Photo of the Month

Halloween



Negative# N009383

Costumes and costume parties have been part of the Halloween tradition for a long time; here John and Pauline Black of Rogers show off their costumes, made by an aunt, about 1919. [John Black later went on to serve as Benton County sheriff, in the Arkansas State Police, and as Bentonville police chief.] But in turn-of-the-20th-century Rogers, Halloween was celebrated more often with "tricks" than with "treats."

The same was true across the nation during the 19th and early 20th centuries: girls might celebrate Halloween with apple-bobbing and "dress-up" parties, but for their brothers and the community at large, the essence of Halloween was mayhem and pranksterism.