

Chili cookoff Broker is champ

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

An Illinois stock broker took stock of his stock and walked off with the 1981 Michigan Championship Chili Cookoff in West Bloomfield Sunday.

Randy Davis of Springfield will represent Michigan at this year's world championship Nov. 1 in California.

Davis was awarded a copper kettle prize when about 450 people heard Chief Chili Judge Bob Talbert, Free Press columnist, announce the winners at the Lark restaurant on Farmington Road at Maple in West Bloomfield.

Head Chili Jim Lark was the host of the third annual Michigan cookoff.

Davis placed third in the 1980 world chili cookoff last year. His cooking partner Bill Gasper is vice president of C.R. Davis brokerage.

Phyllis Lewis, a transplanted Texan now living in Windsor, took second place and Bob Castor of Rochester was third.

Media celebrity judges tasted and re-tasted 24 entries on appearance, aroma and flavor.

Former winners Jim Adamski of Redford (1979) and Peter Dwigalski of Brighton (1980) didn't place this year.

Other area chefs who competed were Scott Florman, Mike Flynn, Janet Gwynn and Sheldon Scott of Birmingham; Bob Osborne of Rochester; Dave Richey and Les Ward of Troy; and Tom Thomas of West Bloomfield.

PROCEEDS FROM the \$15 tickets go to Father Tom Lumpkin's Day House and Soup Kitchen in Detroit, a homeless family shelter.

Guests were entertained by mariachi and country bluegrass bands as they sampled chilis, some of which included such unlikely ingredients as champagne, chicken, whiskey and potato buds.

"Two bowls of this and you'll wish your father never met your mother," bragged one cook.

"This one will melt the wax in your ears," declared Talbert as sequestered judges called for ice water between tastings.

Other judges included Andrea Wolak, Detroit News; Len Barnes, AAA Michigan Living; Ronnie Clemmer and Kay Richards, TV2 "PM Magazine"; Mary Lou Callaway, Observer & Eccentric; Eddie Jona, Merchant of Vino; Sybil Little, Oakland Press; David Lum, Richshaw Inn; and Nancy Kennedy, Ford Times.

"All chili cooks are liars," grinned winner Davis, confiding one of his secret ingredients is gin. He advises using the very best beef.

Gasper says experimenting with spices and amounts will bring the best results.

The winning Davis recipe minus any secret ingredients is:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 lb. chopped sirloin
- 1 qt. onion, chopped fine
- 1/2 t. garlic salt
- 3/4 T. vinegar
- 1 can 4 oz. tomato sauce
- 1 T. chili powder
- 1/2 T. red pepper flakes
- 1 dash Worcestershire sauce
- chili and pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 bay leaves
- 18 allspice whole

Cook ground beef until gray and chop fine. Brown and add chopped sirloin. Add onion and cook. Add garlic, vinegar, tomato sauce, chili powder, red pepper, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper and water. Put bay leaves and allspice in spice cup and add. Simmer three hours. Remove spice cup. Adjust seasoning.



Grand opening celebration

A grand opening celebration was held recently for the new branch of the Michigan National Bank at Orchard Lake and Twelve Mile roads. Present at the ceremony were Edwin B. Jones, chairman of the Southeastern Michigan Executive Group of Michigan National Corp.

(left), Andrew R. Brodhun, president of the bank, Floyd Cairns, city clerk of Farmington Hills, and Brian Brennan, manager of the new bank.

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