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# Some pumpkins are all smiles

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SCARBOROUGH — They make people feel happy.

And, because of this Mrs. Doris Flaherty will continue to paint the smiling faces on pumpkins each fall at her vegetable stand here for many more years.

Mrs. Flaherty, wife of this town's chief of police, has been painting the whimsical faces on pumpkins, large and small, for the past 16 years.

She first started in 1961 by painting a few dozen of the pumpkin faces, but the paint chipped easily. She learned the secret of how to treat the pumpkin first and what paint to use from a farmer in Niagara Falls, N.Y., while on a trip with her husband in 1962. They had stopped to admire a display of pumpkin faces, and the farmer told her his trade secret, which she has kept since.

Over the years, the pumpkin faces have been making their appearance the first of October at the Payne Road vegetable stand. People young and old have come to expect them, and they come for miles around to see and buy them.

The "simple but amusing faces," as Mrs. Flaherty describes them, have made



Doris Flaherty and her pumpkins. (Staff Photo By John Patriquin)

their way across the United States and parts of Canada.

This year, by popular demand, Mrs. Flaherty has painted faces on 1,300 pumpkins. She started the task in

mid-September and will continue to paint until Halloween, when the stand closes for the year.

She thinks fall is a fun time of year after working hard all

summer on their 100-acre truck farm and at the stand.

The family's vegetable stand bears this out with its colorful displays of fruits and vegetables.