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A Little Background About Thomas Kemper Soda Co.

It All Started With a Party

The story of Thomas Kemper soda is a tale of good hosts, good friends and great brew. Known for their craft beer, Andy Thomas and Will Kemper didn't want party goers at their annual Oktoberfest to feel left out, so they blended up a batch of homemade root beer. Rumor has it the root beer outsold the beer, and a new venture was underway. It goes to show that (happy) accidents do happen.

One Honey of a Soda

We think if happiness could be bottled, it'd be a Thomas Kemper soda. We blend pure cane sugar with all natural flavors such as Madagascar vanilla, Jamaican ginger and real fruit. The finishing touch is a kiss of Northwest honey for a soda that's so rich and creamy, it's easy to lose yourself in the moment.

Roots in the Pacific Northwest

Thomas Kemper got its start in the explosive craft microbrew scene of 1980s Seattle. The employee-owned company maintains the independent spirit of the Northwest at its Portland, Ore. headquarters and continues to bottle the soda in small batches.

Plans for Growth

Bill Germano fell in love with the brand as a consumer and now shares his passion and expertise as its president and CEO. With demand for premium sodas igniting, Germano's plans for the brand include expanding the Thomas Kemper soda collection and extending distribution across the nation. He's got the experience for it. Germano has built national distribution and sales for niche consumer brands such as Kettle Foods and Cape Cod Potato Chips, as well as powerhouse brands such as Frito-Lay and the Eagle Snacks division of Anheuser-Busch.

In a Store near You

You can find Thomas Kemper sodas at grocery stores and finer retailers, as well as on draft at restaurants, throughout the Western U.S. with growing availability across the rest of the U.S. and Canada.

Thomas Kemper Online

Thomas Kemper fans check in at www.tksoda.com to get the latest on new products, promotions and contests, fun drink recipes and more.

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Company Timeline

- 1985** Andy Thomas and Will Kemper, two friends with degrees in chemical engineering and an interest in brewing beer, form Thomas Kemper Brewery the old fashioned way: in their basements.
- 1989** Thomas Kemper holds its first Oktoberfest, launching a new tradition that soon draws thousands to the small town of Poulsbo, Wash., where the company's brewery is based.
- 1990** Andy and Will brew up their first batch of root beer for the company's annual Oktoberfest celebration, wanting to offer non beer drinkers and children their own special beverage. Rumor has it that the soda outsold the beer.
- 1991** Following the success of Oktoberfest, Thomas Kemper Soda Co. is formed.
- 1992** Thomas Kemper Soda Co. becomes independent when Washington-based Pyramid Breweries, Inc., buys Thomas Kemper Brewing Company (including Thomas Kemper Soda Co.) in one of the craft beer industry's first mergers.
- 1992** Laura Bracken-Clough and Carol Clemency purchase the craft soda brand from Pyramid Breweries. Laura's husband, Max Clough, later joins the company as president.
- 1993** The first flavor beyond root beer – Thomas Kemper Vanilla Cream – is introduced, quickly becoming a fan favorite.
- 1996** The soda company makes the Guinness Book of World Records for creating the world's largest root beer float at a whopping 2,166.5 gallons.
- 1997** Thomas Kemper Soda Co. is reunited with the Thomas Kemper Brewing Company when Pyramid Breweries, Inc., buys both brands. That summer its third flavor is introduced: Thomas Kemper Orange Cream Soda.
- 1998** With a sweet-and-tart cherry taste, Thomas Kemper Black Cherry Soda hits store shelves and immediately wins many admirers.
- 2001** The company adds two new soda flavors: Thomas Kemper Ginger Ale and Thomas Kemper Classic Grape Soda.
- 2007** Thomas Kemper Soda Co. is purchased by Bill Germano and Tal Johnson (former president of Tazo Tea), creating a small, privately owned company again. Company headquarters are moved to Portland, Ore., and Bill – an entrepreneur and Thomas Kemper Soda aficionado – is named president and CEO.
- 2008** The low calorie soda collection launches with Root Beer, Ginger Ale and Black Cherry – offering the same all natural flavors with 20 calories or less per bottle.
- 2008** All sodas are reformulated to include pure cane sugar, eliminating high fructose corn syrup from the naturally flavored beverages.

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