

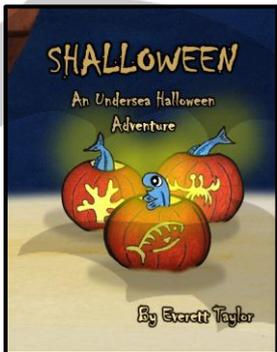
# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



## COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **November 2-4:** Annual Crab Pot Tree Sale
- **November 17:** Gallery of Trees Begins @ 7 PM
- **November 25:** Christmas Market 2023 -- Vendors of all kinds ... *Click Below for more information!* [Market](#)

## Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



### Shalloween: An Undersea Halloween Adventure

By Everett Taylor

When Ray the flashlight fish gets scared, he starts to glow. This unique talent might just prove useful as he attends his very first Halloween party at an old sunken shipwreck in the moonlit ocean shallows. Ray bravely explores the dimly lit ship and encounters the strangest of creatures.

While, at first, the Halloween monsters give Ray a fright, he soon realizes that his new friends the ghost crab, the vampire squid, the goblin shark and many more are the perfect friends to spend time with at Halloween!

Pages: 40

Grades: preK-3rd

## Decorating Davis Corner

It's Halloween Down East so what did the locals do? Trick or treating was a pastime of my youth that included spending days preparing the perfect costume; staring at the clock on Halloween day until it was dusk and time to leave the house; and finally running to doors up and down the Island knocking, waiting, and yelling "Trick or Treat!" once they opened. Neither the Beasley's nor Mike and Drexel Hancock's spooky music, witches, and haunted trees kept us away from the sweet treats on that fun-filled night!

There was another tradition, though, that locals young and old anticipated. You see, while Down East youngsters prepared for trick or treating, an undercover crew planned the next set-up for Davis Corner. Folks drove from all parts of Carteret County to see the shenanigans once word spread that the decorating happened. Linda Carol Willis Gillikin of Davis shared, "It was always planned and whoever showed up helped. We would hang out at Johnny's store and wait as late as possible to avoid deputies. If it was an election year, we tried to do it the weekend before voting because after a few days the state crowd would show up to clean it up!"

Clean what up, you ask? It varied from year to year, but typically a collection of anything and everything you can and can't imagine! Linda Carol explained, "Certain people would take an outhouse and the other things and hide them in the woods for the next year...One year [1986] they drug a rundown boat up there on the road with no trailer."

It is hard to say when this tricky tradition began, but Tommy Lewis of Davis remembers his father's stories of participating in the Halloween fun which would date the ritual back to the late 1940's. My mom remembers the decorating happened when she was a teen. I spoke with Mary Beth Wade from Beaufort who recalled participating in 1970 when she was a high school freshman. She stayed with her granddaddy in Davis who lived a few houses down from William Carroll Davis's corner store and heard what was happening. She snuck out to help! She fondly reminisced, "Someone had a pickup truck and went down a field where the outhouse was hidden. There were lookouts in all three ways in. Up the road, down the road and the road out. Someone had also found some old-timey road hazard warnings ... with a flame coming out of the top to warn about road construction...Of course toilet tissue was strung everywhere. Seems like there was a couple of road signs that were put out... *story continued on page 2*

*"There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch."*  
— Robert Breault

## Davis Corner continued

You can imagine that we were scrambling all around to get all this done in a hurry trying not to make noise. About the time we were done, the lookout on the road hollered that a car was coming. We scattered and me and others hit the ditch and laid low. No one was caught that night.”

Tommy shared that plans for the operation would come up in conversation as Halloween approached. Flexibility and patience were key for it became a cat and mouse show between the pranksters and county deputies. If deputies monitored the corner one night, the crew would go home to try again another evening. The decorating might happen one year at 9 PM and the next year 4 AM, depending on when the coast was clear. Tommy laughed as he told me that one year a deputy was parked on one side of the corner where then a Handy House operated. An SUV pulled up and started talking with the deputy for a bit all the while a rusty car, pumpkins, an old outhouse, and even a boat were quietly relocated. When the SUV moved the corner was completed with no one in sight!

In 1982 things were taken too far with some vandalism occurring that really dampened the fun. Those participating that year didn't remember why the tradition had begun years before or why it had continued—to entertain and make folks take a not-so-serious look at the great place in which we are lucky enough to live. After that year, things got back on track and nothing like it happened since.

I think Tommy put everything into perspective when he shared, “Those were the good 'ol days. Nobody got hurt and it was all done in fun, no meanness to it.” The junk that was collected and rehomed on the corner was nothing of value and was meant to be a harmless, amusing prank.



1980's picture from Debbie Hancock Lawrence



picture & Carteret County News-Times clipping from Linda Carol Willis Gillikin



### Decorated again

(1986)

Photo by Lisa Taylor

It was just a matter time, and Tuesday night proved to be the time for “decorating” Davis Corner, an annual event in the down east community around Halloween.

Carteret County sheriff's deputies Philip Willis, left, and Jimmy Guthrie, check out items placed on the corner by down east gremlins at rightfall Tuesday.