

NATIONAL COUNCIL
for
GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

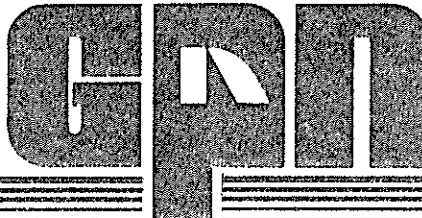
Slide Presentations

for teachers of:

GEOGRAPHY • SOCIAL STUDIES • EARTH SCIENCE
CONSERVATION • ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



For information on upcoming slide presentations, and how they may be acquired, please contact: GPN.



P.O. Box 80669
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501
(402) 472-2007 or Toll Free 800-228-4630

A service agency of the KUON-TV/Nebraska ETV Network,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I
GUA
9.
SLIDE

A n N C G E / G P N S l i d e S e t

THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

by

Robert E. Cramer
East Carolina University

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Guatemala is the most distinctive of the Central American countries because of the great diversity in both physical and cultural features. In area Guatemala is the largest country in Central America, about the size of Tennessee. In this relatively small space live 7.3 million people, making it the most populated country in Central America. (1981)

High inland mountain ranges of volcanic origin (some of the volcanoes are active) parallel the Pacific coast. In these mountain highlands are found Guatemala City, the capital city with population of 1.5 million, as well as the small and remote villages where the indigenous people live. Two-thirds of the people of Guatemala live in the highlands under constant threat of volcanic activity and earthquakes. Guatemala borders Mexico on the north, and El Salvador, Honduras and Belize to the south and east. (Belize, formerly British Honduras, is disputed by Guatemala and Britain. Guatemala claims the territory, although it is destined for independence from Britain.) There are small ports on the Pacific side of the country and two deep water ports on the Caribbean side.

Guatemala is a tropical country, falling between $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and 18° north latitude. Except for the lowland and coastal areas, however, Guatemalan temperatures range between moderate and cool. The seasonally wet months are May to October, the dry season, November to April.

More than two-thirds of the people live by the soil; maize, beans, squash and wheat, cotton, coffee and bananas are the principal crops. Industries have developed in Guatemala City and other major cities with textiles and food processing probably the most important.

To understand Guatemala one must know of the grand Mayan civilizations which disappeared for reasons still unclear. One also must recognize the impact of the Spanish conquest and the massive infiltration of foreign

people. One must have empathy with the Indians who resist the inroads of foreign civilization and who still struggle to keep their traditional language, their dress, and their ancient customs while coping with unspeakable poverty and very high illiteracy. The average per capita income is only \$846 a year for all Guatemalas.

The United States State Department recently (1983) advised U.S. citizens not to visit Guatemala at that time because of the atrocities committed both by government forces and a well-organized communist insurgency. Guatemala is suffering from effects of the world-wide recession, and military aid from the United States was discontinued in 1977 in a dispute over human rights in Guatemala. Resumption of aid was announced in January, 1983.

SLIDE DESCRIPTIONS

1. Guatemala City, Guatemala -- An aerial view of the capital city of Guatemala, Guatemala City. The city was founded in 1776 when the capital of the country was moved to this site from Antigua. The fertile valley is surrounded by mountains, and the climate is temperate because of its elevation (4,000 ft.) in the tropical latitude. Average annual temperature is 68° F., with warm days and cool nights. Annual rainfall approximates 50 inches, with most of it falling during the seasonal rainy period, May until October.

Guatemala City has been the victim of many earthquakes. The capital of the country was shifted from Antigua to Guatemala City in 1776 with the hope the repeated earthquakes would not reach there. The site of Guatemala City was selected because it was thought the steep sided "barrancas" (deep gullies with steep sides) which encircle the city would prevent earthquake destruction. Unfortunately this was wrong, for there have been many minor earthquakes as well as major ones which have damaged the city. A disasterous one hit the city in 1830; two quakes close together (December 25, 1917 and again Jan. 24, 1918) destroyed the city almost completely. The most recent devastating earthquake was February 4, 1976, but since modern buildings are constructed to withstand earthquakes the damage was not as bad in the city as in the surrounding countryside. The barrancas cannot be seen well in the photograph, but they have prevented the expansion of the city and handicapped transportation routes. Poor people who cannot afford to live elsewhere have built squatters shacks in and around the gullies.

Some observers do not regard Guatemala City as an attractive city. It is crowded with its population of 1,500,000 people, and most of the lovely old colonial structures have been destroyed by earthquakes. The high-rise office and government buildings, plush hotels and museums one expects in a big city are present, but ordinarily these are not what one thinks of as "typical Guatemala". For most tourists Guatemala City

simply is a place where the international airport is located and the place to leave from to visit Antigua, the many archeological ruins and the colorful Indian villages.

2. Guatemala City. Zone 1 -- Guatemala City is divided into 14 zones, and the streets are arranged in a modern grid pattern with avenidas (avenues) running in one direction and calles (streets) intersecting them in the opposite direction. Thus it is easy to find an address if one knows the zone number, the avenue and the street. Streets and avenues are numbered rather than named.

This view is looking south on 6th Avenida, Zone 1 (the central zone). The broad two-way avenida passes under a viaduct for the railroad which connects the capital city with Atlantic and Pacific ports, and with El Salvador and Mexico. There are many narrow and one-way streets in the city, not like this modern thoroughfare, and all too often they are too crowded for modern traffic.

Guatemala City houses over one and a half million people, and it is sprawled over a large area. One finds modern high-rise buildings, luxurious residential sections, as well as unspeakable squalor within the city. Guatemala is classified as an underdeveloped country, but there is considerable industrialization here, and many of the factories supply products throughout Central America and other parts of the world -- especially textiles and processed food.

3. Shops in Downtown Guatemala City -- The shops in Guatemala City resemble those in downtown shopping areas of any typical city in the United States. Although many of the items for sale are indigenous to Guatemala, one can identify brand names of McGregor and Levi as American products. Guatemalan shops carry many imported products and usually they are in plentiful supply but at very high prices.

An enterprising young man has set up a stand outside the store (behind the post) and is selling textiles at a lower price than they would be inside the store. Street vendors are numerous and often their goods are a real bargain, but the unwary shopper may sometimes find himself with shoddy, second class or even stolen goods. The second and third floors above the stores usually are apartments.

4. Cathedral Metropolitana. Guatemala City -- Cathedral Metropolitana is located in zone 1, the downtown area of Guatemala City, facing a large plaza. Construction on the building was begun in 1782 and completed in 1815. The bell towers and dome (only partially shown here) were added later. The style is massive and baroque, and there are many art treasures and statues of saints here. Some of the treasures were moved from the cathedral in Antigua after the earthquake in that city. Earthquakes, however, have damaged the structure many times, and the February 4, 1976, earthquake did considerable damage.

This lovely cathedral stands as a symbol of the faith of the Guatemalan people, of whom approximately 90 percent are classified as Roman Catholic.

5. National Palace, Guatemala City -- An interior view of the National Palace in Guatemala City. Reportedly the largest government building in Central America, it was built in 1943. The building is constructed in the traditional Spanish style, and all of the offices of government officials are entered from interior balconies.

The beauty of the structure is centered on the balconies and in the courtyard or patio located in the center. The exterior is constructed of natural pale green stone. In the interior are found elaborately beautiful tile floors, murals depicting the history of Guatemala, stained glass windows, wood carvings, frescos and wrought iron grillwork.

6. San Carlos University, Guatemala City -- San Carlos University is an autonomous body containing eight schools or "faculties". The administration and faculty work hard as a democratic institution to guard its autonomy, granted by a 1944 charter.

The University was founded in 1676 in Antigua and later was moved to Guatemala City. It developed into the most distinguished center of learning in Guatemala, and many regard it as the finest in Middle America. Students have come from many countries to study here. The campus is unusually attractive; the building shown is the library.

For many years, because of its democratic teachings, the University has had problems with the military government of Guatemala. Dr. Arturo Eduardo Meyer Maldonado, a surgeon who in 1983 is serving as rector of the University, has endured many death threats, and constantly fears for his life. Dr. Mario Dary, the former Rector of the University, was assassinated, reportedly because he tried to take the university out of the political arena after years of campus violence. Before his death, Dr. Dary warned students and faculty of the dangers of being associated with the university.

Many Guatemalans have disappeared over the past years and are presumed dead. The United States Embassy in Guatemala estimated in 1983 that 26 people a month disappear without explanation, and from the University alone there are 34 missing people.

In 1974 when the writer first visited Guatemala he was told by a university student who was serving as a tour guide that several of his friends were missing without a trace; they simply had expressed in class their discontent with the present government.

7. Modern Homes, Guatemala City -- On a quiet street in Guatemala City's residential area are these comfortable modern homes. Usually the homes show a Spanish influence, with iron grills securely fastened across the doors and windows, and a patio and garden in the rear around which the rooms of the house are built.

9
slide

The houses abut each other so there is no open area between them through which intruders can gain access to the house. Usually the entrance to the garage is directly from the street, not in the back nor at the side of the house as in the United States. Cars are not left on the street at night for safety's sake. A door bell is high on the wall, to the left. Grass, flowers and gardens are carefully maintained by servants.

Upper class people such as those who live in these houses represent only a small percent of the total population. Most of the people are either very rich or very poor with a very small middle class.

8. Relief Map. Guatemala City -- An enormous relief map of Guatemala was constructed in 1905 by Francisco Vela, an engineer. The map, made of concrete, is located in Minerva Park in Guatemala City, and is on the "must" list of things to see for all visitors to the country.

The map covers one quarter of an acre. The vertical scale is twice the horizontal scale, and this makes the volcanoes disproportionately tall and skinny, but it allows the mountainous terrain to be shown dramatically. The rivers shown on the map actually contain running water.

There are two observation platforms, and from these the visitor has an excellent overview of the mountains, rivers, lakes and roads. All but the tiniest towns are named, as are the states and important sites. Guatemalan people are proud of this map, and insistently steer their visitors in its direction.

9. Guatemalan Money -- The paper note shown in the photograph is worth fifty (cincuenta) centavos, or an equivalent of 50 cents in American money. Although the exchange rate varies, usually one American dollar is equal to one Guatemalan quetzal.

The note shows the portrait of Tecun Uman, a national hero and one of the Quiche rulers. In 1524 Tecun Uman fought and lost his life in a single combat with Pedro de Alvarado, leader of the Spanish army invading Guatemala.

The bird in flight is the quetzal bird, which is found in the highland forest. The bird has blue, emerald and ruby colored plumage, but it is rarely seen by observers. The bird symbolizes the beauty of Guatemala; it also symbolizes its freedom since the bird cannot live in captivity. The quetzal bird is part of the Guatemala coat of arms and is used decoratively in many ways.

10. National Handcraft Market. Guatemala City -- The National Handcraft market in Guatemala is located in the outskirts of the city in the vicinity of the airport. Here, in this colorful government sponsored complex, artisans come to sell their beautiful hand work. Samples of crafts from every part of Guatemala are gathered together here. Many of the craftsmen, such as weavers, work on their articles while tending the

stall. A marimba band plays, thus lending a festive air to the market, and encouraging visitors to purchase more things.

Although negotiating the price of an item one desires to purchase is standard procedure throughout Latin America, the sellers in this market have set prices for which there is no bargaining.

11. Backstrap Loom. Antigua -- Indian women and girls may be seen in the door-way or yards of most homes weaving fabric for their "trajes" (TRAH-heys) or dress, or cloth for wall hangings. The fabric varies in color, design, type of weave, raw material and of course in use. Some of the most beautiful woven fabrics in the world come from Guatemala. As stated elsewhere, each town or municipality has its traditional symbols and designs.

Before the coming of the Spaniards the Indians used a variety of vegetable fibers in weaving. Eventually cotton usage spread, and the Spaniards introduced wool and silk for fabrics. Today artificial fibers are used either alone or blended with natural fibers.

In earlier days natural dyes were used. For example, the indigo plant produced a beautiful deep blue. Cochineal, an insect, produced a red dye; bark from trees, minerals, other insects and other plants all were used for making dye, but today the natural dyes have given way to use of imported chemical dyes.

The artisan may take his own product to market for direct sale, but more frequently they are purchased by middlemen who make the rounds of the villages and homes and buy the items, then sell them elsewhere.

Little girls as young as five years can learn to weave; the backstrap loom is most used for home weaving. A leather strap is attached to the ends of the weaving, then secured around the sitting weaver; thus the weaving is held securely.

12. Hillside Cultivation -- In the fertile hillside soil of volcanic origin, east of Quezaltenango, farmers have worked hard to construct the elaborate terraces seen in this photograph. Steep hills must be utilized for farming here because there is very little level land. Often the metal hoe is the only tool the farmer uses.

Crops can be grown throughout the year because of the year-round temperate climate. The cloudy, rainy season, between May and October, is Guatemala's winter; the dry season from November until April is summer, although there is little change of temperature from month to month.

Most of the Guatemalan Indians are subsistence farmers, and their chief crops are maize (corn), beans, and squash. At high elevations wheat also is grown as a cash crop. The photograph was taken in June during the rainy or winter season. The terraces are known as terracettes or surcos.

13. Agriculture in the Highlands -- Indian men hoeing in a highland field outside of Guatemala City.

It is estimated that two-thirds of the Guatemalan people work in agriculture, and they may spend their lifetime working the same plot of land. Fields vary in size from one to ten acres, and they are either privately owned or rented. Some fields are communal village land of several hundred acres.

Many farmers work at a subsistence level, although if there is any food left over it will be sold for cash. Highland agriculture is primarily primitive, with machetes used to chop the weeds and hand hoes for cultivation. Horse drawn plows or tractors seldom are seen in the highlands. Part of the land farmed is so steep that it could not be cultivated except by hand.

Despite the tropical location of the country the climate in the highlands is so cool that the agricultural crops grown are comparable to those grown in high latitude countries. These include potatoes, corn, wheat and root vegetables such as beets and carrots.

Although the men in the picture are wearing western-type clothing, they do not speak Spanish, the official language of the country. According to a Guatemalan census, there are 16 different Mayance languages still spoken in Guatemala, so in isolated areas the people may never have need to learn Spanish. Many of the natives steadfastly refuse to wear western clothing and still cling to the traditional clothing, customs and language of their ancestors. The photograph was taken in June at 7,000' elevation.

14. Outdoor Laundry, near Totonicapan -- Laundry facilities located beside the road in a small village between Quezaltenango and Guatemala City.

For centuries women in Guatemala have washed the family laundry in rivers, lakes and even in street gutters after a rain, and many Guatemalan women still do this. Cement pilas, constructed by the state, have replaced the more primitive methods in some areas. The wash tub or pila is made of cement and most of them have a water faucet attached. Those that do not have running water as part of the unit force the women to carry water from a nearby well. First the clothes are soaked in cold, soapy water, then vigorously scrubbed by hand. Then they are rinsed in another tub, wrung out and spread to dry on bushes, grass or a fence.

Usually laundry time is an opportunity for women to socialize, much in the same manner as American women at the laundromat. In the cities women may have washing machines or access to one, but almost all homes are built with pilas. Some families prefer that they or their maid hand-wash the clothes on the cement pila rather than machine-wash them.

15. Woman in Santiago de Atitlan -- Women of Santiago de Atitlan are of special interest because of their unusual costume. They wear a "huipile" which is a white blouse with colored stripes, and a long red skirt. Their headwear is unique, and consists of many yards of embroidered ribbon wound around to form a halo effect. Young girls wear the same style outfit as their mothers. Jewelry also is worn when the family can afford it.

The people of Santiago de Atitlan live on the south shore of Lake Atitlan in a social unity, one of the many scattered throughout Guatemala. These unities, known as "municipios" or municipalities are made up of cultural groups based on blood relationships, shared customs and dialect. Distinctive dress identifies both men and women who live in a specific municipality. Over the centuries the social group developed due to the isolation imposed on the people because of lakes, rivers, canyons and mountains. Today, cohesiveness of the municipalities is reduced because highway and modern means of transportation allow easier access to other places and other people. This change has meant the old customs are not so strong any more, and the distinctive dress may be laid aside. A comparable illustration in our own country is the American Indians who rarely wear their traditional garb but dress in blue jeans and tee shirt.

16. Woman with Basket. Panajachel -- Guatemalan Indian women carry heavy loads in baskets on their head and move with grace and dignity as they walk barefooted for long distances. The baskets are made in many sizes and shapes, depending on what is to be carried in them. Occasionally the baskets are so large the carrier must have assistance to lift and place the basket on her head. A cloth on her head is adjusted in a doughnut-like shape to cushion the load. This is called a "tzutes". Men also carry heavy loads but their load is carried on the back.

Although some observers see persistence by the Indians in using their body for transporting items as stubbornness and refusal to utilize modern methods, it is more realistic to suspect their poverty precludes the purchase of animals or machines for transport.

A unique aspect of Guatemala is the high percentage of pure-blooded Indians in the population (estimated to be more than 50 percent) and the great variety and beauty of the Indian dress (traje). The handwoven blouses (the huipile, pronounced Wee PEEL) are decorated with designs and color unique to the area in which the person lives. There is very little "fit" to the huipile, and the wearer adjusts it to her own body by gathers and pleats.

There are an estimated 100 different styles of clothing worn in the Guatemalan highlands (an area about the size of New Hampshire). It has been suggested that the Spanish conquerers insisted on unique dress so the movement of people from one area to another could be identified and controlled.

17. Workmen at Panajachel -- Construction workers near a tourist resort on the shore of Lake Atitlan. Two of the Indian workmen are wearing western clothes so it is impossible to quickly identify where they are from. The third man is dressed in clothes unique to the Indians in this area. The short baggy trousers, the straw hat and the cloth wrapped around his waist readily distinguish Indians in Panajachel area. The apron-like cloth is called "panchitos".

Although all three men are Guatemalan Indians they appear to represent two broad cultural groups. Many Indians choose to identify themselves with tradition by maintaining the customs, language and dress of their ancestors. Others identify with more modern ways, especially incorporating Spanish customs and language. The latter group is known as "Ladinos". They may be pure Indian, Caucasian or of mixed descent.

18. Men carrying loads. Chichicastenango -- Many Guatemalans are unable to afford motor transportation or an animal to carry their heavy loads, so man himself must be the beast of burden as he has been for hundreds of years. Although women carry heavy loads on their head it is unusual to see a woman carry anything except a baby on her back. Men, however, are able to transport extremely heavy loads on their back by careful distribution of the weight. They wear a strap across their forehead which is then fastened around the load on the back. This strap helps secure the pack as well as distribute its weight. Men who carry such heavy loads develop very strong neck and shoulder muscles as a result of the forehead strap. In this picture one man is carrying a load of wood; the other is carrying a cement block. Note the adobe house in the background.

19. Children Carrying Heavy Loads -- Children living in poor, underdeveloped countries often do not have a carefree, indulgent childhood such as we have come to expect for American children. From the moment they are able to assist the family in any way they must relinquish their childhood play and contribute to the family good. Everywhere one sees very young children carrying water or firewood, working in the fields, weaving, and so on. School attendance is lax, and if a child is needed to help at home he is not allowed to attend school.

Teachers for children outside the big cities must know both the local dialect and Spanish. Most instruction is in Spanish, the official language of the country, but for many children it is as a foreign language. Poverty and lack of motivation have contributed to a high rate of illiteracy which ranges from 24 percent in Guatemala City to at least 96 percent among the highland Indians. These children, near San Lucas, are carrying heavy loads on their backs, just as the men do.

20. A Rural Home. San Lucas Toliman -- Many homes in both the urban and rural areas of Guatemala are constructed of adobe brick. The building material is mud obtained locally which is mixed with straw, then formed into bricks and dried and hardened in the sun. Although these structures tend to weaken during prolonged heavy rainfall and may be demolished during an earthquake, they provide cheap, adequate housing for thousands

of people. Sometimes the outside is coated with a plaster-like substance or cement which increases resistance to moisture. The homes have a metal or tile roof, or a thatched roof of leaves and reeds which are arranged to shed water.

21. Coffee Shrubs under Shade -- Coffee grown on plantations is a major crop in Guatemala and accounts for one-third of the country's export revenue. Production is concentrated in the Piedmont region of the western slopes (the Pacific side) between 1,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level. Some coffee also is grown in the highlands above 5,000 feet. The rich volcanic soil, proper air temperature, plenty of moisture with a distinct dry season (November to April) for harvesting coffee all contribute to excellent coffee production in Guatemala. Note the ripening berries on the shrubs - they will be deep red when ripe.

The coffee shrubs seen here are shaded by tall trees to protect them from too much direct exposure to the tropical sun. Coffee production in the Piedmont area was begun about 1870 by German planters. Coffee farms range in size from 25 acres to more than 4,000 acres. Some are privately owned; others are controlled by the government.

Indian migratory laborers, who come down from the highlands during October and November when the coffee harvest begins, provide a cheap source of labor - also an important factor in the widespread production of coffee. In November, when the coffee is ready for harvesting (the month the photograph was taken) one can see hundreds of Indian men and women walking along the highway, carrying their few belongings and heading for their seasonal employment on coffee farms.

22. Bus Transportation -- Guatemala has a good network of roads leading from Guatemala City to each of the departmental (state) capitals. There are approximately 2,500 miles of paved roads in the country, about 7,000 miles of unpaved all-weather roads, and unmeasured miles of jeep-only roads and trails.

Buses are a very important means of transportation in Guatemala. First class buses run between Guatemala City and all major cities. These buses are modern and seats must be reserved in advance. The second class buses (the "camionetas") photographed here, operate to all parts of the country, even isolated rural areas. The fare is much less than first class, but so is the comfort for they have stiff-backed seats, as many as seven passenger seats in one row, and each row so close together that a passenger with long legs cannot be accommodated unless he sits in the front of the bus or has an aisle seat. Seats are not reserved so if the bus is crowded and people are standing in the aisle, the would-be passenger may be required to wait for the next one.

Camionetas make frequent stops, and may be flagged down in between regular stops, so progress is slow. At some stops passengers disembark to purchase food, or find a toilet. Luggage is stowed on the top of the bus and may include boxes of merchandise, baskets or crates of food,

items of furniture, and so on. Inside, the passengers carry smaller parcels including food, small animals and boxes.

23. Motagua River Valley -- The Motagua River flows 250 miles in a depression between two major mountain ranges that extends east-west through Guatemala. It is a major river in the country.

The depression forms a 150-mile-long corridor along which there is now a good highway and railroad which connect Guatemala City with the Caribbean coast and the ports of Puerto Barrios and Puerto Santo Tomas. The depression corridor also connects with routes through the highlands, thereby forming a trans-isthmian route. The two ports on the Caribbean coast are important for Guatemala's export trade of coffee and bananas. Puerto Barrios is the major banana port. Puerto Santo Tomas also has served for years as the eastern port for El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Less than 100 years ago the Caribbean lowland of Guatemala was sparsely inhabited. Covered with jungle and swamps, most of the area was plagued with mosquitoes and malaria. Drainage projects and lumbering activities have brought settlers into the region and there are now many towns scattered throughout this vital corridor.

The paved highway winds back and forth across the river. It is well-constructed with two traffic lanes and sturdy bridges. Truck traffic to the port is very heavy and frequently dangerous since both trucks and passenger buses appear to delight in passing each other on curves. The photograph was taken in May, west of Guatemala City.

24. Walking to Market. San Francisco el Alto -- It is August, in the early morning, and these Guatemalans already have been walking an hour or more to reach their Friday market. Many of them are carrying heavy loads of things to sell; others come with empty baskets to fill with purchases. Markets are held two or three times a week in most Latin American countries, and the people look forward to them as a time to visit their friends or catch up on the news as well as to buy and sell. Since many families have no refrigeration and no place to store food to protect it from insects and rodents, food purchases must be made very frequently.

One knows this market is located in a rural area in the highlands since the people are dressed in their colorful traditional clothing and are barefooted. The market at San Francisco el Alto is different from some of the others, especially from the famous one at Chichicastenango, in that textile merchants have stalls inside large buildings while other merchants set up booths on the street.

Bargaining is expected and those skilled in negotiating a price can often buy items at half or less the original asking price. Visitors to the marketplace must be aware that in the colorful crowd there may lurk

skillful pickpockets, and one's purse or wallet may disappear if precautions are not taken.

25. A small market town. Chichicastenango -- Chichicastenango is a small market town, high in the mountains west of Guatemala City. It is a typical Indian town, although the market there is more famous with tourists than most. The homes, constructed primarily of adobe (mud), are connected to each other but painted individually. The typical red tile roofs and colorful walls combine to make Guatemalan towns very picturesque.

Living space within the home is small and cramped, most of them are without running water. A focal point in the home is a small altar, religious pictures on the wall and an incense burner. Even though most of the Indians in Chichicastenango are converted Christians they still retain some of the rituals of their religion from pre-conquest days. The Spanish used persuasion and intimidation to lure Indians into villages since they thought it would be easier to convert them to Christianity if they lived close together in villages.

Streets in Chichicastenango are laid with cobblestone -- the same stones laid during the time of Spanish occupation. The narrow sidewalks right in front of the houses may be used, but more frequently the people walk in the street.

Chichicastenango is a market town about 87 miles from Guatemala City. The Indians who come from the surrounding mountains twice a week to the market will be wearing the beautiful clothes of their social group. The extensive market and the lovely native clothing have attracted thousands of tourists from all over the world. They come out of curiosity to look, to buy the offered goods, and to take photographs.

26. Religious Ceremony. Chichicastenango -- From time-worn steps of the church of Santo Tomas a parade of religious significance is getting under way. The procession eventually will walk through the streets of Chichicastenango, then return to the church. For such an occasion most of the Indian participants dress in their finest traditional clothing and carry religious statues and crosses. A few can be seen in western and modified western clothes. Music accompanying the procession is informal, most of it rendered by a few flute players. A young boy in the center of the group is swinging a container of incense which appears as smoke. Notice the mother standing in the upper left side - she is carrying her baby in a sling on her back, in the traditional manner.

Built in 1540, the church of Santo Tomas (Saint Thomas) is picturesque and draws visitors from all over the world. While Indian worshippers do not object to visitors photographing the outside of the building, they look with disfavor on outsiders who violate the unwritten code of ethics and enter their sanctuary. Shorts, and bare tops worn by many tourists greatly offend the sensitive Indians. While the highland

Indians are Catholic, they also pray to their ancient Mayan gods, incorporating aspects of both faiths apparently without conflict.

27. Market Day in Chichicastenango -- Thursday and Sunday are market days in the town of Chichicastenango, located high in the mountains west of Guatemala City. "Chichi", as the town may be referred to, is an Indian town which has become famous because of its picturesque ancient Colonial church, and the extensive, typical markets.

In this picture barefooted Indian women selling fruit, flowers, and other things. Woven fabrics hang on racks to the right in the picture, and represent only the beginning of dozens of stalls of beautiful textiles displayed for sale.

In the background an Indian is carrying her baby on her back, as do most Indian mothers. The scarf draped over another woman's head is common practice when she is not carrying a basket there. The scarf shields the eyes and head from the tropical sun. Many Indians come to market to learn the news and to exchange greetings with their friends, with the buying and selling of merchandise being only incidental.

Chichicastenango has developed into a major attraction for tourists visiting Guatemala. Some come only for the day and hurry back to their hotel in Guatemala City at the end of the day; others stay for a night or two in one of several first class hotels.

Many different items are bought and sold at Indian markets, including locally made pottery, woven fabrics, candles, clothing, wood-carvings, furniture, small animals, fresh fruit and vegetables and processed food. Roasted corn on the cob is a popular item. Bargaining is expected and a hand woven wool rug first priced at seventy-five dollars sold recently for thirty-five dollars to a woman who feigned reluctance to buy. It is important to remember that even when items are sold at considerably reduced prices the seller will not lose money on his sale.

28. Shoe Shine in Quezaltenango -- A somewhat incongruent scene in Guatemala's second largest city, Quezaltenango. Here Indian women who ordinarily go barefooted are having their sandals polished during their visit to the big city.

A characteristic of Guatemalan towns and villages is the presence of a central park. Most of the time the parks are well utilized as a meeting place, a shady cool spot to sit and rest, or even lie in the grass to catch a nap. Vendors frequent the parks, selling, for example, ice cream or sno-cones, and always there are boys and men eager to shine shoes for a few coins. The men in the background also are having their shoes shined. The park bench on which the ladies are sitting is made of volcanic lava. The dress or "traje" of the two women differs, but they are from the same municipality. Notice their headbands are of the same pattern.

29. Street Scene. Antigua -- Antigua was the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala from 1541 until 1773. During this period Antigua was the cultural center for the Kingdom which included what is now Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and southern Mexico. Each province was ruled by a government responsible to the Captain General in Antigua.

Antigua always has been subject to earthquakes. In 1733 it was almost totally destroyed by earthquakes and subsequently the capital was moved to Guatemala City. The devastating earthquake of February 4, 1976, is proof that cities can still be extensively damaged or destroyed when the earth moves. The photograph was taken several years after the last earthquake and reconstruction has not been completed. Despite the constant threat of earthquakes, people who live in Antigua refuse to resettle.

Antigua today has a population of approximately 20,000. There is distinctive charm in the ruined buildings, the churches, the adobe walls, cobble-stone streets, little squares, broken fountains, iron grillwork and overhanging eaves. Even the massive ancient doors with detailed hinges, door knockers and hinges are fascinating.

30. Church of La Merced. Antigua -- This beautiful, massive structure is the church de La Merced (Church of the Mercy). Enduring the ravishes of time, including earthquakes, it has been recently restored. Within the many arched niches are the treasured statues of saints; flower and vine designs cover most of the upper section.

This type of architecture is fairly typical of many colonial churches in Guatemala, both in rural and urban communities. The Catholic church usually is the predominant building in a community, and is the center for both spiritual and social life of the people. This church was completed about 1770 and is the site of the monastery for the Mercedarian friars in Guatemala.

The cross, symbol of Christianity, was accepted easily by the Mayan converts since they already had a similar symbol in their culture, which represented the four directions.

31. Religious Ceremony. Antigua -- The predominating religion in Guatemala is Catholicism and the church plays a central role in the life of many people. Religious celebrations assume a festive air and not only are the celebrations a time for worship but also a time for socializing and commerce. Merchants selling food and handcraft and religious articles usually are scattered on the fringe of the churchyard on the special days.

This photograph, taken in June, is of a religious parade originating at the Monastery of San Francisco. The worshipers, carrying statues and other religious articles from the church sanctuary, walked through the streets which were strewn with flowers and branches. The group paused

periodically when the priest stopped to offer prayers outside some of the homes.

32. Church Ruins. Antigua -- Antigua was shattered by a major earthquake in 1773 when it was the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala. At the time of the destruction it had a population of 60,000, many beautiful churches, eight monasteries, six convents, five hospitals, and twenty-five fountains. There have been many earthquakes since then, and after each one, much time and great expense are expended to repair the damage.

The ruins pictured here resulted from the great earthquake of February 4, 1976. That earthquake did extensive damage in the city and surrounding countryside, and many of the buildings still stand in ruins.

33. San Carlos de Borromeo University Building. Antigua -- This lovely building which at one time housed the famous San Carlos de Borromeo University, has been converted to a museum filled with paintings, statues, jewels and carving. The religious paintings are especially well-known.

The University was founded in Antigua in 1678 as an extension of the Catholic Church. The Moorish style building contains rooms located off arched passageways around the patio or central court. Here, during the Colonial period, students wearing academic robes and hoods studied law, medicine, languages, theology and philosophy.

34. Temple I, Tikal. An Archeological Site -- Temple I (one), the Temple of the Great Jaguar, is one of the four large pyramids excavated at Tikal. Located on the great plain of Peten in northern Guatemala and 190 miles north of Guatemala City, Tikal is one of the many Maya Indian centers established in Guatemala during the classical period, 300 to 900 AD. Some time after that (archeologists disagree on the exact time), the area was abandoned by the Mayas who moved north to the Yucatan in Mexico.

Tikal is the largest Maya city discovered in Guatemala, and it is classified as a national park. It is only partially restored, but the ruins indicate the city covered 25 square miles; there were at least 10,000 structures inhabited by an estimated 40,000 to 150,000 people. At the present time only six square miles have been cleared and restored, and 80 of the buildings excavated. Excavation was begun in 1956 by the University of Pennsylvania.

The region in which Tikal is located, Peten, is naturally covered with dense vegetative growth and now is very sparsely populated. It is sometimes referred to as the "Wild West of Guatemala".

The pyramid seen here, 145 feet in height, is where the Maya priests performed religious ceremonies which included climbing the steep steps to the small temple above. Note the black line in the center of the steps. This is a chain installed so visitors who climb the crumbling well-worn steps can hold on for safety and pull themselves up to the top.

To the left is the North Acropolis. The stone markers or "stelae" are described in slide 35. Recent reports (1983) indicate that the number of tourists visiting Tikal has declined and that vandalism and desecration by graffiti has dramatically increased.

35. North Acropolis. Tikal -- The North Acropolis is a major structure adjacent to Temple One. The complex covers two and one-half acres, and consists of temples, rooms and stairways, some superimposed upon each other. The earliest structure in this Acropolis complex is dated about 200 BC and represents ruins pre-dating the Maya Tikal.

Stelae (stone monuments) and altars may be seen in the foreground. Carved from limestone, they now are pitted from natural erosion, but archeologists think originally they were painted red. Both stelae and altars were constructed in memory of an individual. Over the years many of the stelae were broken or erased.

The central portion of Tikal, shown here, consisted of religious and administrative structures. The people lived in huts which surrounded the great stone structures and farmed the land. Other structures excavated have been palaces, shrines, ceremonial platforms, ballcourts, terraces, causeways, reservoirs and large plazas.

The reason for the decline and final abandonment of Tikal is not known for sure, and is a question debated by scholars for years. Disease, natural disaster and exhaustion of the soil and forest have been several of the reasons suggested.

36. Ruins of Zaculeu. Huehuetenango -- A view of the old Maya city of Zaculeu, near Huehuetenango. Zaculeu was destroyed by the Spaniard Alvarado in 1525 during the Spanish conquest of Guatemala. Zaculeu had a defensive location and was strategically built between mountains and rivers. Only hunger forced the Maya occupants to surrender their city.

The ruins are not particularly attractive. They cover a small area and the manner of restoration (done by the United Fruit Company) gives one the impression the ruins are of recent construction.

The central structure is a ceremonial plaza and a pyramid with seven large steps or terraces. These can be seen in the distance. At the top of the pyramid is a temple of one room with three openings. All the architecture at Zaculeu shows strong Mexican influence. A small archeological museum at the site displays many artifacts taken from tombs in the ruins.

37. Mayan Stela. Quirigua -- Approximately 125 miles northeast of Guatemala City, in the Motagua River valley, are the Mayan ruins of Quirigua. This area is one of the most accessible archeological parks in Guatemala.

Quirigua is noted for its sculptures, especially the nine stelae which are the tallest ones discovered in the Mayan world. Because of the proximity of the site to Copan, Honduras, it is believed that Quirigua was a satellite city of Copan. (Copan, Honduras, was a great Mayan city which flourished in the fifth and sixth century, A.D.)

The dates on the stelae range from 692 A.D. to 810 A.D. and apparently the center flourished between these dates. Stones for the stelae must have been dragged a considerable distance from the mountains to the north since no stones of the magnitude needed exist in the lowlands. They did not use wheels nor beasts of burden so the stones would have had to be dragged. A large population evidently inhabited Quirigua, but no house ruins have been found.

The 30 foot high stela shown here is the tallest. It is beautifully carved with a figure on one side and glyphs (writing) on the other three sides. This stela is believed to be the largest stone ever quarried by the Maya. There are no tourist facilities at this national park except parking space. The grounds are beautifully kept.

38. Mayan Hieroglyphs (Glyphs) -- Hieroglyphs or "glyphs" are a kind of picture writing, usually associated with early Egyptian writing but also used by the Mayas. Ability to read this ancient writing was lost until the 1800s but now scholars can decipher them, although to most of us the glyphs are only beautiful carvings.

Maya inscriptions are read from left to right and top to bottom. Inscriptions which were calendars generally had a large glyph at the beginning, usually four times as large as the other glyphs in the inscription. Some of the glyphs found on monuments were dedicatory and included the date the monument was dedicated, as well as to whom, and other recorded events of history, special customs and so on.

Glyphs were carved on buildings and monuments (for example on the stone stelae); also, they were written on paper but unfortunately few of these manuscripts have survived.

As can be seen from the photograph, some of the glyphs included head forms. Some were made up of lines and other shapes; a few rare glyphs contained a full figure. Individual glyphs may contain a single word such as the name of a month or a day; others portray an entire idea. Still others represent an idea which is not related to the representing picture.

Many of the glyphs carved during ancient times have been worn away by natural elements; others were maliciously destroyed by vandals.

39. Lake Atitlan. Panajachel -- A view of Lake Atitlan from a resort hotel located on its shore. The lake is considered by many to be the most beautiful lake in the world. It is visited each year by thousands of people.

Lake Atitlan is 16 miles long and 11 miles wide. It is not ancient, but was created shortly before the Spanish conquest when a volcanic eruption stopped up a narrow river gorge and the resulting flooding created the lake.

One of the three volcanos that overlook and dominate the lake can be seen in the background. Twelve Indian villages, each named after one of the twelve Christian disciples, ring the lake.

Movement of the water in the lake is predictable. In the morning the lake is smooth. In early afternoon a breeze causes small ripples, and by late afternoon the lake becomes chopping, forbidding and dangerous. The wind is called "el chocomil" and pours down from the adjacent mountains and across the lake.

40. Indian Youth -- A young Indian boy rests from his labor in a field near Quezaltenango.

Even though as children they must work hard to help their family, Indian children grow up in an environment of love and approval. Closeness with their parents, a minimum of competition and criticism, and rare sibling rivalry even in large families - plus the fact that their labor is valued and necessary - all help to develop their feeling of belonging to their family and community.

What can this boy, who symbolizes the future of Guatemala, expect? The child's ancestors fought the invading Spaniards hundreds of years ago. They lost the struggle and the life of the Guatemala Indian was irretrievably altered. Now they struggle against a government with dictatorial policies and communist insurgents throughout the country, adding continual political unrest to their long standing problems of poverty and illiteracy.

North Americans must be cognizant of Guatemala and all of Central America, and keep themselves informed about these beautiful countries. While individually we may not be in international policy-making positions, we must exercise our intelligence at the ballot box, and support only those lawmakers who have a real grasp of the situation there. When it is safe once more for Americans to travel in Guatemala we can become individual ambassadors of good will by visiting the country and demonstrating good will and friendliness to these proud people.

(This narrative was compiled and published in 1983)