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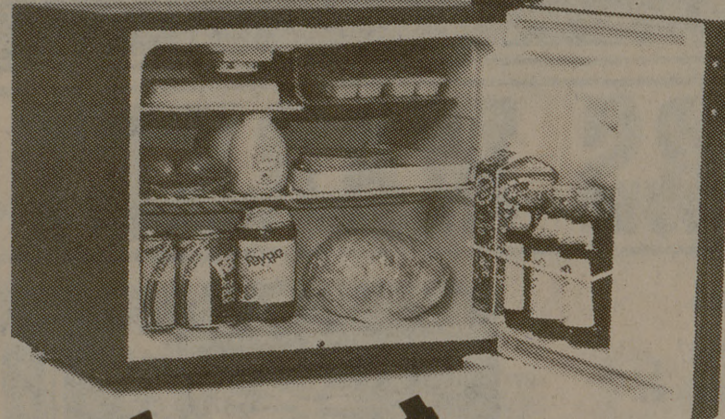
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Lignite-burning power plant

Electricity source for Bryan

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
Battalion Staff

About two miles from the intersection of Highways 30 and 244 in Grimes County lies the site of Bryan's future energy source — a lignite-burning power plant.

The 400-megawatt lignite plant is being constructed by the Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA). It will produce electricity for the cities of Bryan, Denton, Garland and Greenville, none of which are in Grimes County.

The four cities formed the TMPA in 1975, following an act of the Texas Legislature which allows public entities, such as cities, to create a separate power agency. The TMPA is headquartered in Arlington.

A power agency formed under this law has certain governmental powers, including the right to issue tax-free revenue bonds. The legislation puts no geographical limits on its area of operation.

The plant is scheduled for completion in 1982, said Robert Murphy, director of administrative services for TMPA.

With the rising cost of natural gas, lignite is seen as an economical alternative to producing energy. Lignite is a soft, crumbly, porous type of coal, and Texas has more of it than any other state.

But despite the advantage of low-cost energy, some environmentalists oppose the lignite power plants. The only economically feasible way to get at lignite is to strip-mine it, which can destroy prime farmland.

State and federal laws require strip miners to reclaim the land, or to restore it to its original condition.

The TMPA is acquiring 25,000 acres near the plant site to strip mine, Murphy said. Some of the land has been purchased, but most of it is being leased, he said.

The TMPA has been testing the land for a couple of years, trying to determine the best method of reclamation for that area specifically, Murphy said.

Another disadvantage of lignite plants is air pollution. Lignite is especially dirty to burn because of its high degree of sulfur and ash.

BISD hires new principal

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Reporter

The Bryan Independent Board hired a new Bryan School principal Monday, the former principal resigned to accept an assignment to an elementary school.

Perry B. Pope, 41, will be Don Wiggins who is taking over Bonham Elementary.

Pope had been principal of Waltrop Senior High School in Houston, Texas since 1975. That, he had served as a junior school principal.

State laws and regulations favored most of the remaining candidates.

One proposition before the board was switching from a quarter to a semester system. The Bryan Board had been using the quarter system but had changed to the semester system.

A new state law requires all Texas secondary schools to go back to a semester system in two years.

School is also going to be later in August to save conditioning. The scheduling will, however, still require 175 days.

Jack McCreary, an Austin attorney retained by the board, said school income may be cut by tax law changes. The effect is to extend a \$5,000 home exemption from school district to homeowners. In addition, citizens have been given a homestead exemption and their tax assessments frozen.

He said that if an elderly home is undervalued when assessment is frozen, then never be taxed at a higher level. Thus, he said, a home worth \$300,000, may be assessed at an early, out-of-date assessment of possibly only \$100,000.

Bureaucrats plan own Carter protest

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Washington's bureaucrats are used to demonstrations — for peace, against nuclear bombs and power, for integration, against busing, for women's rights, against abortions.

Most recently, government workers' paths have been blocked by disgruntled farmers' tractors and angry truckers' diesel-hungry rigs.

Now it's the bureaucrats' turn. They plan a week of protest activities to call President Carter's attention to their dismay over a number of recent decisions affecting them.

The protest will center in Washington, but activities are scheduled across the country in cities with large concentrations of civil servants.

Carter, of course, is the boss of the 2.1 million bureaucrats, 350,000 of

whom work in the Washington area. They cannot strike, but have designated this week of protest over what they see as politically motivated attempts by the president to implement his 1976 anti-bureaucracy theme at their expense.

The highlight comes Thursday with picketing of the White House and a lunchtime rally in Lafayette Square across the street. It will be sponsored by 10 federal employee unions representing more than half the federal work force.

The spark for the protest was Carter's long-awaited proposal, made public last week, to revise federal pay procedures by combining the generous fringe benefits with salary to arrive at a standard of comparison with private industry. It would also set pay on the basis of the cost of

living in each city.

Although about half the workers would get higher pay, the civil service unions claim women and minorities would wind up losing and the plan involves giving the president pay-setting authority that now belongs to Congress.

Other issues are Carter's 5.5 percent cap on federal pay increases, despite current pay standards calling for higher raises, and the proposed merger of the high-benefit civil service retirement system with Social Security.

There is other discontent as well, particularly last year's civil service revision making it easier to fire employees and — most important — Carter's decision to make federal workers pay for their parking places.

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