



## Frankfort Area Historical Society of Will County, Illinois

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### September-October 2021



### Halloweens Past in Frankfort

*Ed. Note- The following tales come down to us from the FAHS Oral History archives.*

**Al Krusemark** (1915-2014): Oh, Halloween was always prank time. In those days we still had some outdoor plumbing. Tipping the outdoor plumbing and throwing hedge apples at the doors and then we would put a string on the front door and use resin to make noises and that sort of thing.

**Frank G. Folkers** (1929-2017): I behaved myself. The most I would do was go Tricks and Treating. However, in those years the Folkers Brothers old equipment which was – oh, there's a hay rack, and there was a tank wagon, ...there was another wheeled vehicle that was all metal, all steel – that was a road trader, there were several dump wagons which were fun to play with, and as a boy I used to like to go down there and climb all over those wagons, ...Came Halloween, other kids in the town, usually the older kids – what we called the BIG kids- would go down there and they would pull 'em and carry and cart and drag as many of those

things as they possibly could all over town. And one year, I remember, they took a fairly heavy wagon – it was a corn wagon-I think the wheels of it are in front of Gracie's – the Frankfort Tavern now even yet. They put it on top of that canopy overhanging the sidewalk in front of the Frankfort Tavern, and then they dragged a hay rack. I don't remember how we got that wagon down off that roof I think that was a project of my Grandfather and Uncle Peter. I don't know how that came down... I do remember having to go over to the school yard and pick up the hay rack and attach it to the back of the wagon and drag it back down to the pasture. So, it made no sense for me to join in that "fun" because I had to go out the next day and clean it up. And besides, I tremble to think of what would be said to me and what possibly could happen to me if I ever did anything like that.

**George Sangmeister** (1931-2007): I remember the time on Halloween, we thought it was funny to go out and get the manure spreader of Herbert Folkers out on the farm. We took that and went right down the middle of Main Street about one o'clock in the morning and we just covered it with manure. When my father found out that I was involved in that, I had to get all the same people together with shovels and the next morning, we shoved up

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*At the turn of the century, Constable Knippel had the dual job of law enforcement officer and lamp-lighter. Each evening just before dark, he would make his rounds lowering each lamp, lighting it, then raising it back into position. The lamps were hung on pulleys over the intersections. To conserve on tax payers' money, he would make the rounds once again at 1:00 a.m. and turn out all of the lamps.*