

ORGANIZED MISCHIEF



Soaping windows and running away is both malicious and risky. These girls find more enjoyment in creating artistic displays with paint and brushes supplied free by merchants.

ACCORDING to legend, Halloween is the one night of the year when ghosts, witches and evil spirits are most likely to wander over the earth. Nowadays, the holiday has lost most of its significance except insofar as the kids are concerned, but in many communities the youngsters are a greater menace to property than all the evil spirits. Pranks and acts of rowdiness occur all over the country, particularly the messy custom of soaping windows.

To combat this destructive urge, several communities have worked out programs to provide harmless entertainment for the kids on Halloween eve. One of these towns is Scarsdale, N. Y., which has come up with a

system for encouraging the artistic urges of its youthful window soapers.

Sponsored jointly by schools and the Chamber of Commerce, a window-painting contest is held, open to every one from 6 to 18, with paint and brushes supplied free. Merchants donate the use of their store windows for the Halloween artists and prizes are awarded for the best drawing, best Halloween theme and most comical drawing. In return, the boys and girls agree not to break anything and not to interfere with the carrying on of normal store business. Last year, 575 children painted 227 store windows before an admiring crowd of over 5,000 and the police department reported that vandalism dropped 90 per cent.



What store owner wouldn't rather see a boy draw a wild horse like this than find his window broken by vandals?



Cartoon-style Halloween scenes like this help the customer forget the price of food. METRO GROUP PHOTOS

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