

Their chili is anything but boring

by BARBARA BROWER
Staff writer

Their "Breath of the Hound, Not So Boring Bowl of Fire Chili," may not have won any prizes, but a group of Boring residents sure had themselves some fun recently at The Great Northwest Chili Cook Off.

Ric Minich, Valerie Minich, Andy Anderson, Ken Keith and Chris Fasslato were "Four Boring People and a Hound." They were celebrities in their own right as the area's sole entry in the Portland chili cookin' contest, a benefit for Washington Park Zoo.

"I always wanted to do it, and we thought that the East County and Boring areas ought to be represented," said Ric Minich.

January chills were in the air on a recent Saturday morning when the Boring chili chefs joined 22 other cooking teams, which came from as far away as Seattle, Wash., to the north to Klamath Falls to the south to Ione in Eastern Oregon. Each team fired up three gallons of chili and prepared to battle bean to bean for top honors in three categories: best chili, best showmanship and people's choice.

Samples of the chilis were sold for The People's Choice contest, also to benefit the zoo.

Ric Minich touted the Boring recipe enthusiastically.

"Our chili has a real Oregon flavor to it. I haven't seen any recipes with mushrooms

in it, and we're using Oregon beef flank steaks and a little Henry Weinhard beer. We're using a myrtle leaf instead of a bay leaf. We tried to keep the ingredients from Oregon as much as possible," he said.

As hungry crowds began to saunter through the Lloyd Center Red Lion Inn Exhibition Hall, it was hard to tell which was more heated, the chili or the discussions about which chili was best. About 6,000 people attended the event, Anne Brown of the Washington Park Zoo estimated.

"Since about 2,000 people had to be turned away, I think we'll be looking for a larger facility for next year," she said.

Chili wasn't the only hot item on the agenda. Each entrant also performed a five-minute skit.

The group from Boring told Boring "Tails," a story about a dog and his role in helping a Mexican cook find the perfect chili recipe. The cook would know if he had used the right ingredients by the breath of the hound.

"The Borettes" (Nancy Lachrendo; Laura and Angela Keith; Pam and Aaron Huston; and Chris, Charlie, Nathan and Adrienne Minich) performed '50s-type background rhythm as smoke poured from the dog's mouth to indicate the perfect chili had been made.

The skit, purposely boring, did not win the judges' favor. "Miami Spice," with its team of Crockpot and Tubby, took the top showmanship award. The Fire Bucket

Brigade Chili earned first place for best chili and Howard Williams won the people's choice.

"People would come by and taste our chili and tell us they thought it was good. Then they would taste the Fire Bucket Brigade's chili (whose booth is) next to us and tell us it was excellent," confesses Minich.

Like any team in its rookie season, the four Boring people and hound re-evaluated their performance as cooks and performers.

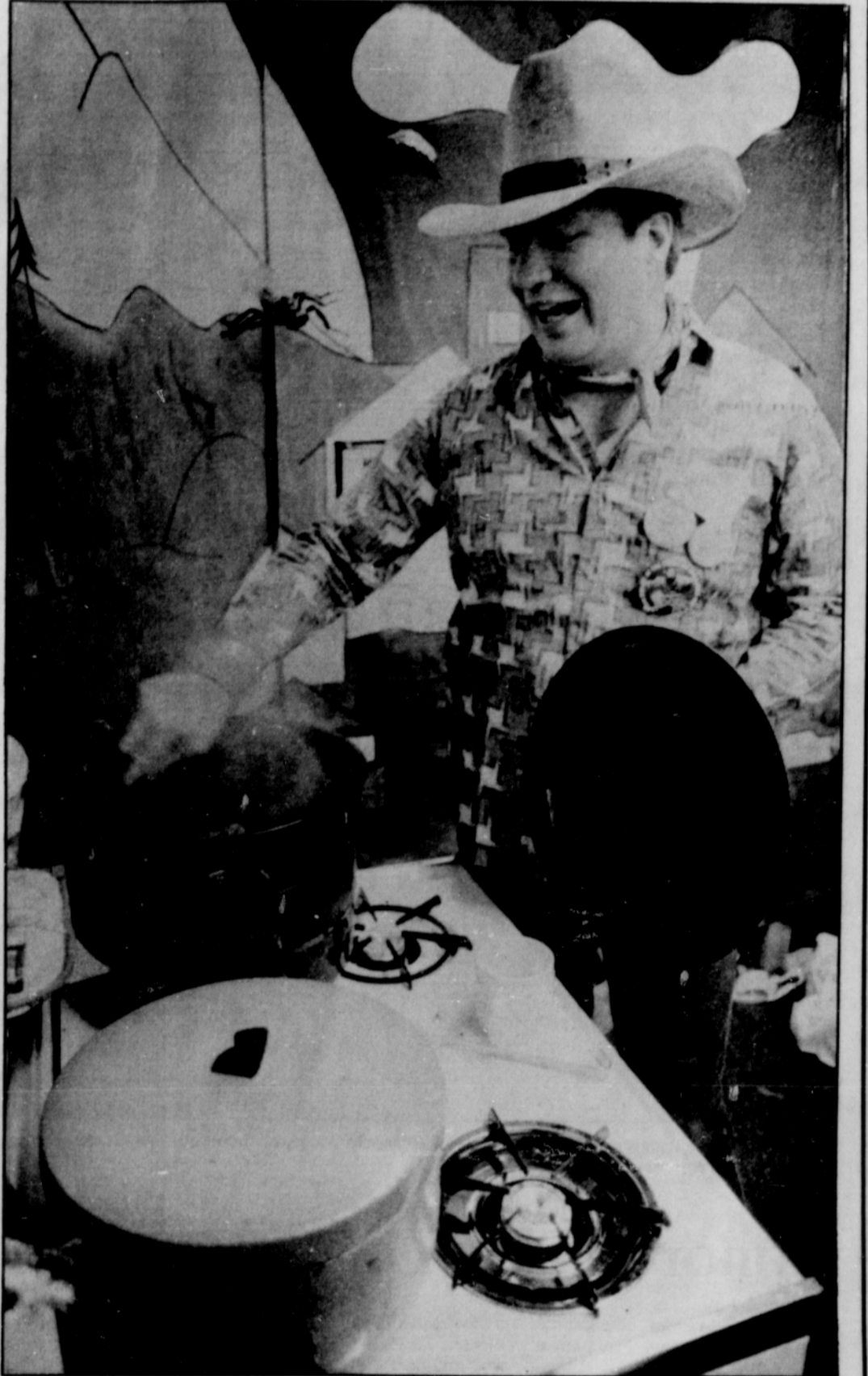
"We're gonna scrap this recipe, hit some chili contests and experiment," said Minich.

As for spicing up the skit, the team feels the addition of musicians, a flashier theme and a lot of practice will bring home a showmanship award.

"Personally, I thought the 'High Tech Hot Peppers' was the best choice for showmanship, and I thought the 'Ground Zero Nuclear Chili' and 'The Night of the Living Red' was really good," said Minich, manager of the electrical division at Dirt and Aggregate road construction.

"I am amazed at the time and professionalism that goes into this contest. But now I think I know what to do to win that award," said Minich.

"Next year we're gonna come back with 'The Revenge of the Hound's Breath,'" he vowed.



Ric Minich stirs up "Breath of the Hound," not-so-Boring chili.



The Borettes back up a telling of Boring Tails at The Great Northwest Chili Cook Off.

Hopeful immigrants seek information

by JANET PARDO
Special to the Post

More than 100 people jammed a church in Sandy Tuesday night to ask questions and gather information about the nation's new immigration law.

Raul Herrera, a legal assistant with Oregon Legal Services, spoke to the mostly Spanish-speaking crowd at the meeting, which was sponsored by Catholic Family Services and held in the Good Shepard Episcopal Church.

Many of those attending the meeting — including farm workers, restaurant workers and nursery workers — expressed optimism that they could become permanent residents of the United States under the new law. Several local farmers also attended the meeting to find out more about the immigration law, which goes into effect in about four

months.

Herrera said farm workers and other immigrants applying for residency must have proof of residence in the United States since 1982 or must be able to prove they worked at least 90 days in agriculture from May 1985 to May 1986. Items that can be considered proof are utility receipts, check stubs and driver's licenses. A notarized testimony by an employer also may be included as proof.

Some farm workers at the meeting were concerned about how "agriculture" would be defined by immigration officials who enforce the new law.

"Agriculture has been defined as material that would spoil if not picked," Herrera said. But, he added: "There are nurseries and canneries that I am 90 percent sure will fit into the agricultural category."

Herrera also said that a person has

12 months to apply for residency after the law takes effect, unless the person has been arrested. In that case, the person must apply within 30 days. After a person is approved, he or she will be a temporary resident and must wait an allotted amount of time. The waiting period is determined by whether the person has been in the United States since 1982, or if the

person is seeking residency under the provision for agricultural workers.

To become a permanent resident, a person must meet the time requirement and be enrolled in an English class or be able to speak English. The person also must have a knowledge of American history. A person more than 64 years of age is exempt from this requirement.

'Fine' campaign nets food

Clackamas County public libraries — including the Sandy Public Library — have come up with a "fine" campaign to mitigate two problems.

In February, users may pay library fines with cans of food or non-perishable food items. Each food item will be worth 50 cents in fines.

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