



World Herald

Mrs. Eyth, at left in poodle costume, with . . . Riordan triplets, baby deer and Mrs. Keith.

Lincoln Children's Zoo Fest Is 'Halloween Hullabaloo'

By Tom Allan

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Julie Eyth, public services coordinator of Lincoln's Folsom Children's Zoo, believes in fairy tales.

She has ever since an idea she planted four years ago grew faster than Jack's fabled beanstalk.

The idea was to open the zoo, which was closed for the season, and stage a Halloween Hullabaloo for the younger children.

Big Turnout

"I got to thinking there are a lot of haunted house parties for older children," recalled the mother of two. "But there was little else for smaller children except going from door to door trick-or-treating. So we decided to provide the youngsters a fun but safe treat."

Halloween at the zoo turned out to be no monkey business.

"We were floored when 1,100 showed up for the first year and each year it has just kept growing," Mrs. Eyth said. "Last year we had 5,000."

This year the fun fest will be held between 6 and 8:30 p.m. Oct. 25 through 29.

The regular admission price is \$1.50 for children and \$1 for each required accompanying adult. The children receive a treat bag worth a dollar.

The bags are empty — but not for long. Part of the fun is taking them to 12 stations throughout the grounds where volunteers fill them with candy or a toy.

Lots More

There's more, much more.

The grounds are turned into a Halloween fairyland with seasonal decorations and costumed volunteer attendants. The Iron Horse Railroad will have a full head of steam and be running. The snack bar will be open and the antique popcorn wagon will be poppin'.

Magician Greg Ebert will perform, and there will be a chance for apple bobbin' and to see some of the zoo animals.

"There won't be any ghosts or scary stuff," said Mrs. Eyth. "We'll have some witches but they'll be pretty or funny witches."

She was in a cuddly poodle costume and Mrs. Brenda Keith, the zoo office manager, looked like a widely known star of the Muppets as they gave a sneak preview for the costumed 6-year-old triplets of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Riordan of Lincoln.

Lois was dressed as Little Red Riding Hood; Anne, the grandma, and Patrick, the wolf, in costumes created by their mother. A baby deer muzzled its way into the scene.