

America Eats
Additional Regional
Montana Writers' Project
Edward B. Reynolds

Easter and Hallowe'en are two periods of the year in the West, when children's gatherings reach a par with that of adults.

On Easter Saturday swarms of youngsters hie themselves to the woods and parks to eat enormous quantities of hard-boiled eggs and sandwiches at picnics that they call "Eastering." These hilarious gatherings often take the spotlight from the Easter Sunday breakfasts of the grown people, where ham and eggs is the traditional dish.

On Hallowe'en the custom of "mumming" has taken the place of the prank-playing of youngsters of earlier times. Today, children make the rounds of the neighborhood houses, sometimes venturing far afield, and chant "mum mum mum" when the householder opens the door. They wear fancy costumes and masks, and according to tradition are supposed to be treated with candies, cakes, cookies or fruit.