

Boomtowns can be profitable

By **MARCUS MILES**
Reporter

Small communities can profit from the "boomtown" experience if they are flexible and involve youth and newcomers, Dr. James H. Copp, a Texas A&M rural sociologist says. Copp said leaders in towns hit by booms caused by the oil and gas industry should involve newcomers in leadership roles in order to prevent turnover in leadership. "When leaders try to keep their

cards close to their chests and resist change, leadership tends to turn over," he said. "Newcomers bring new ideas, and along with youth they create a great demand for services."

Financial leaders, especially bankers, play an important role in the success of a community during a boomtown experience, he said.

"Bankers must be willing to put their money where their mouth is," Copp said. "They must be willing to invest in areas that will help the com-

munity prosper. Often these areas don't yield the highest rate of interest, but they may be in the best interest of the community."

Planning ahead is another benefit, he said.

"For example, Caldwell was a progressive community," Copp said. "It was slightly ahead in areas such as water and sewer services and hospital facilities."

This is a plus for any community that has a boomtown experience, he

said. "Communities that didn't prosper during their boomtown experience were totally unprepared," Copp said. "They lacked forward planning in areas such as water, sewer, telephone, fire, and police service."

People in the successful communities have different attitudes, he said.

"They tend to see things differently, they are upbeat and open to outsiders," he said.

Past senator talks to book collectors

By **MARY ANGELA LEBLANC**
Reporter

Richard Yarbrough, a former U.S. senator from Texas, told some book collectors at Texas A&M that they should write down their family histories because those stories will become important through the course of time and may soon become history.

Yarbrough, a book collector himself, spoke to a group of about 50 at the 12th annual Student Book Collector's award ceremony Friday. His lecture was entitled "Books in My Baggage: From Oral history to Modern Presses."

"The first few years of history I

learned was oral history," Yarbrough said.

He said he learned about the Civil War from the tales of veteran soldiers who had returned from the war.

He said he learned more from his uncle's oral description of Indian raids, cattle drives and observing the migrating buffalo than he could have learned from any textbook.

"Truth was the hallmark of their narrations," Yarbrough said.

Before the winners of the collection contest were announced, Yarbrough displayed some of his rare books to the audience.

The first of these books was "The

Commonplace Book." Each page was separately printed and illustrated. The book has 50 limited editions.

Another book, "The Printing Arts in Texas," is a limited edition of 10 copies. These books were given away by the author, and the recipients of the books had to pledge never to sell them.

The winners' names and the names of their book collections are: Richard D. Spence, "The Rise of the Common Man: The Ages of Jefferson and Jackson"; Patrick R. Ryan, "English Renaissance and Reformation"; Micheal Smolen, "From Empire to Island: A Study of English

Colonialism"; John Adams, "The Best of the West: Two Dozen and One Books on the Range Cattle Industry"; Timothy W. Houseal, "A Natural History of Michigan and the Western Great Lakes Region"; William J. Treat, "U.S. Postal History: The Classic Years of 1848 to 1861"; Steven Kirk Bane, "A Collection of Books on the Third Reich"; David Ragsdale, "Early Female Prose Writers (Before 1875)"; and Jimmy Drozd, "History of the Colorado Rockies."

The winning book collections will be on display for two weeks in the first and second floor display cases at the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Several injured on rural Halloween hayride

United Press International

WALLER — At least 12 people attending a community Halloween party were injured when a car side-swiped their hayride wagon in rural Waller County, officials said Sunday.

Two of the most seriously injured, 19-year-old Russell Burns and 14-year-old Michael Williamson, of

Waller County, were taken by LifeFlight helicopter to Houston's Hermann Hospital. Burns was listed in stable condition and Williamson was in guarded and stable condition Sunday, a hospital spokesman said.

Waller County Sheriff Ronnie Sitton said the accident, which occurred at about 10:30 p.m. Saturday

night, was one of the worst ever in a rural area.

"We've got some people that are going to have permanent injuries, and I mean permanent," he said. "I think one of the people is probably going to lose a leg."

Sitton said up to 30 people, ranging in age from a 16-month-old baby

to adults, attended the Halloween party sponsored by a community grocery store.

The party goers were riding in a hay-covered flatbed truck being pulled by a pickup truck.

Sitton said a car driven by 29-year-old Marilyn S. Langdon of Waller collided with the trailer.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I understand it usually rains during bonfire season."

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