

Giants take over in Great Valley

By **BRIAN COOK**

Staff Writer

GREAT VALLEY—About 100 spectators who braved the cold and damp Saturday afternoon were treated to a pumpkin showdown in its second year.

Great Pumpkin Weigh-Off winners Dan and Jason McKie of Gasport took the \$ 1,200 grand prize with a monster tipping the scales at 1403 1/2 lbs., just nine pounds off the state record. The runner up, Bill Bobier, came up just a single pound short. Bobier left with \$800.

The winner waited hours for the results, as a backhoe and forklift worked in tandem to shuffle the 36 pumpkins to and fro on pallets. The first few ranged from just a few hundred, tiny in comparison, to absolute giants.

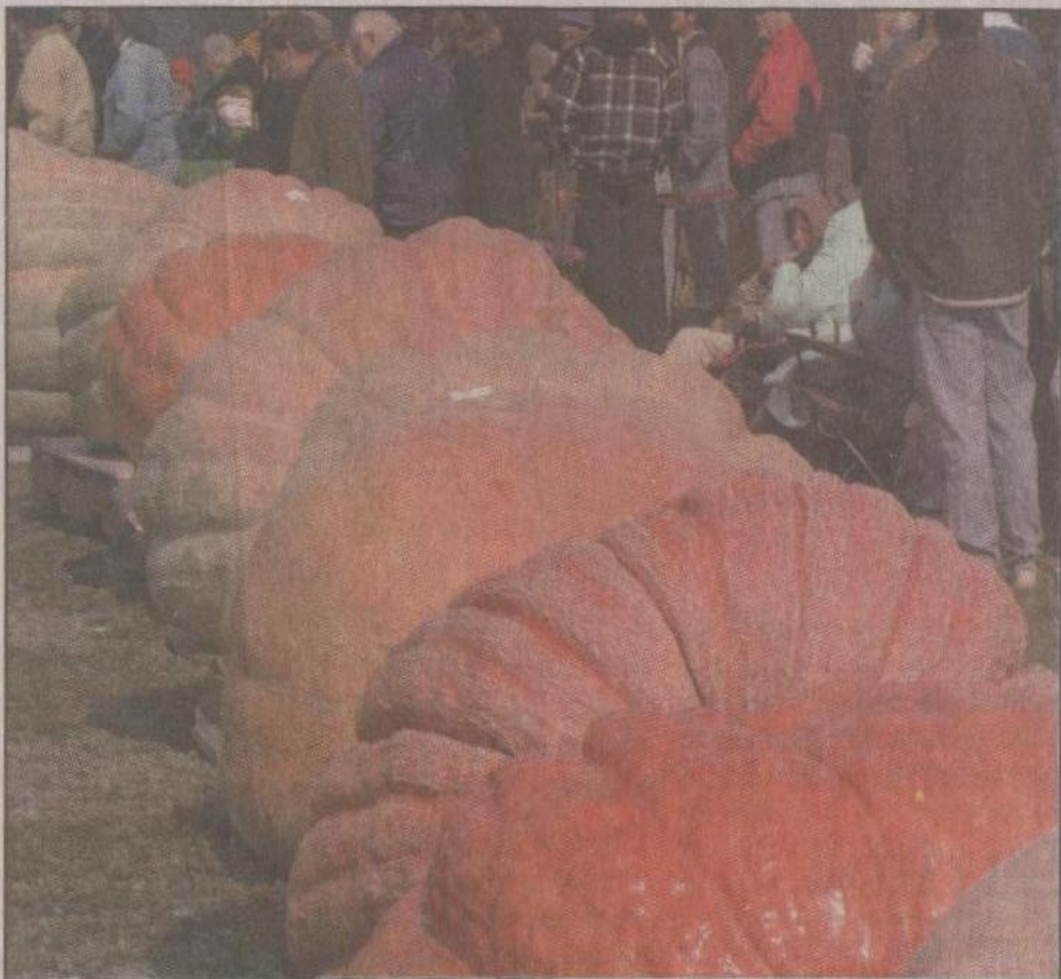
The competitors brought pumpkins from three states as well as Canada. There was even a world record holder on hand. Dave Stelts of the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers holds the title with a beast weighing 1140 lbs.

The winner of the prettiest pumpkin award was Heidi Brunst of Pennsylvania. Brunst was also the only female in the competition.

Visitors to Pumpkinville also enjoyed Patrick Moser's intricate carvings of the giant pumpkins. Moser, of Jamestown, in his second year at the farm, spends hours trimming slivers off with kitchen utensils. Using graters, zesters, and various other cupboard implements, he can take off more than 100 lbs. over the course of a carving.

On Saturday, the gourd he was shaving weighed 907 1/2 lbs. He still needed another four to six hours of work to complete the project.

Moser has been performing his craft for 19 years.



Above: A row of pumpkins sit, ready to be judged at Pumpkinville Saturday morning. **Right:** Staff from Pumpkinville sling a pumpkin to move onto the scale during the weigh-in.

(Press photos by **Brian Cook**)