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HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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Pumpkin King Wins Again

"They call me the Pumpkin King." The statement was said in a nonchalant manner by Francis Collings of Petaluma, who for two years has grown larger pumpkins than anyone else in the world.

Last week his 354-pound yellow and orange beauty outweighed all the pumpkins in two national contests, one in Half Moon Bay, CA., and one in Circleville, Ohio.

"I had better seeds this year and they were bred with four or five different kinds of pumpkin," he said. "But it's pure pumpkin, it doesn't have a trace of squash in it," Collings said.

For squash, Collings grows 220 pounders, not quite large enough for the national title. A man back East sent him some Hungarian Grey seeds, Collings said. "He told me if I could grow 'em that big, I ought to try again. So next year, I imagine I'll grow the squash again."

Collings isn't so sure about growing his gigantic pumpkins again. "Why keep it (the awards) in the family?"

The secret of growing pumpkins is to have only one pumpkin on the vine, and to water the pumpkins away from the base, so it will grow large roots, he said.

"You got to make them spread," Collings said.



Ronda Shear, Miss Greater Los Angeles Press Club, reminds everyone to turn their clocks back one hour to mark the return of standard time, which officially begins at 2:00 A.M., Sunday, October 28, 1979.

Francis Collings

The growing season for the pumpkins is from the beginning of July to the first few weeks of October, but Collings said he put in his seeds sometime in May. The plants were germinated by Collings' bees, which he keeps around the sprawling 65-acre farm.

During the pumpkins' growth, Collings binds them with a large rubber band cut from a tire so they won't get damaged. Three years ago, Collings grew a large pumpkin, which he said may have won him first title, but couldn't send it to the Half Moon Bay contest because the bottom was eaten by gophers.

Even though the pumpkins are easily damaged, when they are full-grown Collings has to cut them in half with a chain saw. And to move them from the field or to Half Moon Bay, Collings uses a chain hoist on the end of an end-loader.

Last weekend, Collings was in the parade at Half Moon Bay, when the sleepy town of 3,000 becomes crowded with 50,000 people lined up on a half-mile strip of road.

Collings began growing pumpkins on his farm, which he inherited from his father, about 15 years ago. He said before entering the national contest, his grandchildren kept winning the Santa Rosa Men's Garden Club pumpkin contest with his pumpkins, but after three years the club stopped sending him entry blanks.

Collings said he's awed by his sudden notoriety. His phone has been ringing off the hook from newspaper reporters from as far away as New York and Canada.

"I've also been on the radio a few times," he said. "First, they'd call me up, then five minutes later they'd call again and I'd be talking directly on the radio."

"I really worked on growing the pumpkin this year," he said. But after the contest Collings will cut up the winning pumpkin, along with the others he grew, some of them also reaching more than 300 pounds, and feed them the sheep.

"Have to feed them something."

Calistoga Weather October

Date	Hi	Low	Rain	Date	High	Low	Rain
11	73	52	0	17	80	46	0
12	73	52	0	18	68	51	.16
13	77	58	0	19	67	58	.79
14	70	61	0	20	67	43	.23
15	75	60	0	21	68	36	
16	82	52	0	22	64	41	.06

The Car's The Star

Charles Krug Winery looked like the setting for an old movie last Saturday when the Northern California Packard Club came to tour the Napa Valley.

You don't know what a classic is until you've seen a Packard Club tour. The group toured the Napa Valley with 118 people and 31 cars plus numerous other cars known among the club members as "brand X's".

The tour was arranged by Florence Shaefer of Calistoga, owner of a 1947 7-passenger, super eight Packard.

Most members, on the average, own three Packards. This very expensive hobby can cost thousands of dollars in restoration work. A single tire might cost \$90.

The Packards are divided into two groups; post-war and pre-war. Pre-war models are worth in the area of \$50,000.

The word classic is "used erroneously" stated Northern California

10th Annual Christmas Bazaar Set for Dec. 1

More than 25 civic, fraternal, church and school groups are going to participate in Calistoga's annual Christmas Bazaar.

The tenth annual event will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 in the Tubbs Building. Many kinds of Christmas candies, baked items, decorations and hand-made gifts will be on sale, said Margot Lynch and Olga Vassail, co-chairpersons for the event.

Also on sale will be hot food and drinks with a special lasagne dinner beginning at 4:30 p.m. and continuing until 7 p.m. The dinner, which is sponsored by Calistoga High School's Music Bufrs, costs \$3.50 for adults and \$2.25 for children. No reservations are needed for the dinner.

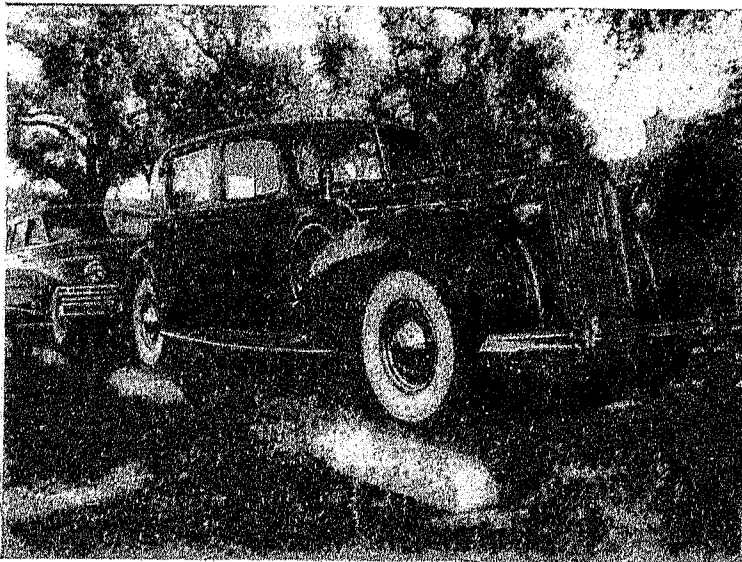
Other special booths at the bazaar include the sale of antiques by the Knights Valley Fire Department and white elephant sales by several groups. No rummage or used clothing sales are permitted at the bazaar.

The Christmas Bazaar is sponsored by the Calistoga Park and Recreation Department, under the direction of Joe Homan.

Co-chairpersons Lynch and Vassail are looking for any additional groups that wish to participate in the bazaar. The cost of having a booth is \$8 with a \$2.50 charge for more than one table used in the booth.

The next meeting of the groups involved in the bazaar will be on Monday afternoon, November 19. At this meeting groups will be asked to pay entrance fees and will receive final space assignments.

For more information, call Lynch or Vassail or the Parks and Recreation Department, 942-0198.



The Packard's monthly tour took them to Charles Krug Winery and Calistoga last weekend. The tour was arranged by Florence Shaefer of Calistoga. Pictured is a 1937 classic Packard.

Packard Club President Harry Champas. A true classic is described as being a manufacturer's top of the line between 1928 and 1941.

Packards were considered the "Rolls Royce" of the United States before the Cadillac took over the top position in 1941. The Packard was

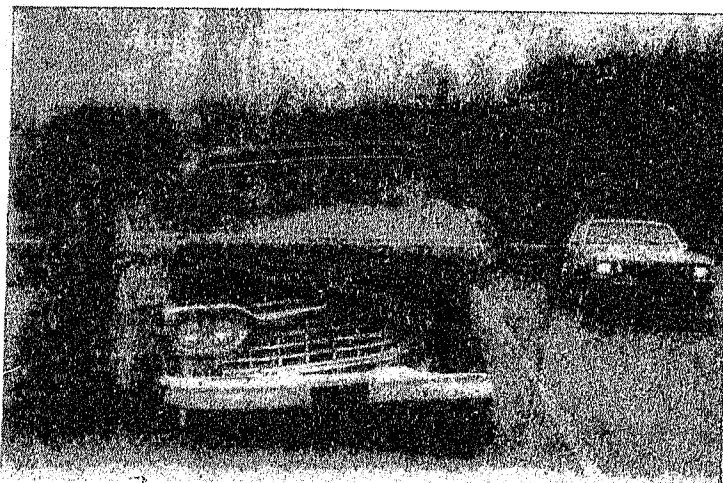
the car driven by the movie stars and the elite.

The northern branch of the Packard Club has about 120 members with a national membership of 2,500. They also have members in 18 other countries. The group has a tour every month in a different area of the state. Saturday's event drew people from San Jose,

Redding, and as far away as Newport Beach.

The Packard Company, know as being, "run by gentlemen for gentlemen," purchased the Studebaker Company in 1954. Because of the deep debt Studebaker was in it dragged Packard down with it. The tour included one of the last Packards, a 1957 built on a Studebaker shell.

Three Car Accident On Highway 29



An accident on Hwy. 29 resulted in major damage to Walter J. Heitz's Ford pickup last Friday afternoon.

The first rains of the season contributed to an accident just south of Calistoga on Highway 29 Friday afternoon.

The accident took place about 1 p.m. when a car driven northbound by Lea Ann Perry of Napa was struck from behind by a Ford pickup driven by Walter J. Heitz of Calistoga. Perry was stopped, attempting to make a left hand turn into a private driveway when Heitz hit her station wagon causing her to hit an oncoming car driven by John H. Rowell of Calistoga. Perry's station wagon slid off into a ditch as Rowell's car skidded and stopped broadside in the middle of the road.

Heitz, who's car was severely damaged, complained of chest pains and was taken to his private doctor. Rowell received a laceration on his hand.

It is expected that Heitz will be issued with a citation.

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Election Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1979

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