

# Jaycees couldn't refuse deal More than spooks to haunt jail

Dennis Larson admits it gives him an eerie feeling to walk around the old Squirrel Cage Jail even in the daytime. He hopes to give other people a more chilling feeling starting next week when it becomes the "Haunted Jail."

Larson, Jaycees project director, hopes to turn the jail into a haunted bonanza for the Jaycees and the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County, which will split money raised.

The Jaycees decided to switch their haunting activities earlier this month from a house along South Third Street to the jail because the society made them an offer they couldn't refuse, Larson said.

"THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY is low on money and they thought it would be a good idea to fix it up as the Haunted House," Larson said.

He says the jail has that haunted feeling. The Squirrel Cage jail was built in 1885 and used until 1969. The cells were in a rotating cylinder so that a guard could view all the prisoners cells from one point.

During its operation the jail had more than its share of mishaps with prisoners breaking arms and legs after getting them caught between the bars, and the revolving cylinder. The gears that turned the cylinder have been inoperable for several years.

Larson said a lot of help will be needed to make the project work this year and estimates about 100 people, including Jaycees as well as students from Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Lewis Central and St. Albert High Schools.

"IT'S GOING TO take six times the work we usually do to get it ready in time," Larson said. But the extra work will be worth it because Larson hopes to draw six times as many people this year.

While only 5,000 people visited the Haunted House last year, Larson said it will take 30,000 to 35,000 people visiting the jail in order for the Jaycees and the Historical Society to raise any money.

Larson feels there are several factors which will help

the Jaycees reach their goal. He points out the jail is a more central location and they plan to more widely publicize it in the metropolitan area. Then there is the jail.

"The jail itself is a real heavy pull. Only about 20 percent of the people in Council Bluffs have been in the jail," Larson said.

Jim O'Brien, president of the Jaycees, said they're out to make the jail the best Haunted House in the metropolitan area and feels the setting will help.

"Last year we had some people comment that they thought ours was the best house in the entire area. This year it should be better," O'Brien said.

Larson said each high school will be given a room to decorate. As in past years the Jaycees will donate a certain amount of money to the schools.

THE HIGH SCHOOL with the best room will receive a prize of \$400, \$350 for second, \$300 for third and \$250 for fourth.

Larson said each room will be numbered and, after visiting

the jail, people will be asked to vote for the one they felt was best.

The Jaycees decided to go with a numbering system this year, instead of labeling which high school was responsible for rooms. This would insure people voted for the room they felt was best and not just the school.

The awards for the contest this year are higher because Larson said it will take more work and are based on hopes for higher attendance at the jail than past years.

Different organizations at the high schools usually take responsibility for decorating a room. Larson said in past years drama clubs, art clubs and just interested students from a school have done the haunting.

Larson said funds raised through the project will be used for Jaycees activities in the community.

HE STRESSED SAFETY will be used throughout the entire operation of the Haunted Jail. It's the purpose for people to have fun.

The Jaycees have mapped out the best path through the jail to avoid bottlenecks of too many people and to get people through the tour the fastest way.

They have also taken some precautions to avoid injuries on doors and other areas of the Haunted Jail.

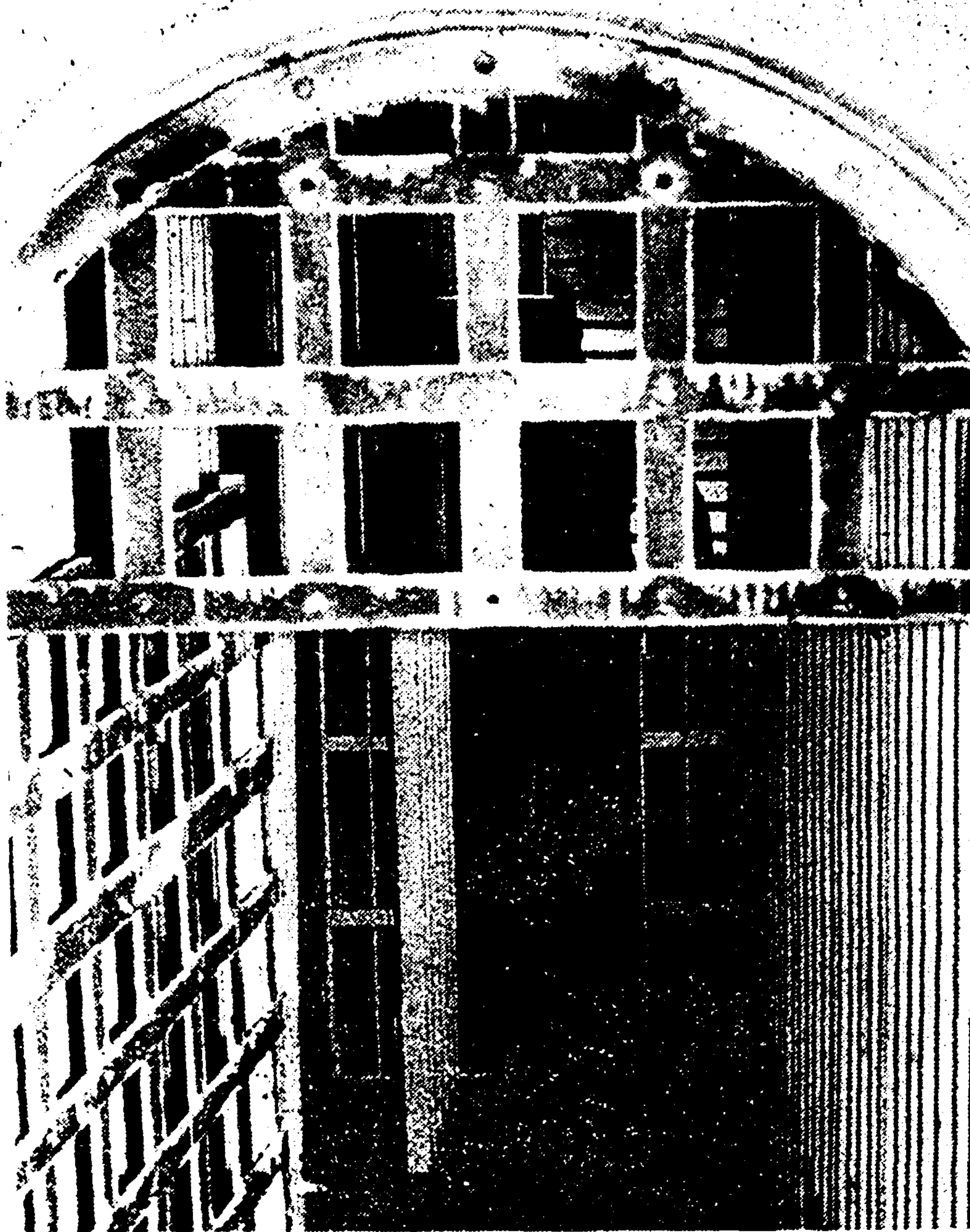
If the project is successful this year, Larson said the Jaycees and the Historical Society may make the arrangement more permanent.



Jimmy Moss

## Eagle Scout ceremony set for Sunday

Jimmy Lynn Moss, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Moss, 210 E. Graham Ave., will receive an Eagle Scout award during a 2 p.m. Sunday ceremony at the First Baptist Church, Sixth Street and First



Haunting A Cell . . . at the old Squirrel Cage Jail in preparation for the Jaycees Haunted House, which opens Friday for the Halloween

season, was this strange looking creature. — Nonpareil Photo.



## Academy party for recruitment

A recruitment party for Duchesne Academy in Omaha will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Kaplan, 7 Westlake Village, on Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Broderick, recruitment coordinator for the school, said parties are being set up in homes of current students at the school. The parties are designed to give families who are interested in