

No ghosts or ghouls at old jail this Halloween

By VIRGINIA
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Nonpareil Staff Writer

The Squirrel Cage Jail will not be open to visitors as a Halloween haunt for the first time in six years

Gwen Woodward, president of the Pottawattamie County Historical Society, which owns the historical jail, said the society decided against the Halloween event because remodeling work being done

Nonpareil groups cited

The Daily Nonpareil Pressmen Local No 32 and Typographers Local No 203 unions has been awarded a "blue ribbon" by United Way of the Midlands

Awards were given to 20 firms in the Omaha area and one in Council Bluffs for improvement over previous campaigns and per capita donations

Per capita donation this year of the Nonpareil press unions was \$53.01

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization opened a conference in Ottawa in 1951 to discuss bringing Greece and Turkey into NATO

there this past year did not allow enough time to get it ready

"It takes a lot of man hours just to set it up and to get it back in order afterwards," she said.

"We have to start getting promotionals lined up in July, getting the props together by Sept 15 and getting displays in at least two levels of cells by Oct 1, then takes the same amount of time to get the jail back in order after the Haunted Jail has been open for 10 days

"This, of course, means regular tours cannot be conducted there for about 2½ months and the fall of the season is a good time for tours "

"Last Saturday we had 22 persons tour the jail and 42 during the week, so we just don't want to be closed," she said.

ALL BUT two of the six years the Haunted Jail was co-sponsored with the Council Bluffs Jaycees, one year with local sororities, and one year the Society sponsored the event alone

"Last year the society only made \$1,200 on the Haunted Jail and it took 100 people (all volunteers) to set it up and to work each of the 10 nights We should make more money than that

"And there's a lot of wear

and tear on the premises when it is used for this purpose "

Woodward said she thought haunted jails and haunted houses are beginning to become "old stuff," although she and other members of the society are receiving a number of calls

"It just isn't feasible for us to sponsor the spook jail right now Perhaps in later years we will again.

"Actually it has been a lot of fun One year a gentleman and two women dressed up more like they were going to a ball than a haunted jail

"The women were hanging onto the man's arms and could hardly wait to go inside About 20 minutes later they came out and those women were as white as a sheet and he was practically carrying both of them "

"The jail is actually pretty scary as is "

The jail will be open for regular tours on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. through Dec 31 For tours at other times reservations can be made by calling 322-2272

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