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Lignite coal creates problems for community Coff

the plant live in the area.

During the construction stage

of a plant, 1,000 workers are needed. After construction, the builders move out and production

begins. During the production

stage of 25 to 30 years, the plant needs only 300 employees. What this means, according to a Brazos Valley Development

Council report, is "during the construction stage, there will be a

greater need for apartments and

mobile homes than single family

housing. This will change during the operational stage, which will

require more permanent type housing and little or no need for

temporary housing.'

kins said

solution

By DANA SMELSER

Battalion Reporter Mary Cobb owns a grocery store in the rural community of Carlos, Texas, population: 41. In place for them to live. the past three years, her annual sales have increased more than five times, from \$90,000 to Why are these changes occur-ring in the small, peaceful com-munity of Carlos? The answer: lig-\$500,000

into his bar to relax, socialize and have a few. Now, he seldom sees a face twice

A father of three drives 20 miles

from east Bryan on a bumpy, crowded highway to work in Car-los. He would like to move his family closer, but he can't find a

nite coal

Tony Kolbasinsky, who owns the town's beer joint, used to know almost everyone who came The land, rich with this miner-al, is responsible for a new power plant being constructed near Carlos. The construction is causing 1,000 people to come to the rural community.

Used for generating electricity,

 2^{40}_{dozen}

FRIDAY'S FEAST BREAD BOX

BAKERY

BAGELS

(FRIDAYS ONLY)

Sesame, Onion 2⁹⁰_{dozen}

Woodstone Center on Hwy. 30

(Next to the Wash Haus)

Plain

Poppy Seed,

696-8600

lignite is a soft, highly combusti-ble coal which is strip mined from the land. Because lignite is diffi-treated with the store owner, said. "It's very difficult to get builcult to transport, the electric generating plants must be constructed in rural areas close to the mines

Consequently, the construction and operation of these plants have a significant impact on the sur-rounding communities, such as Carlos.

This influx of people stimulates growth, brings money and helps the economy of an area that has been stagnant for years. But, it also causes a shortage of housing and public services and alters the way of life for many of the com-munity's residents. The lignite mining process may also cause some undesirable environmental effects.

The Carlos plant, under con-struction since 1979 by the Texas Municipal Power Agency, is just one of many lignite-fired power plants currently operating or being constructed or planned in the state. Although most plants will provide power for metropoli-tan areas, the strongest effects are in the strongest effects are in the rural communities.

"The small rural towns just can't accommodate the growth," said Myrna Hoskins, director of econo-mic development for the Brazos Valley Development Council. "A thousand new people all congregating to work at one spot has to have a significant impact.

Finding housing for the workers is the largest problem. "The hous-

"It's very difficult to get buil-ders to build speculative housing because typically the rural market

An alternative to commuting, is to live in temporary housing, such as trailer homes. "But," Hoskins hasn't been very good," Hoskins said. "In Carlos, developed hous-ing doesn't exist. Less than onesaid, "the trailers may scatter all over the community and that's a very expensive proposition to run that many water lines." half of 1 percent of the workers of In time, houses can be built to alleviate some of the housing shor-tages, but even that isn't a simple

To add to the problem, Hoskins said, the water quality of Carlos is not in good shape. Many of the water problems could be solved, Hoskins said, with money to help finance the growth. The problem of providing utili-

ties has spread into Brazos County as a result of the growth. College Station Mayor Cary Halter said \$50 million in bonds have been issued to help finance the growth. "We're just trying to keep our head above water," he said.

A Texas A&M University rural sociologist, Steve Merdock, said Bryan-College Station bears most of the costs of the commuting workers. "It costs more to provide the services they need than they are bringing into the community,

About 80 percent of the people who work at the TMPA plant live Although constructing a power plant in a rural area can cause problems in housing and public in Bryan or College Station, Hosservices, for man, growth can have Sue Altimore, wife of a builder in Carlos, said they have sold ev-ery house they have in Carlos and positive economic effects. Store owner Mary Cobb said: "It's hard to put in words or describe the are beginning to show houses in the Bryan-College Station area. We have people coming with me

Ill effects feared from lignite mining weath

By DANA SMELSER

Battalion Reporter ment, the While residents of Carlos are seeing the immediate effect of mouth is 3 f lignite mining in the influx of new residents, others see the possible percent of a ity of some long-term effects as well. made b Probably the most controversial aspect of lignite mining is the way, the to

cken is a environmental effects it may have. Although the people near Carlos will not need to worry aboutth. You will until 1983 when production begins, they already have mixed em mouth, w

odoubt, w ics like t

"Lignite is dirty and it burns nasty," Myrna Hoskins said. Because of this, the plants are under tight restrictions by the nd and pre Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 and 1977. Basical tempts, t these acts require the companies to filter the burned-off air before on't matte they emit it

Mining can disrupt a historically agricultural trend, said E Hoskins (no relation), who is a professor of mining engineering Texas A&M University. "It takes more people to mine that relief, says emost m Beginnin L.M. B licated

Steve Merdock, a sociologist, said increased competition for lab is bad for farmers because they cannot afford to hire labor at high ountry costs as out

"The growth also brings in new businessmen with larger can lin a typic stock and small businesses have trouble functioning," he said that A new breed of people comes to the rural community along with the new businessmen.

Before, Carlos was basically a hometown," Mary Cobb sal important -Now, it's like a little city in a small community.

munity — it's been wonderful for A&M traffic tickets L1

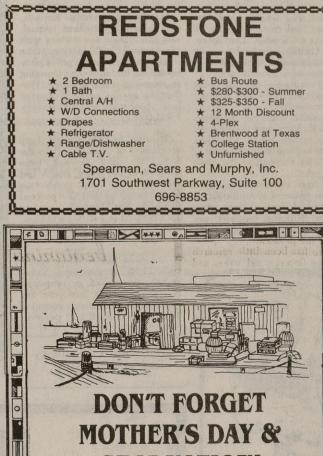
violators' stories.

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dent Government and Dr. John J.

the parking area was not clearly





lead to appeals pant URBANA



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