

Kids' Korner



From left, Beth, Andy, Julie, Katie, and Emily turn pumpkins into snowpeople to warn motorists of a frightening thought: winter's coming! The Golden children said the sign reminds motorists of last winter's 42-inch snowfall that

caused 10-foot high drifts on Munster Road — more appropriately nicknamed Monster Road.

Pumpkin Snowpeople Portray Frightening Thoughts

PORTAGE (Cambria Co.) — It's pumpkin time! While pumpkins generally represent the crisp autumn season, travelers who drive on Munster Road in Portage are met with a frightening sign — Winter's Coming.

On Golden Farms, snowpeople (pumpkin snowmen) placed by a sign remind travelers that, last winter, 42-inches of snowfall resulted in snowdrifts that were 10-feet high in some places.

"Then a more appropriate name for Munster Road would have been Monster Road," said mom Loretta Golden.

She and her husband Vincent own the 300-acre farm where their five children grow pumpkins for a

money making project.

The children include 13-year-old twins, Catherine and Elizabeth; 12-year-old Andy; 10-year-old Julie; and 7-year-old Emily.

The children have been raising pumpkins for three or four years. They do almost all the work of planting, weeding, fertilizing, mulching, harvesting, marketing, and selling. Their dad, who is a full-time school teacher in addition to farming the 300-acre cash crop farm, their full-time stay-at-home mom, and a great-uncle John Migut occasionally lend a hand in the pumpkin patch.

The children split the proceeds from the pumpkin sales. Each keeps a portion for Christmas and spending money and the remaining amount is used to buy college credits in the Pennsylvania Tuition Account Program.

They also donate pumpkins to Boy and Girl Scout groups, church, and civic organizations and some school groups.

This helps the children learn valuable lessons in dealing with all kinds of people.

Because their mom was a former math teach, she sees the advantage of the pumpkin project in teaching math skills.

She said, "The kids never have much trouble in money units in school because they have been

doing addition and making change ever since they've been quite

young."

All the children attend school in the Portage Area School District and finished the last school year with "A" averages.

The twins are eight grade students and are members of the school chorus, basketball team, marching band, church choir, and community league girls' softball team.

Andy, a sixth grader, plays basketball, has competed in and placed in Junior Olympics Track and Field competition where he excelled in the high jump and the long jump. He recently completed a hunter safety course and looks forward to his first deer hunting season.

Julie, a fifth grader, is a member of the Reading Competition Team, plays the clarinet, and sings in the church junior choir.

Second-grader Emily is a member of the student council at Portage Elementary School.

All the girls play the keyboard and piano and take ballet, tap, and jazz dance lessons.

In addition to the usual assort-



Emily takes a break from pumpkin harvesting to cuddle with a kitten.



Wheelbarrows make pumpkin picking easier.



Muscle-building time for Emily.

ment of cats, kittens, and dogs on the farm, the family has a potbellied pig named Piggy Sue.

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