

# Kid's KOrner

## Pumpkin Personalities Are Fair Winners

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent  
YORK (York Co.) — Oscar the Grouch came to the York Fair.

So did Pete the Dragon.

They stayed for the entire nine days of the fair in a big tent, along with other famous folks like Santa Claus, Mother Goose and Garfield the Cat. Thousands of visitors to the fair stopped by the tent to see

them.

Along with the more famous faces was a zoo-ful of animals of all sorts. Farm animals included a bright pink pig and a rather unusual cow, with an orange and black coat. A sleek black and white penguin stood guard over the group, not too far from a quiet, small, gray elephant.

Snakes curled in some corners

and an over-sized honeybee buzzed among some brushy grass. Even the black skunk with its tell-tale white stripe down its back seemed to fit in with this mixed group.

From under the sea came a scuba diver, one very large, very shiny, giant green sea turtle, and an octopus with tentacles dangling in all directions.

What brought this unusual gathering of characters together was the annual York Fair pumpkin decorating contest. There were more than 800 entries in the contest from children representing all of York County's school districts.

The contest actually began last spring, when Rutter's Dairy and Farm Stores, Agway and the York Fair made pumpkin seeds available for children to plant and grow for the summer gardening season. Pumpkins could be entered in a class for the most perfect specimen or in the decorating classes. If their pumpkin growing was unsuccessful, kids who wanted to enter the contest could instead buy one to decorate.

Pumpkin "outfits" were as simple as bright colors splashed on with a paintbrush to fancy, colorful costumes. Some pumpkin faces wore wigs, ears, jewelry, hats and collars.

Selected as one of the champion pumpkins was a large, curled, neck-type pumpkin, which had a neat, but simple, snake face, and triangular snake-like markings painted along its length. Another champion was actually three pumpkins fastened together, dressed in shirt, overall, socks, shoes, and complete with face, hair and hat.

The pumpkin contest has become one of the York Fair's favorite attractions for both kids and parents. Kids who enter like to compare how well they did with other pumpkin decorators — and maybe get some ideas for the next contest.

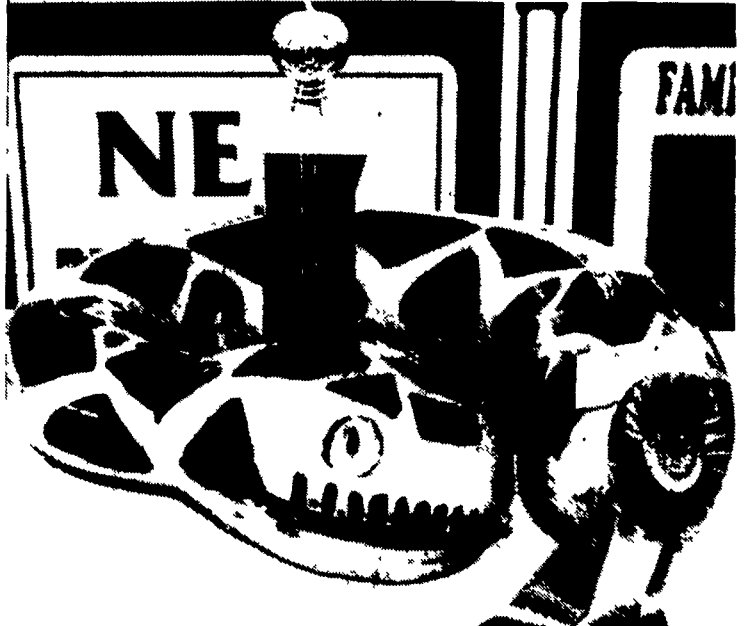
And, in the York Fair pumpkin contest, each pumpkin is a winner. Every single entry goes home with a shiny, rosette ribbon.



Perched on the champion display table at the pumpkin contest was this three pumpkin-stuffed person which took a top prize.



One huge pumpkin entered in the contest came as a giant, green, sea turtle, complete with a butternut-squash head.



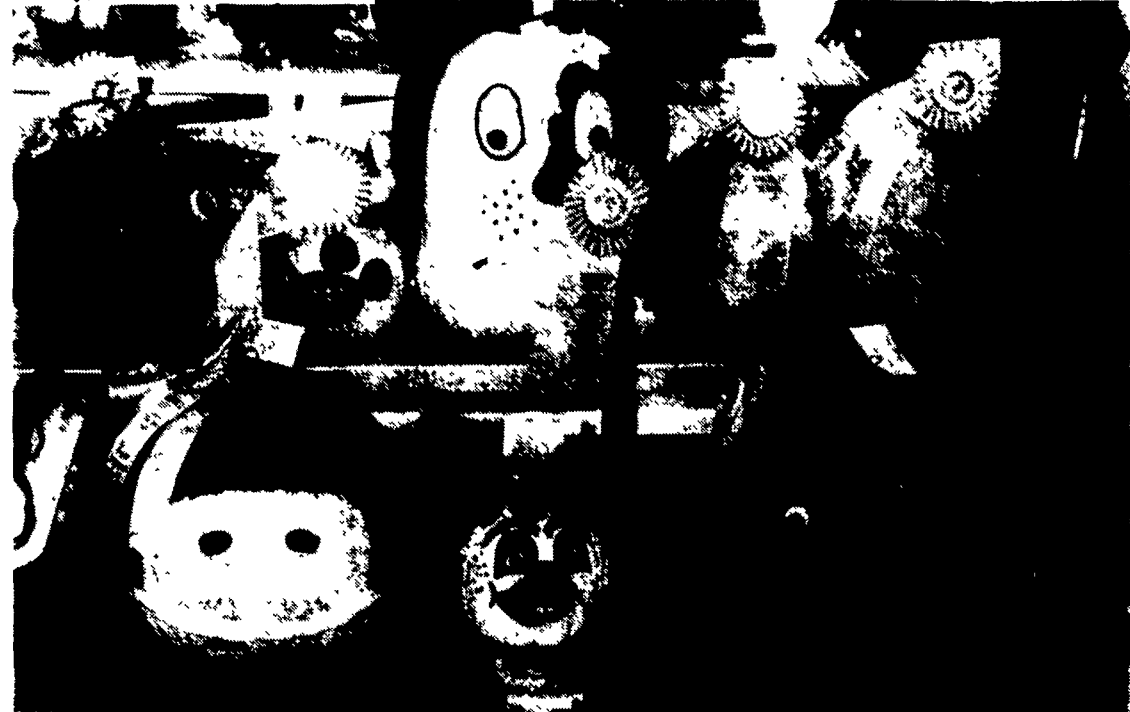
A top winner in the York Fair's pumpkin decorating contest "snakes" around its trophy prize.



This little piggy went to the fair.



There was at least one orange and black cow at the York Fair - this entry in the pumpkin decorating contest wearing a first-place blue ribbon.



Entries in the pumpkin decorating included football players, clowns with multi-colored curls, a small, gray elephant and a large black and white dog.