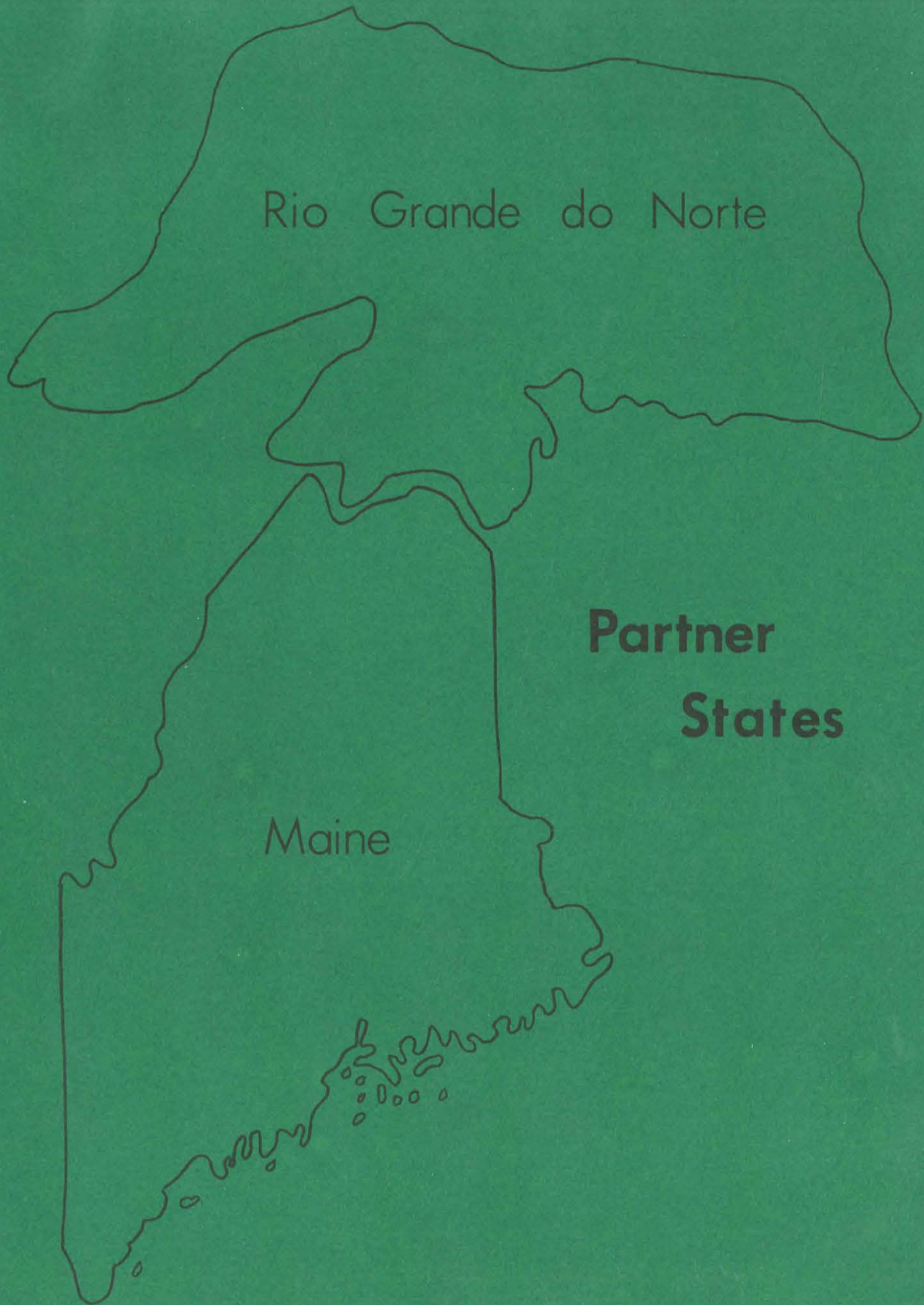


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



Rio Grande do Norte

**Partner  
States**

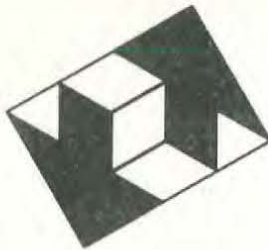
Maine







**PARTNERS**  
**OF THE AMERICAS**



Ernest L. Bracy, Communications Chairman

Post Office Box 818

Augusta, Maine 04330

Telephone (207) 685-3831

January 25, 1973

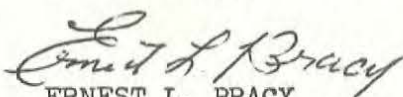
To: Members of the 106th Legislature

The following publications are being made available to you in order that you may be informed about your State's participation in the Partners of the Americas program. Maine's Partner State is Rio Grande do Norte in Brazil.

1. "Partner States", a publication made possible thru the cooperation of the Maine Teachers Association and the Maine Partners. This publication is written for the Elementary School level reader. We are however getting numerous requests for copies and are under the impression that it is proving interesting to everyone.
2. "PARTNERGRAM", last issue Dec., 1972, issued by the Maine Partners to a mailing list of members and interested people and organizations.

Maine has become known throughout the Americas for its success in building a lasting friendship with the people of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. We have 28 students from Rio Grande do Norte in Maine. There are 5 Maine students signed up to go to Rio Grande do Norte thus far in the exchange program. Maine has participated in many projects including the sending of an ETV transmitter, assisting with arrangements for the Hope Ship to spend 10 months in Rio Grande do Norte, providing medical equipment such as respirators, an Electroencephalograph, etc., assistance with an agricultural program, professor and cultural exchanges, drilling a well for a small community, a power generator for a small community, school and hospital furniture and supplies, and just any project that people generate to help people. Funds for these projects come from people, not governments, though the cooperation of governmental agencies is a valuable support which demonstrates governments working with and for people.

The success of this program has contributed much toward securing Peace and Friendship in the Americas. Maine's participation has been one of leadership for the 41 participating states in the United States and their South and Central American partners. Maine people have moved upwards to currently hold positions of guidance for the entire program such as Member of the Board of Directors, President of the National Assn. and Member of the Executive Committee. You can take pride in the way Maine people have responded to this complex problem of International significance.

  
ERNEST L. BRACY  
Chairman Maine Partners





# PARTNERS

OF THE AMERICAS

MAINE

PARTNERGRAM

December, 1972



Ernest L. Bracy, Communications Chairman

Post Office Box 818

Augusta, Maine 04330

Telephone (207) 685-3831

R. G. N. SECRETARY OF HEALTH Dr. Ginabaldo Barros, Sec. of Health for R. G. N. visited Maine. He was in N.Y.C. in connection with a family planning program and made a trip to Maine. He conferred with Governor Curtis, State Dept. of Health officials and with various members of the Partners Program. He expressed much appreciation for the warmth and friendliness of the Maine people. A record of his comments with regard to the future medical needs has been made available for further study in future planning of medical projects.

HON. JUSCELINO KUBITSCHKEK The Hon. Juscelino Kubitschek and his wife made an overnight visit in Maine. Dr. Kubitschek was President of Brazil from 1956 to 1961. Lecturing at Colby College, he spoke about all the programs he started in Brazil including the building of the new capital city, Brasilia. Dr. Kubitschek discussed the present status of the Partners of the Americas program with Maine's Partner Chairman, Bracy. Since he initiated the original Alliance program in Brazil and negotiated with Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy concerning this program, the subject was of special interest to him. He was impressed that the Partners were starting a new Partnership in the rural State of Piaui in Brazil.

PS-33 Stimulator Donations once again made to Hospital it possible to acquire an Colonia Natal additional piece of medical equipment. The Stimulator, for use with our Electroencephalograph, was shipped via courtesy of the International Tropical Products Inc. airplane. The DC6 had trouble with two engines over French Guinea and made an emergency landing. It has now arrived in Brazil, however, and carried 7 heifers from Penna. Partners for Bahia, Brazil in addition to Maine's equipment.

DR. ANDRADE IN MAINE Dr. Dalton Melo de Andrade, Secretary of Education and Partners President in R.G.N. made a weekend stop in Maine. He was in Tenn. for an educational seminar. In Me. he met with Governor Curtis, U. of M. representatives, ETV people, Brazilian students, Diocese personnel, M.T.A. officials, Admiral Rodgers and numerous Partners officials. In the two available days, he discussed all active projects. We regret that he could not stay longer in Maine.

"PARTNER STATES" Miss Geneva Kirk has completed her booklet and it has been published by the Maine Teachers Assn. The booklet has received considerable acclaim from other Partner States and is recognized as being an introduction toward the involvement of schools everywhere. A large number of requests have been received for the booklet. We suggest you order a supply from the M.T.A. and place them in your schools. Details can be obtained by writing to M.T.A., 184 State St., Augusta, Me. 04330. A Partners plaque was awarded Miss Kirk by Governor Curtis for the completion of her project.

STUDENTS We already have 14 students in Maine from R.G.N. and are trying to place 11 more for the term from Jan. to June 1973. Your assistance in locating homes for these students would be appreciated. Write to Miss Geneva Kirk, Partners Student Committee Chairman, 30 Ware St., Lewiston, Me. Do it now!

"MARITIME PARTNERS" A Project Kick-Off meeting was held at Governor Curtis's office. Members of the Board of Directors of the Maine Partners met with Gov. Curtis, Admiral Rodgers and officials of various State of Maine departments. More news on this project will follow.





MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE...HELP KEEP THE PARTNERS GOING.....

REMIT TODAY....Box 818 Augusta, Maine 04330

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ To continue receiving our quarterly  
Partnergram send your \$10 NOW.

I would like to work on the ship project. ☐

I would like assignment to \_\_\_\_\_ committee. ☐

PORTLAND Numerous publications have men-  
STRING tioned the success of the visit  
QUARTET of the Portland Symphony's String  
Quartet, arranged and supported  
by the Maine Partners, the National Associa-  
tion of the Partners and the United States  
Information Service. Their successful appear-  
ance in many Brazilian cities focused much  
attention upon Maine and the Partners Program.  
The presentation of cultural programs is de-  
signed to improve the image of the U.S. abroad  
and is a pleasant diversion from materialism.

U.S.S. HOPE The U.S. Ambassador was in  
SAILS Natal for the occasion. There  
FROM NATAL were banquets and speeches. Gov.  
Cortez was equal to the occasion.

Not forgotten among the people in the know is  
the unrelenting efforts of the Partners of Me.  
and R.G.N. to bring the event of this project  
to Natal. Not forgotten is the memory of Dr.  
Walsh's visit to Portland to set up our coop-  
eration with this project. The determined  
efforts of those who participated when the  
project was almost lost to Recife will be  
remembered always. The ship took an hour to  
clear the harbor and then slowly disappeared  
from view. It hadn't brought all the relief  
to the ill and underprivileged that many there  
had hoped for but the results of the visit  
were positive and the accomplishments well  
worth the effort. It is up to us now to follow  
up this project with additional medical programs.  
Are we equal to the challenge? Can we load the  
next big ship, "The State of Maine", with much  
medical equipment and supplies? Your help is  
needed!

FILM READY Color film taken by Robert  
Bergeron, one of Maine's most  
outstanding newscasters, has been finished. We  
now need additional processing and sound track.  
To fully complete this project more funds are  
needed. Once completed this film could be made  
available for lectures, TV showings, etc. State  
Wide! Project contributions are needed.

NOVELTY A shipment of novelties  
SALE from R.G.N. was obtained  
for a church fair in Portland  
and sold there. The benefits of the sale  
of these items has gone into the Partners  
funds. This was a project conducted by  
Mary Ann Hiebert.

WEATHER It is interesting to observe  
WISE the students and watch them  
bundle up in warm clothes.

They adjust themselves to the cold wea-  
ther, participate in winter sports and  
suffer the hardships of winter quite  
well. Sometimes, though, we wonder what  
will be their lasting memories of Maine  
when they return to those 80 degree days  
of R.G.N., all of which must sound rather  
good to them when they talk back home on  
a really miserable cold and stormy Dec.  
day. In fact the clear skies, warm sun-  
shine, beautiful white beaches and warm  
hospitality of R.G.N. have a special en-  
ticement these days of Winter in Maine.

SHIP TO March 20th is final date  
SAIL of delivery of our shipment  
to the Maritime School at  
Castine. This means all  
materials must be collected, crated and  
delivered by that date.

HAVE  
YOU  
THOT  
OF  
HELPING?

HUMBERTO How soon passeth the time!  
TORRES It seems only a few days ago,  
instead of years, that Dr.  
Francisco Guedes, former Partners Presi-  
dent in Natal, recommended Humberto as a  
student for Bates College. In June he  
should be graduating. He has been a re-  
markable student! Congratulate him!





With time fast nearing deadline we're looking for your involvement and help in sending the STATE OF MAINE ship back to Natal with helpful items.

The following are the major areas of concentration, they are not at all final...additional material involving other areas is also welcomed:

1. Educational....the cooperation of schools is solicited. If a school in your community is willing you may get them to put up little packets of small Maine items for distribution in Rio Grande do Norte.
2. Agriculture...Useful implements for use throughout our sister state is needed. A sample irrigation system using aluminum pipe and a gas pump is being put together so if you know a local farmer that may have a few extra lengths of pipe call Maynard Dolloff at the Department of Agriculture in Augusta or write him at the state office bldg.
3. In the field of health there are many needs. You may be able to talk your doctor into donating any surplus equipment he might have that still is useful. Also a need exists for all types of vaccines... non perishables of course.
4. Cultural Arts...Do you know a local artisen in your area who may like to exchange wears with someone in Brazil?
5. Maybe your town may like to allign itself with a sister city or town in R.G.N.
6. Can you think of other areas you would be interested in....?

Please remember .... don't intercept stuff on the way to the local dump. If it has a genuine use we can send it on the ship.

Call Chairman Bracy for any information... He has all kinds of it for your help.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU ON THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION....IN SO DOING YOU WILL HELP THIS AND OTHER PROJECTS BE SUCCESSFUL AS WELL AS RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER THAT WE HOPE TO FAITHFULLY PUT OUT FROM NOW ON.

Get a friend to join this year and get involved. A review of the adjoining column will give you a reason to

GET INVOLVED.....

THINGS IN THE FUTURE The following is a list of items being considered

as projects for the future....you can enjoy doing them and be proud of helping others.

\*Exchange of items for school use.

\*Bumper sticker program

\*More frequent meetings  
As membership warrents.... quarterly meetings will be held in different sections of the state.

\*A sustained membership drive is now underway. Get a friend to join. With your membership and that of a friend you will receive a beautiful Partners pin or tiepin of your choice.

-----  
The program As a person to person program the Maine Partners rely on you to help fulfill a successful program with our sister state R.G.N. To get involved means a personal feeling of accomplishment and goodwill.

-----  
STUDENTS We still have a few students that would like to spend the last half of the school year here. If you or any of your friends would be interested in hosting a student call Chairman Bracy or Miss Kirk.

-----  
Feliz Natal E

Prospero Ano Novo

-O-

Merry Christmas and a prosperous

New Year





# **PARTNER STATES**

Rio Grande do Norte

Maine

Published by

Maine Teachers' Association

Augusta, Maine



## Acknowledgment

Photos by Fawcett pages 15, 27, 28, 32

## FOREWORD TO MAINE PUPILS

Do you know what a partner state is? Because the idea is better known in your partner state Rio Grande do Norte of Brazil than here in Maine, I would like to explain it. An organization called the Partners of the Americas in Washington oversees the program. Forty of the states of the United States have selected states of Brazil or some small countries of Latin America as their partners (sometimes called sister states). For instance, New Hampshire has Ceará, the northern neighbor of Rio Grande do Norte, and Connecticut has Paraíba, the southern neighbor.

Our partners need the kind of help which we are able to offer in developing their regions. For instance, Maine has sent to the hospital in Natal an electroencephalograph and a respirator. A much needed well was drilled in a small community. An Educational TV station and an amateur radio transmitter have gone. Most exciting was the arrival in Natal in 1972 of the hospital ship HOPE for a ten-month stay. Ever since a delegation from Maine, including Governor Curtis, visited Natal in 1967 the partners in Natal and in Maine have been cooperating to secure this medical aid.

Rio Grande do Norte has sent some people to give us a better idea of their culture. A soprano, a concert pianist, a sculptor and a guitarist visited many Maine schools to provide programs. The Partners sent me to Rio Grande this year to get the material for this book to make you better acquainted with your partner state. When you are of high school age, many of you may be able to participate in some student exchange program and go to see for yourselves. You will find the people hospitable!



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	
HISTORY	1
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY	2
POPULATION	
People	4
Language	4
Names	6
ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY	
Plants	7
Animals	8
Products	8
Transportation	13
Communication	17
EVERYDAY LIFE	
Homes	18
Schools	20
Foods	22
Music	24
Recreation	25
Holidays	26
Visit to the Institute of Anthropology	27
GOVERNMENT	
Branches	29
National Symbols	30
Money	30
Taxes	31
Peace Corps	32

## HISTORY

The state of Rio Grande do Norte originated from an expedition sent in 1597 by the Portuguese under command of Manuel de Mascarenhas Homem to the area which is now the city of Natal. They were instructed to build a fort and start a city. Later the fort had to be rebuilt with better material and is in the shape of a star and called the Forte dos Reis Magos. Since 1907 it has not been used for defense. It is now a museum reached easily by a foot bridge and is the property of the National Institute of History.



Interior of the Fort

The city of Natal started on December 25, 1597--hence its name, meaning birthday of Christ. The Dutch invaded this area in 1633 but were expelled in 1654.

Brazil became a Republic in 1889 under President Marshall Deodora da Fonseca. All the provinces then became states and Pedro Velho de Albuquerque became the first governor of Rio Grande do Norte.



## GEOGRAPHY

The state of Rio Grande do Norte covers an area of 53,105 km. and looks somewhat like the shape of an elephant as you view the map. Its major rivers are the Apodi, the Açu (which is the most extensive but becomes a series of lakes in the dry season), the Ceará Mirim and most important, the Potengi.

Along the shore are beaches of unusual beauty--among the most beautiful in the world--with broad white sands, blue sky and ocean and tall palm trees. These are all public areas. Close to the shore rise sand dunes from 30 to 50 m. high, partially covered with slight vegetation.



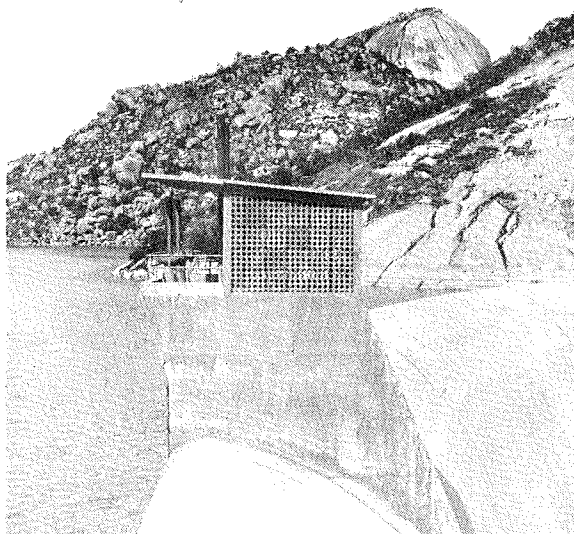
Beach at Pirangi with Sand Dunes and Coconut Palms

The elevation of the land is not particularly high--most of it less than 200 meters. The highest peak is Cabugi, only 800 m.

The climate is tropical along the shore and semi-arid in the interior. The temperature varies very little during the year, which really has only two noticeable

seasons, instead of our four. The median is  $26^{\circ}$  C. with a variation of  $6^{\circ}$  to  $10^{\circ}$ . The hottest months are December, January and February. If you live near the shore, the heat is tempered by the almost continuous breezes from the ocean.

Rainfall is a serious problem to the whole state as it is to some of its neighboring states. Year after year the people of the interior wonder whether drought will come. The dry season is October to December, but they hope for rain March to August. The total annual rainfall for the city of Natal is 1,885 mm., but in the dry season it is 0.9 mm. In the state as a whole there is only 1.500 mm. annually. Consequently, in a city like Natal the homes and businesses cannot be guaranteed a daily supply of water. Every other day there may be enough to allow watering a garden. When drought comes in the interior, the rivers dry up completely or turn to a string of lakes. The people may have to resort to getting water from that stored in plants of the cactus family. To solve the problem, individual landowners have built many small dams with earthen sides, just as in Maine. Some twenty-nine larger dams have been built by the government to hold large lakes to allow for irrigation ditches. These lakes provide very great fishing opportunities.



Gate House of a Dam

## POPULATION

### People

The people of this state are called rio-grandenses-de-norte or norte rio-grandenses or potiguares (the names of the original Indian tribe). In 1970 it had a population of 1,333,000 living mostly near the coast, although the majority are still rural rather than city dwellers. The density of population is 24.3 per km.

The increase in population has been slow because there were at different times large numbers leaving for other areas for mining, coffee, rubber and most recently to the new capital of the nation, Brasilia.

Racially the largest number of people are mestizos. That means a mixture of blood of one of three types: (1) the caboclo (white and Indian, (2) the mulatto (black and white), or (3) the cafuzo (black and Indian). There are no pure blooded Indians left in the state.

Recently Japanese people have been coming to the state to become excellent gardeners in the green valleys.

There are few large cities (1968 census): Natal, 239,590; Mossoró, approx. 72,414; Ceará Mirim, 28,336; Caicó, 27,948; Macaiba, 23,368; and these somewhat less than 20,000--Currais Novos, Açu, Martins and Macau.

### Language

Brazil is the only nation in the New World where the people speak the Portuguese language, because their country was explored and settled by Portuguese. Being one of the Romance languages, Portuguese has some similarities to French and Spanish.



## Some common words:

table	a mesa
chair	a cadeira
room	o quarto
pen	a caneta
pencil	o lápis
TV	o televisão
Christmas	Natal
one	um
two	dois
three	três
four	quatro

## Some common expressions:

Bom dia	Good morning
Boa tarde	Good afternoon
Boa noite	Good evening
Por favor	Please
Que horas são?	What time is it?
É uma hora.	It is one o'clock.
São nove horas.	It is nine o'clock.
Como vai?	How are you?
Bem, obrigado.	Fine, thanks.
Fala inglês?	Do you speak English?

Just as in different parts of the United States the pronunciation of words may be different, so too in various parts of Brazil you find variations of Portuguese.

Maine students recalling that we have many place names of Indian origin will understand easily how the Brazilian Portuguese language has been affected by association with the Indians, especially the Tupi tribe. Here are some examples:

Acu - the name of a river and a city of Brazil  
 In Tupi means large

Borborema - a high mountain range from Rio Grande do Norte southward  
 In Tupi is pora-pora-eyma, meaning without inhabitants

Caja - a fruit of the cajazeira  
 In Tupi is acá-ya

Caju - the fruit of the cajueiro

In Tupi is aca-yu, meaning yellow apple

guarana - a non-alcoholic drink made from a berry

In Tupi is uarana

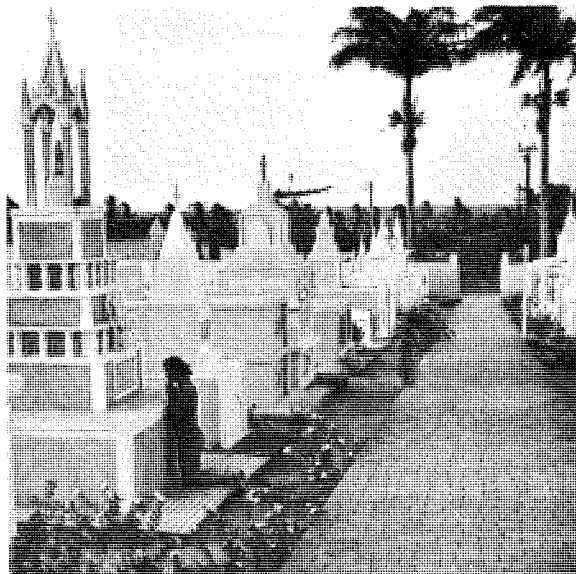
mandioca - a flour

In Tupi is mani-oca

### Names

Among popular names for boys we find José, Mario, Francisco, João, Paulo. For girls commonly you hear Maria, Francisca, Marta, Lucia, Fatima, Concepcion and Isabel.

Many families follow the practice of giving all their children names beginning with the same first letter.



Cemetery

## ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

### Plants

In this warm climate it is possible to have flowers growing year round. Orchids grow as parasites on trees. In courtyards you see beds or pots of anthurium, begonias, roses and caladium. The croton is common with varying colors. There are many flowering trees like the flamboya, a medium-size tree ablaze with reddish orange flowers. The Romeo and Juliet are two whose small trunks are twisted together and then at a height of ten feet the branches are trained onto an arbor to make shade in a patio. The delicate white bud opens in the morning and the little flower gradually changes from light to darker pink during the sunny day.

The most obvious trees are the palms. The coconut palm sometimes has yellowish coconuts, but more commonly green. The carnauba palm is distinguishable by a lower rough trunk, while the upper part is smooth and the fronds look like fans.



Summer Home at Pirangi Beach



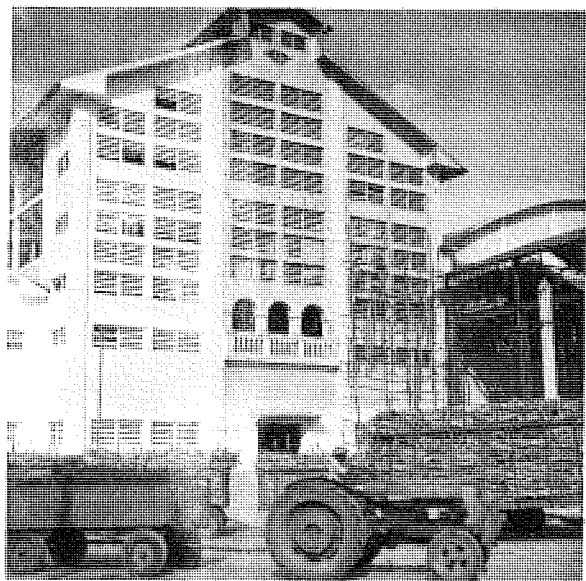
### Animals

At this time there are no animals in the state different from ours. But they have many different birds - the toucan, pinta silva, bemtivi, grauna, lavendeira and the vulture. Some families do have caged birds for pets as we might have canaries or parakeets.

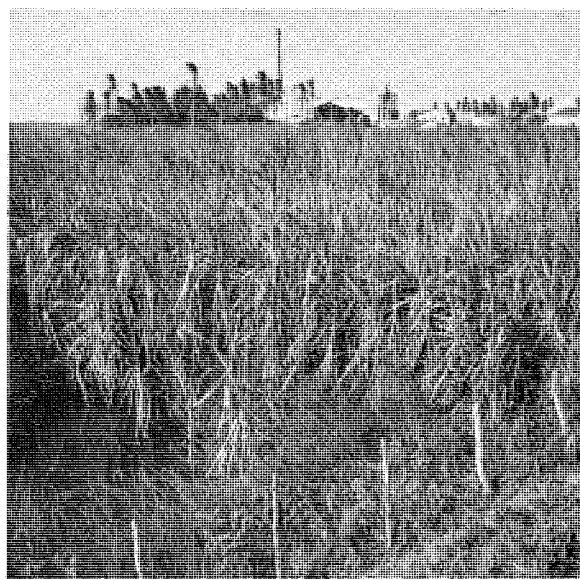
### Products

#### Vegetable

The important vegetable products in terms of tons of production are sugar, mandioca, sweet potato, cotton, sisal, corn, and beans. During the rainy season they plant rice, beans and corn, but others are planted at varying times, assuring a continuous crop. Fruits are abundant but very perishable. The carnauba palm which grows 15 to 20 m. high in groves has been called the "tree of providence" because of its many uses. The trunk itself may be used for construction, the fruit for food, but especially noted is the wax made from the dried fronds for use in phonograph records, varnishes and waxes.



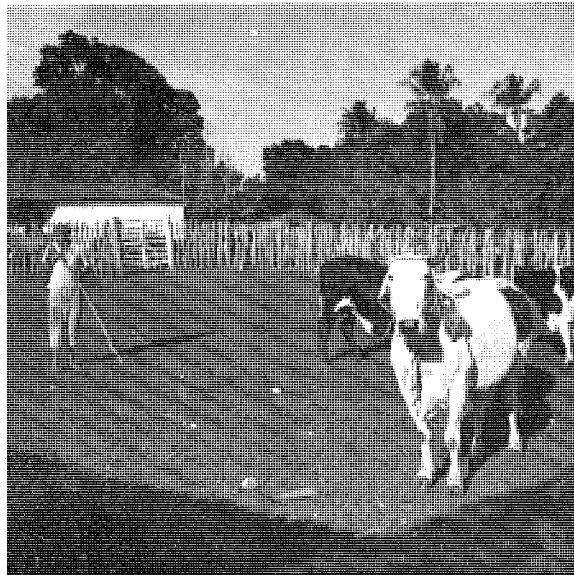
San Francisco Refinery



Sugar Cane Fields

### Animal

Cattle for milk production are raised mostly in the area around Natal to provide for the consumption by the large population there. But in the interior hides are the important product. On small farms (granjas) they raise pigs, sheep, goats, donkeys, and horses as well as chickens, ducks and turkeys.



Cattle

### Mineral

Salt production is important especially around the city of Macau. The state has the advantage of a higher than normal salt content in the ocean water; also strong tides twice daily bring it into the low areas and then the high temperature causes evaporation of the water. It produces annually 950,000 tons of salt, which is 60 percent of the total in Brazil.

Tungsten is an extremely important export and Rio Grande is the major producer in Brazil.

### Industry

Most is located around Natal and Mossoró where you find furniture, footwear, oil of cotton and of oiticica, paper, beverages and clothing.

Because the nine states of the Northeast have many serious economic problems to overcome, the federal government created in 1959 an organization called SUDENE to help the states develop. Studies were made of geology, meteorology and hydrology to better understand the area.

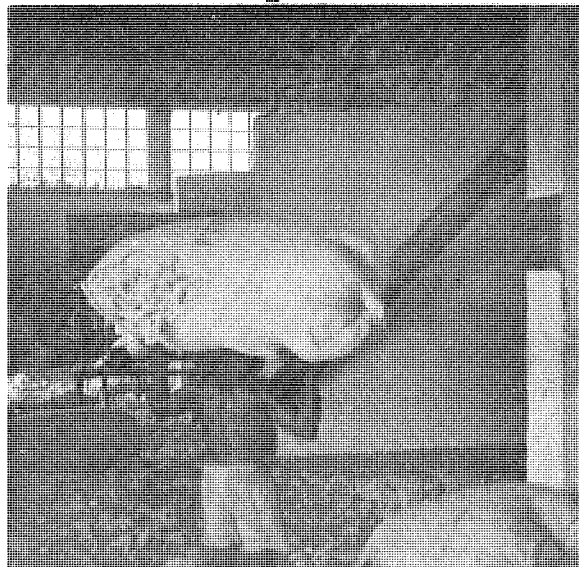
### A VISIT TO A COTTON MILL

Although cotton is grown in Rio Grand do Norte, there are no factories for spinning or weaving. At the processing plant the bags of cotton are trucked in from the plantation. An inspector pulls a little from each bag to be certain of the quality. Laborers carry these heavy sacks on their heads to the several machines where the seeds and waste are removed. As it comes light and fluffy from the last machine in the process, it is packed into square bales, wrapped in burlap and stored ready for shipment by truck, mostly to the south of Brazil where textile plants are located.

The variety Mocó is high grade, with prized long fibres, and is produced from a bigger, bushier plant which has to be planted only every six or seven years.

Work is seasonal in the mill--December through June.

Carrying a Bag of Cotton





## A VISIT TO A SUGAR MILL

In Rio Grande do Norte there are two types of sugar processing. At the "usina" they produce white granulated sugar. Truckloads of stalks of cane come in from the fields and are dumped onto a conveyor belt in the yard. A huge overhead machine may lift the whole load off or a small load may be tilted and thus dumped. The cane is chopped and pressed; then the juice goes through a cooking and refining process. Waste material is used for animal feed.

Near the plant a boy was selling from his cart a candy made of the sugar and ground coconut (like a fudge). He simply cut out a slice, placed it in a little piece of wrapping paper and handed it to the customer.

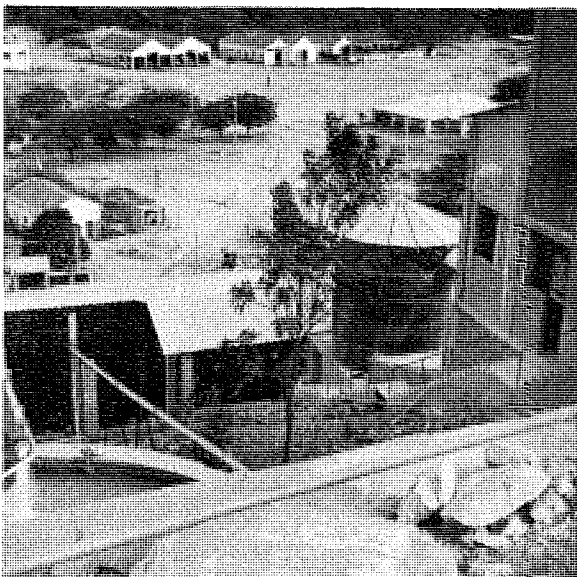
At a more primitive "engheno" they were making "Rapadura." Little machinery was evident. Donkeys were bringing in a load of cane to be cut and pressed. There were four huge vats in which the juice was being boiled down--like molasses candy cooking. Then a man dipped about a ten-quart pailful and poured it into a vat about five feet in diameter. A man with a wooden paddle stirred it until the right consistency to scoop up. He packed it hot into long narrow wooden containers which produce about 12 blocks (3 x 5 x 2 in.) of a dark brown sugar. When the blocks were dried they were turned out and packed in lots of 24 bars by a man using a wooden frame of twigs and a wrapping of cane leaves with which to bind the lot up for shipping. Rapadura is very sweet and is commonly used by poor people.

There remain just a few places where they still use animal-powered grinding equipment.

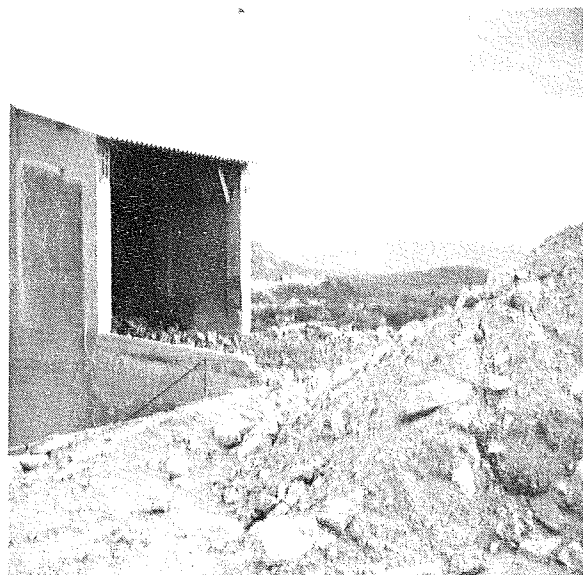
## A VISIT TO A TUNGSTEN MINE

The ore found in the mountains of Rio Grande do Norte is brought out from tunnels dug into the side of the hills. The conveyor carts used on the rails are small due to the tremendous weight. After closing time each day, dynamite is detonated in the tunnels to loosen the ore ready for the next day's work. At the major producer, Mina Brejui in Currai Novos, the ore is trucked up a hill to a shed where the first machine starts the crushing process. It drops down into a silo in the course of three grindings to pulverize it. Through a series of three washing tables, each lower down the hill, the Tungsten is separated from the other mineral content. The waste is trucked away to a pile which may someday have use, but for the present its mineral content is too low to be valuable.

In the last step the material goes through a machine with magnets which pick up the remaining iron, leaving the pure tungsten going into sacks for shipment. Tungsten has the highest melting point of any metal and is used for filaments in electric lights and for alloying steel. Most of it is shipped to European countries.



Mine Buildings with Town Below



Entrance Shed

## TRANSPORTATION

### Automobiles

Generally autos cost twice what they would in the state of Maine. Consequently small makes are popular. Ford produces in Brazil the Corcel (16,000 to 19,000 cruzeiros), the Galaxie and LTD. Willys is very popular. The Chevrolet makes Opala (starting at 19,000 cruzeiros), Opalim and Veraneiro; while Chrysler produces the Hillman and the Dodge Dart (24,000 cruzeiros).

Drivers need licenses secured by passing a driving and a physical test at the outset. The minimum age is eighteen. The licenses are renewed every five years. Autos have license plates with the name of the city in which the owner resides.

### Busses

Since the average citizen does not drive a car, busses are very common on the city streets, with frequent trips until late evening. When traveling from one city to another, it is the practice to go in advance to the bus station to buy a reserved seat. You receive a receipt with your name and a specific seat number, and the driver also receives a passenger list. Along the way passengers who are picked up probably have to stand. Some of the new busses are Mercedes-Benz. On night trips they have reclining chairs.

### Roads

Construction and maintenance is relatively easy in this semi-arid country which does not have to contend with problems of snow and frost. Generally a granite paving block is used for the surface on city streets, but on the main roads connecting cities there is asphalt.





Modern Bank Building



Small Shops

## City Scenes



Sidewalk Shop



A Well Dug with Partners Aid

## Rural Scenes



Laundress Coming from the River



A Fishing Village

The state has 9,300 km. of road to maintain. There are no toll roads in this area of Brazil.

### Ports

Three cities have good port facilities--Natal, Macau and Areia Branca. Natal's harbor was dredged in 1971 to allow the hospital ship HOPE to proceed up the Rio Potengi to the docks of Natal.

### Railroads

There are two lines: the Railway Network of the Northeast and the Mossoró Railroad. From the capital Natal a line goes south to João Pessoa and Recife and another goes north to Macau. From Mossoró a line runs to Areia Branca.

### Airlines

Four airlines serve the state--VARIG, VASP, Cruzeiro do Sul, and CAN. Mossoró and Natal have airports. Natal's (actually in the community of Parnamirim) is especially good because during World War II this was the jumping off spot for American forces headed for Dakar in Africa.



Contrast in Transportation

## COMMUNICATION

The telephone system TELERN is not as widespread or efficient as in the United States. There are in Brazil as a whole only 1.99 telephones per 100 persons, while in our country there are 50 telephones per 100 persons. The ratio in Rio Grande do Norte is much smaller.

The postal system has no mail boxes for deposit on the city streets. Therefore, it is necessary to make a trip to the post office (or a sub-station in Natal). Bright, attractive postage stamps are available, including commemoratives, which portray famous people and events. One advantage is the absence of what we call "junk" mail.

A telegraph station in Natal transmits to the interior. In Natal there are five radio stations, but as yet no commercial television station. An educational TV station will soon be in operation, due to assistance from the Maine Partners of the Americas.



## EVERYDAY LIFE

Homes

Possibly three descriptions will indicate the usual types. There are a number of government projects creating housing developments in the cities of Natal for middle-class families. These have very little land (about 100 feet on the street and 50 feet deep) and are built as duplex (two family) homes. They are of concrete and painted white or pastel colors. Roofs are of red tile. Everyone has a fence all around the house and a gate. Usually at the side is a covered patio where the family may sit to get some cool breezes, but it serves also as a carport since everyone gets their cars off the street at night.

Floors, instead of being covered with linoleum or carpeting, are generally made of a pretty shade of brown wood in rectangles fitted together into squares. They can be polished brightly.

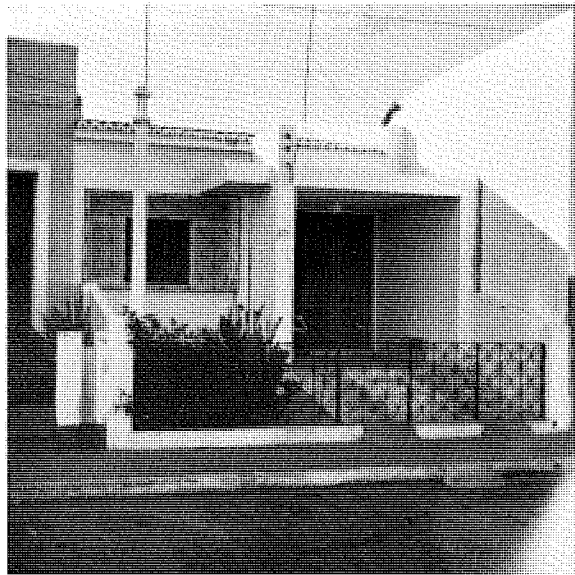
Bathrooms have showers, but usually not bathtubs. Warm water in the shower is provided by turning an electric switch. The sink does not have warm water.

In the kitchen, cooking will probably be done with bottled gas stoves. Although electric equipment is expensive, one important item is a blender. There are many inexpensive fruits which can be blended to make delicious drinks.

Screens on the windows and doors are seldom seen, thus causing a problem with flies which you have to learn to ignore. Even middle-class homes are built with a room for a maid or yard boy and a laundry room. Maids earn from 50 to 80 cruzeiros a month depending on whether they live in.

Sidewalks in front of buildings belong to the owners. Some are of paving stone, others of cement with small pretty designs, still others of smooth tiles, and sometimes no paving at all.

A large percentage of the people earn so little that they live in favelas (slums) in the city or in similar crude dwellings in the rural area. Their homes are made of poles fastened horizontally to upright corners and then chinked with a mud, which in a heavy rain may be washed away. Some families have to resort to using fronds from coconut trees for their walls or roofs. A house has perhaps two tiny rooms for a family of six or eight. Rather than beds, hammocks are strung up at night from hooks built into the wall. Cooking is done outdoors in a kettle over a wood fire between some blocks of stone. Often the dwellers do not own the land but are squatters who build in an open area and hope the owners will not use the land.



A City Home

The well-to-do families have larger homes with nice patios in front or in the center of the house, filled with trees and potted plants which provide shade as well as beauty. At the windows you do not see shades as in our houses, because at least half of the window space is filled by a wooden shutter which provides privacy but does not shut out the air. Some of the floors are highly polished tiles or blocks of stone which are easily cleaned. Closets are not built into the walls. Instead, families may purchase what we would call a wooden wardrobe or have one made of panels of native wood.

## SCHOOLS

Keep in mind that the seasons are the reverse of ours. Schools open the last week of February after their long summer vacation and close about June 22. The second semester begins about July 20 and runs to December 20. During the school year they have holidays on April 21, May 1, September 7, and November 21.

Some very great changes are starting in the educational system this year but will take three or four years to carry out. The result will be that their system will be very much like ours.

Children of ages 4, 5, and 6 may attend private schools of our pre-primary or kindergarten type, but the state does not offer any of this. At age 7, the law states that school is compulsory. However, you will find that for several reasons many children do not go. First, the state does not at this time have enough school buildings and, secondly, the cost of books and uniforms may be a problem for many families.

Grades 1 through 8 will be called the *primero grau*, and 9 through 12 the *segundo grau*. The university with four-year programs follows. This will be the

first year that tuition has been charged at the university--26 cruzeiros for each course taken (about \$4.50). However, students who cannot pay at present may arrange to pay following graduation. It is very difficult at present to gain admittance to the universities, because a student must pass an exam called the "vestibular." However, in five or six years this may be eliminated as the reforms occur.

The school day is somewhat shorter than ours because buildings are crowded and must sometimes be used for three shifts. Some pupils go from 7 to 11 a.m., others from 1 to 5 p.m., and others (usually age 14 or over) go in the evening. School authorities are trying hard to increase the offering to six hours a day to get in all the subjects needed.

A typical sixth grade student would take the following subjects: Portuguese (5 hours a week), Math (3), Geography (3), History (3), Civics (3), Science (2), Drawing (2), Physical Ed (3). Art is voluntary, as is a choice of English or French for 2 hours. Most choose English.

Children in most schools have to buy their own textbooks which, on the average, cost 120 cruzeiros (about \$20) a year. Uniforms are almost always required. The style and color must be the same, but they may be made of different materials. Each school has its own insignia. In all public and in almost every parochial school boys and girls attend classes together. A large percentage of children of all ages attend private schools.

Teacher's pay is low. The average teacher of primary grau receives 250 cruzeiros (\$42.50 a month), while those of segundo grau receive 300 (\$51). This is for teachers without a college degree but, beginning in 1972, those who completed



the university will be paid according to the number of classes they teach at the rate of 7 cruzeiros per class--usually 24 classes, resulting in \$114 per month.

## FOODS

Depending on a family's economic status, the meals vary from simple to elaborate. For breakfast in a middle- or upper-class family, you would expect to have fruit, rolls, butter, jelly, cheese, café com leite and sometimes ham and eggs, but not cereals.

The main meal is generally at noon, but often the night meal served around 7 to 8 p.m. seems about the same. For vegetables there are rice, carrots, potatoes (white and sweet), beans (green or dried), tomatoes, squash, pumpkin, lettuce, palmito. They like especially farinha, which is the root of the manioc, boiled, roasted and ground to a meal which can be sprinkled on other foods or fried lightly in oil with a few onions or bacon for flavoring. Some families serve macaroni, potato and rice all for the same meal.

For meat there is often beef, which is purchased dried and then prepared perhaps with a tomato sauce. In this part of Brazil food is not highly spiced. Chicken is common, as is fish. In the early morning it is common to hear the fish peddler coming along the street calling "Peixe." Shrimp and lobster are very good and less expensive than in the U. S.

Fruits are delicious, sweet, plentiful and very inexpensive. Pineapple is very common, as are bananas. Grapes are being imported from the south of Brazil. Others unknown or rare to us are goiaba (guava), sapoti, manga, Melão, caju, pinha, and roma (pomegranate). Avocado is often put through a

blender and with a little lemon juice and sugar makes a fine dessert. Children like pitomba (the poor man's grape), which is about the size of a marble and can be cracked open to get a little juicy meat around a big pit.

For dessert one might have a slice of a sweet paste of guava to eat with a slice of cheese. Ice creams made with native fruits are delicious. They can be bought for snacks from a vendor on the sidewalk stands for about 14 cents a cup. Also for snacks there are some things like potato chips and tiny, crisply fried fish and cashew nuts. To complete a meal adults like a tiny cup of very black, very sweet coffee (cafezinha).

As a sort of candy, the fruit caju is dried, cut in bite-size pieces, sugared and wrapped in cellophane. It has a little resemblance to the taste of dates or figs.

For soft drinks there is the ever popular Coca Cola and orange, but a unique one is a delicious tangy native drink--Guaraná, made from a native berry.

Articles like packaged cake mixes and TV dinners are unknown. You see many foods familiar to us but with Brazilian labels--like Quaker oat meal and Nestle coffee.

Poor families are fortunate to have a meal of rice with black beans on top of it.

# Brazilian Folk Song - Na Bahia Tem

Na Ba-hi-a Tem, Tem, Tem, Tem Na Ba-hi-a

Tem sin-há cô-co de vin-Tem Na Ba-hi-a

Tem sin-há cô-co de vin-Tem.

**Refrain**  
La la la la la La la la la la La la la la la la la la.

## MUSIC

The Brazilian people are well known for their love of the samba and bossa nova which have particular rhythms. Particularly at the time of Carnaval there is vigorous competition in the cities between groups trying for recognition.

Lovers of popular music enjoy the singing of a new star, Roberto Carlos, and of Chico Buarque. Among the recordings of popular U. S. performers you find Frank Sinatra and Tom Jones.

In another area of music we should mention Oswaldo De Sousa, whose home in Natal is a veritable museum of folklore. He is the arranger of many Brazilian folk songs and a composer of world fame.

## RECREATION

The national sport is futebol (soccer) which results in great rivalry among teams and a great public interest equal to that in the U. S. when the World Series is going on. In Natal a huge new sports arena is under construction.

Tennis and basketball are less popular and baseball is non-existent. Some communities have volleyball teams entered in tournaments. The presence of some of the most beautiful beaches in the world makes swimming a year-round attraction. Some schools have gymnasium programs, but the interscholastic competition is slight in comparison to ours.

For small children kite flying is sometimes an attraction. Some beautiful kites may be seen on the beaches, fashioned in the color and shape of huge butterflies. In the schools you see primary age children playing marching games and the Portuguese version of "Farmer in the Dell."

Chess and checkers are common games. As you look at the toy counters you would think you were in a store in the U. S. looking at Susy dolls, Barbie dolls, model cars and planes and educational toys marked to indicate the age groups for which they are suitable.

Television does not have any good children's shows yet. People of all ages seem to enjoy watching a new soap opera, Nossa Filha Gabriella. Some old U. S. western shows like Wild Bill Hickok and Gunsmoke are popular, with "dubbed in" Portuguese dialogue.

As for movies there is the same scarcity of general audience films as in the United States. Foreign ones, with dubbed-in Portuguese, are common; but at least every sixth one must be a Brazilian film.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls provide some organized recreation for youth.

Girls at the Beach



## HOLIDAYS

Christmas comes to mind first because of its association with the city of Natal. Families bring in artificial evergreen trees and decorate with lights and ornaments. Outside trees may also be lighted. The holiday has become commercialized as in the United States; but all religions seem to participate in the midnight mass which quite often is celebrated outdoors.

Other important religious holidays are of general interest or to a particular community which has a patron saint.

January 6, Santos Reis--is important in Natal

Carneval, four days before Lent begins

June 23, Feast Day of Saint John--features fireworks displays

The national holidays are the following:

April 21, Tiradentes Day--a national hero

May 13, Labor Day

September 7, Independence Day

November 15, Day of the Republic



## A FIELD TRIP TO THE INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

One of the newest institutions in Natal is the Institute of Anthropology located in a new, efficient and attractive building constructed in 1969. The staff welcomes school children.

One display has five relief scale maps of the areas of the state in order to show the mountainous area with one high volcanic peak, another mountain area which keeps the northerly winds from bringing moisture to the south, and the low land where salt is produced. Another attractive display shows the minerals of the area including beryl, tourmalines, and tungsten. One room is devoted to the old sugar process, displaying a mechanism made entirely of wood. Very fascinating is the reproduction of a section of a tungsten mine showing the layers of deposits found in relation to granite and even the rails and carts on which the ore is hauled out. A scale model shows the geologic structure of the mountains. Another area shows how their archeologists have been finding remains of earlier civilizations. Their specialists are studying especially three prehistoric inhabitants of this area--the elephant, armadillo, and sloth; but they have evidence that there were also saber-tooth tigers, lestodons, toxodons and llamas.



Fishing with Nets

Another display shows methods of fishing. On the beaches the Indians build weirs, place a long line with 15 to 20 hooks attached, and pull it in later. They catch lobsters by either dipping with nets or by setting traps similar to ours.

One room has pottery and wood carvings, many of which have horrible faces. Among primitive blacks a custom developed of making a carving of a part of the body afflicted by disease or injury and then upon recovery presenting this carving as an offering.

To show the variety of things in which the personnel of the Institute are interested, one of the directors has written a book to show the influence of Indian words on the Portuguese language as spoken in Brazil.



Lobster Traps

## GOVERNMENT

### Branches

The capital of the state has always been the city of Natal. There is a new constitution for the federal government created in 1967. It provides that the Governor is elected by the people for a four-year term but cannot be reelected. He must be a native Brazilian at least 30 years old. He is assisted by Secretaries of various departments like Education.

The Legislative power is in the hands of a Legislative Assembly composed of 40 deputies elected by the people for four-year terms. They too must be native Brazilians and at least 20 years old. The Vice Governor presides over their sessions.

The Judicial branch is headed by a Tribunal of 11 Justices. There are lower courts of trial judges and justices of peace.

The cities have Mayors (prefeitos) named by the Governor rather than being elected. They name Secretaries for various jobs like Roads, Education, Tourism. There are 150 municipalities varying in size from what we would call villages up to the big city of Natal.

## NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The Brazilian flag has green for its forests, yellow for its riches and white for peace. A blue sky shows the Southern Cross constellation and 22 stars representing the states and territories. The motto is Order and Progress.

Rio Grande do Norte's flag is green and white with a coat of arms showing a carnauba palm and a coconut palm, cotton blossoms, a sail boat and the Christmas star.

Natal's flag of green and white has a star for Christmas and a fort.

The state is unique in having two state songs.

## MONEY

The unit of money is the cruzeiro. Its value changes just as our dollar does when inflation or deflation occurs within the country or when other countries change the value of their money. In relation to U. S. money in early 1972 you could expect to get 5.75 cruzeiros for a U. S. dollar.

Until a visitor is accustomed to it, money can be confusing, because there are an old and a new paper money, both in use. An old paper note labeled 1,000 cruzeiros is equal to a new one marked 1. As fast as the new ones can be printed the old will be taken out of circulation. Commonly you see paper money of 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 cruzeiros.

Coins are 5, 10, 20, 50 centavos and a 1 cruzeiro.

## TAXES

Every government must have money with which to operate. The variety of Brazilian taxes is similar to ours. Some are collected locally, some by the state and some by the federal government, and some are shared.

There is a real estate tax on your property collected by the city, but if you live in a very rural area it will be collected by the state government. Their government, as ours, finds it hard to determine the amount fairly.

The sales tax is on manufactured items and on foods which have been processed. That is, a live chicken in the market is not taxed but one ready to cook would be taxed. This tax of about 18 percent is included in the price of the item rather than being added to the price as in Maine.

The income tax allows exemptions for each dependent of the wage earner. It is a "progressive" tax as in Maine, meaning that if you earn a specified number of cruzeiros you pay a small percent, but if you earn more than that you pay a higher percent.

Import taxes are required if you take into Brazil articles totaling more than 200 U. S. dollars. Taxes on electric items are especially high.



## PEACE CORPS

This United States volunteer group has a headquarters office in the city of Natal to supervise the work throughout the state. At present much emphasis is placed on educational assistance by having thirteen workers help in primary schools as supervisors. A man is serving as an Industrial Arts teacher in a junior high school; another is at a marine biology station. A radio technician is with the Institute of Space Research, but is to be especially concerned with the Educational Television station soon to be operating. A nurse is helping with intensive care at a hospital. Two other young women assist the Brazilian committee which helps supervise the work of the hospital ship HOPE.

There are many requests made by the Brazilian government for Peace Corps workers. Consequently, ten more may be assigned soon to the ministry of health and some to agricultural cooperatives. Corps workers feel well received by Brazilians and have a fine record of requests to stay longer than their usual tour of duty.

