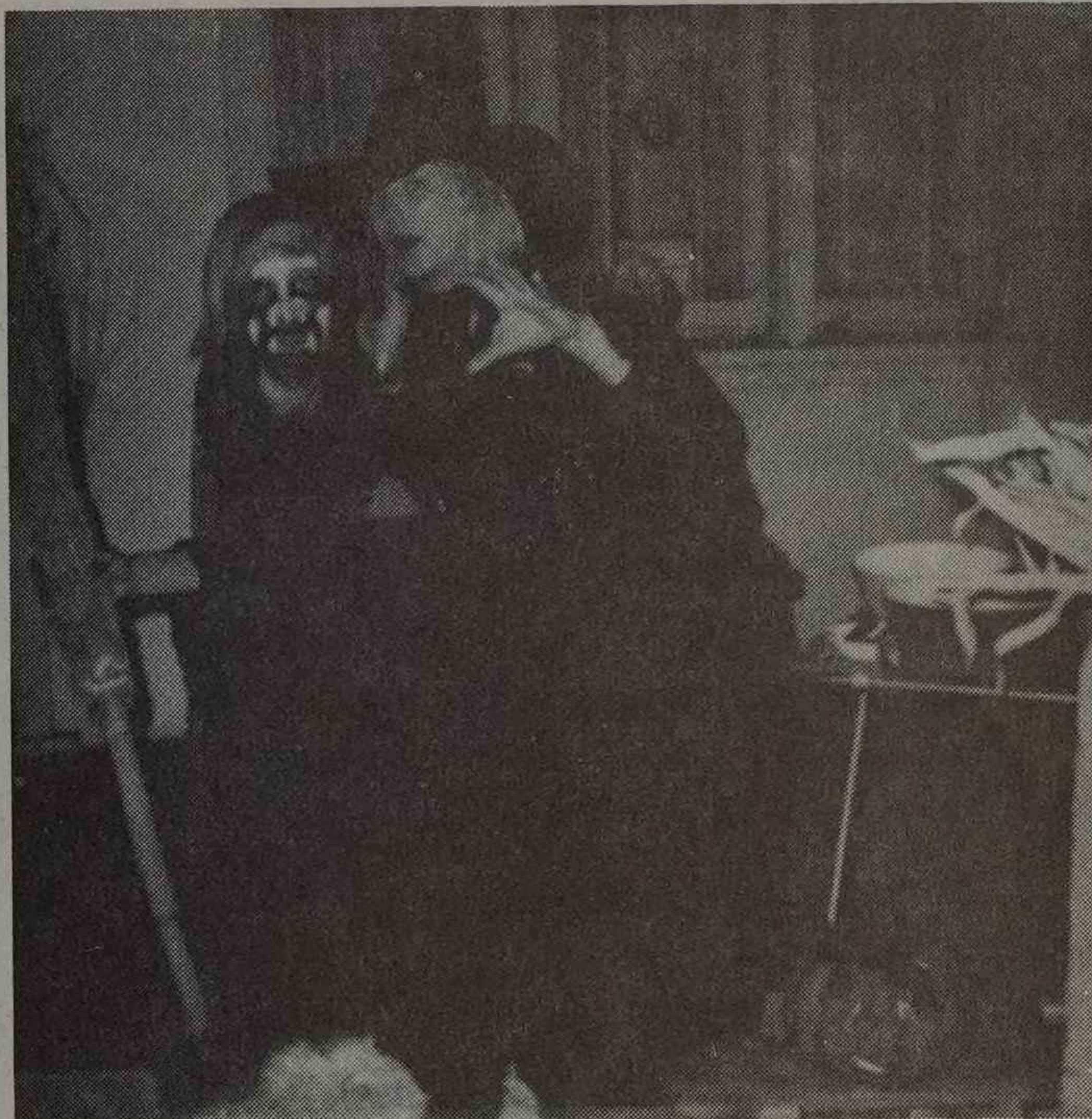
A NEW T SHIRT SAYS: I'm not Fat. I'm Pregnant!

BUMPER STICKER: Jesus is coming. Glad he found out that it's fun!

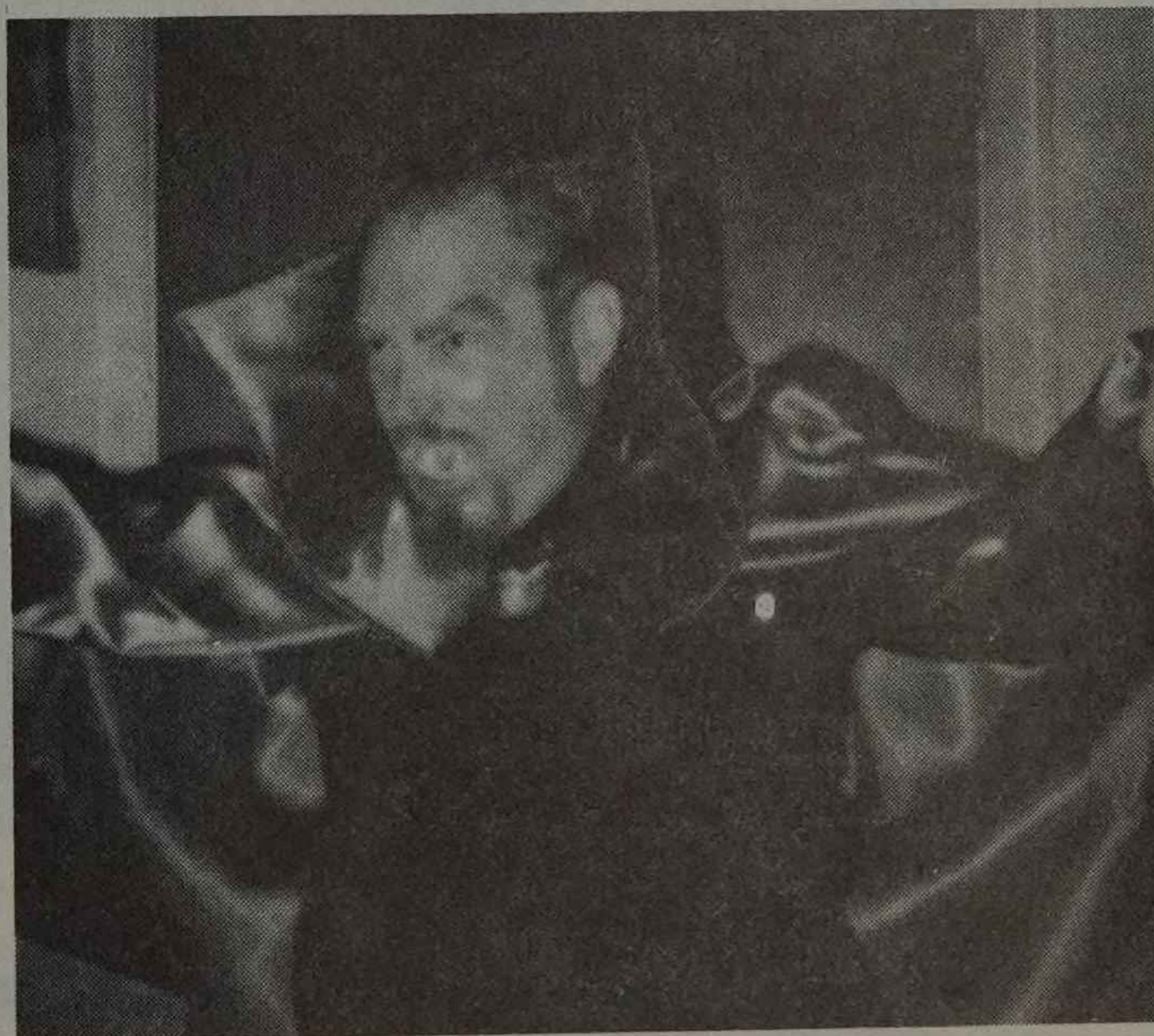
WORDS OF WISDOM

Have you noticed that Jews seem to have a better attitude toward us than Xians? They know about persecution.

Judith at Hallows
instructing a minor
neighborhood demon.



Hallows in Bakersfield
brings out the vampires.
Guess who?



**Church Of Micra
Of Bakersfield
1908 Verde Street
Bakersfield, Ca. 93304
(805) 323-3309**

STONEHENGE



HENGE MONUMENT

AVEBURY



PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH - Bobbi says she is very excited. She has had correspondence from various people but none close enough to meet. Now she has an appointment to meet a HPs from a local coven. We hope it went well for you, Bobbi. This came from Bobbi:

She is in every piece of grass
and every tree I pass
She is in the evening dew
and every morning new

She's in the rain that falls from the sky
She's in the tears that fall from the eye
She'll aid you on a magical plight
She's the fire on a cold dark night

She is in the world around
that's filled with sights and sound
She aids me when I'm sad
She's happy when I'm glad

Just call Her name and She'll be there
Anytime of the day or year.
DIANA!

*

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*

ORTANNA, PA. - Finally a letter from Susan again. Susan has changed a lot in the past year. She has moved from Gettysburg, and is no longer so solitary... she and Dusty are studying together.

MISSOURI

COLUMBIA - Le Ann is happy with her new job. She says she's taking the suggestion about the self-drying clay. She is also busy on the pre tapes, and would like to hear from other Pagans. Le Ann says: "I just bought a new book by John Sharkey called CELTIC MYSTERIES and have already finished it. It has lots of photos and some really good information. It has helped me to gain some insight into the Celtic religion.

ARIZONA

TUCSON - Rik says he's doing a term paper on The Social Implications Of Wicca In A Modern World. Any help will be appreciated. He is also preparing a lecture on Wicca and would appreciate any info on anti-Witch actions: names, dates, actions, etc.

Rik says: "I really like Being A Witch Is..., but has anyone ever thought of what Being Married To A Witch is like?"

BEING MARRIED TO A WITCH IS....

- ...asking your husband to hide his altar when your parents come to visit.
- ...going to church regularly because he goes to Sabbats without fail.
- ...refusing to let the kids into a Circle because they might enjoy it.
- ...holding your ear to the wall to find out what they really do at the Sabbat in the next room.

YULE by Kristina S. in Bluebell, Pa.

How cruelly doth a Yule wind blow,
 How brightly doth it shine.
 For in the grey skies
 A joy draweth nigh;
 It is the rebirth of the Sun!

The Shadows Book tells of that story,
 A happening long, long ago;
 When Diana, Our Lady
 Bore forth a bright Baby,
 'twas the first rebirth of the Sun!

Then dance merrily 'round the Circle,
 And raise the cups of ale high.
 Chant the bright invocation,
 From dark to dawn make celebration;
 Now is the rebirth of the Sun!

Bid your last farewells to the Horned One;
 Now he starts on his journey home.
 The Bright King is coming
 To our powerful summoning:
 "Bring to us the rebirth of the Sun!"

The Wicca know a promise
 of green softness in a white snow;
 On a night in December
 They shall gather together
 To greet the rebirth of the Sun!

The Old Ones shall never desert us,
 Though the days be barren and cold,
 In the bleakest weather
 They have promised forever
 The Yuletide rebirth of the Sun!

Then let us all kneel in their honor,
 And follow the ways They have laid.
 Hold their names sacred;
 They will bring forth the awaited:
 Blessed Be the rebirth of the Sun!

* * *

THIS IS FROM ARMEETA in Pittsburgh.

For you wildcrafters, whenever you are out in the wilderness and get hungry and have no food available...find an elm tree and chew the leaves. It assuages hunger. For anyone who gets mouth ulcers, chew maple leaves. For any pains, instead of using aspirin, get a willow branch and chew the bark. It has natural salicylate comparable to aspirin. Anyway, it relieves pain. But an excellent pain killer is having enough calcium in the system. Take several calcium tablets, preferably with vitamin "C" for better absorption. For an upset stomach due to indigestion, there's nothing better than peppermint tea. Works quick. Magic.

* * *

BEING A WITCH IS..... from Miranda in Honolulu

...explaining to your parents why you ripped off the silver cup and insist on calling it a chalice.

...sewing the hem of your drapes that your cats have ripped up while playing with the elementals on full moon.

from Manon in Modesto

...libating with chocolate chip cookies and fruit punch after your child mistakenly took the Sabbat cakes and wassail to school for the Xmas party.

STUFF AND THINGS

Our very special thanks to all of you who sent so very many beautiful Yule cards. We really do appreciate it.

Well, the time has come for all of you to cast your votes for the Georgian awards. One vote for each category from each subscriber.

Nominations for the best article, series, or whatever in the newsletter in 1979.

Karen for her series on herbs

Rus & Ruthi for their BEING A WITCH IS..

Sabra for her article on Craft unity

Bobbi for Gollum's Collum

Levanah for her series on Hex

Pan for his series on Morris Dancing

Nominations for the person or group who did the most for Craft/Paganism in 1979.

Our thanks for nominating your editor for the newsletter but we must disqualify that one.

Elizabeth Pepper for The Witches' Almanac

Catherine & Kent for "The Wiccan" and their other work in Australia.

The Mid-west Pagan Council for the Pan-Pagan Festival.

Well, there you have all the nominations as of deadline date (12/25) so send in your votes before 1/25.

This issue of the newsletter completes our fourth year of publication. We begin the fifth year with the next issue. That reminds us that many of you have subscriptions due for the next issue. If there is no number after your name, that means your sub is due for the next issue. If there is a number following your name on the address label, that is the month your sub will be due.

Our thanks to those of you who have requested back issues. We have very few back issues for any month. We just can't afford to print up a lot more than we need, and any extra copies are usually ordered before the end of the month. Subscription is \$3.00 yr. or \$5.00 foreign. We lose money on it.

Reminder: when you send mail to be forwarded, please put it in a stamped envelope or at least enclose a stamp. Our postage bills are unbelievable. Fortunately we have paid our annual permit fee (\$40.) to the Post Office for 1980, but we still have to pay for each batch of newsletters as they go out. On letters we must use regular stamps.

BEING A WITCH IS

...trying to get out the newsletter each month and answer about 200 letters each month with the help of only one part-time secretary on the weekends...and wondering where to find five more.

Most of this page should have been in last month's edition. In fact, the page had even been printed...but I somehow misplaced that whole stack of pages.

FROM MARILEE & ED IN SAN DIEGO

Scott told us he planned to write a long informative letter telling you all about our Hallows celebrations. We've been having them officially now for seven years, and they get better every year. Our smallest consisting of 13 people, and our largest with approximately 60! This year we were fortunate to have had not only newspaper publicity but TV as well -- all very positive - I might add, which made us all very happy.

At Hallows, we danced around the cauldron singing the Witches Song by Selena Fox, invoked the Horned God and presented our petitions for the coming year.

Our feast consisted of, in part, Hallows Stew, Salad, Home-made bread, Cinnamon Ice Cream (made with honey) served with Sabbat Cakes and Apple Cider! What a beautiful harvest this year brought forth.

After feasting, we played two old parlor games (Slicing Flour, and Snapdragon) danced, sang and were merry bringing in the Celtic New Year! But enough of our Hallows celebration --you'll read details of that when you hear from Scott.

ED. NOTE: We never did get those details from Scott, but this covered it very well. He did send a letter, though.

* * *

HELPFUL HINT FOR BEGINNERS

Merle brought up this helpful hint while we were talking recently: When you are doing a ritual in the Circle, you DO NOT raise your athame until the HPs has raised hers.

* * *

BEING A WITCH IS..... from Puck in Michigan

...being invited to a Baptist Revival...and trying to keep a straight face.

...putting down "Wicca" on a computer dating form in the spot for religion...and watching the computer have a nervous breakdown.

from Manon in Modesto

...explaining to the doctor how your athame slipped from its scabbard and stuck in your foot.

...having a Xian realtor list your house...OWNER PAYS CLOSING COST, BUYER PAYS EXORCIST.

...telling a prospective buyer that the room with the Circle painted on the floor is really a game room.

BEING AN AIR FORCE WITCH IS..... from Rik in Tucson

...volunteering for guard duty on Sunday morning because the entire flight is about to be marched to church.

MAINE

PORTLAND - Jeff has a small occult shop there. Says he meets lots of interesting people but none who claim to be Wiccan. Too bad, Jeff. You should have written sooner. We did know two others in Maine who have recently left the state. So, now Jeff and a couple of friends are meeting with Paul & Connie (N.H.). Jeff says he did recently get to speak on radio about the Craft, and the local TV was preparing a 5 part series on the occult.

NEVADA

Barda says she would have liked to take her daughter to the tree planting in Northern Cal., but did send some cash. Barda has been very busy making toys and stocking stuffers for a needy family.

CALIFORNIA

NORTH HOLLYWOOD - Ellen Says: NINE APPLES, which I mentioned in one of my earlier letters, is a book of modern Pagan poetry, ritual, and essays. It is going to be available from Artemesia Press. I don't know everyone who had something accepted for it, but I have a poem in there, the Lady Phoenix does, and so does our friend Cyprian.

Oops, sorry about not sending the address for CIRCLE OF CERRIDWEN, 10196-152 nd St., Surrey, B.C. Canada V3R 6N7. Really a worthwhile newsletter, and it is free.

Ellen still would like more recipes for Le Cauldron Bleu. Also would like other little helpful hints even if they don't have to do with cooking. Sothistar Centre, POB 9513, N. Hollywood, Cal. 91609.

SAN JOSE - Gail Says: I've recently finished reading "When God Was A Woman" by Merlin Stone. She presents a very interesting & possible theory that certainly gives one food for thought. Mike even enjoyed it tho' "that's not his kind of book". We've also just read a book by Sax Rohmer, titled "The Romance Of Sorcery" that was very educational and very readable. Seems that in addition to being the creator of the character Fu Manchu, Mr. Rohmer was a sorcerer and a member of the Golden Dawn.

BEING A WITCH IS

- ...knocking over the petitioner's candle with your bare elbow when suddenly bending over to retrieve the lit match you just dropped on your equally bare foot, and then wondering if you're really helping the petitioner's migraines.

and from Rhea in Georgia

- ...getting in a rush at work and inadvertantly signing an inter-office memo "Blessed Be".
- ...taking a ritual bath in an icy mountain stream in 50 degree weather..
- ...trying to stay out of Pat's dog-house... (Cat-house is more fun!)

WORDS OF WISDOM

PLEASE SHUT UP!

Selene (Bakersfield) brought this to us. She says it is by an unknown author. Vulcan says it was in John Wayne's will that this be read at his graveside.

Do not stand at my grave and weep:	when you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am not there; I do not sleep.	I am the swift uplifting rush
I am the thousand winds that blow.	of quiet birds in Circle flight.
I am the diamond glints on snow.	I am the soft stars that shine at night.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.	Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am the gentle Autumn rain.	I am not there. I did not die.

How can you get more Pagan than that? We're going to add this to our Rite For The Dead.

* * *

HELPFUL HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

The titles "Lady" and "Lord" are sometimes used when referring to an HPs and HP...for those who care to use them. The Georgians are not hung up on titles. The usage may be peculiar mostly to the U.S. Catherine & Kent (Australia) say they do not use such titles in their country....HPS and HP are quite sufficient. Anyone have any comment on this? Remember, if you write them, address your letters only: The Editors, The Wiccan.

She told the cop after she drove through the plate glass window, "Well, the sign says 'DRIVE IN' so I did!"

She replied indignantly, "NO, I was not frightened by a vampire! It's a new hair style that just looks that way."

FROM SCOTT IN SAN DIEGO:

Recently as three of us were making up the cakes for Hallows, I was introduced to "Mandrake Madness". This new recipe we were following (brought by a new Craft friend) included mandrake. Well, I ate two of the finished cakes and a lot of the dough in various stages of completion.

The dough was rather bitter, but it tasted pretty good. Later that night I got deathly ill. I looked up mandrake in my herb books..and surprise! American Indians used to use the American Mandrake (as far as I know, the only type of mandrake sold in the States) to commit suicide! It causes all sorts of unpleasant contortions to the anatomy. Suffice it to say, I won't be using mandrake in any future baking.

Next time he comes around, think I'll give him a Mandrake Milkshake!

BEING A WITCH IS

- ...throwing the cards or rune sticks to see if it's a good time for divination.
- ...drawing a Circle around the hot tub.
- ...finding an old lamp, rubbing it, and watching Aleister Crowley pop out and say, "Gotcha!"
- ...asking directions to the nearest skylad beach.

FLORIDA

BRADENTON - Penny busy with her job, Craft studies, etc. She's hoping for a job advancement. Says she put up a Yule tree with a Witch on top.

GAINESVILLE - Haven't heard from Jenny this month. To the cat house.

CALIFORNIA

WINCHESTER - Jim working lots of overtime. Says there is lots of wild mistletoe in his area. Lots of kissing going on there???

SAN DIEGO - Leonard says local Crafters need to make more contact. Stop by "Ye Olde Enchantment Shoppe" 4682 Iowa St. take 805 S. to Adams, right on Adams to Iowa, and turn right. OR. take 805 N. to El Cajon Blvd., left to 30 th St., right to Adams, right across 805 to Iowa, and turn right.

SAN JOSE - nine typed pages from Gail about her trip to British Columbia. Very nice but we can't print that book just now. She also says that to keep cheese pancakes from sticking to one another, you put grated or ground cheese in the batter. Okay, Gail, we tried it. You're right. They won't stick to one another, but they don't taste the same. I like my way better: when you flip the pancake, smear it with butter, then spread the top with thin slices of aged cheddar cheese. They will stick to one another, but they do taste GREAT! But don't plan on going swimming for at least a few hours.

COLORADO

DENVER - Karen says they've had blizzard weather there. She found a statue shop moving out of the state, so she picked up some nice statues at a bargain. Karen was planning a trip to Texas. Hope she made it...and didn't find another blizzard.

TEXAS

DALLAS - A nice, long phone call from Lady Phoenix. Don't forget..she still wants material for "Wicca Ways. Send to CIRCLE OF THE UNICORN, attn: Lady Phoenix, POB 45061, Dallas, Texas 75245. She also sent these:

BEING A HIGH PRIESTESS IS

...reading something your newest initiate wrote about her initiation, and having to grope for the Kleenex box as you read.

...wondering how to answer that last question you heard, and finding the words just smoothly tumbling out of your mouth while you look in awe and wonder at these self-sufficient words that somehow came out in your voice. (Thanks again, Mother!)

...trying to stay one half step ahead of your students

...wondering what you look like and sound like when your students say you changed as you were talking...or during ritual after the invocation.

BOOKS & THINGS

We mentioned last month that we had just received the latest book from Llewellyn Publications: The Llewellyn Practical Guide To ASTRAL PROJECTION by Melita Denning and Osborne Philips. We have often been asked by both readers and our local people to recommend books on Astral Projection but really didn't feel that anything we had found were of much value. Most just tell of a number of experiences but gave little in the way of "how to" information. This book is different. It gives step-by-step instruction and guides you through practice sessions. If you have any interest in this subject, this book will be a welcome addition to your library. \$5.95 from Llewellyn Publications, Box 43383, St. Paul, Minn. 55164...or you can probably find it in your bookstore.

Bakersfield people will surely want to visit the new Insight Book Shoppe on H Street. The stock of books has grown quite a bit since our last visit, and they also have a number of cassettes for meditation, hypnosis, etc. Darlene, one of the owners, (and a real doll) gave an excellent one hour interview on metaphysics on a local radio station recently. She also told of a number of planned lecturers, readers, etc. to be part of a continuing program of the shop. Recent sessions have been drawing so many people that Darlene is in the process of looking for a large hall to hold these happenings.

We're still hoping for someone to do a more complete review on Margot Adler's Drawing Down The Moon. We've had only good comments from everyone who has read it. \$16.95, published by Viking Press.

* * *

WORDS OF WISDOM

this one from Rhea in Georgia

Do you know how all the Jewish merchants celebrate Christmas???

They join hands and dance around the cash register, singing, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"!!!!

and this one from Manon in Modesto

Overheard during a discussion among religious leaders:

And how do you acquire your income?

Catholic Priest: I draw a line down the center of the altar. Then I dump the money on the altar. What goes on the right is for God, the money on the left is mine.

Baptist: Well, I make two piles of the money. Here's one for God, and one for me, one for God and one for me.

Rabbi: I put all the money in a basket. Then I stand under a large tree. I toss all the money high into the air. God takes what he wants, and what comes down is mine.

Wiccan High Priest: I'm on welfare.

* * *

GOLLUM'S COLLUM

MEOW. First, let me say how sorry I am about being late in wishing everyone a very Happy Yule and New Year. Bright Blessings to all.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO

No matter how much you love and care for that beautiful fur spirit in your heart and home, the day may come when Kitty's just too old, too sick, or too deaf and blind to live happily or comfortably any longer. Then it may be time to put him peacefully to rest.

Don't take the burden on alone. This is a hard decision, and you should consult your trusted vet. This is a painful decision, and if made too casually, it may cause you regret.

Once the decision is made, however, do not cause yourself extra pain by hesitating.

Today's animal euthanasia is quick, painless injection... "euthanaire" method. It brings sleep without pain or anxiety. If your Puss is in pain, it is not love but only selfishness that would have him linger. It is time then to put him to rest, to perhaps make room in your heart and home for some young fur spirit, anxious for life, who may not be given such a chance unless you take him in.

The decision is a hard one to make, but our fur spirits are much better off than our humans. Puss doesn't have to live and die in pain.

MAU - No, it is not necessary for you to get fat; after your operation it is up to you.

SAMMIE - Happy to hear that your stitches are to be removed soon. Now you can play around and not worry about a new litter of kittens, and you'll have time to study and become a great Witch Cat.

ISIS, OSIRIS, & SOUJIE - What lovely names, and I love the way your human referred to you as the Children of Bast's!

I thank you, as I am sure that other of our fur friends will also, for the following recipe for ear mite.

MITE MED # 1

1 oz. olive oil, 1 capsule 400 I.U. vitamin E
Shake well and refrigerate. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ dropful in each ear for 3 days. After the 3 days of using Mite Med # 1, follow procedure with Mite Med # 2 which consists of: tea of rosemary (or rue) brewed in one cup of water, and steeped for 10 min. After cooling, add 5 tablespoons of Witch Hazel extract. Shake, and use warm once a day for 3 days...again, $\frac{1}{2}$ drop in each ear.
Mite Med # 1 is for killing mites and starting the healing process, and Mite Med # 2 is for cleaning out any residue and relieving any inflammation.

Thank you, Soujie.

JANIS - You didn't tell me the names of your cats. So maybe the next time you write you can tell me. Hope to hear from you soon.

MEOW.

Bright Blessings, and may the Lady walk with you always.

GOLLUM

STUFF AND THINGS

Ignore the change of address for Arcane Crafts. For awhile yet it will remain 181 Bergen St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217. They got the house they wanted but won't be moving yet.

Karen, Louisiana wants contacts. Also Vicki in Sulphur, Ok., Also Warren in Mesa, Az.

MORE STUFF AND THINGS

Lady Alusha, Pismo-S.L.O. Area - will consider some new students. Especially have room for males. She would also like Celtic or other Pagan myths that she can rewrite for children.

Don't forget that Lady Phoenix still would like material for her book "Wicca Ways", about differences within various Craft branches and covens. Write to: Circle Of The Unicorn, attn: Lady Phoenix, POB 45061, Dallas, Texas 75245. To contact those for whom I give no address, send your letter with envelope and stamp, and I'll forward.

Guess that pretty well covers the news. Don't forget: deck your address label. This may be your last newsletter if your subscription is due.

* * *

WORDS OF WISDOM:

She's so dumb that she thinks V.D. means very delicious.

And how would you like a love seat, young lady?

I came with one already built in.

She thinks dildos have something to do with dill pickles.

BEING A WITCH IS.....

(from Demeter (Ye Full Moon Wicca))

- ...buying Maxwell House instant coffee because it has a pentagram on the lid
- ...buying Comet Cleanser because it has red and gold and a pentagram.

BEING A WITCH CAT IS....

(from Manon in Modesto)

- ...waiting to hear the High Pussy finish the Great Rite. YEOW - WOW!
- ...trying not to purr while being annointed by another covener.

BEING THE LITTLEST WITCH IS ...

(by Gwenkin, who is only 6 in. tall)

- ...needing a ladder to light the candles.
- ...a wild ride around the Circle on Morgan Le Fay's back.
- ...consecrating a thimble for use as a chalice.
- ...discovering a scale-model of Lost Atlantis at the bottom of Pat's fish tank.
- ...making a broom out of one of Rus's paint brushes.

BEING A WITCH IS.....

(from Rus & Ruthi, Arcane Crafts)

- ...the coven was so secretive, they held Circles in the broom closet.
- ...the coven was so small, they got only one frame in Hans Holzer's movie.
- ...the coven was so rich, even the matches they lit candles with were made by Arcane Crafts.

* * *

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS.

LOVE AND BLESSED BE.

PAT AND ALL THE GEORGIANS.