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City to cook the world's largest pot of beans

BEAN STATION, Tenn. – The City of Bean Station will attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for cooking the largest pot of beans at its 11th annual Harvest Pride Days Festival Oct. 20-21, 2007.

“We thought it would be a fun way to promote the festival,” said Bean Station Mayor Rick Brewer. “It’s already generating a lot of excitement in the community.”

Last year, about 10,000 people attended the free weekend festival.

Work has already begun on a 600-gallon stainless steel pot to hold the beans. The pot will be heated with propane burners. Once the new record is achieved, organizers plan to sell bowls of beans. Proceeds will be donated to local non-profit organizations.

The current world record of 350 gallons of baked beans was set in 2002 by the city of Horace, ND, according to the Guinness World Records web site.

Other events planned for the festival include pumpkin bowling, a pumpkin seed-spitting contest, a cornbread cooking contest, and a poster contest for children.

The City of Bean Station was not actually named for legumes, but rather two brothers, Robert Bean and William Bean II, who established the first permanent settlement in the area in 1776. The Beans were captains in the Revolutionary War, and were granted 3,000 acres of land along German Creek for their services when the still wild and largely unexplored territory was part of North Carolina. Later, a fort was constructed at the intersection of the Kentucky Road and the Cherokee’s Great War Path to protect settlers from attacks by Indians. The two paths quickly turned into major roads for frontiersmen heading west, and travelers heading north and south, and the intersection soon attracted many merchants and businessmen.

By the early 1800s, three taverns and inns had been licensed to operate at Bean’s Station. The most notable was a two-story log tavern built between 1811 and 1814. As the community continued to grow, so did the tavern. In 1825, a 40-room addition was built, bringing the total number of rooms to 52. With a spacious parlor and ballroom, and extensive wine cellar, Bean’s Station Tavern was the largest inn between Washington, D.C. and New Orleans and was, for a short time, one of the most well known places in Tennessee.

Among the famous Americans who passed through Bean’s Station were Davy Crockett, Henry Clay, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Jackson, and James Polk.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Bean’s Station was the scene of a fierce battle between Union and Confederate forces. Both sides suffered heavy casualties.

Today, U.S. Highways 25E and 11W intersect the city.

Artists, craftspeople, food vendors, churches, and community service organizations that want to participate in the festival are invited to reserve booth space now. For an application, or more information, call (865) 993-2977 or visit www.beanstationtn.com.