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Original Articles & Photos by LeAnne Stowe

Recreation by Aubrey Area Library staff, August 6, 2010

Celebrating the Harvest

Aubrey, area turn out for first Peanut Festival

As the farmers dumped their wagonloads, of peanuts at the Gold Kist Peanut Dryer Saturday, Aubrey was celebrating the best harvest in seven years ever on Main Street.

The first ever Aubrey Peanut Festival drew up to 1,000 people to the downtown area Saturday, clearing some \$500 for the community's library. Those who made it to Aubrey for the 9 a.m. parade were showered with fresh peanuts, and all day long festival-goers had the opportunity to buy peanuts made into fudge, cookies and other goodies.

The festival, sponsored by the Aubrey Library Committee, was a huge success, said organizer Carolyn Wilson. "We had a good crowd all day long," Mrs. Wilson said. "Everyone I talked to seem to have a good time. I think it was a great success."

Mrs. Wilson said the library was able to clear \$600 from its booths, booth rental charges and other fees. She said 55 booths were rented for the festival.

Crafts of all kinds were featured in the booths. People from Denton, Pilot Point, Aubrey and Tioga were there to show off handmade wooden postcards, needlepoint sweatshirts, Christmas and holiday crafts -- and much more.

The children were delighted by the "ring a duck, win a rabbit" booth. Those skilled or lucky contestants who could ring a decoy duck in a

kiddie pool were awarded a live rabbit. Some 45 children went home winners after tossing three rings for \$1.



Youngsters inspect the most popular child's game at the Aubrey Peanut Festival, the "ring a duck, win a rabbit" contest. Vendors charged \$1 for three rings and gave away about 45 rabbits before noon.

The festival also featured a dunking booth and a soak-the-clown game in which school administrators and city officials were literally "all wet." The most popular was Aubrey High School Principal Stan Key, who, while in the dunking booth, helped raise \$70.



Aubrey High School Principal Stan Key gets lucky on this throw, but he wasn't as fortunate most of the time Saturday. After he completed his time at the Aubrey Peanut Festival's "soak the clown" booth, he sat in the dunking booth.



Aubrey Mayor Tim Leslie eggs on the crowd at the Aubrey Peanut Festival while sitting in the dunking booth.

Also, the smell of fresh hickory smoked meats filled the air. Several vendors had food booths, selling polish sausage-on-a-stick and barbeque sandwiches, as well as other festival foods.

The pet show brought in nearly 30 contestants of all kinds. Dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, and even a goat were entered in the show.

There was a packed house at the Aubrey Community Center, where the Aubrey Drama Club presented *Frankenstein*. About 100 people also showed up for a dance, which lasted until midnight.

The festival also sponsored a poster contest. Winners of that and the prizes awarded for the parade floats are listed below:

Poster contest winners: Mike Cagle and Trina Carres, first place; Jonathan Anderson and Trina Brockett, second place; and Kevin Minke, third place.

Parade: “Peanut Chase ‘86” by the Western Star, first place, judge’s choice, best overall; Aubrey High School Band, first, best marching unit; Aubrey Cub Scouts, second, best marching unit; Aubrey Fire Department, first, best float; Denton Fire Department, second, best float; Jackie’s Hardware, third, best float; Bobby Redfean, first, best horse; Roger Preuninger, first, best peanut theme; Rose Boerner, second, best peanut theme; fifth and sixth grade cheerleaders, first, most entertaining; drama club, second, most entertaining; clowns, third, most entertaining.



Sabrina Klinefelter, a member of the Aubrey High School Band, marches during the Aubrey Peanut Festival’s parade.

Sponsors: Pilot Point National Bank, David Ford Sales, Chandler’s Cabinet Shop, Jean K Realtors, and the Chaparral Plaza, which donated enough money to get a local FM radio station to do remote broadcasts from the festival.

Sherry Conway won a dozen long-stemmed roses given by “Flowers for You” of Pilot Point.