Editor's Note: This is one of a series of five resumes of two-year studies recently completed and published on five area towns by sociology research students under the direction of Dr. R. H. Bolyard of the Department of Sociology, Southwest Louisiana Institute. Separate studies for the towns—Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Scott and Youngsville—are based on data obtained by interviewing the high school youth, the townspeople and the farmers in each community. Each study gives a sketch of community life based on economic factors, recreation, education, industrial resources and religious preferences. The study has two main purposes: to give experience to the students in techniques of sociological research and to furnish information and findings to townspeople to prompt improvements where necessary.

Of the five area towns surveyed by a group of SLI social research students, Carencro is the largest and most capable of improving its community life. Founded by two men, John and Martin Mouton in 1770, Carencro has grown to its present size of 1,700 people. Like the other towns surveyed—Broussard, Duson, Scott and Youngville—the predominating need for Carencro is a recreation-center especially for the teenagers.

Other problems which appear to be of major importance to the community at large are sewage disposal, trash collection, water service, banking service and inadequate shopping facilities. To get a viewpoint from the youth of Carencro, 16 boys and 7 girls of the Carencro High school Senior class were interviewed by the research group.

Twelve of the seniors felt that there were no suitable evening activities nor any place for the teenagers to gather in Carencro. The majority went to night clubs for dancing and Lafayette was the most popular place for their best times.

Of the 12 students who plan to go to college, they listed majors in speech, medicine, education, secretarial science, science, business and engineering. A majority of the students favored more business and establishments and suggested a factory for the manufacture of cotton seed oil.

Their dislikes about Carencro were cows in the streets, town "riff-raff," gossip, bad roads, bars and politics. In contrast to Scott and Duson youth interviewed, a majority of Carencro's youth interviewed said they expected to spend their lives in the town.

"Bum"—Brooklyn Style

The six who did not plan to remain in Carencro gave as reasons the smallness of the community and lack of opportunity to practice their vocations. One boy chose Brooklyn because he wants to be a baseball player.

Of the 75 town residents interviewed, carpentry was the occupation most frequently mentioned with farming running a close second. Four men were unemployed, of which three were retired.

Average of 54 income estimations was $2,655 annually, with estimates ranging from $1,000 to $10,000. The majority of these workers were employed in Carencro, with some in Lafayette, one in Bosco and one in Texas.

Total number of children for the 75 families was 155, with an average of two living per family. The two largest families had 10 children each.

The average number of years of householders interviewed was eight years, not including the college graduates. Thirteen had attended college.

Homes were owned by 52 of the families while 23 rented quarters. Sewage disposal was listed by 68 people as needing improvement and trash collection was listed by 64.

Shopping center for clothes for 62 families was Lafayette, while 12 bought their clothes in Carencro. New Orleans was named by one family.

Although 46 people agreed that recreational and social activities were inadequate in Carencro, only 10 offered suggestions for improvement. Top suggestion was a teen-age recreation center, followed by a skating rink, a park or playground and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

Something Missing

The research group remarks: "Here we see the typical reaction of a public who knows that something is lacking in their community but who do not take an active part in organizing any new programs."

Finding that most of the people seem aware of the social lags which exist in their community, the survey observed: "Either they do not believe there is a solution or they depend upon others to take the initiative in organizing efforts for improvement."

In the farm interview, 45 out of 81 farmers owned their lands, 25 were renters, 10 were hired men and one made no comment. Owning a total of 3,458 acres, they cult (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)