

The territory of Quero is extended along the right side of the lowest valley of Piave. It borders on the north with the borough of Feltre and Seren del Grappa, while on the south with the council of Alano di Piave. In the eastern side still along the river Piave, Quero borders with the borough of Segusino and Vas.

Almost the entire area is developed in a mountain territory partially on steep field but mostly full of deep slope. The only flat areas are made of alluvial terracing along the Piave, the largest of which forms the base of the amphitheatre where the centre of the settlement of Quero was expanded. Looking at the entire territory we can distinguish at least five important environment units: the Piave with its pebbly river bed; the natural hiding vegetation of the alpine rivers; the steep slope which forms a line of demarcation between the river bed and the terracing or the slope of the mountains neighbouring. The soil mainly formed of the alluvial terracing, where the centre of the inhabitants has developed, the wood mainly (ceduo) on the mountain side; the surrounding of the seasonal pastures, done on the highest tops, Mount Paoda (1367), Mount Solarolo (1670) and Mount Fontana Secca (1609), these many surroundings are different one from another, because of a morphological, pedologic and botanical characteristics of each unit. We could consider them simple ecosystem that because of their closeness keep related to each other. The little accessibility of some areas and the impossibility for the agriculture in others, has advantaged the keeping of many of the repeat looks of the natural landscape, mainly near the slope and the river bed. The anthropic side is visible in the built up area, where the flat and steep terrace are used for agriculture. The human activities have contributed at the change of the territory. The surrounding of Quero is very integrated and saved from speculation of anthropic presences. Maybe the unevenness of these places have stopped the human presence and has encouraged the lasting of the natural stability.

GENERAL HISTORY

The morphological characteristics of the territory have made it in the antiquity, favourite place of a strong built-up area, dominant "the tight" used for strategic reasons to defend the trevisan plain from the northern invasion and the control of the roads. It is likely therefore that the area had given hospitality to pre-roman human settling which however at now days we do not have any information. Quero keeps still today a structure of a rectangular perimeter divided in four blocks drawing from a network road of a chess board. The trace could form one memory of the primitive foundation of a roman camp (castra) dated approx. 1 century after Christ. For the late roman period and all the high middle ages no written font has the name of Quero. We can positively think that the village of Quero could be part of the Treviso Comitatus since the second half of the '900 after Christ, after the territorial splitting wanted by Ottone I King of Germany and Italic Kingdom. From this strategic position (tight rocks on the Piave), was made a strong barrier with the borough of Feltre. Around the year 1200 some rural families created large patrimonial base of their propriety developing their power starting from some castles on the hills of Asolo to extend till the flat hill of the Piave and how the "from the Castles", to "Pieve" of Quero. The "from the Castles" represented the Ghibellian side imperial of "the red" alternating to "the whites" supporter of the Pope and so Quero was the base of the conspiracy of 1265 to get rid of the bishop of Feltre. An engagement between the two parties, the 15 of November 1283 ended with the victory of the whites, headed by Gherardo da Camino Sir of Treviso and extend his power to Quero too. After two domination, one austriac (1319-1329) the other scaliger (1329-1338) too short to take into the trevisan modification that could last, the annexation of Venice lasted over 40 year (1339-1381) and made important and longer lasting changes. An important novelty is constituted by the lost of authority of the borough of Treviso in the choice of judge on the local district, with their nomination from the republic of Venice. Another new element it is the importance which acquired the border line between Quero and Feltre where the concept of a unified territory under the power of the republic is achieved. It is during a small period of decline of the venetian domination (around 1376) which the making of the Castelnuovo fort has started on the channel of Quero. Between 1384 and 1388 Quero was subdued firstly to Francesco da Carrara and after definitely to Venice which extended its power for over four centuries. With the venetian conquest of Feltre in 1420 Quero stopped to be a border zone (irrigation works in 1445). During the years of the Cambrai league, Quero was a place of continuous fights for the conquest of Castelnuovo (before the half of 1500); when the war finished, the village of Quero started to have a slow picking up. His territory, for almost 3 centuries, was not the place of war events. This helped the developing of the economy. The

history of Quero is tied to the important road which passed it, the Claudia Augusta Altinate, which started from Altino and across the Trevisan plain, took to Feltre and the north. During the Middle Ages with many roads modified because of floods or landslips but with a forced passage in the narrow road called the Chiusa, the road continued to be a communication way for European travellers and merchants and of course a normal traffic road. Next to the road there was the Piave (river). This way was cheaper for the people but mainly for the goods of the year 600 and 700 which were textile products, which saw most of Quero's busiest production. Castelnuovo was the stopping place or at least the checking point (transit ticket) on the street, so at Castelnuovo was possible to stop and check anybody who would come down along the river. In the Napoleonic time, the circumscriptors charged, detaching Quero from Treviso. At the end of 1807 was constituted the department of Bacchiglione based in Vicenza, divided in four districts, the cantons of Bassano (with 4 boroughs), Asolo (39), Marostica (19) and Quero (7). In 1810 the canton of Quero was broken away from the department of Bacchiglione and became part of the department of Piave based in Belluno and the district of Feltre divided in the cantons of Feltre, Fonzaso and Quero. After 50 years of Austrian domination (which started in 1813), in 1866 Quero became part of the Kingdom of Italy. The borough of Quero was founded in 1871, the year when the first mayor was elected Gaspare Bacchetti. During the Great War, Quero was invaded for 355 days from the 16 November of 1917 to the 31 of October 1918; for a year the Italian artilleries from the lines of the Grappa and the enemies lines of the Piave, pounded every day incessantly Quero, destroying the entire built-up area. The spirit of freedom gave the strength to begin the rebuilding of the centre of Quero, through the associated cooperatives (the first building to be remade was the church, opened in 1923). During the entire period of the first world war, the Administration of Quero moved to a non occupied territory, Parma, to continue to direct the borough. At the end of the war wasn't a only leaving house and to accelerate the returns of the refugees, the Military Group had prepared a hutland, in order to host the rest of living people of Quero. The period of the Resistance must be remembered for its deaths, many of them (over 830 on 3000 inhabitants) and for the heroic acts and sacrifices, for the merits which inspired it for the new values which gave to the consciences.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Situated along the orographic right of the river Piave, the agricultural territory is extended for a width of 1857,69 hectares. It forms the last layers on the south of the province of Belluno, bordering east with the borough of Vas, north with the borough of Feltre and Seren del Grappa, west still Seren del Grappa and the borough of Alano di Piave. The height of 200 metres over the sea level of the Piave valley to reach the 1624 metres over the sea level of the Solarolo Mount, which is the highest point. Most of the territory is covered by mountains; the area of protection are over 90% of the borough surface and covers all the mountain area covered by woods and pastures, Schievenin (part of it), Bolenghini, Cilladon, Santa Maria and Carpen (part of it) and the flat area mainly agricultural situated on the south of Quero. It is included all the area of the river Piave and places next to it. Under the productive profile in the borough of Quero the agricultural farms there is some marginality, a common thing of other mountain places. The existence of part-time because of little land areas and poor productivity and also because of better paid jobs outside of agriculture, gives the start to a mixed economy of different sectors. Traditional of these areas are the block of houses, most of them deserted: the ground floor was a stable or a wood store, on the top the hay-loft. Almost the total rural building includes both the habitat and the stable. The quality was usually not good even though it is started to improve the building trade which however is directed mainly to the restructuring of the houses and not the agricultural places. An area of guardianship is of interest for the majority of the territory, which covers the zone of the woods and pastures, Schievenin, Prada, Cilladon and Carpen. It is a guardianship area also the area occupied by the river Piave and neighbouring areas.

THE SOCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE STRUCTURE

The natural balance of the population, negative for most part of the 80's has reached now days a good stability. In contrary to what is happening to most of the borough of the communities of Feltre (mainly Feltre and Pedavena) which to a balance of positive immigration, 201 units in the first six months of 1992 we set against a negative fact of 113 units of the natural balance. The significant fact are the almost 2100 units in the borough of Quero this feel the effects of the immigrants. The situation of little social increase for the stability under the demographic profile has to be associated to the latest productive settlement and the job offers. The inhabitants divided in different ages, proof the

progressive increase of the middle age of the population (16,89% have more than 65 years of age) which however stays inferior to the average of the communities of Feltre. In the tabulate, the relation between the pensioners and the population domiciled is height and superior to the average of the borough. The average dimension of the families count 2,75 units compared with the average of the province.

THE OCCUPATION

Founding the structure on the small industry, the borough of Quero knows a good increase at the end of the 60's especially in the manufacturing side. The productive structure has a good opening for the small artisan industries. A field in expansion is the food (mushroom growing) and the manufacturing one (frames and lights). The agricultural work leaves the balance of the available jobs forming the completion of the family, income the productive situation of the borough is so height to need labour works from the near borough, Vas, this has made the borough of Quero to build a proper industrial estate.

ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Primity Field

The agricultural situation (small property) ha to be presented in relation to the manufacturing developing. The agriculture work forms the marginal layers of the job-phase (women and old people) and it becomes integral part of the familiar nuclear "enlarged" (integration sometimes important to define the level of wealth of the nuclear). The agriculture work is also important in the phase of mobility of the trade (very High). The production which is most qualified is the animal (there are middle industries addressed to the production of milk and cheeses) well paid job especially after the opening of some big dairies. The news on the entrances in the agriculture field confirm the trend of the lost two decades and they are:

- a reduction of the non active population associated with an increase of the people with pensions and benefits;
- an increase of the school levels due to the increment of inhabitants and the presence of many young;
- a reduction of the actives in the agriculture absorbed by the factory;
- an increase of the entrepreneurs and the self-employed due to the manufacturing of lights and frames;
- another increase of the traders due to the more wealth levels (in 1991 the trades are 53 units with a number of 114 trades involved).

Secondary Structure

The territory of Quero starting from the end of the 60's have an important increase of the manufacturing this is most common in the outside areas, while the Veneto's area has tis growing in the production structures like the furniture in the Treviso area, the mechanics in the Verona areas) the developing of Quero is mainly based on the small industry. The dynamic of growth in the last 30 years is made as follow: from 45 employed total in 1961 to 223 in 1971 to 514 in 1981 and 871 in 1991. From 1971 and 1981 the industries have increased more than double, from 22 to 56 to 149 of 1991. A more detailed analysis tells that the productive structure is highly specialised. The best example is the lights manufacturing and the frames industry. These fields start to expand at the end of 1960 and it is connected mostly to the immigration and the technology acknowledgment. The fast developing needs to be referred to the different wages of each category. The location of the industries has been favoured by the good conditions given by the borough town planning politic. One other field in expansion is the food (mushroom growing), in this case also the reasons of location are due by the characteristics of the labour work, especially for what concern the mobility - infact the labour work in this field is mainly formed by women; the industry have high rates of turn-over and large use of seasonal workers. The building field has also improved; the majority of the industries counts 1 o 2 workers; this structure is based on the residential production of self-building and subcontract of the job. The building production for handcraft, reached the top during the period of economy growth with the birth of laboratory connected to the house of the owner artisan.