

**WEIGHS 612 LBS.**

## World's Biggest Pumpkin

FARM SHOW reported in Vol. 8, No. 4, about the race to grow the first 500 lb. pumpkin. In last year's competition, all previous records were shattered by Norman Gallagher, Chelan, Wash., whose pumpkin weighed in at a whopping 612 lbs. and had a 145 in. circumference.

Four other pumpkins topped the 500 lb. goal but the next largest pumpkin in the contest, sponsored by the World Pumpkin Confederation, weighed in at 564½ lbs.

Location didn't seem to be a factor in growing heavyweight pumpkins as the top finishers were grown in California, Washington, New Jersey and Nova Scotia.

Ironically, Gallagher purchased the seed for his champion pumpkin from Howard Dill — who held the previous world record of 493½ lbs. Gallagher plans on using seed from Dill again this year since he lost the

seeds from his champion pumpkin.

He says he used manure and other fertilizers to nourish the pumpkin, which grew 7 lbs. a day at one point. When first starting the plant, he put a little hothouse over it to keep it warm at night. For best results, he advises preparing the soil two years ahead of time and using top quality seed.

For growing the record-breaking pumpkin, Gallagher received \$10,000 and a trip to Hawaii. The pumpkin also made it to Hawaii as a store display.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Norman Gallagher, P.O. Box X, Chelan, Wash. 98816 (ph 509 682-4244).

For more information on this year's contest, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, World Pumpkin Confederation, 14050 Gowanda St. Road, Collins, N.Y. 14034.



Miller bought his three lions, Leon, Lucy and Libby, three years ago for \$1,500.

### HE MAKES MONEY RENTING THEM OUT

## Hog Farmer Now 'Farms' Lions, Tigers And Bears

Ron Miller, of Noblesville, Ind., used to raise hogs and cattle but he says he's having a lot more fun, and hopes to make a lot more money, with his new "herd" of exotic animals.

Miller's always liked wild animals. "Ever since I was a kid I've wanted to own lions and tigers," he says, noting that he also owns bears, cougars, monkeys and other animals you wouldn't normally find on a mid-western grain and livestock farm.

The animals don't require too much extra care other than special feeds — such as raw meat — and housing. Under Indiana law, Miller had to get a game farm permit. He notes that different states have varying laws on keeping such wild and potentially dangerous animals.

While his animals are all good-natured and gentle, some of them don't know their own strength. His wife was once bit accidentally on the

arm and Miller has been "chewed on" more than once by the playful animals. He rents them out to film crews and advertising companies. He's become involved in a number of commercials and movies, and says the variety of jobs is almost unlimited. His rental rates vary by the job but he says it can be extremely lucrative if he can find steady work.

Miller bought his three lions — Leon, Lucy and Libby — for \$1,500 from another farmer just a year ago. The animals spend most of their time "just lion around" in hay in a partitioned-off area of the barn. Miller gives them old bowling balls to swat around for fun.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Miller's Game Ranch, 222 Edith Ave., Noblesville, Ind. 46060 (ph 317 773-8693).



Norman and Ruth Gallagher's world-record pumpkin grew 7 lbs. a day at one point.

### "GREAT FUND-RAISING IDEA"

## Earn Extra Money Catching Fireflies

If your youngsters have been looking for a good money-making 4-H or FFA project, you may want to suggest that they consider catching fireflies.

The Sigma Firefly Club, was started some 24 years ago by the Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo. "Members" of the club catch fireflies with specially designed nets and ship them to the company in mailing cans that contain a special drying agent that preserves the fireflies. The company pays 1 cent for each firefly caught, as well as all postage costs.

Fireflies are in demand because of the chemical contained in their lighted tail. This chemical — Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) — is used by doctors to detect cancer cells. New uses have also recently been found, including a test for detecting polluted water, and as a shark repellent.

"It pays more than collecting alu-

minum cans or many other such projects, and you've got the satisfaction of helping doctors and scientists," a company spokesman told FARM SHOW.

Fireflies are found in all parts of the U.S. and the club has members in at least 27 states. The company supplies a specially designed net that lets you collect fireflies without continually emptying the net. It also supplies the special mailer can which contains a drying agent that preserves the flies for shipping. Each participant pays a deposit of \$2.50 for each can and net, which is refunded at the end of the season when they are returned. Each mailing can holds 500 to 1,000 fireflies.

For an informational booklet, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sigma Firefly Club, Sigma Chemical Company, P.O. Box 14508, St. Louis, Mo. 63172 (ph toll-free 800 325-3010).