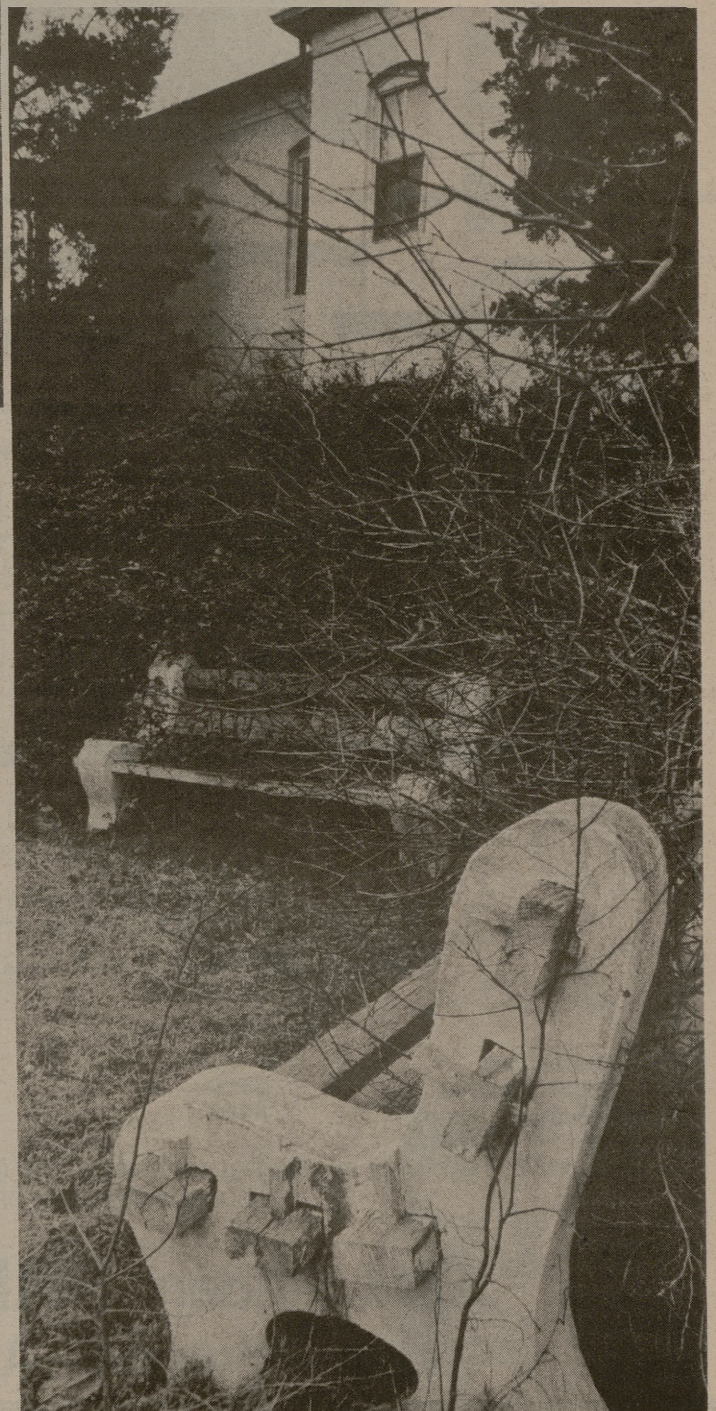


Photos by
Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

THE TUMBLING PORCH of this uninhabited "haunted" house in Bryan, left, is in contrast to the inside, which is arranged as if someone is living there. These benches, below, may have been the favorite summertime knitting spots for the two sisters who used to live in the house.



Whether fact or fiction, ghost stories seem to be fun

By Rhonda Watters
Battalion Reporter

"We do not believe in ghosts,
but to talk about them scares us."

E. W. Howe

The house looks like it could come straight out of an old horror film.

Set far back from the street, its huge yard is overgrown with weeds and tangled bushes, and large trees cast shadows on its old Victorian frame. An unnatural silence, broken only by the creak of a board or the sudden howling of the wind, surrounds the house. And the many windows are so dark that someone could be looking out and the outside world would probably never know.

Perhaps its the atmosphere alone that makes some people believe the house is haunted.

This house may sound like one out of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," but it can be found right here in Bryan. The story surrounding it is one of several local stories of ghosts or strange phenomena that, common in

most small cities and towns, have intrigued some of the residents of the Bryan-College Station area.

Are the stories true? No one knows for sure, but if they aren't, maybe someone should tell the ghosts...

Although there are several houses in this area that are rumored to be haunted, the one described above is more well-known than the others. It is located in an older section of Bryan, around 29th Street, and has been empty for some time.

As the story goes, the house belonged to two sisters who lived in it by themselves until they both had to be committed. By looking in the windows one can see magazines and newspapers lying about waiting to be read, clothes hanging up and even place settings still out on the table. It looks as if one day the residents just vanished, right in the middle of a day's activity.

Some local high school students claim that at times they see lights going through the house. There is one light in the back of the house that stays on all the time, though by looking in one

can't tell where it comes from. The house has never been sold. It remains in the two sisters' family, exactly as they left it.

Not all ghosts like living in houses, or so it seems from a story about a ghost in the basement of an old local church building. According to a former janitor of the church, every time a person got down to the bottom of the stairs in the basement, he could hear footsteps.

No one could explain the phenomenon until one day when the cleaning woman was down there and saw an apparition of an older lady who had gone to that church for more than 40 years. The cleaning woman spoke to the apparition, but it did not answer her. Instead, the image turned and went slowly up the stairs.

No collection of ghost stories is complete without a story about a cemetery, and Bryan-College Station has one of those stories too. According to some local residents, if one goes out to a certain cemetery on Leonard Road late

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