



—World-Herald Photo.

Jail cell is no protection . . . for goblin Dorothy Jensen, seated, 678 Franklin Ave., from Tim Crabb, 3621 Ronald Road.

Spooks Scare for Bluffs Causes

By Sebi Breci

Council Bluffs.

Good ghosts and goblins and friendly skeletons were busy Friday night haunting garages, vacant buildings — even a jail — to raise money for worthy purposes.

The jail teeming with frightening creatures is the old Pottawattamie County jail, also known as the Human Squirrel Cage, the Lazy Susan or the Jail in-the-round. It was built in 1885 and closed in 1969.

Two floors of the three-floor, 36-cell building at 226 Pearl Street were opened to the public Friday night. The 3-foot-by-8-foot cells shaped like a slice of pie contain coffins, eerie creatures, an electric chair and, among many other goodies, a witches chamber.

One Council Bluffs man came to the entrance, then walked away. The man, who would not give his name, said he had decided not to let his two children walk through the building.

"It's scary enough — even to me. I don't think I'll let my kids walk around in that former real-life chamber of horrors," he said.

Jean Sorensen, president of the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County, said State Rep. Craig Walter thought of the idea of making a haunted house out of the old jail.

"We're in the process of completing restoration of this building. Walter, who is a member of the historical society, thought it would be a good way to raise funds to rest-

ore the jail as a museum," said Mrs. Sorensen.

"We've been helped in making this a success by students from Abraham Lincoln and Lewis Central High Schools and the Iowa School for the Deaf, who decorated the cells and are also our ghosts and wierdos."

Proceeds from the haunted house, which is sponsored by the Council Bluffs Jaycees, KRCB radio and the historical society, will be divided among the sponsors to help needy persons as well as to help restore the jail.

The house will be open through Oct. 31 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 6:30 p.m. until the crowd stops coming on Fridays and Saturdays, said a historical society member.