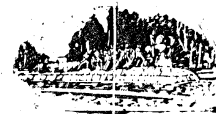


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# Brazil Herald



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35th Year

## \* Salto Grande: Itaipu's Big Neighbor

By Ruben J. de Hoyos  
From the Americas -

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When I visited the pyramids of Egypt for the first time, they were already built. When I visited Persepolis for the first time, it had, of course, already been destroyed.

But when I returned to the site of the Salto Grande Dam after a relatively short absence, it was being built. What I saw appeared to me to be magic.

I had already been there, at the same place, when there was no one but myself and the vast Uruguay River, broad, sliding away like some great barge constrictor with muddy flanks toward the Atlantic, miles downstream to the south, carrying away unused the hydroelectric energy whose harnessing, someday, had been discussed for almost a century.

Today, at the rate of one every three months, the fourteen hydroelectric turbines that will produce 1,890,000 kilowatts around 1981 are being installed.

Yesterday there was nothing, or almost nothing, beyond plans. Today, from one bank to the other, a wall of concrete a hundred feet high rises above the bed of the river, almost half a mile wide where the two powerhouses are implanted, reinforced by two enormous embankments whose face totals almost a mile and a half, to create a new artificial lake of 5 billion cubic yards of water. It all seems to have been done by magic. But it wasn't. It was simply hard work.

Four thousand engineers, technicians, and construction workers from Argentina and Uruguay, who had been there since April 1, 1974, worked three shifts, day and night, in the light of the sun and in the glare of the floodlights, getting ready to bring the first turbine on stream in July 1979, exactly on schedule. That was the first time work stopped in 1,905 days of uninterrupted effort.

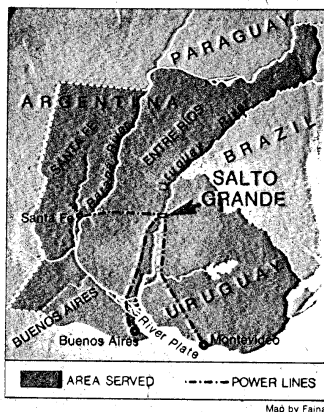
### Joint Project

The Salto Grande hydroelectric dam is a joint project of Argentina and Uruguay on the Uruguay River. The planning began in 1890. In the first stage, the efforts of individual visionaries either were not understood or were ignored by the interests and ideas of the time. Next, it was taken up by engineers like the Uruguayan Juan T. Smith (1907) and the Argentine Humberto Gamberale and Francisco A. Mermoz (1920-1928).

But it was not until 1938 that the project received serious consideration. On January 13, 1938, the joint Argentine-Uruguayan Salto Grande Mixed Technical Commission (CTM) was established, which today is still carrying on the work of the first proponents. Like them, it is sometimes ignored, sometimes forgotten for years, subject to national, regional, or international pressures. It was during the second stage that vigorous efforts were made to create the legal and technical structure for the future dam. The Fundamental Act of 1938 was followed in 1946 by the Agreement and the Additional Protocol (30 December), which was finally ratified by the Uruguayan Government on August 13, 1958. (Argentina had already done so in 1948).

Around 1960, studies showed that Salto Grande was technically feasible and financially viable. Furthermore, the legal and administrative instrument for bringing it into being, the Mixed Technical Commission, had already been established. The design of the final plans began to take shape, but they were to need almost thirteen more years before

4,000 engineers, technicians, and construction workers here day and night since April 1, 1974.



**The Salto Grande hydroelectric dam is a joint project of Argentina and Uruguay. The planning began in 1890. It will be completed — finally — by 1981, producing 1,890,000 kilowatts of power.**

they were complete. In 1973 the final engineering plan was ready, that of Charles T. Main and Associates. In addition, by coincidence, 1973 was the year in which the fossil energy structure of the world was shaken.

Hydroelectric plants ceased to be merely possible and advisable. Salto Grande became indispensable.

Since work began, Salto Grande has become a technical training school where hundreds of Argentines and Uruguayans have enriched their knowledge through the transfer of technologies brought by international contractors selected by stringent competition from among the best in the world. (In due course they will be able to apply that knowledge to new projects now under study.)

The management of the CTM has built up an excellent work team with unique characteristics. To walk through the works is to take a trip around the world: the enormous cranes perched like gigantic praying mantises on the crest of the dam come from Wagner Biro (Austria); an Italian-Argentine-Uruguayan consortium (Impregilo-Sollazo-Impresit-Sideco-Alvaro Palenga) has done the civil engineering; the electrical equipment (Kaplan turbines and generators) is being constructed and installed by the Soviets (Energomachexport); transformers, by Mitsubishi (Japan); and on and on. Charles Main from Boston, and Associates, from Argentina and Uruguay, are responsible for checking the quality of the construction work. Almost a dozen countries are involved in it.

### OAS

The Organization of American States gave the project the benefit of its studies on the River Plate Basin, and in 1973 the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) extended international credit with a loan of \$200 million. When it was signed for Argentina by Alejandro Orfila, then his country's ambassador to Washington, it was the largest loan ever made by the IDB.

The fact that the loan represents only 20 percent of the total cost of the work (US\$1 billion) shows how great a financial effort it means for the two countries of Argentina and Uruguay to furnish such an

enormous amount of working capital.

Since the first turbine came on stream in late 1979, hundreds of millions of dollars have already been received from sales of electrical power. The decision taken in 1973 to build Salto Grande fills the two nations with pride. For decades, international credit institutions had denied the loan because petroleum was cheap and appeared inexhaustible, and hydroelectric energy was, immediately at least, more costly.

The 1973 oil embargo, which changed the structure of the economic and political world in more ways than one, had for the two neighboring nations of the River Plate the unsuspected merit of accelerating regional integration around a common resource: water, I provided:

- Water to supply communities and satisfy their domestic and industrial needs.
- Water to irrigate five hundred new cultivable square miles.
- Water power to generate almost 2 million kilowatts of electricity.
- Water to improve navigation conditions for vessels with drafts of up to eight feet as far as the Argentine-Brazilian border ninety miles upstream. The vast artificial lake has eliminated the rapid that gave their name to the area (Salto Grande and Salto Chico). Now there is a canal some seven miles long, with two locks on the Argentine side.
- Water for tourist recreation. Water for sports fishing. Water for commercial fishing — the catch is expected to reach seven thousand tons annually.

Salto Grande has had many more effects. The electrical networks of Argentina and Uruguay are integrated. Along the top of the dam, another connecting highway has been opened, and, for the first time, the interconnection of the Argentine and Uruguayan railways has become possible.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, South America has a hydroelectric potential of 500 million kilowatts. Upstream on the Paraná River the largest dam in the world is under construction between Brazil and Paraguay — the Itaipu Binational Dam, which will provide 12 million kilowatts. On the same river, Argentina and Paraguay are building the Yacaré Apice Dam, to provide 3.5 million kilowatts, and the

Corpus Dam, to provide 5 million. Argentines and Uruguayans are putting the finishing touches on the first regional dam — the Salto Grande — a model for the integration of the River Plate Basin.

Although Salto Grande actually remodels the local topography, the major concern of the CTM authorities from the outset was to maintain and improve the ecological balance. It was therefore not surprising that in 1978 the UN Environmental Protection Program declared Salto Grande 'a world model of ecological preservation.'

Each historical age appears to channel its collective efforts in different ways and for different purposes. The Chinese built the Great Wall, in part out of fear of the invader. Egypt's pyramids, like so many monuments of the past, were built by slaves to commemorate the dead among the living. Persepolis, like many another royal palace, was built to exalt a triumphant king over the monarchs he had defeated, and in the end the ruins came to be the final monument of his own defeat.

### Six Million People

Salto Grande, a monument of our time, was constructed primarily to improve the standard of living of six million people in a territory of 115,000 square miles — the whole of Uruguay plus, in Argentina, the provinces of Entre Rios and Santa Fe and the extreme north of the Province of Buenos Aires.

And Salto Grande was not constructed by slaves. Protected by social laws, the workers of both nations enjoy economic, medical, and pension benefits, and industrial safety conditions that, by themselves, are a model of international labor relations, a veritable new chapter in labor legislation made necessary by the integration of the region.

Two housing settlements, one in Concordia, Argentina, and the other in Salto, Uruguay, were built

## São Paulo Film Fest Opens Today at MASP

SAO PAULO (Brazil Herald) — Film festivals have always served the function of bringing to light the experimental and controversial. When they take place in Brazil, they perform a third, equally important function: they screen political films which would otherwise be prevented from reaching the public by the dual pressures of censorship and commercial invariability.

Last year, during its 5th international film festival, the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP) showed for the first time in Brazil, Nacisha Oshima's *Imperio dos Sentidos*. Now, almost a year later, the same film has been given the censor's blessing and is on general release. This year MASP is concentrating on films that are unlikely to hit the commercial round — films

from the socialist countries, from other Latin American countries and experimental films, principally from the United States, Italy, and France.

The festival starts today with Reiner Fassbinder's *The Wedding of Maria Braun*. Among the highlights of the next two weeks are Andy Warhol's *Flesh*, Voker Schloendorff's *The Tin Drum* (winner at the last Cannes festival), Clauber Rocha's *A Idade Da Terra* and Walter Heynowski and Schumann's *Cambodia, Death and Resurrection*.

In all, there are 35 feature length films and 20 shorts. A different film will be shown each day, in two or three consecutive sessions. Entrance is a modest Cr\$50. MASP is located on Avenida Paulista.

to accommodate the workers in hundreds of houses and apartments. A fleet of buses transports them to the work site and back again every day; and at lunch time, to the communal dining rooms.

The outstanding community work ethic is visible in the enthusiasm of the young guides who take visitors around the works. It is perceptible in the engineers and technicians who explain the project with something more than mere professional interest to visitors as they walk through concrete tunnels and rooms in the entrails of the dam several yards under the bed of the river.

There is a consciousness of being a creative part of something visibly great, predictably enduring, humanly useful for others. I imagine that for our generation of high consumption, of discards and disposables, it is a kind of substitute for immortality at least as enduring as the verses of the poet Horace (*Exegi monumentum...*) or

the pyramids of Egypt or the cathedrals of Europe.

When we took off from the airport at the Uruguayan city of Salto and the jet, after a gentle curve, set a course of Buenos Aires, a little more than half an hour away it was possible to see on the horizon the sharp outline of the Salto Grande Dam across the Uruguay River.

After all, perhaps there is something of magic there. Is it not magical to change the course of nature? And isn't the idea of sudden and marvelous change suggestive of magic?

Yes, there must have been something magical about it; but the rest was, and is, simply hard work.

Argentine Rubén J. de Hoyos, who received his doctorate in government from New York University, is the coordinator of the Latin American Studies program at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh.

# Brazil Herald

Editorial

## The Trouble

A negative aspect of Brazilian politics is the difficulty encountered by the members of government to explain clearly and precisely their administrative aims and programs.

The new economic policy announced last week opens the eyes of many people to the difficulties of a hard reality which the authorities so far seemed to ignore.

It is difficult to understand, however, why these far-reaching modifications were announced by the minister of planning during an informal talk with journalist, as if it were an information item without major importance.

The lightheartness in coping with the problems indicates that the government does not have a definitive strategy for preparing the people and the nation for the dramatic times that will have to be endured as a result of the new policy.

Actually, the entire anti-inflationary policy is to change. Instead of looking for solutions in the international finance world, efforts now are to be centered on popular savings, but the nation has been called to participate in the new decisions or give opinions.

President Figueiredo's address recently to the representatives of commercial associations featured a new style. He said that social peace is both a previous condition and a final result of the political normalization. This sounds ambiguous.

Figueiredo's good intentions are not doubted by the people, but the announcement

of an entirely new economic policy in substitution for another new economic policy announced one year ago, causes concern. Does the President mean the nation should wait patiently for the results of the new policy and consequent social peace before complete democratic normality is established? This recalls what predecessors of Figueiredo used to say, that political democracy depended on the previous establishment of "economic democracy" and "social democracy". But those conditions never were achieved.

The Minister of Trade and Industry Camilo Penna discovered that "we are entering an area of turbulence." He hinted toward possibilities of what he called a system for compulsory savings.

What, does compulsory savings mean? New taxes? Confiscation of revenues? In any case, it would have features of expropriation of the fruit of work. But no definition, whatever has been given on whose revenue would be confiscated and who would have to pay new and more taxes.

It is evident, however, that a system of compulsory saving will call also for a compulsory political regime.

Promising political opening while making it dependent on solution of the economic crisis is ambiguous. Such ambiguities historically have been the Trojan horses for introduction of totalitarian regimes.

OESTADO DE SÃO PAULO ■

## New Officers Named of Wives Group

Anita Piraja 1980 president of the American Wives of Brazilians club confirmed the 1981 board as follows: president — Patricia Cavalcanti (who was president in 1971); vice president — Kay Barroso (president 1979); Secretary — Mary Dreifus; treasurer — Kay Lipa, tea chairman — Gloria Esteves with Gloria Reifschneider

assisting, house — Danelle Velloso, member-at-large — Irene Neiva de Figueiredo, bulletin — Verna Mae Castro Barbosa, program — Elizabeth Pereira. Congratulations were expressed to Mary Jane Guerra and her committee for getting the board together.

Midge, Doyle introduced the guest

speaker — Patricia Robb who was formerly fashion writer for *Women's Wear Daily*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's Bazaar* and free lance writer for the former U.S. published *Brazil Post*.

Patricia Robb said she was delighted to speak to club members — she had given talks in the U.S.A. on fashion shows. She spoke on fashion trends

in the U.S.A., and also mentioned that Italy reflects pants in every shape and style.

In discussion with club members it was agreed that Brazilian dress very well in keeping up with fashion trends which are copied here long before they get to New York; however, one finds that fashion changes so quickly that dresses can only be used for few occasions. São Paulo has more sophisticated clothes and the best winter wear, whereas Rio has a fabulous selection of beach wear. It was agreed that most clothes

in Rio are for the young and classic styles are not easily available.

Following the talk those present enjoyed a delicious tea of home-baked cakes and cookies.

The next meeting of the American Wives of Brazilians will be on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. at the home of Susan Zobarán. For information about the club call president Anita Piraja 227-1700, who welcomes new members — the qualification is that you have to be an American married to a Brazilian.

## RIO IN FOCUS

### Escola Americana: Three Generations

RIO DE JANEIRO (BH) — At a special assembly of the High

School of the Escola Americana of Rio de Janeiro, the school marked the first occasion on which three generations of the same family have been enrolled at the Escola Americana.

With the presence of Mrs. Gilbert E. Strickland, one of the founders in 1937 of the Escola Americana, the school presented special commemorative plaques to her son, Fred W. Strickland, a member of the Class of '44; to Mrs. Ann Louise Strickland Faro, a member of the Class of '70 and Mr. Strickland's daughter; and to Bruno Strickland Faro, newly enrolled in the nursery, a member of the Class of '94. Bruno is Mrs. Gilbert Strickland's great-grandson.

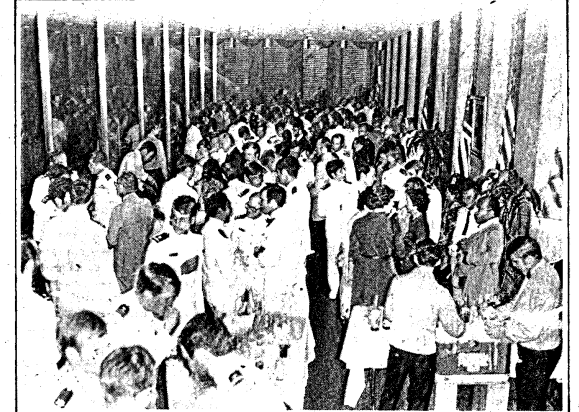
The assembly was marked by speeches.

### Copacabana Art Show

RIO DE JANEIRO (BH) — An exhibition of paintings by Geraldo de Barros, Hermelindo Fiamingui, Lohar Charoux, Luiz Sacilotto, Maria Lenontina, Mauricio Nogueira Lima, is currently on view at the Palace des Arts gallery of Arlette Amiel, on Av. Atlântica 4240, loja 207, Shopping Cassino Atlântico. The exhibition is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. — 10 p.m.



Irish Vice Consul Neyda acinho Villela of the Rede and Rogério, son of Mr. eu dos Santos, exchanged mate São Bento Monaster- 25. The newlyweds will anta Teresa. The bride will work at the Rio Cultural as an electronic engineer.



RIO DE JANEIRO (BH) — Prior to the Navy League dinner dance held on October 18 at the Club Monte Libano to host Admiral Peter K. Cullins, his wife, Valaree and fellow American and Brazilian naval officers of the Joint UNITAS XXI Naval Maneuvers, U.S. Consul General John De Witt welcomed them to Rio with a cocktail buffet at the U.S. Consulate General.

Raymonde Vasconcellos told of life in the school when it was first founded in a building on Vieira Souto. Vasconcellos has been with the American School since 1938. Isabel Pinto, secretary of the High School, spoke about incidents in the second home of the school, located in Leblon. Pinto has completed 34 years of service as secretary. Dr. Gilbert C. Brown, the headmaster, then spoke about humorous incidents in the founding of the present site of the school on Estrada da Gávea.

An album was presented to the Strickland family, containing photographs of the graduating class of 1940 and of all of the school buildings past and present.

Attending the ceremony were Ian Scott,

president of the Board of Directors; James C. Strickland, "Bill's" younger brother and a member of the Class of '52; and Mrs. Isabelle Rendall, a former member of the board and a member of the Class of '44.

### Chamber Member Offers Clerical Help

SYLVIA HARKALY, who must of the American community knew when she was a staff member at the American Chamber of many years, is in business

or herself offering business services: Printing production (annual reports, leaflets, house newsletters, projects), microfilm (services, equipment, testing), acquisitions, mergers (consultant), translations (English-Portuguese, English), and escort-interpreter (for business visitors).

Her address is Al. Gabriel Monteiro da Silva 1253, apartment 8, 01441, São Paulo, telephone (011) 282-6456.

### Nordic Bazaar Slated To Be Held in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (BH) — The traditional Nordic Fair — Scandinavian bazaar will be held on Nov. 18 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Av. Rui Barbosa 170, 2nd floor. Princess Ragnhild-Mrs. Erling Lorentzen will open the bazaar.

Danish open sandwiches, Swedish bread and pastries will be served with coffee. There will be many Scandinavian items for gifts, Christmas decorations, home-made candles (non-drip), Swedish

caviar, herrings, glassware, etc.

The Nordic Fair is for the benefit of the Scandinavian Seamen's Mission administered by Swedish Pastor Hans Rochester.

### Annual Thanksgiving Fest at US Consulate

RIO DE JANEIRO (BH) — The traditional Thanksgiving service will be held at the U.S. Consulate on Thursday Nov. 27, with coffee and pumpkin pie at 10 a.m. and an ecumenical service at 11 a.m., with the participation of the Escola Americana chorus under the direction of Laura Chipec.

## Members To Hold Bi-National Workshop

Dissaker, Sageta Jackson, Susie Lewis, Laura Chipec, Ruth and Ed Staon, Katie Benton, Vicki and Clem Kobrak, Ken Pollard, Reg Sturrock, Chris Heatt, Robin Brown, Fiona Brown, Nellike Beith, Chas Mabau, Jose Sabat, Maria Auxiliadora, Christine Nestor, Brandy

Dabhart, Lynn Fedorká, Lárraine Monteiro, Dick and Marta Rofritsch, Bill Seydorka, Andre Merrill Giag Worthington and Bill Cipolla.

After the interval Brazilian members took the stage, presenting modern Brazilian poetry and music in Portuguese and translation. The

audience fully appreciated the wit and humanity of such contemporary literary figures as Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Manuel Bandeira, Cecília Meireles and Vinícius de Moraes, plus the foot tapping rhythms of popular music. John and Ewa Proctor arranged the

selection, and were helped in its presentation by Marcia Krengiel, Luis Cunha and Tulio Simons Reus.

The next workshop 1970 — 1980 will take place on Nov. 27 at 8:30 p.m. at the Community Hall, Rua Real Grandeza 99.