

241016 PHO BRA PUMPKIN PATCH ST PETE FL FALL HALLOWEEN

It's Halloween and uh in the United states that can only mean one thing; pumpkins! Pumpkins are associated with Halloween just like must have been ketchup or associated with hot dogs. I don't think you can separate the two. In the United states the Halloween season is replete with the image of Jack O lanterns. And it's still a custom with most families to carve a fresh pumpkin, put a candle in it and set it out on the front porch. This is evidence that Halloween is just around the corner.



The pumpkin patch is the name of a business which appears in Saint Petersburg every year in the fall. It rents one of the many empty lots which you find in most cities along a well traveled highway. The name pumpkin patch is pretty accurate. It has every color, size, shape and type of pumpkin that you can imagine plus many that you've never seen before. One has to admit that it just gets you in the mood when you go to a place like this. It just makes you feel like the fall is in the air even though in Florida it really doesn't feel that way because in October it's still pretty hot.



But it is astonishing what nature has provided us in the form of pumpkins. When you think you've reached a point where you've seen every type of pumpkin you go to one of these pumpkin patches

and determine that your knowledge is 10 miles wide and one inch deep. There are truly an amazing number of pumpkins that are available today.



Who knows if you can even eat these. Who knows if any of them were ever even designed to be eaten . I think that for the most part they are absolutely beautiful decorative pieces which make a great accent for the fall season.



One bit of evidence to show that these decorative pumpkins may not have traditionally been used for food is their cost. It's amazing what people will pay for a pumpkin today. In the farm areas of the United states they would probably laugh at the prices we pay for something that we will carve, set out on our porch and watch rot. But pay we do and fun it is to take these home, decorate the house and get everyone into the Halloween spirit.



So that's exactly what we did. We found one large pumpkin that we could carve and then we bought one for each adult in the family. We then found other small ones that we use for decoration and I can tell you that that they last for months. In fact it took me awhile to publish this report and I can say that three months later the small decorative pumpkins that we bought are still in perfect condition. So pumpkins traditionally were a great natural way to store food. And I'm speaking about Florida so in northern climates where the temperature is cool pumpkins may well have lasted for many months before they could be safely eaten. It's a sort of natural refrigerator.





It was a pleasant way to spend two or three hours as father and daughter. I pretended that I was in Michigan where I grew up, where Halloween means fall temperatures, fall leaves and the coming of winter. I think many people even though they're in Florida have roots in northern climates and thought the same. It's a good way as I have already said to get into the spirit.



My daughter had a great time. We got to argue about which pumpkin to buy. They all have a personality don't they? You always look at them, their shape and how they lean and imagine what face you will carve on them.

We picked out some decorative ones as well. We actually visited someone in the hospital and took three small decorative pumpkins with us. It was amazing the number of compliments that we got from the people at the hospital. Again it just makes you feel like the holiday season is upon you even if you're sick and infirm.





And you can see that the turn out was big. And this is a great thing for kids to do and a wonderful family event. If you see this in your town and especially if you're in Saint Petersburg on 4th St. north, you should stop and enjoy. Even if you don't buy anything just walk around.

I may not have mentioned that they have a section of games for kids as well as mobile food carts. So again you may not even want the pumpkin but just come in for the atmosphere, something to eat and entertainment for the kids. Well worth your time.





THE END