

## **Roughing It in the Public Library**

As construction continues on Coppel's William T. Cozby Library it is interesting to look back on the origins of Coppel's library system. While the new renovations promise to make the library a monument of learning and technology, it was born of much humbler roots.

The town's first public library was created in 1974 thanks to the passionate efforts of city councilman Bob Hefner. It was located in a small, white house built near the turn of the century and stocked with books from Hefner's personal collection.

A pamphlet written for the library's 25th anniversary relates the primitive conditions that existed in those early days. Antifreeze was regularly poured into the toilet to keep it from freezing. Once, the bathroom flooded and the water froze to the floor. The staff was forced to chip away the ice.

Remarkably, Coppel continued to use the facility for 12 years. It was not always easy, but few staffers questioned the effort. They were committed to the vision of a library system put forth in plain terms by Councilman Hefner.

"Every town needs one." Hefner said, "Every town uses one. Coppel must have one