

# TOWN IS BORN NEAR MINE SITE



*What formerly was the site of vast cattle empires is being converted into a pleasing, self-contained urban center to house the Utah employees who will operate the rapidly developing coal mining properties in the district.*

MORANBAH, QUEENSLAND — This new community has stirred to life in Central Queensland, site of the impressive new coking coal mining activities in the area.

Utah Development Company's development of the Goonyella and Peak Downs mines has brought urban growth to a territory once the domain of primitive aboriginal tribes and later of cattlemen. It has given a big economic boost to the entire area.

Moranbah is not yet a complete

townsite. The first families to occupy dwellings only moved in during early January. But by mid-1973 the Moranbah population will approximate 2500 persons and will have become a pleasant community with all the amenities.

Creating Moranbah has been a challenge. As the Daily Mercury of Queensland observed: "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."

## Mine Construction

Meanwhile, construction of the mine plan and machinery at Utah Development's Goonyella mine is moving ahead. Coal production is under way and next year should reach four million tons annually. Construction of the 125-mile rail link from Goonyella to the coast is virtually completed and construction of new port facilities at Hay Point is proceeding.

The Peak Downs mining development will come on stream next year.

Moranbah was built under specifica-

tions established in a detailed town plan. Over 120 houses have been completed and a number of essential business establishments will be provided: grocery, general store, butchery, 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.

## Utilities in Place

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-meter swimming pool and a recreation center.

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 ridgecap of the tallest building, long before construction started. This is pioneering in the space age.

## Pioneers

"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."