



MOTHER AGNES CECILIA (left) and Sister Florentine, Assistant Mother General, greet school children on their recent visit to Brazil where the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Rochester Diocese will establish a mission next year. Shown with the Rochester nuns are Bishop Coscia and Franciscan Father Raphael of the Mateleros Diocese.

Cowboys and Diamonds

Life In Brazilian Mission Where Our Nuns Will Labor

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Rochester Diocese will open a mission in Brazil in 1965. They will direct schools in Mateleros and the neighboring town of Canal Sao Simao where they will teach English and religion. This article, describing life in the Brazilian Mission Territory was written by Wendell J. Burns, Papal Volunteer for Bishop Coscia of the Diocese of Jatai, Goias, Brazil.

Visitors to the State of Goias are fascinated by the variety they find in the terrain—semi-mountainous in places, then rolling hills with scrub trees, then vast stretches of flat lands with deep grass. In spite of the long dry spells the countryside remains green. The rolling hills may remind New Yorkers of the Southern tier of their state; except during the rainy season stretches of flat lands think of the midwest or the southwest of the U.S.—Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas. Others say the area is more like Ethiopia, or other parts of North Africa.

Much of the federal highway in Goias has been in existence only two or three years, and the road surface, for the major part, is only the sand or red dirt that is smoothed down by graders at irregular intervals. Travelers find their clothes, their skin, their luggage, everything turned a rust color after a few hours on the road—except during the rainy season. But the big trucks that make regular trips along these roads from Sao Paulo to Canal Sao Simao to Jatai and other points in Goias, as well as the states so, keep the roads passable even in the rainy season. Buses, too, make regular daily trips from Mateleros to Jatai, Jatai to Goiania, and between other cities in Goias and Matto Grosso.

The fine sand that slows travel by road, and the rich red soil that turns to thick red dust where the earth is not covered with vegetation are also part of life in this vast state.

Some of the federal highway here, making a major contribution to the rapid growth of these states. They carry goods manufactured in Sao Paulo to the city and country dwellers to make life healthier and more pleasant. The highway contributed almost solely to the creation of Canal Sao Simao three years ago, which was previously a part of Mateleros.

SOME SCENES here would remind a traveler only of a wild-west movie—cowboys (vaqueiros) driving hundreds of head of cattle along the road. Men with broad black hats, whips in hand, and bedroll on the back of their well-worn saddles bring to the mind of the North American the story of the West that is still repeatedly told in film, TV, and pocket-books in the United States (and in Brazil, too.) The Brazilian cattle are a type not well-known in North America—the Zebu—a hardy animal, the principal source of meat in Brazil, as well as the source of milk, cheese and butter in Goias.

They are large rangy animals with humped shoulders, but they show a meekness and tameness that is also different from the animals found in the plain regions of the United States. Motorists encounter small herds at frequent intervals ranging freely over the grasslands as well as resting in the middle of the roads at times; but the animals pay little heed to the oncoming vehicles and sometimes surrender the right-of-way only after the driver has slowed to a stop and insistently blared the horn.

Recognizing that the classroom teacher is the individual who "makes the greatest single contribution to a school health program," the Tuberculosis and Health Association launched distribution of a Teaching Health Guide to Catholic schools in Monroe County.

RECENT DIGGING into the rock formation on the Goias side of the river is also in evidence. "Men searching for diamonds" is the explanation. But the diggings here are only an echo of the diamond rush that first brought "garimpeiros" (diamond hunters) by the thousands to this section of Goias in

the early 1840's. In 1942, five thousand "garimpeiros" were living in tents around the site that is now Mateleros, which was then only part of a large ranch. The first permanent house was built in 1943. Failing to find unlimited treasures, the fortune-hunters moved on, leaving behind the nucleus of a town that now numbers 5,000 inhabitants—fazendeiros, shopkeepers, farm workers, a few fishermen. The diamond rush is now history, but the belief lingers among some of the people that there are diamonds here—under the river bed that is at one point at least 100 meters deep.

But the hope today of the people of Mateleros, Canal Sao Simao, and the nearby town of Cocheira Alta is based on something more realistic than the hope of a diamond strike.

Fazendeiros of the area, with the help of the Alliance for Progress are planning to build a meat packing plant which will provide more jobs, attract still more residents to the area, and provide a better market for the principal produce of the region—the good red meat of the zebu.

Recently completed research also indicates that the application of lime and chemical fertilizers could convert the soil into profitable farm land.

Cattle raising is the principal industry of the region, but rice, beans and coffee are also grown in quantities great enough for export. Corn is also grown, but only for local consumption. Lumber is plentiful in some areas, and the saw mills are the principal industry of Jatai.

a city of about 14,000. Roofing tiles, floor tiles, brick iron work are also industries in Jatai that produce building materials.

THE LIST of fruits that can be found growing on farms, ranches or in backyards includes oranges, limes, mangoes, lemons, pineapples, bananas, and avocados. Vegetables include sweet potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli. None of these is widely cultivated or presently available in a plentiful supply in smaller towns. However, they can be successfully cultivated, experience has proven.

Pre-Cana Series Set In Ithaca

Ithaca—A series of Pre-Cana Conferences will be co-sponsored by Our Lady's Guild and the Tompkins-Tioga Deanery of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca during the four Sundays of April.

All couples planning to be married are being invited. Information is available from Mrs. Russell Simone, AR 3-0279 or Mrs. Ray Orzell, LN 4-3394.

God is Mocked

CAROLINE YEAGER, eighth grader at Our Lady of Lourdes School, Rochester, was asked to give her interpretation of Holy Week. On completing the crayon drawing reproduced above, Caroline said: "I drew this picture because I think that this part of the Pas-

son—the Crowning with Thorns—must have been one of the worst mockeries to Christ." Caroline, 13, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Yeager, 33 Ledgerock Lane.

Mothers Circle Meeting Held

Corning—The March meeting of St. Gerard Mothers Circle was held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Scheer, 33 Kings Circle.

PRAYERS FROM the Miracle of Fatima were outlined for members by the hostess, as well as the booklet "How To Grow In Prayer" by the Rev. Edward L. Murray.

New members recently welcomed to the circle are: Mrs. John Ashley, Mrs. Lewis Dewey, and Mrs. Roger Steele.

The April 15 meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Thomas Spruck, 18 Spear Dr., South Corning.

New Wing Slated At Mercy Hospital

Hornell—The future St. James Mercy Hospital, as projected in an architect's sketch, was shown members of the Advisory Board Wednesday night. A large master plan, showing the hospital from the Rose Avenue angle, was on display during the regular meeting of the board. It was prepared by the architectural firm of Barrows - Parks - Morin - Hall-Brennan of Rochester and Sarasota, Fla.

FOUR STORIES are depicted in the master plan but only two will be erected in the present expansion project. The new 100-bed wing will be enclosed in an aqua-enameled aluminum lattice work which will be utilitarian as well as decorative.

The grill work, to be erected about four feet out from the brick exterior, will be connected to the building by long corridors. It will provide for fire protection with maximum safety precaution for patients. It also will shade patients' rooms from glaring sunlight and facilitate window cleaning.

Sister Mary Scholastica, hospital administrator, said that construction on the new wing will not be started until Hill-Burton funds are allocated for Steuben County. All Hill-Burton assistance for hospitals in the county has been withheld until July 1, when the new fiscal period begins.

FLOOR PLANS of the new wing were examined by members of the board last night. The first stage in the master plan will include 100 beds in medical, surgical, obstetrical and pediatrics; an emergency room, central supply pharmacy and physical therapy departments. Members of the board toured

the rapidly expanding physical therapy department during the meeting. Richard W. Bondi, therapist, explained the equipment in the physical therapy suite. Among the recent additions are a full-body whirlpool tub of stainless steel, an arm and leg whirlpool; an electric stimulator; a tilt table for early ambulation; a hydrocollator for damp heat application; a short-wave diathermy; an ultra sound unit for deep micro-massage and seven treatment beds which were made by the maintenance department of the hospital.

Bondi, assisted by Miss Linda Snider of Canisteo, physical therapy aide, treats between 25 and 30 patients a day. The outpatient clinic serves from five to 10 patients daily.

Treatment is given at the St. James therapy center for arthritis, amputations, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, slipped discs, fractures and a variety of muscular disorders, as well as pulmonary disabilities such as asthma and emphysema.

A brief review of plans for the practical nurse course to be conducted in Hornell under the adult education department was given by Sister Mary Thomas, a member of the advisory board for the proposed course.

Mrs. Francis Cameron reported on the "gratifying progress" made by the Womens' Board of St. James in its various projects for the benefit of the hospital's development fund.

25 Years Ago

(From the files of the Catholic Courier, March 23, 1939)

That rulers in "today's troubled world" would do well to model their thoughts and lives upon St. Patrick and his heroic followers was the theme of St. Patrick's Day speakers. Monignor Charles F. Shay gave the panegyric at St. Patrick's Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Kearney. The Bishop addressed the Knights of Equity on the Feast and the Knights of Columbus the previous night.

Consistency in carrying out the teachings of the Church and the "saturation" of Catholic homes with wholesome literature were urged by Bishop Kearney speaking to 7500 members of New York Police Holy Name Society at the breakfast in New York's Hotel Astor.

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