



Presenting Her Cellar . . . transformed into a haunted house is Mrs. Ezekiel T. Lockerby. The attraction, which closed Saturday, was set up to benefit the building fund of the Church of God. — Nonpareil photo.

Spooks inhabit home's cellar

The big, old home of the Ezekiel T. Lockerbys seemed empty after the kids all grew up, got married and moved out.

So they let some spooks move in downstairs.

Five basement rooms at 1930 S. 6th St., were converted to the Haunted Cellar, one of the most unique of the growing numbers of haunted house enterprises in the metropolitan area.

Fellow members of the Church of God, 2019 S. 8th St., got together to paint up the place and make it look spooky. The goal is a \$1,000 addition to the church's building fund, according to Mrs. Lockerby.

"MEMBERS OF the congregation are dressed as different characters," she said. "Everything from witches to mummies to monsters."

The bathroom, for example, is converted into a blood bath, with red stuff gurgling in the tub while various human limbs lie around the rest of the room. A woman's head is on the stool.

Although Halloween is a tradition blended from Christian and Celtic traditions, isn't having a spook house a little, well, incongruous for churchfolk?

"On, no," Mrs. Lockerby

said. "It's good clean fun. We look at it this way: As one fella said, 'If we can't convert 'em one way, we'll get them another way. By scaring the devil out of them.'"

But, she added, there is no evangelism in the houses. Spooks only.

The neighbors haven't minded, she said. Not even about the two spaceships sitting outside the home emitting twinkling lights and eerie sounds. "They've been enjoying it as much as we are," she said.

ADVERTISING HAS been limited to city posters and occasional handbills at football games, but the Cellar is holding its own against the bigger haunted homes in Council Bluffs and Omaha, sponsored by radio stations.

And when it's all over, church teens said they'll repaint the house. That's because, with the kids and now the spooks gone, the turn of the century house will seem more empty than ever.

"We might have a hard time selling it after this," she mused. "Someone might get the idea that it really is spooked."