



# **JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **HALLOWEEN - 10/31/2007**

**HOW DID THE TERM "HALLOWEEN" ORIGINATE?**

***Definition:*** A contraction of "all hallows even," the evening before All Saints' Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) in the Christian church. "Hallow" is derived from old English meaning "holy person."

***Online Etymology:*** Circa 1745, Scottish shortening of *Allhallow-even* "Eve of All Saints, last night of October" (1556), the last night of the year in the old Celtic calendar, where it was *Old Year's Night*, a night for witches.

***History:*** In the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, Samhain was assimilated into more Roman traditions that took place in October, such as their day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees.

In 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Ireland the pagan Druids celebrated a holiday called Samhain on October 31<sup>st</sup> (last day of the Celtic calendar), when witches, evil spirits and souls of the dead roamed the land.

"*Trick-or-treating*" originated with a 9<sup>th</sup> century European custom called "souling." On November 2, All Souls Day, early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes" (square pieces of bread with currants). In return, the beggars would say prayers on behalf of the donors' dead relatives.

**Conventional Wisdom:** Halloween = A Trick or Treat evening out

**M of Z:** Tradition - it is easier to substitute than to create