

# Haunted tour to benefit historic elevator

By Courtney Warner  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

On Friday and Saturday, the Lemont Village Association will give people a chance to celebrate Halloween early.

For the past 14 years, the association has hosted the Haunted Granary. Tickets will be sold for \$8 each until 10 p.m. on both nights.

Event coordinator Sue Smith said guests will be divided into groups to visit each of the venues that have been created in spirit of the holiday.

"Groups will be able to view a comedic Halloween skit, venture through a corn maze, visit a haunted school bus and tour a dinky coal shed," she said.

The tours last 90 minutes each, and the festival is limited to no more than 1,000 people per night.

Food and tents featuring activities and entertainment will be available, too.

## If you go

**What:** Lemont Village Association presents the 14th annual Haunted Granary

**When:** 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 22 and Oct. 23

**Where:** 133 Mt. Nittany Rd.

**Details:** Tickets cost \$8; The M bus (Nittany Mall) will drop off attendees near the event.

The proceeds from the annual Halloween event benefit the restoration and maintenance of the last remaining wooden grain elevator in Pennsylvania, the Thompson Grain Elevator.

The granary, built in 1885, was used to distribute locally grown agricultural products via railroad and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, according to the website.

The association bought the landmark in 1996 and since then, it has raised and spent \$425,000 toward preserving the building, Smith said.

Nathaniel Peters (sophomore-interdisciplinary digital studio) said he has been attending the festivities since he was 10 or 11 years old.

As a kid, Peters said he loved how the Granary was made into a haunted venue.

"It was cool to walk through a pitch black venue, where the only things you could sense were the frantic screams of others who were being scared to death as arms were grabbing them unexpectedly," Peters said.

This experience gave Peters an idea of what Halloween is supposed to be like, he said.

His participation continued in high school, when he volunteered at the Haunted Granary to complete community service hours. During his sophomore year of high school, Peters was hired as the vol-

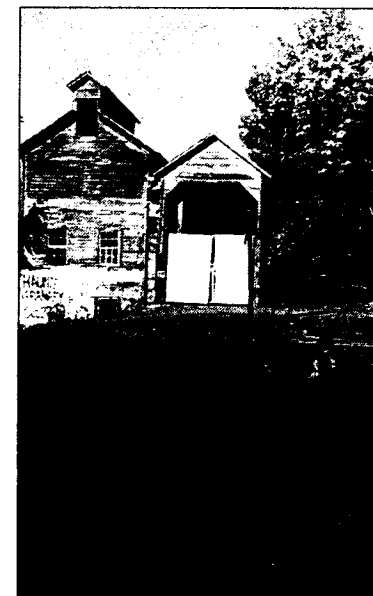
unteer coordinator for the event. While it turned into a part-time job in October for him, guests should still expect to hear him "screaming his lungs out," in the Haunted Granary, he said.

A student-run service group at Penn State, Circle K, volunteered at last year's fundraiser.

Circle K Project Director Amelia Ahnert (sophomore-chemistry) said the haunted granary is "a great local project that connects service groups with an immediate community."

Ahnert said last year's event was entertaining. Circle K members helped by setting up the venues and dressing up to scare people as they entered the haunted scenes.

Both Smith and Ahnert said new things are always being added to the haunted granary. Each year, the association asks for suggestions from their audience that they incorporate into the next year's production.



Courtesy of Ronald Smith

The Haunted Granary opens Friday.

There is never an instance where any part of the event is duplicated, they said.

"It is always changing, always new," Smith said.

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