

# 'Big Kids' Get Tricks Ready for Treat Seekers

Who says Halloween is for kids?

Someone better let some Omaha adults know, because they're having just as much fun as the youngsters.

Terry Hoban, 2516 N. 63rd St., says he's the biggest kid on his block. For eight years, the 41-year-old salesman has handed out goodies to youngsters by rising out of a makeshift coffin in his front yard.

He dresses in a Dracula-like costume of black suit, white shirt and black bow tie. Accenting the ensemble is a fake silver stake located over his heart.

## Fetching Fangs

The real eye-catcher, he said, is a set of "real grotesque-looking" fangs which a denture-maker friend designed for him.

Hoban, who is single, said he came up with this frightful set-up because "I wasn't too impressed with just handing out treats. I wanted to liven things up."

He started with just the coffin and each year added more. He made the coffin out of an old shipping crate which he painted black and green. A spider rests on top.

He lies motionless in the coffin with a green light shining on him. "Last year a 16-year-old girl just about jumped out of her skin," he said. The girl thought he was a stuffed dummy until he moved, he said.

## Shrieks and Moans

Other attractions in his yard include an electric chair, goblins made out of sheets and a steer head with red light bulbs for eyes. Visitors also hear recorded shrieks and moans.

Last year he had about 250 visitors, he said.

Another popular house on Halloween is the Bennett Cohn residence at 113 S. 68th Ave.

Cohn, who also has been playing up the "trick" aspect of Halloween for eight years, said about 200 people visited his house last year, some from as far as 176th and Dodge Streets.

Attractions at the Cohn house include an old toilet filled with fake blood and skulls, a vampire bat tree, a stretcher with a covered-up body, a ladder up the front of the house with a dummy hanging from it, and



—World-Herald Photo

Cohn, in mask, and Troy Mattson . . . 'Little games' for Halloween.

other "little games," as Mrs. Cohn calls them.

## Spooky Tunes

Red and green lights shine on the house and spooky music is played through a speaker on the porch, which is decorated with jack-o'-lanterns.

Getting treats at the Cohn house is not an easy job for youngsters. On one section of the yard, he puts foam rubber and then covers it with leaves. "When the kids step on it, they think they're going to fall through," he said.

To get to the goodies, youngsters have to dig in garbage cans with snakes, sea monsters and worms. There's another garbage can full of brooms labeled "Witchcraft for Sale."

Cohn, 76, dresses up as a clown or a monster to join in the

festivities. He said he and his wife love doing things for the neighborhood children — "there's a mess of them on this street." Their two children moved away from Omaha about 20 years ago.

One young neighbor of Cohn's also has joined in the fun. Troy Mattson, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Mattson, 117 S. 68th Ave.,

last year made a spiderweb of string to add to Cohn's porch decorations.

## Dracula's Bride

Lurking behind bushes near the Crossroads is the "Bride of Dracula." In real life she's Margo Bergman of 805 N. 76th St. The last four years she has donned a black outfit, fake teeth, long black fingernails and wig that has been singed to add to its frightfulness.

With theatrical makeup completing the getup, she said she has "scared plenty of youngsters by jumping out of bushes." Her 11-year-old daughter Jodi wears a similar outfit.

In the Florence area, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Connolley have started a free haunted house in their basement called "The Spirit of Halloween Returned."

The Connolleys' haunted house at 3909 Ida St. includes witches, spiders, dummies and ghosts. Twelve neighbors and relatives participate in scaring youngsters and adults, she said, adding that she once lost her voice from screaming so much.

Although youngsters can visit the house for free, Mrs. Connolley said she and her husband may start collecting 25 cents from repeat visitors as a donation to muscular dystrophy. Neighborhood children already have collected about \$25 to give to muscular dystrophy, she said.

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