



The Charge!

Volume 1995/96

Voice of the Peoria Jaycees'

November 1995

Die, Die, Die... Everybody Die: A Haunted Story

The Haunted House... thousands entered it; only a few survived. It was difficult to learn, risky to perform, but it was worth every minute of it. The 1995 Peoria Jaycees Haunted House turned out to be a great success! It all started in late September with the unloading of walls, doors, costumes, supplies and props. Later that night (or next morning), a brave crew shut down the fledgling house, leaving behind them a trail of empty beer cans and a propane heater named "Mr. Heater". **Cindy Schwerer** had made a cake designed with skeletons holding beer cans especially for this group. However, the cake found it's way outside on the side of the house, with sweat bees the only creatures feasting on it.

During the next three weeks to follow, construction continued among all the other mishaps and tomfoolery that is so commonplace during the Haunted House. One incident had someone dumping a set of car tires next the house. No one knows how they got there, nor anyone will ever know. In another episode of the Haunted House, a group of drunken workers on a Thursday night found it humorous to mark graffiti about their president **Steve West** and chapter management vice president **Val Mount** on a couple of walls in the house. Just before the haunted house was to open, the Peoria Jaycees was blessed with the return of **Chris Jones**, and just in time as electrical problems were hindering the project. Chris was very comforting to the volunteer organization, reassuring that they "would never make it out alive!"

During the operation of the Haunted House, there were several nights where there was a surplus of manpower; probably an all time first. In addition, one night was given to the Peoria Heights Jaycees to run the house, so the Peoria chapter could have a night off (at least most of the Peoria chapter had a night off). One casualty was recorded during the operation of the Haunted House; one circular saw was damaged as the electrical cord got caught in the blade. No one was hurt.

In the end, the Haunted House had achieved it's financial goals as well as providing many memories for many members for a long time to come. The cake as far as we know is still on the side of the building, festering. Steve West picked up the tires and took them to K-Mart and got an entire dollar from them. Commander West is now considered the tightest man in America. The walls with the graffiti were saved for posterity, locked away in one of the trailers. Chris Jones never made it out alive. And for the record, between September 22, 1995 to November 5, 1995, **Sue Wilbur** and **Dan Schmidt** hold the record of 39 days of being at the Haunted House, followed by **Dennis Owens** with 37 days. **Steve West** came in 4th place at 29 days and **Rick Owens** holds 5th place with 25 days at the Haunted House.

The chairpeople of the Haunted House project would like to thank everyone who helped, especially those who helped with the teardown on November 5th; **Jeff Bilsland, Joe Burkitt, John Cima, Dubby, Wac, Dennis Owens, Rick Owens, Kathy Pulfer, Cindy Schwerer, Mark Klokkenga**, and our Commander, **Steve West**

How Do You Do It; You Look So Young

On Saturday, November 4th, **Kathy Pulfer** and **Nancy Rice** attended the Peoria Rivermen hockey game, primarily to look for men. They also had recruitment on their minds as the Peoria Jaycees is a friendly bunch and are always looking to make new friends. To get into the mood, the two women approached the refreshment vendor and to their astonishment, they were asked to produce a photo identification of themselves to verify their age. Kathy of course, did not have an I.D. on her at the time and had to rely on her wit and charm to get a beer out of the beverage salesman. The two women ended up for the evening with a batting average of .500; they managed to get served, but did not meet up with any men. Better luck next time, girls.

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens

This month I would like to write about how our meetings are always so long. Yea, you noticed that too.

Rusty Greene always comes back from these visitations and the meetings he attends always seem to go by so much faster. Granted our chapter is larger and we have a lot more events going on but these meetings can be cut a lot shorter without all the useless chatter.

For example, if we all decided to go to a bar to have a drink after the meeting, there would be an entire discussion over the best way to get there. There would be a debate whether to take Knoxville Ave. or use the interstate. Who cares, just show up. Bottom line: keep all the committee work and details out of the meeting and know when to shut up.

With this problem, I have invented a drinking game which will hopefully make these meetings seem like they go faster. Anytime someone says (and some people are known to say this a lot) 'a point of information', everyone must take a drink. We'd be wasted by the end of the meeting. We would have to let Sonny at Amvets know ahead of time so he can order extra beer.

Well, there you have it, just some simple observations and a simple solution to a problem I'm sure a lot of us are tired of. Until next month, I thank you for your support!

Mark Your Calendars

November

Board Meeting; Thursday, November 9, 6:30pm; at RLO, Inc. - call Commander West

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours; Thursday, November 9 - call Val Mount

Membership Meeting; Thursday, November 16, 7:00pm at Amvets, downtown Peoria - call Commander West

Haunted House Appreciation Party; Saturday, November 18, at the humble home of Rick Owens (see related article)

Santa Claus Parade; Friday, November 24 - call Beth Barr

December

Board Meeting; Thursday, December 7, 6:30pm; at RLO, Inc. - call Commander West

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours; Thursday, December 14 - call Val Mount

Membership Meeting; Thursday, December 21, 7:00pm at Amvets, downtown Peoria - call Commander West

Santa Visits the Kids; T.B.A. - call Jeff Bilstrand

January

Board Meeting; Thursday, January 4, 6:30pm; at RLO, Inc. - call Commander West

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours; Thursday, January 11 - call Val Mount

Membership Meeting; Thursday, January 18, 7:00pm at Amvets, downtown Peoria - call Commander West

Haunted House Appreciation Party

The Haunted House Appreciation Party is to be held on Saturday, November 18, starting at 3:00pm. Location of the party is at the residence of **Rick Owens**, 1010 Wonderview Dr., Lake of the Woods. To get there, take Knoxville (or Illinois Rt. 40, formerly 88) north past Northpoint Shopping Center, past Mossville Rd. until Lake of the Woods Plaza. Turn right onto Woodside Dr. Take your 2nd left on to Wonderview and find house number 1010 (the house with the rowdy Jaycees). For additional directions, call 243-7319.

Food and Drinks are to be provided.

The Charge
An Official Publication of the Peoria Jaycees

Rick Owens - Editor
Editorial and Publication Headquarters:
1010 Wonderview Dr., Dunlap, IL 61525
FAX - 691-5196 / CompuServe E-Mail #71332,2775

Published monthly, in mailboxes by the 2nd Thursday of the month.
Disclaimer: Portions of this newsletter are used for entertainment purposes only and they should not be taken seriously.

Individual Development

By Diana Barach

Chapter ID Night

We are having a chapter ID night at the November membership meeting (Editor's Note: be prepared for another long meeting). I am excited to announce that we will feature **John VanDerVoorn**, a scuba diving instructor who will give us a presentation on the dynamics of scuba diving. He will also have with him a fascinating video about sharks. John also instructed **Jeff Bilsland** and **Sue Wilbur** for their scuba trip to Arkansas. We hope to see you there!

Chapter Management

by Valerie Mount

We did it! Once again we have survived the **Haunted House**. Rough figures indicate that we netted approximately \$10,000. Of course, that is before the donations to South Side Mission and the American Cancer Society, but it appears we will meet our goals for those two charities, as well as the monies for chapter expenses such as insurance and next year's Haunted House.

Every year there is a core group of members without whom the Haunted House would not open on time, and every year, the group changes. This year, an extra special thank-you goes out to Co-Chairs **Sue Wilbur** and **Dan Schmidt**, and Construction Sub-Chair **Dennis Owens**. I'm sure at times they thought they were living at the House! Thanks also to: **Tim Ritterbusch**, our resident architect for once again laying out the House (you don't care if we changed it just a little bit, do you Tim?); **Jason Arends** for working on manpower; and **Rick Owens**, chapter Treasurer and House financial person (thanks Rick for keeping such great records, you helped ease my mind). Others that come to mind are **Cindy Schwerer**, **Dubby**, **Mark Klokkenga** (who has finally made it official and joined) and non-member **Terry Gavin** (unfortunately, Terry's not yet 21, but we expect to see alot more of him this year and in the future).

To everyone who helped make the 1995 Haunted House a success, thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. To those who were unable to lend a hand, you'll never know what you missed (heat, cold, rain, frustration, laughter, good fellowship and a real sense of accomplishment - to name a couple of things). We hope to see you at the 1996 Haunted House.

The Santa Parade is November 24 and the Peoria Jaycees will have a float. **Dennis Owens** is checking into getting us a float and **Jeff Bilsland** is desperately trying to get chicken wire donated. **Beth Barr** is chairing this project and if you would like to help build and decorate a float, give her a call at 691-5891. We've less than a month to get ready.

Membership Report

by Ms. Janet

Who's Due

In November, the following members are due:

Marcia Denton	Mark Sennott
Dennis Owens	David Sporrer
Rick Owens	

In December, the following members will be due:

Brian Milbrandt	Alan Pennington
Joe Smucatelli	Deborah A. Tucker

Membership Status

Please welcome aboard some new members to the Peoria Jaycees. In late September, **John Cima** join us just in time for the Haunted House. In October, **Mark Klokkenga** and **Charles Pulfer** joined our fine organization (yes, it wouldn't be the Peoria Jaycees without a Pulfer). However, for the year, we are down three in membership and we need to start recruiting, NOW!!! November will probably be an easy month with Rick and Dennis renewing. However, December will prove to be a challenge as the Peoria Jaycees most valuable player and backbone of the chapter, **Joe Smucatelli**, is undecided in renewing.

Now that the Haunted House is over with, we can now divert attention towards membership and get some new blood into the Peoria Jaycees. Remember, Make It Happen!

Chapter Management (cont.)

At the November 16 membership meeting, we'll be drawing names for Secret Santa. **Kathy Pulfer** is chairing this fun holiday project. Come prepared with a list of 3 or 4 things that you like (wine, music, etc.) and join in. At our Christmas party, the Secret Santas will reveal themselves.

Mark your calendars now for the Prairieland Region Winter Regional to be hosted by the Peoria Jaycees once again. The date is February 3, 1996, at the Amvets. The theme is "Mardi Gras (revisited)". **Kathy Pulfer** is chairing this event and she will soon be looking for people to cook, decorate, sell meal and beverage tickets, etc. Plan on helping out as much as possible. It's a great way to meet other Jaycees in our Region and exchange ideas..

Finally, don't forget the Haunted House Appreciation Party, November 18.

Valerie Mount
Chapter Management VP

Community Development

by Jeff Bilsland

Adopt-A-School

The Blaine-Sumner kids had a blast at the Peoria Jaycees Haunted House on October 18th. Another successful Adopt-A-School project signed, sealed and delivered! However, the work does not stop there.

Jason Arends is heading up the Adopt-A-School program and he need your help in many areas. Let's show kids that is worthwhile to stay in school by providing rewards such as baseball games, basketball games, trips to educational and new places to the honor roll students and student of the month at Blaine-Sumner school. Please contact Jason at 681-1839 or **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897. Call either Jason or Jeff to show your support or express some new ideas for projects.

Santa Parade



Time was running out. The sweat was pouring down his forehead when **Jeff Bilsland** whimpered, "My Kingdom for chicken wire." This and other material such as old Christmas lights, paper decorations and a generator is needed to help complete the float for the annual Santa Parade in downtown Peoria on November 24, 1995. If you have a special flare for decorating or

know someone who does, **Beth Barr** needs your help in designing the float. A skeleton crew has been assembled to complete this project, however, ideas are needed.

The theme this year will be "A Story Book Christmas" and with a theme such as that, you would think that there would be an abundance of ideas. The hotline is now open. Contact the Jaycee hotline at 676-5292 and leave your ideas about the float. When you leave your message, please say the following, "Jeff Bilsland told me to call and leave ideas about the Santa Parade float", and then leave your message. (**Steve West** just loves it when I do this.)

Pick up the phone and call Beth at 691-5891 or you can call Jeff Bilsland at 682-2897. Help us get a float in the parade this year and we can all have fun.

-- Quotables --

"Success is a public affair. Failure is a private funeral."

Rosalind Russell, American actress (1911-1976)

Santa Visits the Kids

The Peoria Jaycees are planning to hold another Santa Visits the Kids project again. This project involves someone dressing as Santa and delivering gifts and toys to the children who are currently in the 3 local hospitals and at St. Anne's Hall. At this writing, there has been no definite date set for when the toys will be delivered. Also at this time, we are looking for donations in the form of toys, candy or even monetary donations so that we may purchase such items for the kids.

If you would like to get involved and make Christmas a little more enjoyable for the children who are less fortunate than ourselves, please call **Jeff Bilsland** at 682-2897.

State Director's Report

By Rustin A. Greene



It is I, Rustin A. Greene, the famous State Director of the Peoria Jaycees and it's time to (A) discuss Haunted House clean up techniques, (B) Pagan Liberal Bill Clinton voters, or (C) visitations - answer duh?

I have moved - big deal, but if you need to reach me, call 243-1027. Thanks to **Dennis Owens** and his giant trailer for helping me move. The last couple of months have been very difficult to plan visitations (Haunted House, etc.). Now it is over and I need your help. If you can read this article, and not speed read through it, pay attention. Those who will follow the famous Peoria State Director to visitations this month will receive a pat on the back, plus an invite to Rustin A. Greene's house warming party or pizza party.

Visitation Schedule:

Pekin, IL - November 13, 7:00pm at Pekin Hospital downstairs conference room.

Wyoming, IL - November 21, 7:30pm, N. 7th Street, Mike Biggers State Farm

Canton, IL - December 6th, 7:30pm at VFW Hall, 78 South

And as always, I, Rustin A. Greene, am very proud to provide thoughts and wisdom to all past Peoria residents:

"To Make Room For Wisdom, Get Rid of Pride."



President's Letter: From the Desk of Commander West

Job Well Done!

This year's Haunted House was the best ever! It seemed to attract all ages; young children, teenagers, and adults all raved about the Bottomless Pit, the Grim Reaper, and the Clown Room, all new additions to our house. Special thanks to **Susan Wilbur** and **Dan Schmidt**, our super co-chairpeople (let's be politically correct). This project could not have been accomplished without your attention to every detail. The electrical system was assembled by **Dennis Owens** who also provided a bus for relaxation. These are the big 3 and everyone should personally thank them for their efforts. Other significant Jaycee's include **Sean Apsey**, **Jason Arends**, **Kevin** and **Denise Aughenbaugh**, **Connie Barach**, **Diana Barach**, **Beth Barr**, **Joe Binder**, **Jeff Bilsland**, **Jim Buehler**, **Joe Burkitt**, **John Cima**, **Jay Denton**, **Sheila Farraher**, **Rusty Greene**, **Andy Hodge**, **Dubby Janosov**, **Chris Jones**, **Mark Klokkenga**, **Marie Martin**, **Chris "Wac" McIntyre**, **Jennifer Misak**, **Mark Monge**, **Mark Mount**, **Val Mount**, **Rick Owens**, **Alan Pennington**, **Jeff Pulfer**, **Kathy Pulfer**, **Nancy Rice**, **Tim Ritterbusch**, **Mark Rosenburg**, **Mike Safford**, **Mike Schaub**, **Cindy Schwerer**, **Mark Sennott**, **Dave Sporrer**, and **Jeff Webber**.

I also want to commend the professional attitudes of **Susan Wilbur**, **Dan Schmidt**, **Dennis Owens**, **Joe Burkitt**, **Cindy Schwerer**, **Mark Klokkenga**, **Kathy Pulfer** and **Terry Gavin**. The Haunted House is a long, hard project, but it is a fun project. It is our largest project in every way, from manpower to financial. Attitude is everything and these people kept smiling, kept laughing, and kept working through all the problems. The willingness to get the job done and to have a good time doing it as a team was inspiring. We need more people like you to remind us all that we all joined Jaycee's to have fun doing things and to meet great people that will become our friends for life. Thank You!

Everyone is invited to celebrate our success at the Haunted House Appreciation party being held Saturday, November 18 at 3:00pm at **Rick Owens'** house, 1010 Wonderview Dr. in Lake of the Woods in Dunlap (phone 243-7319). Stop by, and bring a guest for food, fun and fellowship. Hey Rick, you sure sound stern on your answering machine!

Our next Jaycee meeting is at the Amvet's Hall on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00pm. Let's blow the roof off the sucker with our enthusiasm! **Beth Barr** is chairing our Santa Parade float. The Santa Parade is Friday, November 24th at about 10am. Call Beth at 691-5891 and offer your help in building the float and in participation in the parade. After the parade we will rendezvous for food and drink.

Jeff Pulfer is organizing a committee for the International Beer Festival, **JoAnn Ziegle** is organizing a committee for the Distinguished Service Award Banquet, and **Kathy Pulfer** is organizing a committee for the Winter Regional on February 3, 1996 at Amvets at 2:00pm. Give these great folks a helping hand on these great projects. Remember, a lot of work goes into each project long before the actual day of the event.

In order to get a big turnout at the Winter Regional, we need to try to visit every chapter in our region between now and Feb. 3rd. **Rusty Greene**, our powerful State Director needs your help on a visitation committee. Give him a call at his new phone, 243-1027.

Well folks, the year is half over and we have had a successful FireCracker 5000 and a successful Haunted House. However, we do need to recruit more members. Please bring a friend or co-worker to our next meeting on November 16th at the Amvets and to the Haunted House Appreciation Party on November 18th. Also, the Amvets Taco Karaoke Night is Wednesday, November 15th. Bring a prospect to see how much fun Jaycees can be.

This year is half over, but we are well on our way to making it the best and most fun year ever. Don't give up now! We can introduce new people to the Peoria Jaycees. We have recruited 13 new members in the first 6 months! Let's try to recruit 18 new members in the next 6 months(3 per month). Remember, our best ideas for new projects come from new members. And once again, thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

With Regards,

Steve West

Top Ten Rejected Float Themes For The Santa Parade

- 10.) I saw Mommy doin' Santa Claus.
- 9.) 'Tis the season to be greedy.
- 8.) Christmas in Bosnia.
- 7.) Look kiddies, Santa's on dope!
- 6.) Kristofer K. Kringle joins the Ku Klux Klan.
- 5.) "Be very quiet, I'm hunting wabbit".. (Oops, that's rejected themes for the Easter Egg Hunt).
- 4.) Boyz in the Hood 2: Keebler vs. Santa's Elves
- 3.) Load up your guns, it's Mighty Morphin Power Reindeer season!
- 2.) Silent Night, Deadly Night
- 1.) Santa gets rid of his sleigh; buys a white Bronco.

Don't Be Left Behind in the Cold

From the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees

Treat yourself to a mid-week, mid-winter break and join your friends on a warm sunny beach January 24, 1996 in Freeport, Bahamas. We leave Indianapolis about 7:00am and return around 9:00pm. You can shop until you drop at the International Bazaar, visit the dolphins at Lucayan Bay, try your luck in the casino, or kick back at the main beach. Snorkeling, windsurfing, jet skiing, and deep sea fishing are being offered at the main beach. Or, take the party snorkeling cruise (around \$25), drink unlimited Bahama Mama's and join in the fun of a private beach party complete with all you can eat buffet. Reserve your seat today before the plane is full by calling **Dave Rossbach** at 663-9591 (W) or 663-1032 (H). Cost is \$199 per person. Deposits of \$50 per person are needed by November 6th (a little late by this printing, but if you get on your hands and knees, they might take you) and the remaining balance due in December. Credit cards are accepted!

It's A Little Known Fact... Radio

Seventy-five years ago, on November 2, 1920, the first successful commercial radio station, KDKA in Pittsburgh, PA went on the air. It reported election returns from the presidential race between Warren G. Harding and James Cox. The success of the broadcast and other programs that were introduced prompted the formation of other radio stations across the country. By the end of 1921, there were 30 stations operating.

There is some dispute to which was the first radio station to go on the air in the United States. KQW in San Jose, California has claimed this honor, stating that it had regular programming as early as 1912. But it is generally agreed that KDKA was the first radio station to go on the air in the U.S. KDKA Radio is also the only station east of the Mississippi River to bear the first call letter with a K instead of a W.

Radio matured during the Great Depression in the 1930's. Franklin D. Roosevelt began to make radio speeches during his campaign. Having realized the value of this medium, he used it consistently and effectively during his more than 12 years in the presidency. His informal "fireside chats" drew millions of listeners, with the first one airing on March 12, 1933, and heard by an estimated 60 million people.

Other milestones: KDKA was the first to broadcast a play-by-play of a football game, a religious service, a broadcast from a theater and the first prizefight, all in 1921. WEAf in New York City broadcast the first commercial in 1922. WGN in Chicago was the first to broadcast a national political convention.

The Jaycee Creed:

We Believe:

**That Faith In God Gives Meaning And Purpose To Human Life;
That The Brotherhood Of Man Transcends The Sovereignty Of Nations;
That Economic Justice Can Best Be Won By Free Men Through Free Enterprise;
That Governments Should Be Of Laws Rather Than Of Men;
That Earth's Great Treasure Lies In Human Personality;
And That Service To Humanity Is The Best Work Of Life.**

Peoria Jaycees



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