

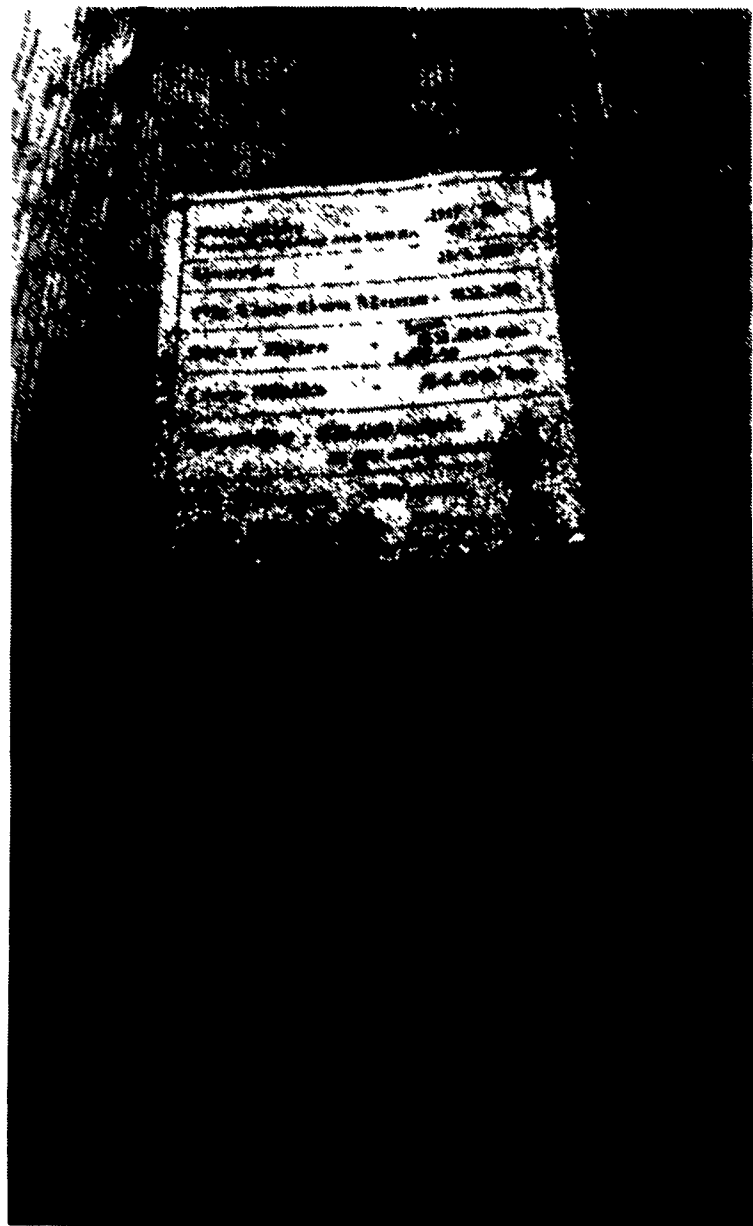
# 'Entertainment Farming'

(Continued from Page A20)

soybeans.

This time of year is particularly hectic for the farm because the pumpkins and other cool season crops are harvested for the store and for the festival.

None Such Farm was started by the Yerkes family in 1926. At the beginning of the Great Depression, it was a dairy. But dairy processors folded and Yerkes father and grandfather turned to produce and cattle farming in the mid-1930s.



In season, Yerkes sells the pumpkins for 30 cents a pound either at the store or at the pick-your-own location. One of tables identifies prices at the pumpkin-picking site.



Ethel McCulloch, office manager of the farm, left explains how a pumpkin grows on a vine to children from St. Paul's Growing Together Nursery School.

The farm name, None Such, originated because at the time of its founding, there were "no such" farms as large in the central part of the county, according to Yerkes.

For a time, None Such grew only sweet corn (up to 250 acres) and raised steers. But in subsequent years the farm diversified, and now grows a considerable number of produce and livestock crops.

The farm market was started in 1978.

This year's mid-July "monsoons," said Yerkes, proved especially difficult to deal with because the overly wet conditions challenged corn picking and disease prevention on vine crops. "Those were the wettest conditions we've had for a long time," he said. "We just had an awful time this year harvesting corn."

Also, while many pumpkin growers encountered problems with fungal diseases such as anthracnose and problems with blight and powdery mildew, cul-

tivation practices and critical applications of fungicides helped ensure a good vine crop for None Such Farm.

"You must rotate vine crops," said Yerkes. "It's very critical that they be rotated. You just absolutely cannot put vine crop on vine crop. It's deadly as far as soilborne problems."

He said that the farm uses an array of chemical treatments to ensure that, from bloom on, the pumpkin crop doesn't brown and wither. Also, proper fertilization is the key to good pumpkin production.

"Once they start to bloom, the pumpkin vines are sprayed every week, once a week," he said. Until first frost, there was no browning down of the vines. The pumpkins were orange everywhere — and late rains pushed a second bloom. There were still many pumpkins in the green stage ready to harvest.

Yerkes believes he is fortunate to have proper soil drainage. That was specially challenging, since

the farm recorded 15 inches of rain in five weeks at one time. Yerkes said that one time, more than three inches per week fell, twice as much as ideal, with one four-inch rainfall coming in a 24-hour period.

"Vine crops can't take water around their toes. They don't like the wet conditions. They do better under dry conditions — if you have to have an excessive condition, it would be better dry than wet."

Yerkes has 10 acres in pumpkin production, including many varieties (Howden — the face variety; sugar; spooky; Big Macs; and others). Demand is up for the face, or carving pumpkins, but down for the cooking or neck pumpkins.

"Frankly, making pumpkin pies at home is a lost art in this area," he said.

But other vine crops, including cantaloupe, do well.

In season, Yerkes sells the pumpkins for 30 cents a pound

(Turn to Page A22)

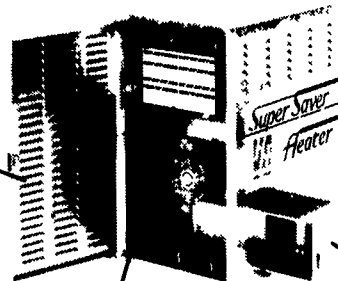
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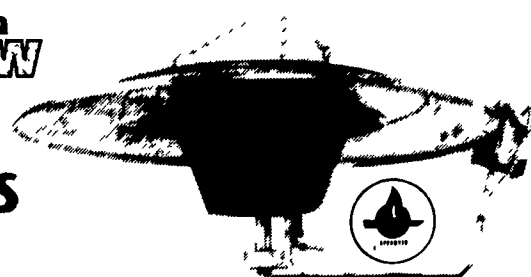
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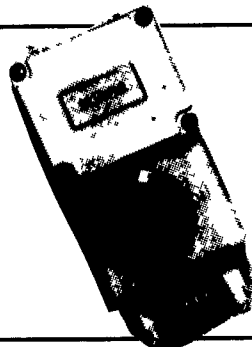
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