

A LOOK BACK IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY

Thomas Hart Benton's painting - "Boomtown"

Thomas Hart Benton was an American painter/muralist. Along with Grant Wood and John Steuart Curry, he led the Regionalist art movement. His work depicted everyday people in scenes of life in the United States. He painted in the Midwest, but he studied in Paris, lived in New York City for more than 20 years and painted scores of works there. He also painted scenes of the American South and West. His Boomtown painting was the result of a summer sketching trip that took him to Borger, Texas. In 1926, oil had been discovered in the Panhandle of Texas. Promoter "Ace" Borger purchased land there and created the town that soared from zero to thirty thousand people in just 90 days.



Benton wrote of Borger, Texas:

"Out on the open plain beyond the town a great thick column of black smoke rose as in a volcanic eruption from the earth to the middle of the sky. All the mighty anarchic carelessness of our country was revealed in Borger... It was revealed with a breadth, with an expansive grandeur... One did not get the feeling, in spite of the rough shacks and dirty tents in which the people lived, of that narrow cruelty and bitter misery that hovers around eastern industrial centers. There was a belief, written in men's faces, that all would find a share in the gifts of this mushroom town.... Borger on the boom was a big party where capital joined hands with everybody in a great democratic dance." ■

618 North Main Street
Borger, Texas 79007
806-272-0130

Open Tue-Fri
9am-5pm
Sat-11am-4:30pm



HCHM

Hutchinson County
Historical Museum

Free admission

Handicapped
accessible

Kid-friendly

www.hutchinsoncntymuseum.org