Beer lover's collection ust an empty dream

By MARTY BLAISE

Local

Battalion Reporter beer lover's dream would be walk into Alex Van Steen's e and see the hundreds of r cans lined up on shelves. re's only one problem — the are empty.

an Steen, a dairy science mafrom Houston, collects and es beer cans. He began his y while living in St. Louis in

It was something everybody for a hobby in the Midwest," id, "and I started collecting a cans, too.

ter he moved to Houston in , Van Steen stopped collectr awhile, but soon found sevbeer can collectors to trade and began to build on his

The last time I counted, I had where between 550 and 600

ent cans," he said. when he began his hobby, Van said, he collected every he could We'd take these big family

around the United States and national parks," Van Steen "I'd hit every trash can and liquor store and get all these

While looking for cans on a hik-trip in Canada, Van Steen

dian beer bottles.

"I took these back to Houston and traded them off for some nice beer cans," he said. "I collected cans with a different

type of tab or a different colored lettering, and then I decided I wanted to collect something more specific," Van Steen said. Although at first he collected all

types of cans — different types of tabs or different colored lettering now Van Steen specializes in

collecting tin beer cans. Van Steen gets his beer cans by finding them, trading and buying

He also barters beer memorabilia such as trays, posters, and

coasters for the cans. His collection also is comprised

of contributions. "There was a man that came over from Great Britain on a busi-

ness trip and was so impressed with my collection that every two or three months he sends me a couple of cans," Van Steen said. Van Steen, who was born in the Netherlands, said he also has an

uncle who lives there and also sends him beer cans. Several oak shelves in the game

found an outhouse full of old Cana- tion. Van Steen said he liked to alphabetize his cans.

When categorizing cans by the same brewery, Van Steen considers year, the type of beer the can contained, the type of pull-tab and the type of material the can is made of.

"I like to keep all my cans bot-tom-opened," Van Steen said, "so it looks like the cans were never opened, but I don't keep cans that still have beer in them.

The most valuable can in Van Steen's collection is a Drewry's Ale which he said is worth \$90. A can may be valued by age or li-mited series, Van Steen said.

The two cans he said he would like most to add to his collection are an old Miller Malt Liquor can and a Budweiser Malt Liquor can.

To those who might be interested in starting a beer can collection, Van Steen said, "Don't buy any cans, but try to collect or find them.

He advised keeping the cans clean, and not getting old, rusty or dented cans unless they are valuable

The first beer cans were made in about 1935, Van Steen said, and these cans, along with some cans that were only on the market for a few weeks, like the 007 series, are room of his parents' home in Houston hold the beer can collec-



Dairy science major Alex Van Steen estimates he has more than 550 beer cans in his collection. Van Steen has been col-

lecting and trading beer cans since 1970, and has accumu-lated such valuable cans as the \$90 Drewry Ale Can.

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chemical control course The risk of human exposure to Association to conduct a two-day teams to handle sometimes life-zardous chemicals is growing as workshop at various locations and-death situations, the same volume of chemicals trans-

ergency response teams says. 1977, one of the last years figures are available, more nan 14,000 accidents were re-orted involving trucks hauling sort of hazardous material d about 1,600 reported mishaps

olving railway tank cars, said arry Payne of the Texas Enering Extension Service TEES Larry Payne directs the TEES

gram that trains officials and ergency squads in the control oil spills and hazardous matesuch as gasoline and chlorine. The need for swift, but safe and its College Station headquarrs, Payne said.

he course is offered on a reguasis. It is designed so students a fiery truck crash to finding patching leaks.

gun only two years ago, the

across the nation. specialist in charge of training has been development of a two-

Extension service offers

day tank truck rollover at Brayton Field, in which emergency teams will practice controlling the material while unloading and uprighting the trailer.

Hazardous material extension courses are also being taught by the TEES division as a result of the program, Payne said. These courses are oriented towards the theory of contingency planning and hazardous material control, with limited hands-on training. While training emergency

and-death situations, the same TEES division also conducts a widely recognized oil spill control program at a special facility in Gal-veston. Nearly 30 of the five-day oil spill classes are now held each year, Payne said.

As with many engineering extension service programs, special contract courses are arranged when possible.

The oil spill control training includes experience in skimmer and boom operations, spill sampling and documentation, moving oil slicks across the water's surface and recovering underground spills

Youngsters 'scared' and disasters prompted TEES, a at of the Texas A&M University stem, to develop a five-day zardous material control course by business world, its College Station has been A&M professor says

found youngsters are disen-After surveying 45 third-

sis. It is designed so students spend most of the time in stic hands-on situations — more about young consumers has size and research prodedures, indicate that businesses who cater to chanted with the business world. children need to get more in-After surveying 45 third-volved in consumer education.

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s material control course ow held more than 12 times a at Brayton Firemen Training ld, a 60-acre, facility southwest he Texas A&M main campus.

many cases, the fluid used in se simulated exercises is only ed water, but students are ted to think, dress and act as water were a deadly poison,

Hazardous Material Control store personnel, and that it was ng Division has arranged the Chemical Manufacturers to sell them things.

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graders and 54 fifth-graders, Dr. James McNeal of Texas A&M's College of Business Administration and a former doctoral student, C.J. Anderson, said many children expect to get "ripped off" or misled by stores, packaging, advertising and salespeople.

"Half the children felt scared or uneasy while shopping, particu-larly when they shopped alone," McNeal said. "They said they felt e said. addition to the five-day, s-on program, the TEES Oil like they were being neglected by the they said they felt like they were being neglected by sometimes difficult to get people

Stores — particularly self-service stores - need to be more responsive to children as consumers, perhaps by going into the clas-srooms and describing purchase procedures and by letting them now how to obtain remedies for faulty products, he said. "Most of the guidelines for de-

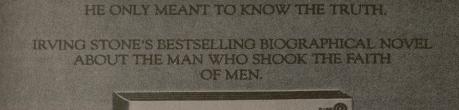
veloping consumer education materials for children have been developed from an adult's point of view. No one has asked the children what consumer problems they have and what consumer competencies they lack," McNeal

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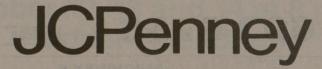
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