

Turn squash into Halloween face

Since Halloween is almost upon us, why not invite neighbors and friends to a pumpkin carving party? Although pumpkins are the traditional vegetable used for Jack o' lanterns, their cousins, including squashes such as straight-necks, patty pan, spaghetti, yellow crooknecks and scallops will, when carved, make interesting faces.

Many of these have thin flesh and skin which permits light to shine through to illuminate the complete pumpkin. Thick-skinned varieties are more difficult to carve and that chore should be left strictly to an adult who is adept with a knife.

A good sharp paring knife, or one a little larger should be used. One with a serrated blade with which you can saw, will make the carving easier. For variety, use various skin colored squashes and pumpkins — the more the merrier.

If a tall thin shape is desired, cut the bottom end off completely so that the lantern can be placed directly over a candle which has been secured to a fireproof holder. The thin fellows could also be carved on their sides for illooonnnnggg grins. Tiny little squash can be placed over a birthday candle after the bottom has been cut away.

After the lid has been cut out, scoop out the insides with a big spoon. Put newspapers on the floor to catch the goop and give each child their own spoon to work away to their hearts' content. If the flesh is very thick some extra scraping by mom or dad will do the trick and the whole lantern will glow when a candle is placed inside.

If there aren't enough pumpkins to go around, teams can be chosen and sample faces drawn on paper before the actual carving begins. One person can draw an eye, another a nose, another a mouth and so on. It is a good idea to draw a face directly on the pumpkin also, before carving. If the future Jack o' lantern is carefully studied, often it will "tell" you what kind of face to fashion.

An apple bobbing contest, hot dogs, pop corn and cider would be suitable refreshments. Have fun and don't forget to toast the seeds for a nutritious snack.

GUESS IT'S NOT too soon to be thinking of

Film team honored

The Oscar-winning team of Sue Marx and Pamela Conn have added another film award to their list.

"Art in the Stations: Detroit People Mover," produced over the past two years for the Art in the Stations Commission just won a prestigious Cine "Golden Eagle." Its second major award since its release this past summer. Two weeks ago, it won a Columbus International Film Festival Bronze Award.

The 30-minute documentary is narrated by Sam Sachs, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts. It celebrates the largest public art project in the country. It was aired on local television and is in national distribution.

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gifts. Two calendars have come across my desk which I believe will elicit approval by the recipient. The 1990 Gardener's Guide, (\$11.95) which received an award in excellence in photography from The Garden Writers of America, Inc., is printed in seven editions, targeted for specific

USDA planting zones in our country and lower Canada. Practical monthly tips on growing plants through the year are included. A bonus with this calendar is 24-page pullout garden handbook with advice and how-tos for many aspects of gardening.

Another series of calendars, the 1990 For All Seasons Calendar (\$9.95) dealing with peppers, bulbs, perennials and shrubs as a theme is sure to please someone interested in these specific subjects. Local stores should carry them. If not they can be ordered from Starwood Publishing, Box 20453, Washington, DC 20016. Add \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

Their catalog describes other calendars. For more information write to me at the Birmingham Eccentric address.

The 17th annual fall plant sale of Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary will be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 3 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 4. This is a perfect time to increase your inventory of unusual houseplants and purchase special gifts for loved ones.

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