

The Reaper Harvest

Cutting to the core of the news since 1776

Halloween

Grimsby Graves gives up ghost

Terrified townie reports return of Evil-Eyed Emil

Reaper Junction - The body of prominent Reaper Junction resident, Grimsby Graves, was found early this morning at the bottom of a newly dug grave in the Reaper Cemetery. The eerie find was made by sheriff's deputies after they received a call from a local resident.

Graves, whose ancestors helped found the town in 1770, owned the large estate that borders both the cemetery and the pumpkin farm of Jack Lantern.

Deputies began searching the area after George Shrub, a gardener who lives a short distance down the road from the estate, reported seeing the ghost of Evil-Eyed Emil in a nearby woods. Shrub stated he was on a late-night stroll when the apparition came toward him. He identified Emil by a misshapen right eye which, said Shrub, almost glowed in the light of the full moon. "I love to walk and I always take a walk after dinner," stated Shrub. "The whole town knows I do."

Nearly everyone in Reaper Junction has heard of the curse that was placed on the Graves family by Emil. Very little is known about the real occurrence. Emil was a resident of Reaper Junction who was said to have had an evil right eye. People felt that, if Emil glanced that them, bad things would happen.

On Halloween night a century ago, Emil was escorted out of town by a mob led by the three Graves bothers, one of whom was an ancestor of Grimsby Graves. As he was tossed out into the stormy night, Emil vowed to wreak vengeance of those



The body of Grimsby Graves was found at the bottom of this freshly dug grave in the Reaper Cemetery.

who had done this to him.

Nothing else is known about Emil. Even the newspaper accounts in *The Reaper Harvest* have been lost. Many people think that the Graves family used its influence to erase all memories of the incident - only the word-of-mouth stories remain. No one knows what happened to Emil after he was thrown out of town.

Gregory Graves, the son of the deceased, resided in the Graves Mansion with his father. He reported that the two of them had finished dinner and consumed slices of a special pie shortly before the elder Graves made an abrupt exit through the front door of the mansion.

"I had no idea where he was going," said the younger Graves. "It was as if he was on a mission and had to get out of the house."

Earlier yesterday, Tara Cardoli,

the town's mystic and fortune teller had visited Graves to give him a private reading. "I can't tell you what I saw in the cards and in my crystal ball," emphasized Cardoli. "Even in death, my customers deserve to have their personal situations kept out of the public's eye. No matter how disliked he was, the dead always deserve respect."

Later, barber Todd Sweeney was at the mansion cutting Graves's hair. "He was a regular customer of mine and always had me use my straight razor to give him just the right look," explained Sweeney. "The key is to make sure the razor is very sharp."

Baker Penelope Crust admitted baking a pie that she had delivered to the Graves estate around 8:30 in the evening. "It was a pie that Grimsby Graves ordered regularly," said Crust. "My pies are baked according

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Sales again brisk at Lantern pumpkin farm

Reaper Junction - Local pumpkin farmer Jack Lantern reports another great year of sales. Lantern, whose 30-acre farm borders the Reaper Cemetery, runs the area's premier pumpkin patch.



Lantern pumpkins

Every year, people from miles around make Lantern's a mandatory stop when preparing for Halloween.

"In addition to the pumpkins," says Lantern, "people love the costumes, decorations and make-up that I sell in the gift shop."

At one time, the Lantern farm was larger than it is today, but, over the years, much of the land has been purchased by the Graves family.

Graves gives up ghost

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to old family recipes. The only way you can get them is by calling or stopping in at the Reaper Bakery.”

The grave in which the body was found contained a casket with the corpse of Hadrian Corpus, a Reaper who had been laid to rest yesterday afternoon. “Sometimes the grave digger doesn’t get a chance to cover the hole until the next day,” explained mortician Bella Bones. “Who would have guessed that this could have happened? But life goes on. It’s always followed closely by death, of course.

“You’ll have to pardon me if I don’t feel sorry about what happened. I’ve been suspicious of Grimsby Graves for nearly 40 years. If Emil wouldn’t have gotten him, someone else would have.”

Through the years, the Graves family has purchased property and land throughout the area. Grimsby Graves inherited the estate from his father, Gorsby. Gregory Graves is the only known heir and is expected to inherit all of his father’s financial holdings.

No official cause of death has yet been listed. Sheriff Elmo Law told reporters that an investigative report will be released shortly with important information about the case.

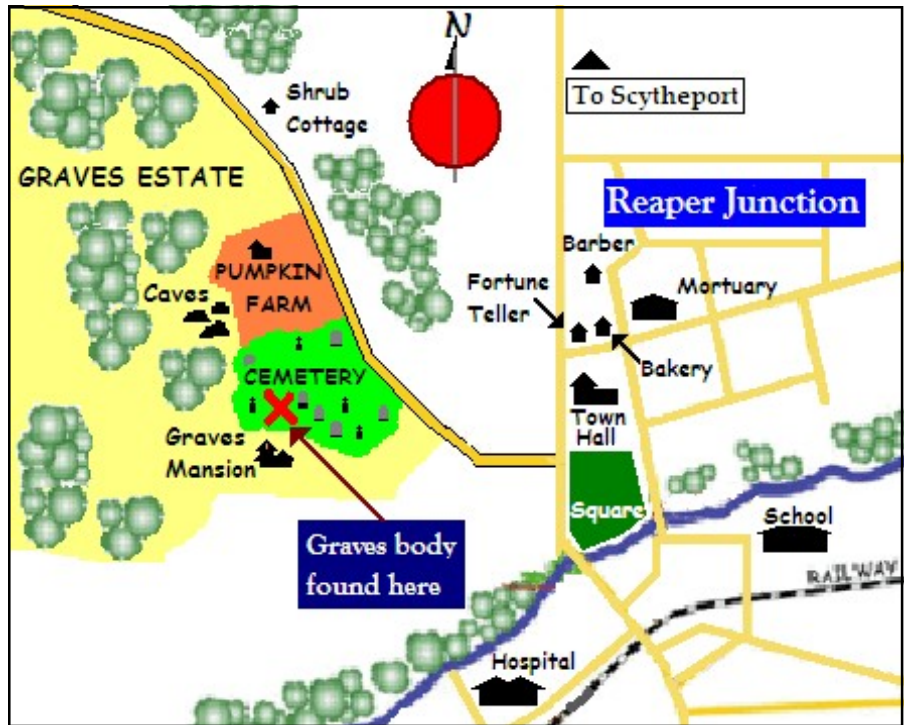
Bat bites cause consternation to unknowing victims

State University - Researchers at the State University have found that many people who are bitten by bats don’t realize they’ve been the victims of lightning-fast attacks. The team of bat specialists discovered cuts on the faces and hands of people who entered bat caves and swore they had exited unscathed. “Bats are sneaky,” said Professor Swoopen Dive, “They change direction in the blink of an eye and can inflict damage in an instant.”



A vampire bat

The most common bat in our state is the brown bat which flies high in the air in their nightly quest of a meal of flying insects. Only vampire bats fly low to the ground, using an acute sense of smell to track down unsuspecting slumbering mammals for a gourmet meal of blood. While many myths prevail about vampire bats, area residents can rest easy knowing that these blood-sucking rodents are not native to the state. The majority are found in the forests and caves of Central America, with some in the American southwest.



Traditional herbal remedies really work

State Capital - Don’t discount all of those cures that your grandmother told you about when you were growing up. A new report from the state Bureau of Medicinal Herbs and Plants indicates that many of the stories you heard about natural remedies are true.

For, example, hawthorne berries and wood betony can ease the pain of migraines, while mint and dandelion leaves can assist with weight loss. Want to cure a bad cough? Try a

little licorice or, better yet, coltsfoot, a common wildflower.



Coltsfoot

The benefit of valerian, which grows wild in eastern Europe, has long been recognized. It can be the perfect cure for insomnia, lulling a person into a restful sleep, although it has a very distinctive musty smell.



Valerian

Lovage is the best natural way to reduce a high fever, and plantain or watercress can make your dreams vivid, getting you to believe that those night time visions are fact not fiction.



Watercress

A great number of recipes include these and other natural herbs. Many of them have been handed down from generation to generation.