

# HALLOWEEN: A FAMILY AFFAIR

For the five Kubitskeys of Livonia, Halloween is a family affair.

The past two Halloweens, Colleen, 9, and Mark, 7, have taken top prizes for their costumes in the Wonderland Shopping Center contests...in costumes engineered by their dad and executed by their mom, Gary and Bev Kubitskey.

Last year, Colleen and Mark were dressed as clowns who appeared as if they were walking on their hands. Their small brother, Kevin, 2, was an upright model. "They were the talk of the neighborhood," Mrs. Kubitskey proudly admitted. "It was so much fun to hear the comments."

The year before, the two Coolidge Elementary students were dressed in tuxedos and top hats. The masks were placed low on the children's chests and their actual faces were enclosed in the top hats - with a small opening for their eyes.

"People really did a double-take," Mrs. Kubitskey commented. "Even after they realized the illusion, they still didn't understand it."

THE KUBITSKEYS get ideas for their original costumes from watching the Thanksgiving Day parades. "Actually my husband has most of the ideas," his proud wife acknowledged. "He's in

the design field and has a good eye for figuring things. He'll tell me what he wants and I'll execute it.

"I do a lot of sewing. I like to do it when it's a challenge - not when it's something I have to do. My mother always sewed. I never had a bought costume...neither will the kids if I can help it.

Last year's clown costumes cost approximately \$12 for the three of them, Mrs. Kubitskey estimates. "Of course that included three pairs of slippers which they wore all winter.

"The only other things I had to buy were the material and gloves," she continued. "The clown heads were my wig mannequins and the yarn

for the tassels and hair I had lying around.

"The hardest part was making the feet stay up in the air. We spent about three nights of trial and error working it out. We didn't

want to use wire because it could be dangerous."

Finally Kubitskey devised a cardboard frame which he bent in such a way that it would force the legs up in the air, but not be too heavy

for the children to carry. ARE THE COSTUMES done far in advance so that by the time Halloween comes around the Kubitskeys can relax?

"No way," Mrs. Kubitskey laughed. "We always wait until the last minute. The kids are going out the door and I'm tacking this or that."



THE KUBITSKEY KIDS in prize-winning costumes made by their mom and dad...top hatters and upside down clown.

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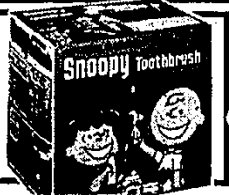
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