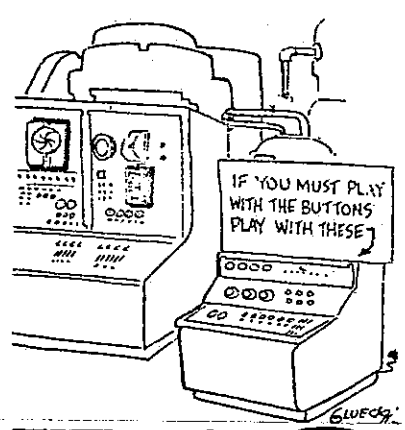


Further talks :  
June 18 and 19  
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further talks  
Highlands late

Conveyor system modules, which will eventually support the Goonyella bucket wheel conveyor system, on the move at the construction site.

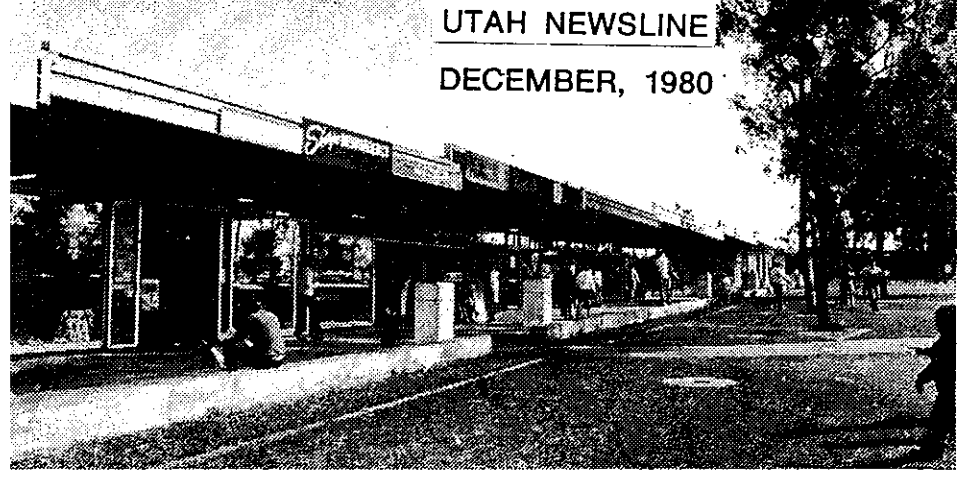


# PEAK

# 1980

# THE TOWNS

UTAH NEWSLINE  
DECEMBER, 1980



Moranbah to Goonyella in a wheelbarrow.  
"Recently the CMU levied all members at the Goonyella and Peak Downs mines \$10 from their wages as a contribution to the fund. This immediately added \$6000 to the funds. Then UDC contributed a dollar for every dollar raised.  
"With the State Government's generous subsidy, the target figure is clearly in sight.  
"We hope to start work on the centre by about June 1975," says John Brosnan.  
The paper also reported: "Most residents of Moranbah would have noticed quite a deal of construction activity underway around the town but few are probably aware that it is part of a progressive town development scheme.  
"One building that would have attracted the attention of all women shoppers is the one being built between the National Bank and the Moranbah Furniture and Electrical Store.  
"It is a private development and when completed will comprise a further eight shops for Moranbah in the form of a Shopping Mall.

## Moranbah started as a mirage . . . a shimmer of hopes rising from a carpet of scrub.

It was established, initially, to serve the Goonyella and Peak Downs operations with 120 homes by January, 1971, and 250 homes by January, 1972. A year later there were 380 homes. "It will," said a report, "reach the presently planned ultimate requirement of 435 homes by April, 1973."

The Regional Press saw the town development — that move from mirage to Moranbah — as a challenge."

Said the Mackay Mercury: "Achievements of the many intermediate targets involved in the complex operation of converting virgin scrub to a sophisticated, modern, electrically driven, water treated, rail serviced mining and residential complex is an object lesson in large scale planning and construction, the like of which has never been seen before in this district."

In a later report the "Mercury" added: "A number of essential business establishments will be provided: grocery, general store, butcher, repair shops and others. Two banks have established services in temporary quarters. The primary and secondary schools in Moranbah, although initially catering to 175 students, will eventually handle between 600 and 700 primary children and 150 high school students.

"Electricity, water, sewerage and other utilities are in place, streets are being paved and television and library services are being arranged. Recreation facilities include a 50-metre swimming pool and a recreation centre.

The Morning Bulletin of Rockhampton on viewing the orderly progress observed: "The town of Moranbah is the centre of statewide or even Australia-wide interest because it was planned, from the underground service lines to the ridge-cap of the tallest building, long before construction started. This is pioneering in the space age.

"Perhaps it is infinitely different to the old concept of pioneering — axe-swinging individualists raising large families in bark and slab huts.

"Individualists who faced incredible hardship and loneliness because they believed in what they were doing. Although conditions are different today the spirit of the new pioneers, the challenge, excitement and the satisfaction of helping to create a new community are as apparent today as it obviously was in the old days.

"The only difference is that the clank and snarl of bulldozers and the clamour of power tools has taken the place of the ring of the axe and the crack of the bullock whip. Perhaps it is not so poetic, but it certainly is much more practical."

Stirring stuff, indeed. Local pride was stirred, too, when the settlement, less than three years old, was given a civic seal of approval by the Queensland

Division of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

Said the newspaper reports: "Moranbah has been selected as a winner in the Queensland Tidy Towns Competition and garnered a prize of \$400 for towns with a population of less than 3000.

"The competition was conducted by the Queensland Division of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

"Both judges awarded Moranbah 1460 points out of a possible 2000. The judges indicated that residents in the town obviously had tremendous civic pride, which was evidenced by the fact that almost all the homes had well-kept lawns and gardens.

"Moranbah earned maximum points in three separate sections — for the lack of unsightly objects; the appearance of public; private and commercial premises and the standard of fences and paved areas. The minimum point achievement, 92%, was in the area of open spaces and streets.

"The judges were very impressed by the preservation of the native trees, and indicated that although scores for competing towns could not be released, Moranbah had a very easy win."

By 1974 the "Tidy Town" was sufficiently self-assured to stage May Day celebrations.

The bazzaz and razzamatraz was covered by "Utah Report."

Said the editorial: "It is traditional in Australia to celebrate May Day on the first Monday on May each year. This holiday commemorates the 40-hour week or eight-hour day, and throughout the country floats, bands, marching girls and demonstrators parade through the streets.

"In Moranbah celebrations began on Thursday, May 2 with the Young Princess Cabaret conducted by the Parents and Citizens Association. About 200 children and parents attended the cabaret with a local band providing music until midnight.

"Princesses crowned were Kim Bunton (5-8 years group), Susan Condon (9-12 years group), and Florence Trindorfer (13-16 years group).

"This was followed on Saturday with a May Day Cabaret where a crowd of 360 witnessed the crowning of the May Day Queen Vicki Wills, Charity Queen Merrill Turpin and Princess Linda Barton.

"Moranbah's local band, provided music for the cabaret which reluctantly ended at about 2 a.m. the following morning.

"The big day was Monday, May 6 which began with a float procession with over 1000 spectators lining the streets. The Mirani Pipe Band, which always travels to Moranbah for special occasions, led the parade."  
Moranbah was emerging as a

opening, filed this story: "The opening of the centre virtually marks the end of the establishment of the town.

"Today Moranbah is a vibrant community of 3100 people, modern houses and wide paved roads located 128 road miles southwest of Mackay. Its development has opened up a nearly uninhabited area of Queensland and provided it with water, power, roads and a railway.

"The new community centre is not just another building; it is destined to become the very heart of the town. In the past there has been no community hall of any sort in Moranbah, and all kinds of meeting arrangements had to be made for groups to gather. The new centre will provide a meeting place for a variety of community services and activities, including public meetings, clubs, film showing, concerts.

"To the mothers of Moranbah, the most important part of the new community centre is the kindergarten section.

"Although the completion of the new community centre marks the end of the establishment of the town, expansion is far from completed. During the next year a new subdivision is being built to accommodate the ever increasing number of employees at the mines and the workers in other industries and shops."

A feeling of permanence began to permeate the community.

John Milne, a humanities teacher at the Moranbah High School in the early, developing days, wrote: "People are taking root and feeling more at home as the town grows up. The same people who moved there just for the job are beginning to think of Moranbah as home. They're thinking about buying houses and even retiring there someday.

"The students are especially committed to Moranbah as a permanent place to live. Most have grown up and spent their formative years in the town. Their fathers and some of their mothers work for UDC as do the parents of their friends. Many Moranbah teenagers are given jobs at the mines during school holidays."

Town growth and stability was reflected in community involvement. By late '74 there were plans for an ambulance centre.

Said "Utah Newsline": "In what has been described as one of the quickest fund raising efforts for a town of its size, Moranbah will soon have raised enough money for an ambulance centre.

"Two years ago, the Moranbah QATB Benefit Committee was formed with John Brosnan, Moranbah's chemist, as President.

"The Committee helped to design an \$80,000 ambulance centre and has been working hard with fund



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## The first Goonyella excavator delivered construction early Apr.

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One of the first on site, par Brian Black MARCH 19