

Beware!



LOLA SHRIMPLIN

Writing stands out as the Democrat building is torn down. The writing was reportedly from the haunted house that took place there in the 1980's.

Democrat now and then

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The old Bent County Democrat building on Highway 50 has been torn down.

The building known as the "Old Democrat Building," built in 1898,

came down on Aug. 20.

The building housed the Bent County Democrat from 1920-1971.

When President Eisenhower was elected, someone hung a black ribbon from the Democrat's door.

Many remember a haunted house

that was held in the old Democrat, in the 1980's.

The Las Animas Leader was located in the first building west of what is now the Alibi Lounge. It was first published in 1873 in West Las Animas.

The original Democrat building was unstable and a crane was used to knock it down.

There were barricades around the building and both eastbound lanes as well as the left westbound lane of Highway 50 were closed.

A detour was set up so that the building could come down safely.

The building, which was located next to the old theatre, had an obvious bulge in the side and had become run down, necessitating its destruction.

The blocks from the building are to be donated to the Bent County Historical Society, Mayor Lawrence Sena said.

After taking down the building, the owners of the Ritz Theatre learned there was a shared wall between that business and the old Democrat and the Theatre had to come down also.



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The original Bent County Democrat building when the Democrat was still at that location