



# GREAT PUMPKIN RUN



Date: Thursday, October 31, 1985 (Halloween)

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Rose Bowl (south side)

Distance: 1.9 to 4.3 miles (see below)

Once again the Running Club will cap a busy October racing season with its annual Halloween fun run, the (Bring Back the) Great Pumpkin Run. This race is a variable distance, 'self-handicapping' race, in which faster runners have to run farther than slower runners. The fastest runner runs the maximum distance, 4.3 miles, and the slowest jogger covers at least the minimum distance, 1.9 miles. Intermediate runners run intermediate distances, generally averaging 3 to 4 miles.

Here's how it works: All runners first complete a 1.9 mile loop, and then run toward a turnaround point positioned 1.2 miles away. The turnaround point is marked by none other than the Great Pumpkin! From that point, it is 1.2 miles back to the finish line, for a total course length of 4.3 miles. However, only the lead runner will cover the entire course. When the 1st runner reaches the turnaround point, he must pick up the Great Pumpkin and carry it with him back toward the finish line. Upon encountering the 2nd runner, the 1st runner passes the Pumpkin to the 2nd runner, who immediately turns around and heads for the finish, too. Then the 2nd runner passes the Pumpkin to the 3rd runner, and so forth. Each successive runner gets to turn around a little bit nearer the finish line than the preceding runner, and hence runs a shorter overall distance. The Great Pumpkin is eventually carried all the way back to the finish, and all the runners thus take turns helping to 'Bring Back the Great Pumpkin'.

This is a great fun race, because everyone finishes at roughly the same time. The fastest speedster usually wins the race in about 25 minutes, and the slowest jogger is only about 5 minutes behind. Numerous intermediate places are decided by a few yards.

Don't miss out -- this is the last scheduled Club run for 1985. CATCH THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT!