Ref.

a merry christmas and a happy new year!

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THE CAPITOL STANDARD

To Submit Tax Revision Proposal To MMC

A revision of the Quezon City Tax Code of 1974 increasing the rates has been prepared and is ready for submission to the Metropolitan Manila Commission by City Treasurer

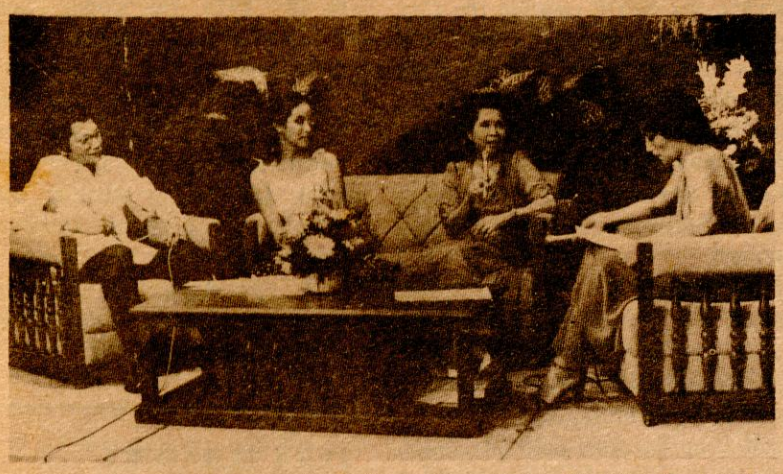
(turn to page 2)

More Flea Markets To Be Put Up

More flea markets will be put up in various places in Quezon City to solve the problem of sidewalk vendors of which there are more than 3,000. At present only the flea market at Pinatubo St. in Cubao has been established.

(turn to page 16)

Vol. VIII NO. 12 QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA, DECEMBER 22, 1979 50 CTVS.



Mayor Rodriguez being interviewed on the "In Person" TV program of Channel 2. With her is Architect Gerry G. Magat, Executive Director of the Quezon City Planning and Development Office.

FM WILL LIFT MARTIAL LAW MAY 1980—RONALDO MARCOS

By Ben O. Flores

The ESP-gifted ward of President Marcos, Ronaldo Joaquin Marcos, who had saved Bongbong from possible death in an airplane crash, has predicted that the President will lift martial law in May, 1980.

He made this prediction in a demonstration of his Extra Sensory Powers which he gave at my request to confirm what I had previously read or heard about his supernatural feats.

The occasion was the belated celebration of his birthday last December 2 (his actual birthday is November 28) at the Villa Pilarita, a private resort north of Novaliches owned by Dr. Paulino Albano and his wife, Dra. Pilar V. Albano, with whom Ronaldo or Ronnie is presently staying.

I was invited to the party by the Albanos through my cousin, Atty. Jose Oliver Cortez, the Albano's family lawyer. It turned out, Dr. Albano is a co-graduate of a brother of mine at the Sto. Tomas College of Medicine. Incidentally, the Albanos are the parents of Scout Ramon V. Albano after whom a street is named in Quezon City. He was one of the Boy Scout delegates to Greece who perished in an airplane crash.

Daddy and Mommy

Ronnie, who has adopted the Marcos name and calls the President and the First Lady, Daddy and Mommy, respectively, lived in Malacanang for some years before he transferred to the Albanos, who own the Saint Rita's Hospital and School of Nursing at Gagalangin, Tondo. Ronnie, whose mother is a relative of the Albanos, occupies a room in the

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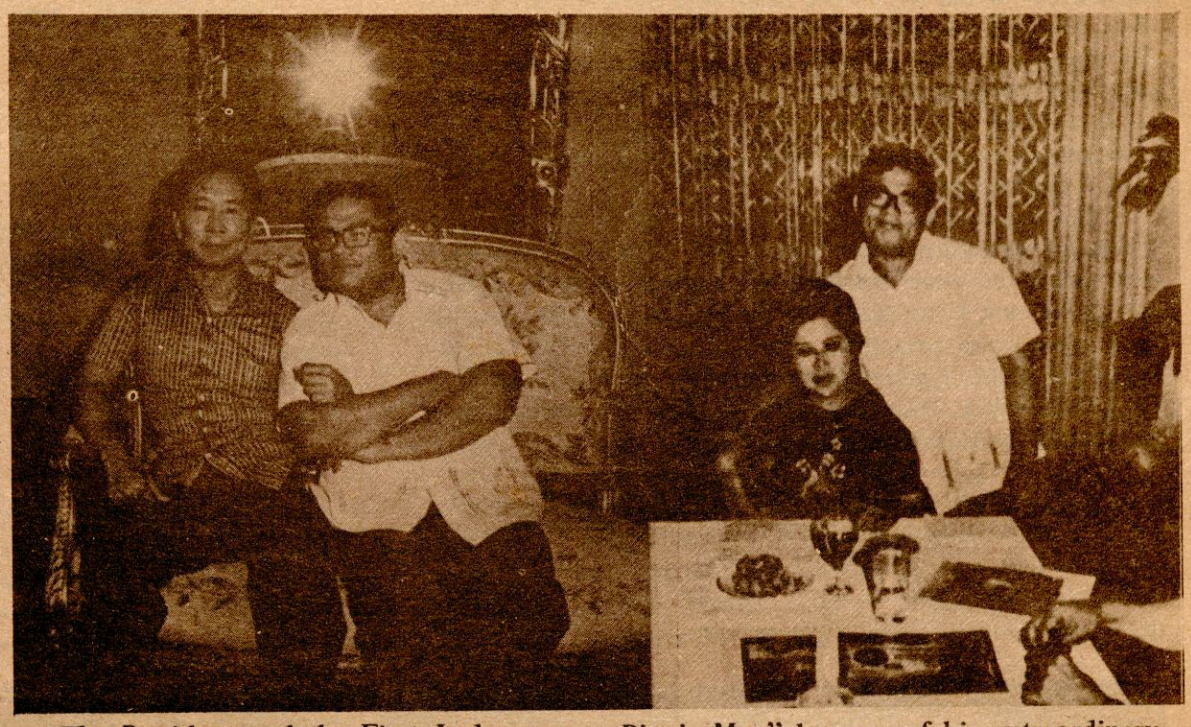

The President and the First Lady pose affectionately with their ESP – gifted ward, Ronnie Marcos. who has been called "The Bionic Man" because of his extraordinary powers and facetiously, "The Incredible Hulk" because of his bulk.



Ronnie with Dr. Paulino Albano and his wife, Dra. Pilar V. Albano, owners of the Sta. Rita Hospital and School of Nursing in Tondo, with whom he is presently staying after living in Malacanang for some years. He still has his room at the Palace.

Achievement Report

The Lady Mayor of Quezon City

"What, in a nutshell, can you say about your job as mayor of Quezon City? "

This question was asked Mayor Adelina Santos Rodriguez in an interview recently in the "In Person" TV program of Channel 2, which had been arranged by my son Andy.

"Being mayor of Quezon City is like being both father and mother to 1.4 million people, the city's population, with thousands of them as my helpers," the Lady Mayor answered.

"Don't you find your being a woman a handicap? " came the next question.

"On the contrary," the interviewee replied, "I find it an advantage sometimes. There are things I can get as a woman which I probably couldn't as a man."

After six previous all male mayors—Quezon, Morato, Bernardo, Roxas, Diaz, and Amoranto—Quezon City was getting the novel experience of going under the saya. When asked what in her opinion had prompted President Marcos to choose a woman to be mayor of Quezon City, Mayor Rodriguez answered:

"Women have always been clamoring for involvement, probably I was given a chance, made an instrument to prove our worth."

Has the lady mayor proven her worth and vindicated womanhood? There is now the record of three years, eight months, and twenty days (as of this writing) of her administra-

(turn to page 6)

MHS-RESC "Pera Sa Basura" Project Is Acclaimed In Southeast Asia

The "Pera sa BAsura" project of the Ministry of Human Settlements and the Refuse and Environmental Sanitation Center has been acclaimed as the most practical of the recycling projects being undertaken in Southeast Asian countries.



ENGR. PERLAS

Thus delcared Engr. Jesus P. Perlas, Jr. Executive Director of RESC. Engr. Perlas said that the Philippines' "Pera sa Basura" was first acclaimed at the Asian Productivity Organization symposium on solid wastes management which he attended in Tokyo, Japan last October. It was subsequently cited by the First Lady in her address at the United Nations and was likewise acclaimed by the delegates. It was internationally acclaimed for the third time at the recent Bangkok seminar on solid wastes management which Engr. Perlas also attended.

The seminar, which was held Dec. 3 to, 11 at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok,

(turn to page 12)

Due To Non-Enforcement

PD NO. 825: A MERE SCRAP OF PAPER?

PD No. 825 is just about ready to be consigned to the garbage heap. Due to non-enforcement, it has become a mere scrap of paper fit to be thrown as litter on the street to be swept up by the Metro Aides. This is ironical because PD No. 825 can help RESC a lot in its refuse collection and street sweeping tasks.

PD NO. 825 imposes the following obligations on all residents, establishments, and institutions in the country:

1) To undertake the cleaning of their immediate surroundings which should include, not only the yards and gardens, but also portions of the sidewalk, drainage canal. and street (up to the middle) fronting the residence, store, office, school, or factory;
2) To place all garbage in proper containers for collection by the talimbas (garbage collectors);
3) To refrain from littering or throwing garbage in public places; and
4) To clean up idle lots.

Failure to comply with the above obligations is punishable under the decree with either fine or imprisonment or both at the discretion of the court, but despite rampant, almost universal, non-compliance, there are few, if any, apprehensions and convictions due to laxity or neglect in the enforcement of the decree.

The enforcement of the decree is the job of the sanitary police forces of RESC but they have been very ineffective, not only because of their very few numbers, but because, of these few numbers, only a very few are competent and dedicated.

I know because I once handled Research and Statistics at the Quezon City Area, RESC office. The daily accomplishman reports of the 50 or so sanitary policemen of this office passed through my hands. You wont believe it but each policemen reported only five to ten apprehensions of residents violating provisions of PD No. 825 during an eight-hour tour of duty. And to think that they undertake this tour of duty preposterously esconced, in the sidecars of motorcycles.

Five to ten apprehensions a day! But if you take to the secondary and tertiary roads, you'd see dirty premises everywhere you cast your eyes. With some exceptions, nowhere can you see compliance to the provision of PD No. 825 making it a duty of residents to clean up their immediate surroundings.

In my report to the North Sector Head, dated March 7, 1978, I suggested an experiment to find out if continuous prodding and surveilance by the sanitary police force could instill in residents the habit of cleaning daily their immediate surroundings. I wrote:

"I have earlier made the observation that the Sanitary Police Force has much room for improving its performance. One of the prime functions of the Force is to conduct an information drive on PD No. 825 and other environmental sanitations ordinances. . . . More important than merely informing residents is to make them acquire the habit of maintaining the cleanliness of their immediate surroundings. For them to acquire this habit, residents must be prodded day in and day out, non-stop, for a prolonged period, say a month or so. I would suggest an experiment to find out if such incessant prodding and surveilance could instill the habit in the residents. A pilot area may be chosen for the experiment. Let one sanitary policeman be assigned to this area where he will do the inspecting and prodding day in and day out a certain period, then after the residents shall have acquired the habit , he can move to another area. In the meantime, random inspections of the previous area should be made, so that the residents will not abandon the habit."

In view of the importance of public discipline, cooperation, and assitance in the maintenance of cleanliness and sanitation, RESC should perhaps give more emphasis to the task of enforcing PD No. 825. It should organize and develop an elite force of sanitary policemen who can be depended upon to undertake the task of enforcement with competence, dedication, and honesty, so that PD No. 825 may cease to be a mere scrap of paper. Instead of ubiquitous street sweepers, let us have ubiquituous sanitary policemen.



The Muntinlupa Public Market, a well-designed, well ventilated, and well-equipped with necessary facilities.

MAYOR ARGANA.....

please everybody as when private interest conflicts with public interest. And he admits ruefully being unhappy when he displeases his townmates.

"I am doing all the best I can for the munici ality," he added, "because this is the place where my children as well as their children will grow, so, despite occasional differences, together we are building hopefully a stable future for our children."

Muntinlupa's chief executive who turned 51 last June, is a multi-awardee. In 1978, he was cited by two groups as the *"Most Outstanding Municipal Mayor of the Year,"* namely: the International School of Travel and Tourism, and the Philippine Center for Advanced National Studies, Earlier the Federation of Southern Luzon Radio-TV Press Clubs named him the *"Most Outstanding Mayor of Southern Luzon."*

In 1975 he was cited as *"One of the Most Outstanding Mayors of Greater Manila"*, by the Philippine Life Magazine.

The *"Outstanding Municipal Award"* came from, citing only a few, the Asian Anti-Communist League of the Philippines, 1965; Tinig Ng Nayon, 1973; Brotherhood Veterans Association, 1975; Philippine Veterans Legion Auxiliary Association, 1976; the Far East Civic organization, 1977 Philippine Labor Examiner Review, 1978 Federation of Women Civic Organizations of Quezon City; and the Philippine Veterans of World War II, both in 1979.

For exemplary achievement, dedication to public service, and for excellence in leadership, recognitions and commendations came from government groups and from many professional and civic organizations, among them: the Inter-Provincial Press Information Service and the Historical Research Society, 1976; Southern Rizal Chamber of Industries, 1977; Alay Lakad '77 Committee Association of Barangay Councils of Muntinlupa, the Federation of Homeowners organizations of Muntinlupa, Federation of Home owners organizations of Muntinlupa and the Asian Writers and Cultural Researchers Guild.

But, he says a bit wistfully, the best recognition he receives come from his constitutents who cheer, loudly and clearly, even little matters he does for the community. The townspeople interviewed by this writer are very proud of their homegrown mayor whom they dub as a dynamic leader and a forceful speaker. But, what is more significant, we found out that Mayor Maximino Arciaga Argana *is even more proud of his constituents.* –N. Valera



CECILIA M. DIZON

This paper has chosen Ms. Dizon as its first RESC Employee of the Month. She is the Personnel Officer of the North Sector, Refuse and Environmental Sanitation Center (RESC), Metropolitan Manila Commission. Very competent and knowledgeable on personnel (not personal) matters, Cecile is soft in speech and gentle in her ways–a real lady.

Season's Greetings:

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QUEZON CITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REACH OUT TO EVERY CHILD

By Conmemoracion M. Concepcion
City Schools Superintendent

During the past three years of this Decade of the Filipino Child, it may be said that creditable gains have been made by the Division of City Schools, Quezon City, to accelerate pupil and student development, and thereby, improve the quality of life of the people.

Much has changed, too, since the implementation of educational reforms in the organizational structure and curricular re-direction. As a result of the redistricting of the four cities of the MEC, National Capital Region, the four municipalities of Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig and San Juna were integrated into the Division of City Schools, Quezon City, District II, Metro Manila. Thus, the educational services of the Division have considerably expanded to reach the 139 public elementary schools and 34 public secondary schools. It also has jurisdiction over 142 private schools in Quezon City that have elementary and secondary levels, and 15 vocational schools that offer short term vocational courses.

Increased Participation Rate

Committed to the task of providing education for every child, all schools in Quezon City have not only accommodated the school-going age population, but also intensified efforts to retrieve out-of-school youths into the formal school system through the "Balik-Aral" program and the Accreditation



The Author

and Equivalency Scheme by which overaged students are tested for proper grade placement. The schools have also endeavored to meet the needs of its urban and rural communities for pre-elementary education as well as non-formal education.

Thus, enrolment has increased tremendously from 18,978 in the elementary and 14,307 in the secondary in 1975-1976 to 223,609 elementary and 86,-156 in the secondary in 1979-1980.

To further democratize access to education, high school annexes were opened, utilizing the resources of some elementary schools for late afternoon and evening classes. Due to the increasing concern of our administrators and teachers for the growing school population, the average participation rate for 1978-1979 is 85.37% which is slightly higher than last year's 82.66%.

Reduced Dropout Rate

Another significant accomplishment of the Division is the reduction of the dropout rate from last year's 3.52% to 2.04% which may be attributed to the relentless efforts to reduce education wastage and to increase survival rates through various projects like "Balik-Aral" and "Stay," "Operation Sagip", and the zero dropout campaign launced in its Action Plan this school year.

Achievement Level

If the status of education in the elementary level in Quezon City may be gauged from actual pupil performance, it is to the credit of our schools that the Division of City Schools, Quezon City, District II, obtained the highest mean score (58.99%) among Metro Manila cities in the Grade VI test administered by the EDP-ITAF through the MEC, National Capital Region in March, 1979. While the Quezon City performance may not be very spectacular, it denotes an upward trend in the quality of instruction in our public elementary schoools.

Outstanding Accomplishments

1. *The School Health Guardian Program*

A singular achievement in upgrading the health and nutritional status of the school children is the award won by Parang Elementary School as the Regional School Health Guardian Model of the MEC, National Capital Region.

Within the years, the School Health Guardian, Program was expanded with three additional pilot schools, namely; Don Mariano High School, Tandang Sora Elementary School, and Doña Rasario Elementary School.

The school health guardian concept has been disseminated through massive seminar-workshop in all the 31 School Districts, the main feature of which is the integration into the curriculum of the four components, namely; health education, nutrition education, environmental sanitation, and Alay Tanim which encompasses tree-planting and vegetable gardening. Thus, the goal of "Every teacher as School Health Guardian," has been achieved.

2. *Establishment of Decentralized Learning Resource Centers (DLRC's)*

To enhance teaching effectiveness, three (3) schools in the Division have been designated as Decentralized Learning Resource Centers (DLRC's) namely; Kamuning, Aurora Quezon and Pasig elementary schools. For the past two years, the District Supervisors, the Principal and selected teachers in these schools attended summer training at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila as scholars under the EDPITAF, to upgrade their teaching competencies. In turn, they will serve as members in the DLRC staff in the continuous in-service programs to help their fellow teachers especially in depressed, disadvantaged and underserved (DDU) schools. A tangible output of the DLRC staff is the preparation of sample Self-Learning Kits (SLKs) in different subject areas.

3. *Participation in the Sub-regional and National Science Fairs.*

The secondary schools won all of the top awards in both the Science Fair and Quiz in the Sub-regional Science Fair held at Malabon, District III, Metro Manila in January, 1979. For the elementary school level which participated for the first time, the entry of the Camp Crame Elementary School of a Project, "The Start of a Frog Culture," won the Most Outstanding Project Award in the Capital Region.

Quezon City also played host to the Regional Science Camp in March, 1979.

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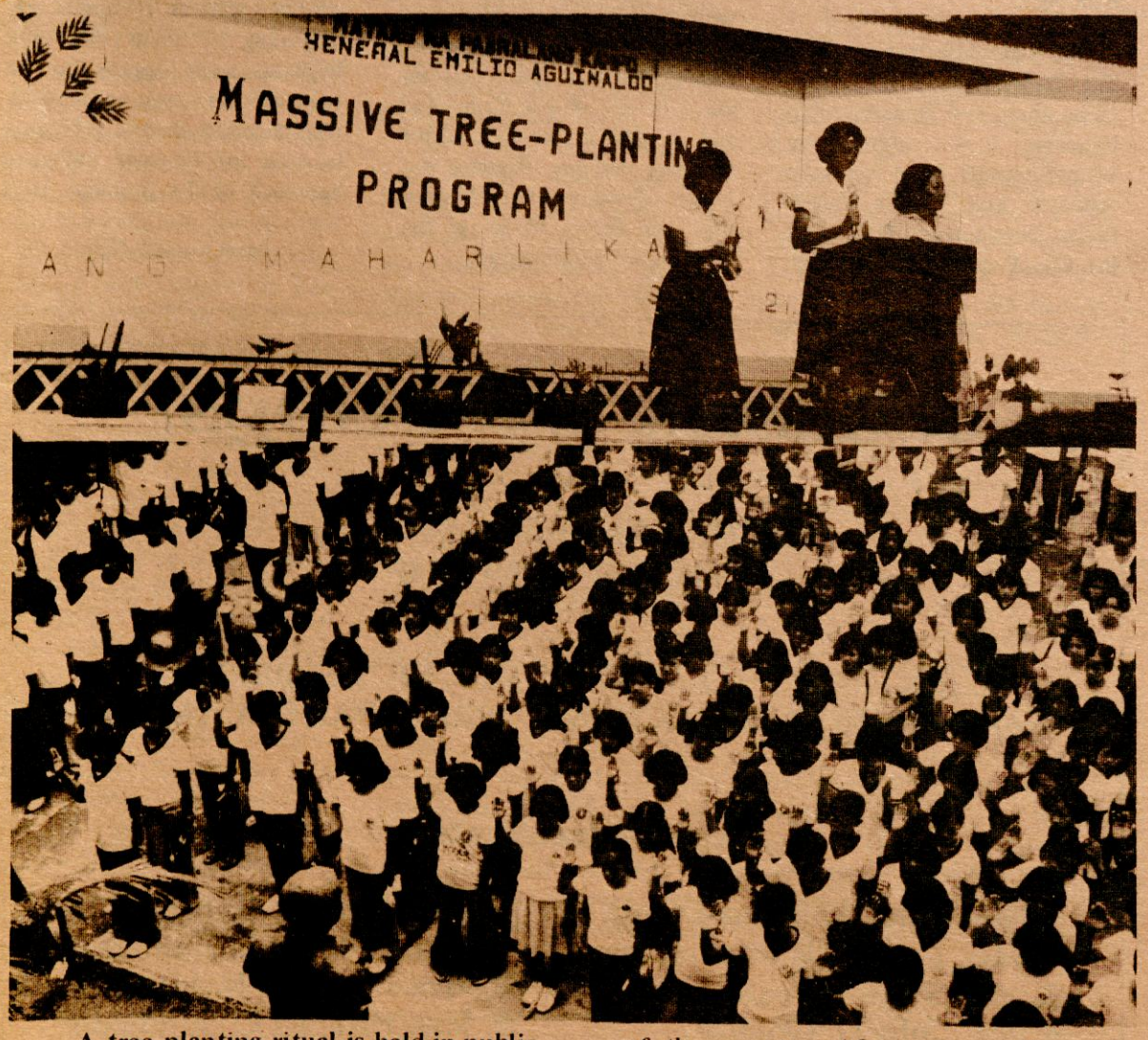


A tree planting ritual is held in public elementary and secondary schools of Quezon City to drum up the students' commitment to the tree planting program of the country. After a pep talk on the benefits derived from trees, the ritual is capped by a mass recitation of the "Maharlika Pledge," as shown in the above picture.

Garbage Collectors As Census Takers

By suspending garbage collection on Sundays in Quezon City, the Quezon City Area Office of the Refuse and Environmental Sanitation Center (RESC) is killing two birds with one stone.

One, it is conserving energy and effecting a savings of out P41,175.00 a day or P164,700.00 a month.

Two, by utilizing the grounded talimbas (garbage collectors) as census takers, it will be able to get an up-to-date and accurate count of the city's population and its daily garbage output, which will be the basis for making necessary adjustments and improvement of its facilities and manpower.

Some 450 talimbas are fielded on Sunday to go from house to house to request residents to fill out a garbage census form in which they will indicate the name and address of the head of the family, the number of members of the household, and the kind of garbage container used, whether gasoline drum, kerosene can, wooden box, basket, or plastec bag.

Accompnaying the garbage census form is a letter addressed to Quezon City residents enjoining their cooperation by disposing their garbage properly but not on Sundays, observing the schedule of collection in their respective streets which is indicated in said letter, cleaning their immediate surroundings daily as provided for under PD No. 825, and supporting the "Pera sa Basura" project by sorting their garbage and separating the recyclable materials and articles, such as tin cans, bottles, scrap metals, plastics, etc. for sale to the Eco Aids who are going around to gather them.

Started last Nov. 11, the garbage census has been undertaken for five consecutive Sundays already. The operation was suspended last Dec. 16 due to the RESC Christmas party at the Rizal Coliseum. About -----% of Quezon City's estimated 203,000 households have been censused so far.

The garbage census is a brainchild of the North Sector Head, Arch. Luciano V. Aquino. He says that in his inspection tours, he has already noticed some improvement in the carbage disposal habits of the residents already cnesused. They are refraining from disposing their garbage on Sundays and, on week days, they bring out their trash cans on the proper day and at the proper time in accordance with their respective schedules of collection. With this kind of public discipline, Aquino says, the suspension of garbage collection on Sundays has not adversely affected the state of cleanliness and sanitation in Quezon City.

The North Sector Head is appealing to every Quezon City resident to cooperate by filling out properly the garbage census from that a talimbas will sooner or later bring to his doorstep.

QUEZON CITY EDUCATIONAL.....

4. *Participation in the Regional Press Conference*

Two high schools brought laurels for the division by winning the highest school pointer award in the regional level as follows:

1st place – Quezon City High School
2nd place – Don Mariano Marcos High School

5. *Barangayette*

A student of the Quezon City Science High School was elected Chairman of the Barangayette of the National Capital Region.

The "I Barangattes" develop civic consciousness and closer relationship through such activities as tree-planting, cleanliness and beautification. A service to the community is the donation of canned foods to the National Children's Hospital.

6. *Cultural Awards*

A distinctive achievement in music was the national championship won by the Ramon Magsaysay High School, Cubao, Quezon City, in the choreo graphed Philippine music held on February 25, 1979 at the Folk Arts Theater. The winning number was "sitsiritsit" arranged by Eduardo Parungao.

To enhance further the development and love for our music and culture, TUG–AWIT '79 was held on March 23, 1979 at the QC Multi-Purpose Hall. This program was participated in by talented and music-minded elementary grade teachers who presented choral and instrumental rendition of Philippine songs and dance numbers.

7. *Non-formal Education*

Dubbed as Project JOY, Job Opportunities for the Youth, non-formal education is continuously offered to out-of-school youths and adults at the Roces High School, the nine (9) NFE centers in the Rizal towns. Courses in dressmaking, tailoring, cosmetology, automotive, electricity, machine shop and TV and radio electronics provide skills training that help them earn a living. New courses such as silk-screen printing and high speed industrial sewing were introduced to meet the demands for skilled six-month course have increased from 2,901 in 1973-1974 to 4,033 in 1975-1976 to 5,270 in 1978-1979.

The Division pursues the TIPID MOVEMENT as part of the Job Creation Program and to inculcate the value of thrift, self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

The Division's entry was the EDUCARE Project of the Ramon Magsaysay High School Bake Shop and Restaurant with a bank deposit of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) from the sale of baked food products like ensaymada, tortlets, pies, pan de sal, rolls, cakes and many others. This project won second place in the 1979 National Tipid Movement.



The Division of City Schools undertakes Nutrition Program for undernourished school children such as shown above.



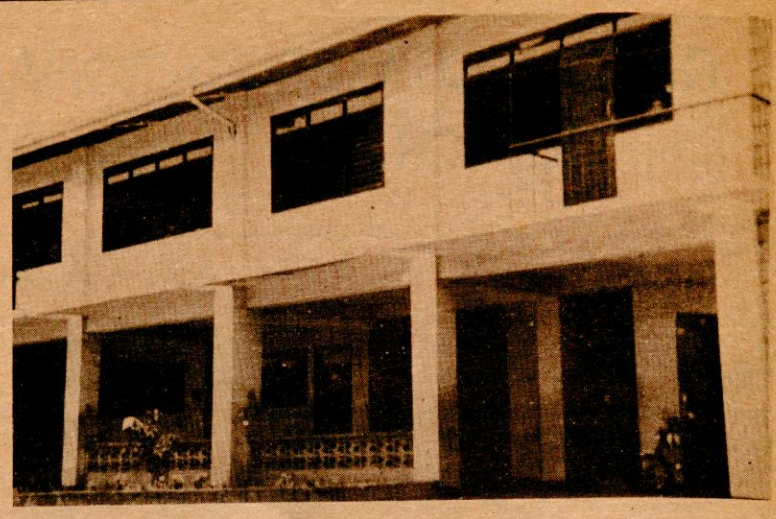
A class in Cosmetology, one of the various vocational courses offered at the A. Roces High School for out-of-school youths.

8. *Youth Civic Action Program*

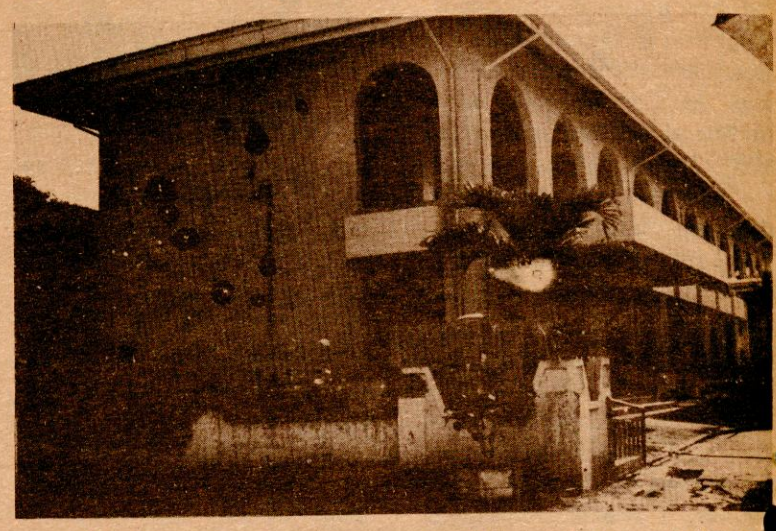
The thrust on countryside development has drawn students of public and private schools to undertake extension services in the community. A common area of concern is improving the nutritional status of children. Worthy of mention are the Nutrition programs of Balara Elementary School and the Sergio Osmeña High School. These are initiated by the home economics teachers, students and YCAPERS of the school with the aid of civic organizations in the feeding programs of malnourished children.

Private schools especially in the tertiary level, have also extended services to public schools, out of school youths and adults in the form of tutorial services, remedial reading instruction, catechism, recreational activities or sports development, offering day care centers, health and sanitation in their respective barangays.

That our school populace have become deeply conscious of the social problems of our communities, is an indication of the inner transformation of our city into our vision of the "City of Man and God".



The Ponciano Bernardo High School, a two-story, 10-class room/laboratory building, recently constructed under the School Improvement Program.



The Pura V. Kalaw Elementary School, one of three Imelda type of elementary schools so far constructed in Quezon City.

FOUR CPDO PLANNERS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

In the brief span of two months, for Quezon City Planing and Development officials have attended two international conferences on low income settlements upgrading and urban planning.

The first conference was held Oct. 28-Nov. 18, 1979 at Jakarta, Surabaya and Bandung, all in Indonesia. It was attended by 28 participants from 11 Asian countries. Luis T. Cruz, Organization Development Planner of the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), presented the office's Bgy. Escopa Experience as one of the case studies analyzed by the participants.

The seminar was a three-week training course sponsored by the Bouwcentrum International Education of the Government of the Royal Netherlands and the Directorate General for Housing, Building, Planning and Urban Development, Department of Public Works of the Government of Indonesia.

On the outcome of the seminar, Cruz remarked that the trend being adopted in key Asian cities as far as solving the problems of slum and blighted areas is concerned is upgrading with a supporting program of sites and services. He added that upgrading of these slum and blighted areas appear to be one of the most acceptable alternatives to these settlements in view of its very humance approach to the problem. It is

(turn to page 12)

season's greetings!

SCHOOL DISTRICTS XIV & XV
Division of Quezon City

DR. LOLITA F. VILLARRUZ – DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
MISS CHRISTINA Q. OCHOSA – PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE

School Administrators

1. Mrs. Ester A. Buenaventura
2. Mrs. Flocerfida M. Cualing
3. Mrs. Soledad T. Dayoan
4. Mrs. Julia G. Genato
5. Mrs. Leonida G. Genito
6. mrs. Lourdes C. Lero
7. Mrs. Leonora L. Lumanlan
8. Miss Flordeliz N. Morales
9. Mrs. Rizalina C. Sundiang

FM WILL LIFT.....

hospital. He left Malacanang, he said, because his movements there were rather restricted, "even my food has to be tasted before I could eat."

Ronnie, however, still has his room at the Palace. He reports to the President every Saturday. He is fetched by the Metrocom or by his aide-de-camp, Col. Herminigildo Agaab. Ronnie has a car, but he has no license and he can't drive **unless he is blindfolded**. Now what traffic policeman would not arrest a blindfolded driver.

The birthday party was a Sunday. So the previous day, Ronnie had been with the President. What did you talk about, I asked him. He said that they discussed his forthcoming trip to the United States. It seems that when U.S. President Mondale was here last year, he witnessed a demonstration of Ronnie's powers at the Palace. He was so impressed that he has invited Ronnie to the U.S. It seems Mondale wants the "Bionic Youth," as Ronnie has been called, to appear before the National Aereonautics Space Administration.

"The Memorandum authorizing my trip is ready, but the President won't let me go unless somebody accompanies me," Ronnie wailed. He pleaded with Dr. Albano, whom he calls Lolo, to be his chaperon. The doctor consented and promised Ronnie that he would write the President. This made Ronnie so happy, he cracked:

"I'm going to get myself an American wife and become an American citizen." He said he had been in the U.S. last year, stayed three months in Los Angeles with a certain John Craig, a medical director. "But I failed to get an American wife," he kidded again.

Ronnie is 20 years old, according to him, but he looks considerably more mature. He is about five feet tall and probably weighs a good 180 pounds. He is the roly poly type, or Bonjing in local parlance, with a bespectacled chubby face.

And now for the demonstration. I will relate it exactly as it happened——no addition, no subtraction, no modification, no embellishment——so help me God.

Ronnie sat at the head of a long table while the guests, some 30 of them, including myself, my son Andy, my cousin Atty. Cortez, and Dr. Jesus Valdez (brother of Dra. Albano) sat or stood around the table. I was seated immediately to Ronnie's right.

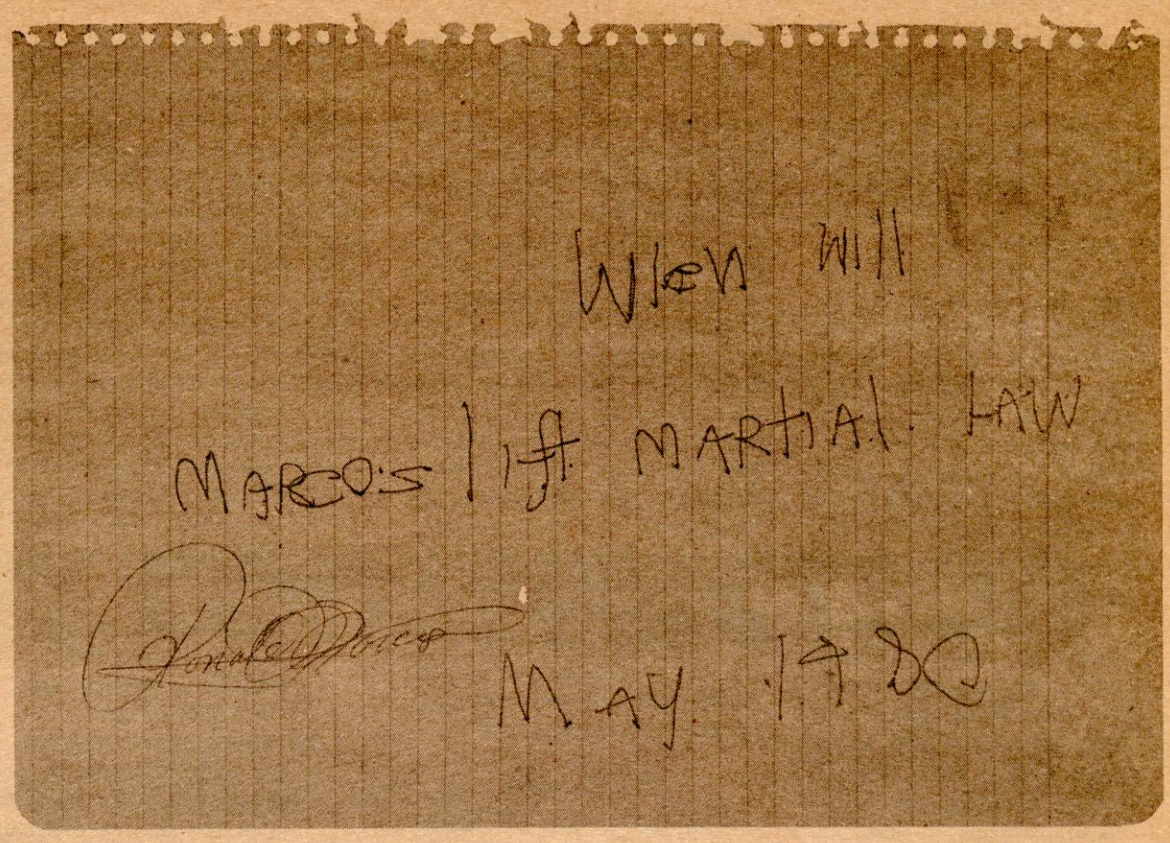
He asked me to write a question on a piece of paper and tell him the number of words in the question and the number of letters making up those words. I took a sheet of onion skin paper from my folder and tore out a strip, one inch by eight inches. I stood up and went away to write the question. I did this to insure the utmost secrecy. On the strip of onion skin paper I wrote this question: "When will Marcos lift martial law." I counted the words and the letters: six words and 28 letters. Then I crumpled the strip of paper into a little ball and held it tightly within my fist.

I returned to my seat beside Ronnie and told him the number of words and letters. He bowed his head slightly and mumbled what sounded like a Latin incantation. A sheet of ruled paper torn out of a notebook was handed to him and I gave my ballpen. Then he raised both hands to the level of his temples and snapped his fingers, thumb against middle finger. With the snap of his fingers, a whining sound, like a car's siren, emanated from him. His lips were unmoving but his eyes were blinking very rapidly. Dra. Albano, who was standing beside him, removed his spectacles. The ballpen in his hand was poised over the sheet of ruled paper. The whining sound continued for about 10 seconds, then stopped abruptly. Whereupon, Ronnie wrote in block letters on the sheet of paper before him the question exactly as I had phrased and written it: "When will Marcos lift martial law." The answer he wrote beneath the question was: "May 1980." Ronnie wrote with lightning speed——and **upside down.**

I asked Ronnie to sign the sheet of paper on which he had written my question and his answer. (Please see the picture of this documentary evidence of the demonstration on this page.)

The prediction that President Marcos will lift martial law in May 1980 may or may not be true. Come to think of it, it could be true-temporarily, at least, for the elections. Only the future will determine that. But what is astounding for the present is how Ronnie was able to reproduce a question of which his only clue was the number of words and letters. And that whining sound as though he were a human electronic apparatus.!

Ronnie repeated the feat three more times with three different questions written in the same secret manner as I did by three different guests. It was even more amazing in the case of my cousin lawyer Cortez who wrote this question: "Will Ochida win the Datecor case." He was referring to a P26-million property encroachment case he was handling in Davao. But Atty. Cortez counted the letters incorrectly——29 instead of 27. Ronnie raised his hands and snapped his fingers; the whining sound came but it stopped after a few seconds. Ronnie said something was wrong and told my cousin to count the number of letters again. My cousin did and said: 28. (My cousin is a man of many talents but counting is obviously not one of them.) Ronnie tried again but still the wrong count bugged him. My cousin counted for the third time and finally got it right: 27. Only then could Ronnie reproduce his question correctly and wrote the answer below: "VICTORY." Everybody applauded and congratulated my cousin. But they marvelled at the way Ronnie's invisible antennae could detect even a wrong count.



The sheet of paper on which Ronnie Marcos reproduced the question and his answer. He affixed his signature to authenticate it.

A variation in Ronnie's demonstration of ESP involved a lady guest who was big with child. Ronnie was asked to predict the sex of the unborn child. He asked for five sheets of bond paper, which I got out of my folder. He told me to hold them in front of him, about three feet away. He raised his hands, snapped his fingers, and the whining sound came. He picked up the ballpen and made writing motions in the air opposite the sheets of paper I was holding aloft. When the whining sound stopped, he said to examine the sheets of paper, which I did. On the third sheet, the word "boy" was scrawled.

Again, whether the child will be a boy or not remains to be seen. But what we saw was the amazing way the word "boy" got written on a sheet of paper that his ballpen never touched.

After this display of writing by remote control, Ronnie begged off. He was perspiring, obviously exhausted. Evidently, the exercise of his ESP subjected him to great physical stress. Dra. Albano had to give him a glass of iced water to revive him. I needed no further proof of Ronnie's powers. I am thoroughly convinced that he is no ordinary mortal.

Whence came this phenomenon? My cousin jestingly says that he could be a Martian brought down by a UFO. But the Albanos told me of his parentage and boyhood.

As I have earlier stated Ronnie's mother is a relative of Dr. Albano and she is from Dingras, Ilocos Norte. His father is a certain Joaquin from Manila (his full name the Albanos couldn't recall). When Ronnie reached school age, his parents enrolled him at the Laoag Seminary headed by a Father Foz, a relative of his mother.

As a boy, Ronnie had a penchant for mischief, didn't take his studies seriously, playing truant repeatedly, and got into all sorts of scrapes. By the time he reached 1st year, his behavior became so unruly and his attendance in class so irregular that Father Foz was forced to drop him. The boy returned to his parents in Dingras who, in turn, endorsed him to the Albanos in the hope that, as doctors, they could reform him.

Dra. Albano told me that Ronnie stayed with them until President Marcos discovered him. And this is how it happened: One afternoon, Ronnie was sitting on a bench at the Luneta park when he saw the American ambassador strolling. He was limping. Ronnie accosted him and offered to do something about his limp. Before the American could brush him off as an impudent fool, Ronnie went into his electronic act, which petrified the American official. When the whining sound stopped, Ronnie told the ambassador that his limp was gone. True enough, when he started to walk he found to his utter amazement that his limp was gone.

The American ambassador was so impressed that he asked Ronnie to go with him. He took him to Col. Carmelo Z. Barbero, Deputy Defense Minister, a good friend of his. Col. Barbero, in turn, introduced Ronnie to the President. And this started his sojourn at the Palace as the President's ward——and consultant of sorts.

Ronnie, however, is reluctant to talk on the matters the President has consulted him about. But I pressed him on the subject of martial law. Ronnie said that it was the intention of the President to lift martial law within 13 months, reckoned from last month. But I advised him to reduce this to seven months, Ronnie said. Hence his May 1980 prediction. Ronnie said further that he had told the President that the people would be happy if he lifted martial law but that he should be careful of the Filipinos who would be returning when martial law is lifted.

There are many other astounding things Ronnie is reported to have done. One of the most remarkable is the way he could call up a party over the telephone without touching it. And he could do it even with a toy telephone. He once demonstrated this at the residence of Col. Barbero in the presence of Julie Daza, Times Journal columnist. Julie recounted in her column how she was able to talk long distance to a friend in Baguio without anybody dialing the phone. Ronnie simply told her to hold the earphone to her ear and after Ronnie went into his electronic act, she heard her friend in Baguio saying "Hello."

One of the guests Ronnie invited to his birthday party was his laundrywoman, Mrs. Quintina Mejino. Mrs. Mejino related to me how a relative of hers had been stabbed to death recently in Ilocos Norte but nobody knew who was the assailant. So she consulted Ronnie who told her that it was a certain Warlito Magay who was the culprit. A brother of Mrs. Mejino rushed to Ilocos Norte and told the police. Magay was sought and arrested. He confessed to the crime.

Ronnie is sometimes embarrassingly candid in the exercise of his ESP although he means no malice. Once the Mother Superior of a prestigious school and convent was visiting the Albanos. Ronnie was around and without warning, blurted out: "Sister, you had a baby once." The words seemed to spill out of his mouth automatically as though the power that sensed the Sister's hidden past simply had to express a fact that came within its ken. Then there was this lady visitor at the hospital. Ronnie sat beside her and without any preface said: "You are very beautiful but you are pregnant." The lady was not married.

This one was witnessed and told to me by my cousin, Atty. Cortez. Ronnie was given a P50-bill. He spread it on his thigh, went into his electronic act, then placed a hand over the bill, and presto, one became three. But Ronnie won't do this money-making act except to demonstrate and he is averse to this kind of demonstration. He says that he will never use his powers for mercenary purposes or for any other improper purpose.

(turn to page 17)

LADY MAYOR.....

tion upon which to base an answer. But even at the very outset, we had predicted that she would have a very worthy regime. In our editorial entitled, "Welcome, Mayor Rodriguez," in the April 9, 1976 issue of this paper, we wrote:

"We have no doubt, however, that Mayor Rodriguez will acquit herself with credit and honor as the capital city's chief executive. She belongs to an elite clan of achievers, the Rodriguezes—senator, congressman, governor——who have maintained a tradition of dedicated public service for the last three decades.

". . . So, though Mayor Rodriguez may not bring with her extensive executive experience and know how, she comes with something better: faith, courage, vision, sincerity, and, above all, the capacity to lead and the will to serve."

Our prediction that Mayor Rodriguez would acquit herself with credit and honor has been confirmed by the record of the past three years, eight months and twenty days of her administration. The accomplishments of this period are quite impressive and outstanding.

own ears their pleas and plaints. She, in turn, invited civic, business, and professional organizations to a dialogue in her office. Because of her intensive efforts to establish rapport with the people, they universally rallied around her. Some 65 of said organizations presented her scroll pledging their unanimous support.

So phenomenal was the way the people from all sectors of the community rallied around her that hardly six months after assuming office, Mayor Rodriguez, who had been a bit "frightened" by the enormity of the job, could say at the induction of the officers of the Sinag-Tala Lions Club that "the job of being mayor of Quezon City has been made easy for me because there are so many people who are willing to help."

Direct Contact

Throughout her administration, Mayor Rodriguez has persisted in the practice of making direct contact with the people at the grassroots level. Though her visits to the barangays may not be as frequent as in the early days, she still goes with all her department heads and chiefs of offices at least once a month to a barangay to have a dialogue with the people. Problems of the barangay are discussed and solutions formulated, the implementation of which involves the residents themselves in order to develop in them the virtue of self-reliance. She has called this monthly barangay forums: "Palaging Panglingap ng Pamahalaan sa Mamamayan."

For consultation in the upper level, she formed on October 2, 1978 the Council of Leaders, composed of all city government heads, Sanggunian Bayan members, Barangay Captains, Kabataang Barangay Chairmen, and civic leaders.



Mayor Rodriguez awards a land title to an Escopa resident. The 6.3-hectare squatter area that was Escopa had been bought by the city government for P7 million from the Ministry of Social Services and Development.

Proper Approach

Though she may not have brought much executive know how, Mayor Rodriguez knew the proper approach to her job. Instinctively, she knew that to be able to administer the city government properly, she had to know first the needs and problems of the people. This knowledge she obtained initially from the chiefs of offices and heads of departments with whom she immediately conferred when she assumed office. Then she went direct to the people.

The first days, weeks, and months of her tenure were spent going around the barangays to see with her own eyes the needs and problems of the people and to hear with her

Reorganization

Knowing that the success of her administration would depend in a large measure on the organizational structure of the city government, one of her first moves was to reorganize and revitalize this structure in order "to increase its capability to respond to the present demands and future needs of the city and of the Metro Manila area." She created the Quezon City Reorganization Committee composed of representatives from the private sector, consultants from the Development Academy of the Philippines and the Philippine Center for Advanced Studies, and city government officials. In line with the findings and recommendations of this Committee, Mayor Rodriguez instituted the following measures:

1) Retrenchment in operating and administrative expenditures, without sacrificing efficiency;
2) Strengthening of the revenue collection arm of the City Treasurer in support of the program on revenue generation; and
3) Abolition of positions of confidential agents, special agents and technical assistants whose functions could be dispensed with.

As there were other areas recommended for improvement by the Committee, Mayor Rodriguez created ad hoc committees to make further studies on these areas.

Personnel Competence and Morale

The Mayor also realized that a streamlined organizational structure would not be of any good unless staffed by competent, dedicated, and contented personnel. Through the Personnel Division, headed by Arturo S. Loria, the knowledge and skills of the city government's 6,152 officials and employees were upgraded by various means. And to boost their morale, the Mayor saw to it that her fiscal officials never failed to provide sufficient funds for approved salary increases, emergency living allowances, 13th month pay, and fringe benefits like clothing allowance and Christmas bonuses.

LAGING PAGLINGAP NG PAMAHALAAN SA MAMAMAYAN



Mayor Rodriguez has maintained the practice of direct consultation with the people. She is shown conducting a community dialogue in a barangay to find out the needs and problems of the constituents. At her left are Community Relations Officer Melencio Castelo and Social Welfare Services Chief, two of the retinue of city officials the Mayor brings with her to these community dialogues.

As CRO, Castelo sees to it that all complaints aired during these barangay forums are attended to. He also sees to it that all projects to which the Mayor commits herself during these community dialogues are funded and implemented. Since last March, the following projects have been funded and implemented or are being or will be implemented:

1) Improvement of 14 streets in 10 different barangays at a total cost of P1,774,850.00.

2) Installation of public faucets and deep wells in 23 streets in 14 different barangays at a total cost of P408,383.00.

Master Plan

After having obtained a good grasp of the needs and problems of the city, gained the support of the people, and streamlined the government, Mayor Rodriguez's next move was to have a master plan prepared for the development of the city. The task of preparing this plan fell on the hands of Arch. Gerardo G. Magat, Executive Director of the City Planning and Development Office. It was the Mayor's good fortune that the task fell on very able hands. Arch. Magat and his staff prepared a Comprehensive Development Plan that was designed to be "a physical manifestation of the soul of its people." With the completion of a Preliminary Report in November, 1976, Mayor Rodriguez adopted a more technical approach in devising solutions to urban problems. No program or project was implemented unless it conformed with the Plan, which was designed to rationalize the growth of the city and provide direction to all the city's undertakings. (For more details of the Plan and a profile of the office that prepared it, please read the article on Page_2__)

Revenues

In reviewing the accomplishments of the city administration during the past three years and eight months, it is only fitting to start with a look at its revenues, for this is a basic factor in determining the extent and nature of these accomplishments. The growth and progress of a city is reflected in the rise or fall of its annual income. In 1976 the year the Mayor assumed office, Quezon City's income was P90,655,505.67. The following year, 1977, it was P100,986,587.65. In 1978, income rose further to P140,983,996.03. This year it's P169,356,100.00. Estimated income for 1980 is P241,517,616.00.

Collection Arm

The steady increase of the city's income may be attributed to its collection arm, the office of the City Treasurer headed by Atty. Anselmo O. Regis. This office has been undertaking without let-up an intensive real estate tax collection campaign which has been very effective despite inadequate manpower. After the general revision in assessments ordered in PD No. 465, the City Treasurer's office started sending letters to taxpayers advising them of the new tax rates on their real properties.

"This move is the only one being undertaken in all of Metro Manila," City Treasurer Regis

(turn to page 7)

LADY MAYOR.....

says. "It is intended to stimulate and promote more active response in the payment of realty taxes."

The table below shows comparative realty tax collections and the respective efficiency of collection ratings:

Year	Collection	Collectible	Efficiency
1976	P31,901,602.90	P25,315,253.44	79%
1977	P36,051,697.61	P28,613,139.12	75%
1978	P47,806,695.21	P31,331,223.10	78.5%
1979	P61,991,724.80	P39,500,477.78 (up to Oct.)	



ATTY. REGIS

The Inspection Division of the City Treasurer's office, by continuous inspection of business establishments to determine if they have the required permits and licenses, has been responsible for the collection of considerable amounts representing payment of delinquent and deficiency taxes, with penalties, as follows:

1976.... P555,663.15
1977.... 664,090.71
1978.... 418,235.62
1979.... 316,853.07

The Markets and Slaughterhouse Division has also done exceptionally well despite the closure of all slaughterhouses in Quezon City in 1976 and the fires that gutted the Project 2 and Frisco markets in 1977 and 1978, respectively. The city's income from market fees has remained stable, registering only a slight decrease due to the adverse occurrences just cited. From 1976 to November 1979, market fees accounted for revenues amounting to P4,797,825.51.

Permit fees and licenses are another big source of income for the city. The task of collecting them belongs to the Business Permits and Licensing Office headed by Alberto Galarpe. A comparative statement of collections is as follows:

1976 ..... P29,220, 659.34
1977 ..... 32,147,675.18
1978 ..... 35,908,388.00
1979 ..... 26,593,952.26 (Up to June)

The City Attorney's office has also aided in the collection of tax delinquencies in the amount of about P2 million through the 5,026 demand letters it had sent to delinquent taxpayers and the 2,161 cases it has recommended for prosecution from 1976 to date.

Careful Budgeting and Judicious Spending

Despite the steady increase in the income of the city, Mayor Rodriguez says that her administration has always been handicapped by inadequate funds, such is the extent, variety, and complexity of the needs and problems of the city. She has to husband and manage the city's resources with utmost care in order to achieve the maximum promotion of the public welfare and the efficient delivery of essential services. She is aided in this task by the Budget Office headed by Budget Officer Estrella Gerardo. This office prepares, administers, and controls the Executive Budget for the calendar year in accordance with instructions and guidelines set by the Mayor. As approved by the MMC, the Executive Budget does not necessarily put the city government in a fiscal straight jacket in the expenditure of the budgeted funds. Changes can be made through Supplemental Budgets in accordance with the requests of the various offices and departments for funds to meet



MS. GERARDO

(Turn to page 8)



Row houses under construction at the Escopa Redevelopment Project at the PUD (Planned Unit Development) site.

Untold Tale

War Exploits of Dr. Andres

By E. C. Flores

The smoke of battle has long cleared and World War II remains but a sad chapter in our history. But there are still many untold tales of heroism spawned by that war. One of them is the war exploits of Dr. Eleazar A. Andres, medical director of the Eastern Bicol Regional Hospital. He hails from the Ilocos, cradle of noble heroes.

The war saga of Dr. Andres, or Ely as he was fondly called, began at the tender age of 14 when most boys were still playing with their tops. One bright afternoon while playing with three other boys near a Japanese quardhouse, they heard the drone of an approaching plane. When they noticed that its wings bore the stars and stripes, they shouted excitedly: "American plane! American plane!"

When the Japanese sentry heard their exultant shouts, he rushed towards them and rained first blows on them and struck them with the butt of his rifle.

That night as Ely, lay on his bed nursing his wounds, a plan for vengeance was hatched in his mind. The following day he sought his three buddies and told them of his plan to which they gave their nod.

At break of dawn a few days later, the four of them stealthily inched their way to the quardhouse. Catching the Japanese sentry off guard, they pounced on him, overpowered him, wrested his rifle and bayoneted him to death.

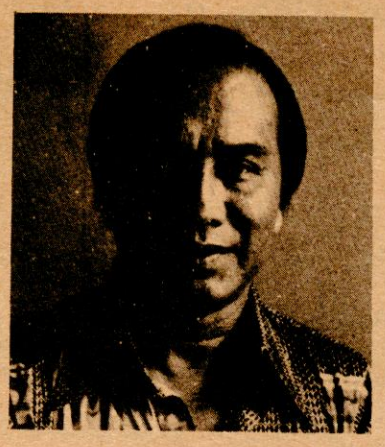
Under cover of darkness the four boys fled to the mountains to join the querilla fighters. After days of plodding throgh dense forests, subsisting only on nature's bounty, they came upon a guerilla unit. They were ecstatic with joy but it was shortlived because the querilla leader suspected them to be Japanese spies and ordered them tied to a huge tree. After a brief huddle with his men, he told his captives that they would be executed the following morning.

Ely was thinking of his parents, brothers, and sisters when he was whisked off to an isolated place not very far from the camp. He was given a digging implement and ordered to start digging his grave. As he dug, he thought of the old woman who had read his palms and predicted that he would live to a ripe old age. With death staring him in the face, what an irony that prediction was!

He thought of playing a trick on his Japanese guard by asking for a glass of water, hoping that he would come near enough for him to strike him with his digging implement. But the guard, inspite of his remonstrations, refused.

In The Nick of Time

Meanwhile, Colonel Volkmann, the famous American



DR. ANDRES

guerrila leader and his company, arrived at the camp of the guerrilla unit that had captured Ely. He was looking for man who could guide them in their drive towards the Ilocos region, preferrably one who hailed from this region, familiar with its routes and terrain. The Filipino guerrila leader could not think of any of his men who had the qualifications needed by the Colonel. Then he thought of the boy who was at the time digging his grave. They rushed to the place and arrived just in the nick of time to stop the execution.

Copious tears welled in Ely's eyes as he realized his providential deliverance from the very jaws of death. But the querilla leader still was not convinced that Ely was not a Japanese spy. It was decided that he should be put to an acid test. He was given the mission of killing the municipal mayor who was tagged as a Japanese collaborator. Ely was accompanied by two Igorot guerilla fighters who were under instruction to keep a close watch on Ely lest he should escape. They rode in a *calesa* with their firearms tucked inside a *bayong*. As they were nearing the town, they spotted two Japnese soldiers installing communications lines. One was perched atop a telephone post while the other was beneath him. In accordance with a quickly conceived plan, the two Igorots pounced on the Japanese at the foot of the post while Ely shot with his pistol the Japanese at the top of the pole.

"The Mayor, I Presume."

The trio continued on their way to town. Upon reaching the municipal hall, Ely went up and calmly walked into the office of the mayor. "You are the mayor, I presume," he said to his quarry, and when the mayor answered in the affirmative, Ely drew his pistol and fired point blank at the mayor.

Back at the camp, after reporting the success of his mission, Ely was embraced by the querilla fighters who asked his pardon for the atrocious way they had previously treated him.

As the war raged on, Ely became one of the most intrepid resistance fighters. He participated in many a skirmish, raid, and amburscade. For his display of raw courage and daring, Ely was awarded a medal for valor and gallantry. For his reckless bravery, he was often wounded in action. To this day there are tell-tale scars on his body while a slug is still inbedded in his right thigh, a mute reminder of his bloody battles.

Snake On The Ceiling

Meanwhile, back in his hometown, he was given up for dead. A *pasiyam* (nine days of prayer) was sad for the repose of his soul. One evening the prayers were interrupted by a hissing sound that came from the ceiling. Looking up, the prayers saw a snake slithering across the ceiling. A relative ran to the kitchen to fetch a bolo but Ely's father forbade him from harming the snake. There is this superstition in the Ilocos region that if a snake appears in a house, it means that a member of the family who had been missing for a long time and presumed to be death would be returning soon.

True enough, Ely showed up shortly after the prophetic appearance of the snake. With the coming of peace, Ely laid down his arms and picked up his books anew. He could have pursued a military career, but Ely chose to take up medicine at the UST. He preferred to don the white frock of a doctor with a stethoscope hanging from his neck than the florid uniform of a soldier with a rifle slung around his shoulder. From the time he took his oath of office as a doctor, Dr. Anhas dedicated his talent, time and energy to the perpetual batle against diseases and other human afflictions. He finds this work more satisfying, and rewarding than fighting a war in which man is pitted against his fellowman.

FM WILL LIFT.....

"I could be a millionaire if I wanted to," Ronnie says. "I know the sweepstakes number that will come out."

But you can't make Ronnie reveal this number, even if you killed him. Sweepstakes is gambling, he says.

How does he do all these fantastically astounding things? I asked Ronnie this question and he answered:

"How could I tell you. I don't even know myself."

Indeed, who will ever know exactly what is this so-called Extra Sensory Power? In any case, after my encounter with Ronnie, I believe completely in the reality of this power. If you don't, maybe I can take you to Ronnie—that is, if the President does not declare him off-limits after his martial law prediction.

THE CAPITOL STANDARD

BEN O. FLORES
Publisher-Editor.

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Editorial:

Temporary Lifting Of Martial Law Possible

In our main article in the front page the ESP gifted ward of President Marcos avers, through the mysterious Power that impels him, that the President will lift marial law in May 1980. The conditions stipulated by Prime Minister Marcos which must be fulfilled before he lifts martial law are such that there seems no prospects at all of the lifting of martial law in the imediate future. Thus one is inclined to dismiss Ronnie Marcos' averment as a preposterous improbability.

But, when you come to think of it, there is a possibility that the President may indeed lift martial law in May 1980 – at least temporarily, maybe even partially. He will lift it in connection with the elections which will be held in May. It is the consensus that, not withstanding any date the President may announce, the elections will be held in May 1980.

The President will do well to lift martial law when the elections are held. Such a gesture will diminish doubts entertained by some people that the elections will not be free. And, of course, it will prove that in Ronnie Marcos, he has a truly gifted ward.

LADY MAYOR.....

exigencies in their expenditures for the functions, services, and projects they may be undertaking. The adoption of the system of quarterly allocations has deterred over-spending and encouraged economy. From 1976 to July, 1979, the Budget Office has prepared 34 Supplemental Budgets in the General Fund and 15 in the Infrastructure Fund.

Infrastructure

Being a major factor in stimulating socio-economic growth, Infrastructure––roads, bridges, drainage, waterworks, school buildings, health centers, markets, etc.––has occupied top priority during the administration of Mayor Rodriguez. Its major accomplishments fall under this category, as follows:

I. **Building of Roads.** – Since her assumption to office, 27 kilometers of roads have been constructed and repair and improvement have been undertaken in 109 streets: 36 streets in District I, 49 streets in District II, 16 streets in District III, and 8 streets in District IV.

II. **Improvement of School Buildings and Facilities.** – Cognizant of the fact that a literate citizenry is a positive and potent factor in the progress of any society, the city government has put prime importance in the upgrading of school buildings and tools for the education of the youth. It embarked on a 5-year School Improvement Program to create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Repair and improvement has been undertaken on the following high schools:

1) Camp E. Aguinaldo; 2) Carlos Albert; 3) Culiat; 4) Durian; 5) E. Rodriguez Sr.; 6) Juan Luna; 7) Juan Sumulong; 8) Novaliches; 9) Quezon City Science; 10) Quirino; 11) R. Magsaysay; and 12) Sergio Osmena.

III. **Improvement of Health Centers and Medical Facilities.** – The city government embarked on a health center development program to expand and intensify its health services to the people. Health centers– the Bagong Lipunan type––were constructed in the following areas:

1) Bagong Silangan; 2) Cubao; 3) Escopa; 4) Krus-na-Ligas; 5) La Loma; 6) Libis; 7) Roxas; and 8) Tatalon.

Three non-Bagong Lipunan type Health Centers were also constructed: E. Rodriguez Health Center, Kamuning Health Center, and Bagong Pagasa Health Center.

The following Health Centers were repaired and improved:

1) Novaliches; 2) San Francisco; 3) Project 4; 4) Project 6; 5) Project 7; 6) Bagumbayan; 7) City Clinic; 8) San Jose; 9) Paltoc; 10) Mercedes de Joya; 11) Magdaleno Pedro; 12) Tandang Sora; and 13) San Bartolome.

The Quezon City General Hospital was renovated at a cost of P800,000.00.

IV. **Improvement of Waterworks.** – Delivery of water through the installation of public faucets, artesian wells, deep wells and other waterworks projects has been accomplished in the following areas:

District I: AIB Avenue; Barangays Balingasa, Botocan, Bunga, Damayan, and Matalahib; and G. Araneta, Ilagan, Ipo, Judge Juan Luna, and Malaya, Maria Clara, Talayan, Sta. Cruz, and Sto. Domingo streets; San Antonio; and West Triangle.

District II: Abra St, Antique St., Bagbag, Bagong Silangan, Bahay Toro, Capri Relocation Center, Central, Commonwealth, Constitution Hill, Culiat, Gulod, Imelda Park, Makabayan St., Maningning St., Marytown St., Nagkaisang Nayon, Nellie St., Old Balara, Pajo St., Pasong Tamo, Pinahan, QC Floral & Orchid Garden, QC General Hospital, San Agustin, San Jose Village, Sta. Lucia, Sitio Maligaya, Sta. Monica, UP Campus, and Villareal St.

District III: Barangay Escopa, Carlos Albert High School, Dioquino Zobel St., Dupax, Ermin Garcia, Marilag, Narra, N. Domingo, Quirino, and 21st Avenue.

District IV: Agno, Bukang Liwayway, Kaliraya, Lumot, Old Santolan Road, Primero de Mayor, Sitio V; Sunset Drive; Tatalon, and Victory.

V. **Flood Control and Drainage** Improvement. – This was undertaken in 58 areas: 24 in District I 7 in District II: 14 in District III; and 13 in District IV.

Education

The Division of City Schools, headed by Mrs. Conmemoracion M. Concepcion, has chalked up many outstanding achievements. These have been due, in a large measure, according to the City Schools Superintendent, to the full support, fiscal and otherwise, of Mayor Rodriguez.

Educational services expanded steadily during the period under review. This year the number of public elementary schools reached 139 while public secondary schools reached 34. Enrolment increased tremendously from 18,978 for elementary students and 14,307 for secondary students in 1975-1976 to 223,609 elementary and 86,156 in the secondary in 1979-1980. The steady increase in the number of public schools and in enrollment is shown in the following table:

Public Libraries

(Note: For details of educational progress and achievements, please read the article "Quezon City Educational Programs Reach Out To Every Child," on Page 3.)

The Quezon City Public Library has supplemented the Division of City Schools in promoting public education, information, aesthetic appreciation, and research. Aside from providing books, newspapers, magazines, and other reading ma-

(turn to page 14)

School Year	No. of Elementary Schools	No. of Students	No. of Secondarry Schools	No. of Students
1975-1976	80	111,372	26 Main – 7 Annexes	49,688
1976-1977	80	116,652	26 Main – 8 Annexes	67,217
1977-1978	81	113,734	26 Main – 8 Annexes	77,546
1978-1979	79	120,953	26 Main – 34 Annexes	82,937
1979-1980	80	124,070	34	86,156

STANDARD FARE



WHERE THE ACTION IS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

By BEN O. FLORES

I could have come out sooner with this issue but I had to hold off as long as I can hoping to get first an exclusive interview with the Assistant to the Governor, Mel Mathay. But I didn't have any such luck. On the days that I kept whole day vigils at his office he didn't show up. Of course, I can not hold this against Mel. I know how busy he is attending to the needs and problems of four cities and 17 municipalities and then there is the First Lady asking him to see her or to go along with her. I hope I'll have better luck in my next issue.

Fortunately, the other MMC official I wanted to interview arrived from Bangkok just in the nick of time, I had an hour long talk with RESC Executive Director Jess Perlas, Jr. last Dec. 17 at his KBL office which is now called Environmental Sanitation Engineering Operation. I asked him why he had to hold office at such a far place on Roxas Blvd. He said that's really where the action is being near the Folk Arts Theater, the PICC, etc. It's here where Mam (The FL) circulates, Jess said. By the way, with elections scheduled Jan 30, so the President says, KBL is taking over one half of the building as its headquarters.

I discussed a lot of things with Jess, the symposium in Japan and the seminar in Bangkok he had attended, the Pera sa Basura project, the official organ of RESC, "Tinig Ng Metro Aide" for which he asked my help, and his documentary film project on RESC operations to be used in seminars, for which he also asked me to pitch in.

I also told him of the Environmental Sanitation Management Handbook project of Mr. Clemente and myself, which has obviously not clicked with our boss, Arch. Aquino. Jess expressed his willingness to consider the project.

Finally, I told Jess how the North Sector Administrative Officer whose appointment Jess won't sign until I vouched for his competence and honesty now wants to demote me from Executive Assistant to a mere clerk.

* * * * *

It's Christmas again! The proliferation of the apple on sidewalks is a tell-tale sign that Christmas is just around the corner. But with the apple at P3.00 to P5.00 a piece, it would seem that only the rich can enjoy Christmas nowadays. Incidentally, why the apple, an American fruit, should be the symbolic fruit of the season is a bit odd. This is obviously another manifestation of the so-called colonial or stateside mentality.

Come to think of it, the Xmas tree and Santa Claus are also American institutions. What of Filipino Christmas traditions? Well, we still have the Midnight Mass followed by the inevitable midnight supper. In the provinces, especially in the barrios, it is still the *sinuman* or *patupat* (Ilocano terms for gluttinous rice cakes wrapped in banana leaves, conical or elongated in shape).

But whether apple or *sinuman/patupat,* financial limitations caused by skyhigh prices will limit our enjoyment of Christmas. For the utterly deprived–and there are millions of them–Christmas, with its gay tunes, glittering lights, tinsel and greetings of "Merry Christmas," becomes almost a mockery.

Christmas, therefore, should be a time for the haves to engage in the exercise of generosity for the benefit of the have-nots. The capitalistic system of our economy can never narrow the gap between the rich and the poor because it is a system where money begets money, so that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Thus, it has been observed that the reason why there are so many who are poor is that there are so few who are rich. The wealth of the country is concentrated on a few persons, 2% of the country's 47 million people.

Only generosity on the part of the few rich can draw the many poor closer to the former's state of affluence. And Christmas, if at no other time at all, is when this generosity should be given the fullest rein. The following incident in the barrio where poverty is the way of life, told to me by a rich cousin, illustrates so vividly and poignantly the gap between the rich and the poor. I am passing it on, in the hope that it might move the rich to greater heights of generosity.

Sometime ago my cousin visited their tenants somewhere in the North. After two or three days of being fed with a constant fare of foul-I mean, fowl–meat, my cousin hankered for sardines. He ordered his boy to buy a can of mackerel, the flat type. As the can was being opened, my cousin noticed three little boys watching the operation with eyes gleaming with anticipation. He ordered some of the contents of the can to be given to the boys but, surprising-

(turn to page 12)

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   Principal – Crame Alem.
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   Principal – ROXAS ELEM.
4. MRS. ROSARIO GARCIA
   Principal – P. Tuazon Elem.
5. MRS. JULIETA BAUTISTA
   Principal – P. Bernardo Elem.
6. MRS. NENITA NANIONG
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   Principal – D. Tuazon Elem.

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Barangay Courts

KATARUNGANG PAMBARANGAY SYSTEM

By Eduardo T. Fiel
Barangay Coordinator

The establishment of the Katarungang Pambarangay system under PD No. 1508 which took effect last January 1, 1979, is a significant event in our national life. It is one of the good things to happen to the Philippine judicial system in many years. With this judicial innovation, minor cases may now be resolved amicably at the barangay level without recourse to the courts.

The system seeks to relieve the courts of their tremendous backlog of inconsequential cases to enable them to devote precious time to the adjudication of cases of consequence. It also implements the constitutional mandate to strenghten the family as a basic social institution and promotes civic consciousness among the people who will be called upon to render service as members of the Lupong Tagapayapa, a service similar to jury duty.

The Katarungan Pambarangay system starts with the constitution of the Lupong Tagapayapa in each barangay. The members, which must not be less than 10 nor more than 20, are appointed by the Barangay Captain, who is himself the Chairman. The Barangay Captain draws up a list of prospective Lupon members from among the residents of the barangay based on integrity, independence of mind, sense of fairness, and educational attainment. The list is posted at conspicuous places in the barangay for the examination of residents who may object to any one in the list whom they deem unfit for Lupon service.

The Barangay Captain prepares and issues the appointment papers of those he finally chooses from the list and administers their oath of office to them. The members chose from among themselves the Lupon secretary. With the constitution of the Lupong Tagapayapa, the Katarungang Pambarangay system is ready to operate.

The cases which fall under the jurisdiction of this system are disputes among family or barangay members which may be settled or arbitrated amicably and offenses punishable by not more than 30 days imprisonment or by a fine not more than P200 . Exceptions are disputes or offenses where the government is a party or when the party is a public officer or employee whose official function is involved in the dispute. Other disputes which may be handled by the barangay courts are determined by the Prime Minister upon the recommendation of the Ministers of Justice and of Local Government and Community Development.

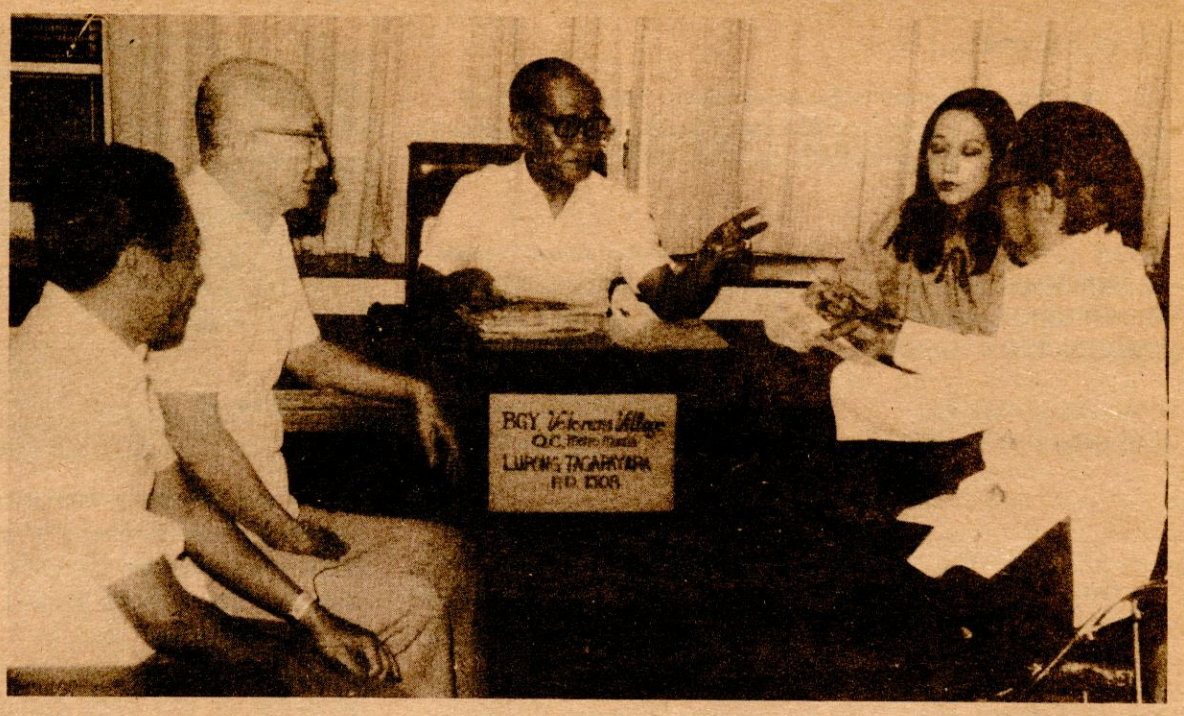
It must be pointed out that the Lupong Tagapayapa is not the Barangay Court or Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo itself. The Lupon is the list of persons from which the members of the Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo are cho sen by the disputing parties themselves through the so-called striking process. The Barangay Captain calls the disputants who strike out all the names in the list except the three and one alternate whom they choose, upon mutual agreement, to constitute the Pangkat Tagapagkasundo.

It is not, however, the Pangkat which makes the first attempt to settle the dispute amicably. This is the task of the Barangay Captain. When he receives a complaint, which must be written, either sworn to or not, he sets a date for the hearing. He issues subpoenas or summons to the parties concerned. Any subpoenaed person who fails to appear twice in a row may be cited by the Batangay Captain for contempt of court, which is punishable by a fine of P100 or imprisonment of 30 days or both at the discretion of the court.

The Barangay Captain has 15 days within which to settle a dispute amicably. He has two ways of effecting settlement: one is by conciliation, or mediation and the other, by arbitration. By concillation, he persuades the parties in a controversy to settle their differences amicably by themselves. By arbitration he listens to the parties and their witnesses and, on the basis of the evidence presented by them, makes his decision which is binding upon the parties. As part of his mediational and arbitrational functions, the Barangay Captain is empowered to administer oaths to complainants, respondents, and witnesses alike and to resolve objections raised during the proceedings regarding venue.

If after 15 days the Barangay Captain fails to settle a dispute amicably, he constitutes a Pangkat Tagapagkasundo in the manner already described. The three persons chosen from the Lupon list by the disputing parties de cide who among themselves should be chairman, secretary, and member. The Pangkat Tagapagkasundo has 30 days with in which settle a dispute amicably. If it fails after this period, the case is then elevated to the City Court. The City Court, under P.D. 1508, is prohibited from

(turn to page 16)



Barangay Captain Alex M. Costales of Veteran's Village mediating two Barangay residents in a case of slander, which was amicably settled. From left: Ernesto M. Costales, witness Antonio B. Cruz, respondent. Lupon Chairman Costales; Pilar Viveca Cruz, Lupon Secretary; and Orlando G. Lichauco, complainant.

A Case of Slander

THE BARANGAY CAPTAIN AS MEDIATOR

By Ben O. Flores

One of the most important functions of a Barangay Captain derives from PD No. 1508 establishing the Katarungang Pambarangay (Please read the article, "The Katarungang Pambarangay System," on this Page). He conciliates, mediates, or arbitrates petty squabbles among family members or barangay residents and slight offenses which are punishable by not more than 30 days imprisonment or a fine of not more than P200 or both at the discretion of the court.

To get an idea of how it is actually done, I, together with my son Andy and Susano Cavalida, attended a mediational hearing conducted by my good freind, Alex M. Costales, Barangay Captain of Veterans Village, a barangay of some 15,000 residents. Alex, who is also a Hearing Officer at the Quezon City Barangay Operations Center, is one of Quezon City's most outstanding Barangay Captains.

The first hearing I attended was held last December 7 at his residence at 79 Calumpit St. at 7:30 in the evening. The protoganists in the dispute were two sexy young ladies whom we shall call Miriam Castillo and Adelina de la Cruz (fictitious names). The offense was slander, which, according to Alex, is one of the most common causes of Barangay disputes. Adelina is alleged to have said to Miriam:

"Ikaw, Miriam Castillo, tiratirahan ka ng aking kabit. Gustong gusto mo ang aking kabit dahil hindi ka contento sa asawa mo dahil mas malaki ang pagaari, ng aking kabit. Ikaw, Miriam Castillo, marami kang lalaki, putang ina mo, walang hiya ka, walang modo, gusto mo pang agawin ang aking kabit."

Miriam, the complainant, came with three witnesses. Respondent Adelina came alone. Alex opened the hearing-it was already the third, he said, by asking the parties if they were willing to settle their dispute amicably. Miriam replied that she was willing provided Adelina apologized. But Adelina answered haughtily: "Ituloy (mo ang demanda)."

Alex asked Miriam if she was ready to submit a formal statement of her complaint. She was and, accordingly, handed it to the Barangay Captain who made her stand up, raise her right hand, and swear to the statement. Alex did the same with the three witnesses. As to Adelina she said she was not ready and that she could not bring her witness because he or she was sick. She promised to submit her statement the following Thursday.

Faced by a stalemate, Alex started an eloquent, inspired discourse intended to persuade the protoganists to come to an amicable settlement. He dwelt on the merits of the virtues of humility, patience, and charity citing Jesus Christ who, he said, inspite of having been stoned, spat at, flogged, and crowned with thorns uttered those immortal words as he hang dying on the cross: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Then he painted the ordeals of a court litigation which, he said, could drag on and on for years, entailing huge expenses, physical stress and mental strain. He stood up and mimicked a lawyer asking for postponement of a case: "Your honor, I move for a postponement due to the illness of my client."

At this point, I butted in with the information that I know of a case of slander filed by a friend of mine which, after two years, is still unresolved. Alex continued his discourse by referring to the Yuletide season. "Forgive and forget, kiss and make up," he admonished Miriam and Adelina, "Let that be your Christmas present to each other."

Despite the failure of this hearing to mediate the two ladies, Alex was still hopeful of ultimate success. He said that in some cases where the parties are obstinate, it takes many hearings before they finally capitulate to an amicable settlement. So a mediator or arbiter has to be very patient and persistent, Alex said. In the process of mediation, he has to plead, implore, coax, cajole, prod, chide, even scold sometimes, to wear down the resistance of an obstinate disputant.

I asked Alex if he can require or suggest the payment of damages, since this would be an effective means to induce the offended party to forgive and forget. He said it is not allowed by the Katarungang Pambarangay rules and regulations. The aggrieved party must be content with the "sorry na lang" of the offender. But if the offender wants to make some material atonement for the injury, either moral or physical, he has inflicted on the offendee, that should be entirely a private agreement and arrangement between them of which he must have no official knowledge much less permission or approval.

The ladies and witnesses listened attentively, seemingly impressed, but neither complainant nor respondent made the first move to conciliate. Alex did not press them but told them to think things over. Under the rules and regulations he had 15

(turn to page 16)

CITY PLANNING.....

The Board's Executive Secretary, Arch. Gerardo G. Magat, is also the Executive Director of the City Planning and Development Office. His Technical and Research Staff is composed of the following:

LUIS T. CRUZ . . . . . Organization Development Planner
CARMELITA P. PILAR . . . . . Senior Project Monitoring Officer
BIENVENIDO S. CRUZ . . . . . Urban Planner III
CARMENCITA RODRIGUEZ . Community Development Program Information Officer
REMEDIOS GALURA . . . . . Urban Sociologist
EBRAHIM MACADATA . . . . Urban Sociologist Economic Planner

Young Men And Women

The technical and research staff of Arch. Magat is made up of young men and women, ranging in age from 20 to 30 years. They have, therefore, the idealism, the energy, and the enthusiasm of youth, making them a productive body. Ably led and directed by their Executive Director, these young men and women are preparing the grand design for the development of Quezon City which the ill-fated Capitol City Planning Commission tried to start unsuccessfully. They are eminently qualified for the task because they have the technical expertise and creativity to prepare this grand design that would translate into reality the "Beautiful Concept" of the city's founder as well as the vision of the First Lady "to create.. a habitat worthy of man–an environment within which a man can develop his full potential, a place where man can live fully, happily and with dignity."

Like any urban center, Quezon City has been plagued by diverse problems: population explosion, squatter colonies, traffic congestion, pollution, unemployment, poverty, criminality, disease outbreaks, floods, water shortage, etc. Past efforts to solve these problems have shown that they can not be tackled in a piecemeal manner. The present administration of Mayor Rodriguez, therefore, has adopted the comprehensive development approach whereby all problems of the city would be attacked simultaneously and coordinatively. To guide its efforts in seeking effective solutions, the City Planning and Development Office has been working on a Comprehensive Development Plan to which all projects and activities of the city government must conform. In 1976, a preliminary Planning Report on the Program was completed and publicized. While it was not yet *the* Program, it is an Interim Plan, a staging point of what type of future development the city hopes to achieve.

Milestone

The completion and publication of this Document was of far-reaching significance, it might even be called a milestone in the developmental history of Quezon City. The Preliminary Planning Report signalled the start of the development of the city in a guided and controlled manner, putting an end to the sporadic, fragmented, and unregulated efforts of the past. The Document also developed city planning consciousness among the people and encouraged them to participate, offering constructive criticisms and laudable suggestions in the process.

In the preparation of the Preliminary Planning Report, which took several years, the City Planning and Development Office painstakingly undertook a meticulous and extensive survey of prevailing conditions in the city in all areas and aspects: existing land use, depressed and congested areas, road network, sewerage system, health, education and culture, population, housing, facilities and utilities, business establishments, employment, family income and expenditures, government income and expenditures, fire and protective services, etc.

Dominant Problems

From the wealth of data obtained, dominant needs and problems of the city were identified, located, and the required action specified. To cite a few examples:

A. *Dominant Problem:* Underdeveloped infrastructure
Location: Quezon City in general
Required action: Embark on a massive infrastructure program of concreting city streets; developing planting strips; constructing street curbs and gutters, bridges, pedestrian overpasses and underpasses; and developing infrastructure to interrelate existing subdivisions to accelerate their development.

B. *Dominant problem:* Encroachment on creeks and other waterways.
Location: Quezon City in general
Required action: Reserve for greenbelts suitable easement along creeks and waterways; restrict any form of development or occupancy along these areas; and undertake vigorous tree planting program.

C. *Dominant problem:* Congestion
Location: Cubao Commercial Area
Reguired action: Conduct a study on the Central Business District (CBD) and plan for its expansion and decongestion by rezonification of the area and strict enforcement of building uses and land occupancy. Establish a new regional commercial center and secondary areas of activities like community and neighborhood centers.

Some twenty dominant problems are cited in the Preliminary Planning Report.

Unemployment (8.7% of the total labor force in 1976), being one of the three top critical problems of a city, the City Planning and Development Office has prepared a Manpower Development Program designed to provide skills to the unskilled unemployed residents of Quezon City for increased employment opportunities and to give proper placement services wherein acquired skills can be gainfully applied.

Most Important Feature

The most important feature of the Preliminary Report is its "Conceptual Land Use Plan." Its importance stems from the fact that the city's main physical development thrust is land management to provide the residents with an efficient distribution of residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional districts as well as open spaces. The Plan was conceived to rationalize all further development of the city putting an end to past development efforts which were unguided, sporadic, and fragmented and characterized by incompatible land uses. Withough a formal land use plan, the city administration had only the zoning ordinance to arm itself in directing, and regulating development but even this was ineffectively and indifferently enforced.

In the conception of the Conceptual Land Use Plan, the following factors were taken into consideration:

1. Quezon City up to the present still aptly fits President Quezon's "beautifil concept" which had started the founding and building of the city.
2. The building of a city is a sacramental act on the part of the people, for a city is the physical manifestation of an invisible reality: the soul of its people.
3. The house in which a family lives is the common denominator of the city, hence the community of homes is the prime consideration in the building of a city.

Major Role In ZIP

The City Planning and Development Office has played the major role in the city government's Zonal Improvement Program (ZIP) under which improvement of sites and services projects in 26 depressed areas are being or will be undertaken with Barangay Escopa as the pilot project. It was this Office that conducted the physical survey of the area and prepared the redevelopment plans, such as for the construction of quadroplex structures and row

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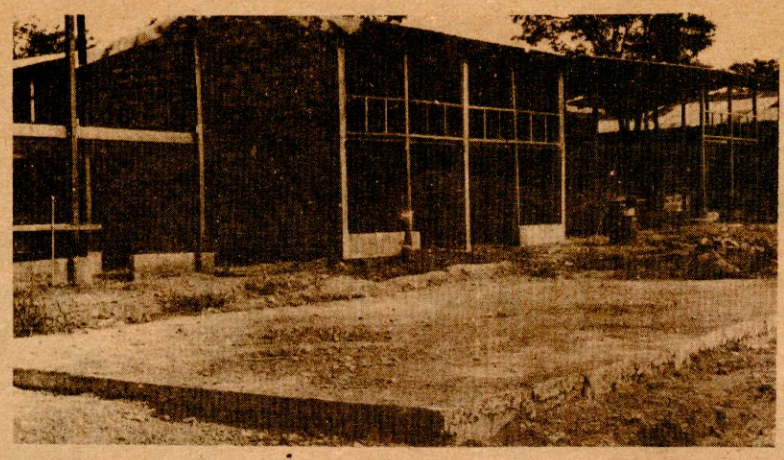
Quadruplex residences at the PUD site of the Escopa Project.



Core houses under construction at Escopa Redevelopment Project, the city government's pilot project on slum improvement through the improvement of sites and services. The Escopa project has been adopted as the model in Southeast Asia in a convention held recently at Singapore attended by Arch. Gerry G. Magat, Executive Director of the City Planning and Development Office Magat briefed the delegates on the features of the Escopa project.

STANDARD FARE...

ly enough, they refused to accept the plateful of sardines.

"It is not really the viands they are after," the mother of one of the boys explained. "They want the empty can–as a toy. Such a can is so scarce in the barrio that two or three boys have to own one tin can jointly."

Joint ownership of one tin can! My God, thought my cousin in agony, back home my own children have a roomful of all kinds of sophisticated toys!

"Pedro," my cousin ordered his boy, "you buy ten more cans of sardines!"

FOUR CPDO . . . .

also more responsive to the peculiar needs of the residents than the previous approaches adopted by the government. It is, however, dependent upon the resolution of basic issues, the most important of which are the land tenure, capital mobilization and harnessing local participation.

The other seminar on marginal settlements improvemen was sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (Habitat). It was held in Manila, from December 4-11, 1979 and in Bandung and Surabaya, Indonesia, from Dec. 6 to11. CPDO participants were Arch. Gerardo G. Magat, Executive Director, Teresa Mariano, Community Relations and Information Officer; and Carmelita P. Pilar, Senior Project Monitoring Officer.

Arch Magat and Ms. Marian delivered their papers on "Policies, Organization, and Coordination at the City and National Levels for the Implementation of Integrated Programs" and "Engagement of Popular Participation in Planning and Implementation of Integrated Projects," respectively. Arch. Magat stressed in his paper that in order for the Zonal Improvement Program (ZIP) to succeed, there is a need for a full and more vigorous implementaion of LOI 555,557,686 and other amendatory and complementary letters of instructions and the passage of supportive measures that would strengthen inter-agency relationship and facilitate land expropriation.

Ms. Mariano on the other hand, stressed the need for the people to be involved in the generation, planning and implementation of community development projects. Should the program be sponsored by an agency, she urged that the people be given sufficient time to internalize the program. She stated that such process would prove helpful in the future when the planners have withdrawn from the community and the residents are left to maintain whatever technology has been passed on to them by the former.

season's greetings!

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(Sgd) ANSELMO O. REGIS
City Treasurer

December 15, 2979

LADY MAYOR ....

terials, it has been the source of information emanating from the national government such as on Presidential Decrees, Letters of Instruction, Executive Orders, Proclamations, etc.

The main library is located at the ground floor of the Lions Building, Bernardo Park, EDSA. It has ten branches located at different places in the four districts of the city.

The opening of the Law Research Center in December, 1976 marked a high point in the expansion of the Quezon City public library. The Center started with P70,430.55 worth of diverse law books needed by department heads, city fiscals, judges, law students, and the general public. These were enriched the following year with additional purchases out of a P40,000 budgetary allocation for the purpose.

Another hight point in the accomplishments of the Quezon City Public Library is the ongoing construction of the "Aklatang Kabataan Bayan," Roxas District, which is intended to evolve a dynamic strategy to encourage and involve the youth, especially out-of-school youth, in the habit of reading.

Health and Sanitation

"Quezon City is a healthy city." Thus declared Dr. Fe del Mundo, Director of the Children's Medical Center Philippines, Inc., who was the guest speaker during the 38th Quezon City Foundation Day on October 12, 1978, which had for its theme: "Handog sa Kalusogan." This high assessment of the city's state of health is not surprising considering that the health of the citizenry has been a paramount concern of the administration of Mayor Rodriguez. She has shown this concern in a dramatically symbolic way: she has marked her birthdays, August 6, with blood-letting to produce the life-giving fluid which is why strong, healthy persons are called red-blooded.

Health services in Quezon City have been rendered by 24 private hospitals, 10 public hospitals and 37 Health Centers. Quezon City, it has been observed, is the only city or municipality in Metro Manila which has a hospital for the heart (Philippine Heart Center for Asia), a hospital for the lungs (Quezon Institute), and a hospital for the bone (Orthopedic Hospital at Banawe St.).

Of the 10 public hospitals, the Quezon City General Hospital is under the city government. The 37 Health Centers are under the Health Department while the Quezon City General Hospital is considered a separate department.

Starting as a 50-bed hospital in 1969, the Quezon City General Hospital has now acquired a permit to operate a 200-bed teaching and training hospital, tertiary level. The hospital provides five major services: medical, surgery, pediatrics, outpatient service, and emergency room complex. In its outreach program, a physician is sent once a month to depressed areas where patients unable to go to the hospital are treated. The hospital also renders domiciliary and home visits and maintains Family Planning and Nutrition clinics.

Under the Hospital Development Program, the Quezon City General Hospital was repaired and renovated, first, the Outpatient Service room, then the main building where all the floors were rendered functional.

The Health Department, headed by Dra. Consuelo Villamosa, has continuously exerted efforts to control and eventually eradicate certain communicable diseases, such as diptheria, typhoid, El Tor, H-Fever, and polio, through vigorous and expanded immunization drive. From 1976 to the first half of 1979, 154,866 persons had been given various kinds of immunization: DTG, BCG, DT, CT, and polio. Deaths from TB, the city's No. 2 killer, have decreased considerably due to BCG immunization.

The slogan "Go to your Health Center" has been implemented to make people more aware of the health services available. Towards this end, monthly meetings were held with the barangays, the health centers were face-lifted, and services were improved by the purchase of additional medical equipment and medicines. As a result of the "Go to your Health Center" campaign, almost 40% of the city's 1.4 million population are being given medical and dental services at the 37 Health Centers.

The Health Department expanded its home delivery services by opening more DOS services and Maternity Lying In Clinics in various Health Centers. It undertook a feeding program for pre-school children and pregnant mothers. It organized and trained barangay health workers and assigned them in depressed areas to provide basic or primary health services, especially with respect to family planning and nutrition.

The sanitation at restaurants and markets has been improved by constant inspection of their facilities and premises and apprehension of personnel without health certificates and the holding of "Cleanest Restaurant" and "Cleanest Market" contests in cooperation with civic organizations.

The veterinary services protected the public against meat from diseased animals and against rabies by administering anti-rabies vaccines to the canine population of the city.

The Social Welfare Services assisted the Health Department in boosting the public health with its Operation Timbang, Supplementary Feeding and Nutrition Education projects.

The Quezon City Barangay Operations Center (QCBOC) contributed health services through its Mobile Clinic, "Gamutan sa Barangay," and Alay Lunas projects. It also undertook a cleanliness drive which it dubbed "Kilusan 825" because it consisted in week-end visits to the barangays by QCBOC personnel to urge the residents to comply with PD No. 825 which makes it the duty of every resident and establishment in the country to clean their immediate surroundings: meaning their yards and gardens and the sidewalks, drainage canals, and streets fronting their residences.

Squatter Relocation and Slum Improvement

The wide, open spaces of Quezon City and its accessibility to Manila have been like a magnet drawing people from the provinces, giving rise to the city's gigantic squatters problem. Out of its population of 1.4 million, it is estimated that 2.7% are squatters who are responsible for the creation of many slums in the city.

The city government has handled the squatters problem with prudence and compassion. Before Mayor Rodriguez's time, the thousands of squatters at the national park, that vast expanse of open space at the corner of EDSA and Quezon Avenue, were resettled at Constitution Hill, but when the Batasang Pambansa was established, they were relocated to other sites.

The creekside dwellers, on the other hand, were relocated to Capri, a barrio of Novaliches. It was here that Mayor Rodriguez demonstrated her talent for inspiring and eliciting public support. In the task of restoration and rehabilitation, she was able to obtain the cooperation and assistance of scores of civic, religious, business, and medical associations under the umbrella of the Mabuhay ang Pilipino Movement. Under the Capri Redevelopment Plan, a survey has already been conducted and structural quality maps and conceptual development plans have already been prepared. The city government is also coordinating with the Human Settlements Commission in the San Vicente BLISS poject.

With an area of 15,359 hectares, four and a half times bigger than Manila, Quezon City should have no spatial problem. But population distribution is so unbalanced that it is very appalling to see heavily congested areas while acres of idle land abound. To remedy the situation, the city government is undertaking the Zonal Improvement Program (ZIP) of the MMC. Out of 26 identified depressed areas, four have been given top priority: Escopa, Krus-na-Ligas, Galas, and Libis.

Escopa has been chosen as a pilot project because it fulfilled specifications for a demonstration area on the integrated approach to improving slums and other marginal settlements. Escopa is composed of four barangays consisting of 1,246 families crammed within a 6.3-hectare area resulting in a population density of 207 per hectare, way above the acceptable density of 100 to 120 per hectare.

The Escopa Redevelopment Project is being implemented in coordination with the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). In its implementation, the new BLISS concept of establishing human settlements is followed: improvement of sites and services through the upgrading of existing structures and the building of new residences, barangay halls, markets, schools, water facilities, parks and playgrounds, etc.

Nine million pesos has already been spent on the Escopa project, P7 million of it for the purchase of the land occupied by the four barangays from the Ministry of Social Services and Development. The balance of P2 million has been spent in the physical development of the area: construction of gutters and sidewalks, installation of water facilities, improvement of existing edifices, construction of new dwellings (core houses and quadruplexes), and experimental facilities at a PUD site dubbed New Escopa which is being developed to accommodate families displaced by the development of Old Escopa.

Aside from the Escopa project, other slum improvement projects are the Capri Redevelopment Project, already cited, and the Krus-na-Ligas Redevelopment Project. For this last project, a study has already been conducted and approved by the NHA Board and negotiations are underway for the donation of U.P. property needed for the project.

Sports Development

In line with the National Physical Fitness and Sports Development Program, great emphasis has been placed in sports promotion. The task has been undertaken by the Barangay Operations Center, the Kabataang Barangay, the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office, and the City Schools Division. The city government has recently launched a Youth Sports Development Program.

Sports facilities in the city include: the famous Araneta Coliseum; the Amoranto Stadium, seven Sports Centers, four public tennis courts, four public pelota courts, basketball courts in all

(turn to page 15)

DI NGA KASI...

ni Ka Tinno Lapuz



Tulad din ng mga
nagbabalik-bayan,
Nagbalik-lathala
sa inyong panunghay;
Ang dati ring pitak,
na pampahayagan–
Nagbabagong sigla't
Nagbabagong buhay.

* * *

Isang taon din
na kami'y nawala,
Naglaho raw kami'ng
animo ay bula;
At si Ben Flores daw
nalaos na yata,
Naubos ang dugo,
natuyot ang dagta.

* * *

Danga't sa digma man
di sala'ng umurong,
Hindi karuwagang
dapat na matukoy;
Kapag ang kalaban
simbigat ng pison,
Isang kagaguhang
ikaw'y sumalubong.

* * *

Gayunman, kung sadyang
wasto ang layunin,
Kahit na malubog
kusang lilitaw rin;
Capitol Standard,
muling bubuhayin,
Sa tangkilik ninyong –
tumulong sa amin.

* * *

Narito nga kami't
muling nagbabalik,
Sa gitna ng ating
magulong daigdig;
Ang maraming dako'y
saklot ng ligalig,
Kidnapan, patayan,
sa paligid-ligid.

Sa maraming bansa
sa balat ng mundo,
Kung hindi sa langis,
sa kuwarta ang gulo;
Ang tao sa kanyang
mga kapwa tao–
Walang katapusang
paglalabo-labo.

* * *

Dito po sa atin,
balita pa lamang,
Ang idaraos daw
na dating halalan;
Aba, ay para nang
hinalong kalamay,
Dating pulitiko'y
nagpapa-andaran.

* * *

Gayunman, sa diwa
ng Paskong darating,
Ang kapayapaan
ang ating hangarin;
Kagandahang-loob
ating pa-iralin,
Ang pagmamahalan
ang bibigyang-diin.

* * *

Sa anu't anuman,
ang sinuman kayo,
Mataos ang bating:
Maligayang Pasko;
At ang Bagong Taong –
sasapit sa inyo,
Maging masagana
ang tuwang kasalo.

* * *

Ang may aginaldo
at sa nagkaloob,
Mayron man o walang
tinanggap na bonus;
Ang diwa ng Pasko'y
sumainyong lubos,
At sa walang-wala:
Kaawaan ng Diyos. .. . .!



On the spot painting contest held at the Q.C. Quadrangle for 6 to 12 year-old elementary pupils is one of the activities in the celebration of the current Trade, Culture and Tourism month. Supervising the contest is Francisco "Pate" Alvarez chief of the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office. Winners of the contest will be sent to Chiba Japan, a sister city of Quezon City, where an international On-The-Spot Painting contest will be held.

QC Trade, Culture And Tourism Month

The celebration of the first Quezon City Trade, Culture and Tourism Month, sponsored jointly by the Capitol Jaycees and the city government through the Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office, is featured by diverse activities.

Main feature is a Family Trade Fair sponsored by the San Miguel Corporation in which participating business firms will offer discounts. The Fair is held within an enclosed area in front of the Q. C. grandstand.

Another activity is a search for Miss Quezon City, which was won by————. A mardi-gras parade preceded her coronation at the Araneta Coliseum last Dec. 23. The Miss Q.C. winner will represent Quezon City and the Capitol Jaycees at Salt Salk City, U.S.A.

Other features are photo contest, On-the-Spot Painting Contes, Store, Front Display contest, etc. bikefest, Himig ng Kabataan, Panaluyan sa barangay, etc.

Composing the Executive Committee of the Project are: Rex Rosario, Jaycee President; Jorge L. Banal, Vice President for Programs Gene Pantig, Commissioner for Tourism; Pate B. Alvarez, QC Cultural and Tourism Affairs Officer, with Ronnie Reyes and Roy Odsinada as Project Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Active participating Jaycees include Arnold Murillo, Nard de Guzman, Mon Birosel, Eric Cruz, Mar Lau, Deo Deomano, Nelson Santos, Joey Lopez, Boy Jamilla Tony Castillo, George Sunio and Erick San Juan.

LADY MAYOR....

barangays, and eight bowlodomes.

All-year-round sports activities are held: bikefests, basketball and volleyball tournaments, boxing and martial arts exhibitions, sportsfests, marathon and walkathon races, bowling tournaments, etc.

At this writing, Quezon City's "Munting Palaro '79", for 8 to 12 year old children, has just started with the elimination series in each of the 16 areas into which the 136 barangays have been divided. The championship series is scheduled December 26-31 with 44 events on tap in which some 20,000 youths will participate.

Culture and Tourism

The Cultural And Tourism Affairs Office, headed by Francisco B. Alvarez, has undertaken its tasks with zeal as attested by the number and variety of the cultural and tourism activities and projects it has initiated, assisted, or coordinated. Among them are song festivals, music competitions, lantern festivals, On the Spot Painting contests, Balagtasans, Oratorical contests, photo contests, etc. This year the annual celebration of Tourism Week has been extended to a full month and expanded to include trade and culture . In 1976, Tourism Week was featured by Miss Quezon City Tourism contest and the opening of the first Quezon City Museum at the basement of the Quezon Memorial Circle Monument. In 1977, the Quezon City Floral and Orchids Garden was launched.

To promote civic spirit and as an incentive to greater citizen participation in community development projects, various "Searches" for outstanding persons or entities or accomplishments were conducted, such as for Six Outstanding Barangays, Ten Outstanding Public School Teachers, and Ten Outstanding Projects in Community Development.

Barangays

The 136 barangays of Quezon City played a key role in many of the community development projects and activities of the city administration. Their participation was coordinated and supervised by the Quezon City Barangay Operations Center headed by Eduardo T. Fiel. The Barangays have been most active in implementing projects and activities concerning culture and sports development, health and sanitation, peace and order, cleanliness and beautification, tree planting, green revolution, and relief work for victims of fires, typhoons, or floods.

The annual "Alay Lakad" is one of the biggest activities managed by the QCBOC. To undertake the various works in the barangays, the Center has organized community brigades: Tanod, Traffic Auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary, Disaster, and Work. It continues to pursue its "Vision 79", which is a massive action program on community development geared towards four goals: political, social, economic, and moral-cultural upliftment. One aspect of this program is the extension work concept requiring every personnel of the Center to work once a week in the barangay project assigned to him/her.

Out of their 10% share of the real estate tax collection - this year it was P53,000 – the barangays have undertaken 567 projects costing P 5,930,477.94 since 1976 up to June, 1979. Aside from the construction of Barangay Halls and the purchase of service vehicles, the projects were mostly on disaster prevention, health and sanitation, sports development, water-works, communications, road and sidewalk repair.

Quo Vadis

With the announcement by the President of an election for local officials, it is only natural that Quezon City residents start speculating on the political plans of their beloved lady mayor. In the TV interview mentioned at the start of this article, Mayor Rodriguez refused to talk about politics. Some aggressive, enterprising media men, however, claim that they have wrung some comments from the Mayor, which, however, are conflicting. One local newspaper states that the Mayor said: "I am preparing. There is nothing like being prepared." A national paper reported Mayor Rodriguez as a leading contender. Another claims that she would not run because her husband, the governor of Rizal, will be running. It would seem that there is nothing certain in the political plans of the Mayor. We are not bothered by this uncertainty. It is enough for us and this should go for all Quezon City residents - that one thing is certain: Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez will continue to work with energy and dedication for the welfare of the people of Quezon City.

CITY PLANNING.....

houses and multi-purpose hall at the PUD (Planned Unit Development) site. It has also conducted studies or surveys and propared structural quality maps and conceptual development plans for the Krus-na-Ligas and Capri Redevelopment projects.

With the lessons gained in the surveys conducted at Escopa, Krus-na-Ligas, Libis, Galas, and other depressed areas, the City Planning and Development Office prepared a Zip. Planning Manual, which sets criteria or standards in identifying depressed areas suitable for slum improvement projects. The Manual also out lines methods of conducting surveys, presenting and analysing the data gathered, formulating development schemes, estimating costs, and impelementation. With this Manual, the City Planning and Development Office hopes that all those who are involved in slum improvement projects "will be able to realize the extent of their commitment, situate their responsiblity, and function effectively towards the successful implementation of all the ciy's programs."

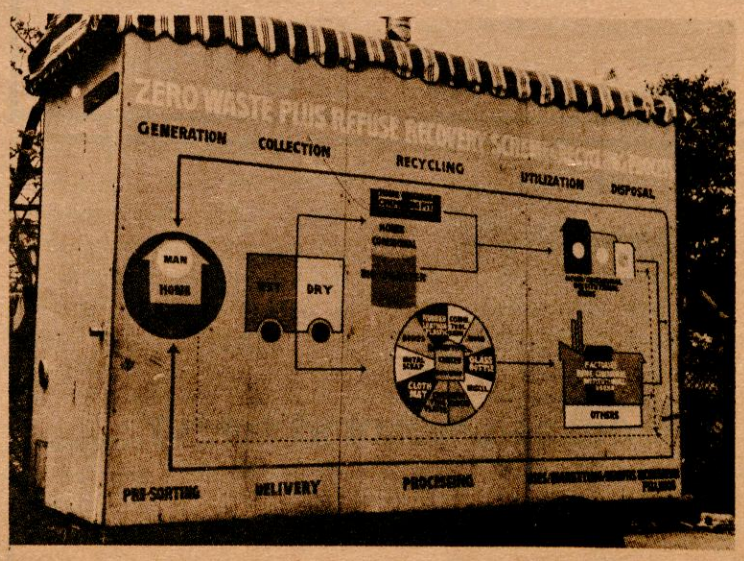
As the author of the grand design for the development of Quezon City, it is only logical that the City Planning and Development Office has been assigned the task of preparing the annual development programs of the city determining what projects are to be undertaken and allocating the corresponding funds from the 20% Cummunity Development Fund. Over a four-year period, the City Planning and Development Board has approved the following projects which have been carried out by the agencies concerned:

1. City Comprehensive Development Program Document
2. Socio-Physical Renewal Program (A people-oriented physical development project utilizing local resources in transforming not-so-busy streets into community parks.)
3. Urban Redevelopment Project, later renamed Zonal Improvement Project or ZIP (Upgrading of blighted areas)
4. Development of the Quezon City Floral and Orchids Garden
5. Manpower Development Program
6. Seminar on Barangay Administration
7. Perimeter Fence for the Molave Youth Hall
8. Improvement of City High Schools (Feasibility studies and physical improvement of facilities)
9. Protective Services Improvement Program (Repair and Improvement of Fire Hydrants)
10. Market Improvement Program
11. Health Center Development Program (Feasibility studies and
12. Program Planning and Projects Monitoring.

The Board also approves, coordinates, and monitors all projects and activities undertaken by the other offices, agencies, and departments of the city government, through the City Planning and Development Office.

City of Man

The Comprehensive Development Program, after years of formulation, has yet to be completed. In fact, it may go on indefinitely, for city planning can not be undertaken in a matter of years. It may take decades, even centuries. Rome, so the saying goes, was not built in a day. Quezon City is only four decades old, an infant compared to the centuries-old cities of the world. It has also been said of Rome that Emperor Augustus "found it a city of bricks and left it a city of marble." It may also be said that while Arch. Gerardo G. Magat and his staff of dedicated young men and women have found Quezon City a chaotic and unsightly City of Contrasts, with their Comprehensive Development Program, they will leave it a City of Harmony, Beauty and Prosperity—the first realization of the First Lady's vision of the "City of Man," as well as of the "beautiful concept" of the city's founder.



"Toilet on wheels," the first of its kind in Quezon City, serves Escopa residents who still use the "wrap and throw" method of waste disposal.

1980 Executive Budget: P241,910,616.00

The 1980 Executive Budget for the Quezon City government will amount to a total of P241, 517,616.00, of which P207, 607,000.00 is for the General Fund and P33,910,616.00 is for the Infrastructure Fund. From the General Fund, however, P17,112,965.00 is transferred to the Infracture Fund to make a total of P51,023, 581.00.

The 1980 Budget represents a more than 20% increase over last year's budget of P192, 561,079.00.

Budget officer Mrs. Estrella P. Gerardo said that the 1980 Executive Budget has already been approved by the MMC.

Mrs. Gerardo said that the main thrust of the 1980 Calendar Budget is the promotion of managed urban growth. Funds have been allocated she said for priority programs and projects that will accelerate the provision of facilities and utilities that will meet the 11 basic needs of human settlements, as follows:

Water (P3,676,071); Power (P5,182,000); Food (P6,861, 000); Health and Medical Services (P8425,243); Education and Culture (P10,697,721); clothing and Cottage Industries (P1,142,900); Sports and Recreation (P866,000); Ecological Balance (P10,166,049); (Mobility (P46,691,649) a total of P171,819,202.

KATARUNGANG....

accepting a minor case that has not first gone through the mill of the Katarungang Pambarangay system.

The system has been very successful in Quezon City. A total of 2,198 Barangay residents have already been appointed to the Lupong Tagapayapa of each of the city's 135 barangays, broken down as follows:

464 members in the 30 barangays of District I; 753 members in the 45 barangays of District II; 576 members in the 34 barangays of District III; and 405 members in the 26 barangays of District IV.

In the brief period of its operation, the 135 Lupong Tagapayapa of Quezon City have settled more than a thousand cases as may be safely deduced from performance of Lupong Tagapayapa of Barangay Commonwealth with Barangay Captain Nemesio T. Manaog as chairman. This Lupong Tagapayapa acted and settled 100 cases during the brief period of nine months, February to October, 1979.

AS MEDIATOR.....

days within which to settle a case. Since this case started November 29, he still had seven days to make it. He set the next hearing on December 12 and immediately issued subpoenas to the warring ladies.

Alex said that he constituted his Lupong Tagapayapa of 20 members last January, 1979. Since then, he has handled 25 cases, all successfully patched up except one. The Miriam-Adelina affair was the 26th. Alex showed me several fat folders containing the records of the 26 cases. He said he is required to submit a monthly report to the City Clerk of Court. I could see that this mediational or arbitrational function of Barangay Captains entails a tremendous lot of work I agreed with Alex that they should get paid for it. He said that P25 million had been earmarked for the implementation of PD No. 1508 but so far nothing has come out of it. All Barangay Captains, by the way, have to attend an orientation workshop on the Katarungang Pambarangay Law conducted jointly by the city government and the Minsitry of Local Government and Community Development. Alex attended one last July 7 and 8, for which he showed me a Certificate of Attendance signed by Justice Lorenzo Relova Chairman. Technical Committee of the Katarungang Pambarangay Commission.

While the work is hard, Alex said, it is quite satisfying because of the knowledge that he is doing something to preserve and foster harmony and fellowship among the residents of the barangay. When two parties come to an amicable settlement, they sign a peace pact which goes something like this:

"1. We, the complainants, are no longer interested to pursue our case against the respondent because he is our own neighbor."

"2. I, respondent, hereby pledge and promise not to commit the same offense against the complainants anywhere, anytime in the future."

"3. We, complainants and respondents, promise to love one another and maintain harmonious relationship with our neighbors."

Mediating or arbitrating also has its amusing incidents, Alex said. He cited a case in which a young lady filed a complaint against a peeping tom. She was in the comfort room doing her thing when she saw sticking out of an aperture above the wall the head of the curious one.

"Of course, I had to ask him what he saw," grinned Alex.

SUPPORT THE NEW SOCIETY

TO PUT UP.....

Sidewalk vendors who could not be accomodated at Pinatubo have been allowed to use the sidewalks and arcades in Cubao from Nov. 16 to Jan. 16. The permission had been given by the Assistant to the Metro Manila Governor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. Only vendors however, who were issued special permits by the city government in 1978 were permitted. Flea Market Committee, chairmaned by Arch. Gerardo G. Magat, Executive Director of the Quezon City Planning and Development Board, screened the vendors.

Mayor Rodriguez has written the Assistant to the Metro Manila Governor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. requesting permission to open flea markets at the following streets.

1. Welcome Rotonda (from Mayon to Kanlaon St.)
2. Uni-Masaya area (instead of Philcoa area) based on an attached map
3. Katipunan Ave. (based on an attached map)
4. Murphy (sidewalks of Camarilla St.)
5. Nepa-Q-Mart (sidewalks of K-10th St.)
6. Abra Street.
7. Arayat corner Zambales Street.

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Due To Non-Enforcement

PD NO. 825: A MERE SCRAP OF PAPER?

PD No. 825 is just about ready to be consigned to the garbage heap. Due to non-enforcement, it has become a mere scrap of paper fit to be thrown as litter on the street to be swept up by the Metro Aides. This is ironical because PD No. 825 can help RESC a lot in its refuse collection and street sweeping tasks.

PD NO. 825 imposes the following obligations on all residents, establishments, and institutions in the country:

1) To undertake the cleaning of their immediate surroundings which should include, not only the yards and gardens, but also portions of the sidewalk, drainage canal. and street (up to the middle) fronting the residence, store, office, school, or factory;
2) To place all garbage in proper containers for collection by the talimbas (garbage collectors);
3) To refrain from littering or throwing garbage in public places; and
4) To clean up idle lots.

Failure to comply with the above obligations is punishable under the decree with either fine or imprisonment or both at the discretion of the court, but despite rampant, almost universal, non-compliance, there are few, if any, apprehensions and convictions due to laxity or neglect in the enforcement of the decree.

The enforcement of the decree is the job of the sanitary police forces of RESC but they have been very ineffective, not only because of their very few numbers, but because, of these few numbers, only a very few are competent and dedicated.

I know because I once handled Research and Statistics at the Quezon City Area, RESC office. The daily accomplishman reports of the 50 or so sanitary policemen of this office passed through my hands. You wont believe it but each policemen reported only five to ten apprehensions of residents violating provisions of PD No. 825 during an eight-hour tour of duty. And to think that they undertake this tour of duty preposterously esconced, in the sidecars of motorcycles.

Five to ten apprehensions a day! But if you take to the secondary and tertiary roads, you'd see dirty premises everywhere you cast your eyes. With some exceptions, nowhere can you see compliance to the provision of PD No. 825 making it a duty of residents to clean up their immediate surroundings.

In my report to the North Sector Head, dated March 7, 1978, I suggested an experiment to find out if continuous prodding and surveilance by the sanitary police force could instill in residents the habit of cleaning daily their immediate surroundings. I wrote:

"I have earlier made the observation that the Sanitary Police Force has much room for improving its performance. One of the prime functions of the Force is to conduct an information drive on PD No. 825 and other environmental sanitations ordinances. . . . More important than merely informing residents is to make them acquire the habit of maintaining the cleanliness of their immediate surroundings. For them to acquire this habit, residents must be prodded day in and day out, non-stop, for a prolonged period, say a month or so. I would suggest an experiment to find out if such incessant prodding and surveilance could instill the habit in the residents. A pilot area may be chosen for the experiment. Let one sanitary policeman be assigned to this area where he will do the inspecting and prodding day in and day out a certain period, then after the residents shall have acquired the habit , he can move to another area. In the meantime, random inspections of the previous area should be made, so that the residents will not abandon the habit."

In view of the importance of public discipline, cooperation, and assitance in the maintenance of cleanliness and sanitation, RESC should perhaps give more emphasis to the task of enforcing PD No. 825. It should organize and develop an elite force of sanitary policemen who can be depended upon to undertake the task of enforcement with competence, dedication, and honesty, so that PD No. 825 may cease to be a mere scrap of paper. Instead of ubiquitous street sweepers, let us have ubiquituous sanitary policemen.



CECILIA M. DIZON

This paper has chosen Ms. Dizon as its first RESC Employee of the Month. She is the Personnel Officer of the North Sector, Refuse and Environmental Sanitation Center (RESC), Metropolitan Manila Commission. Very competent and knowledgeable on personnel (not personal) matters, Cecile is soft in speech and gentle in her ways—a real lady.



The Muntinlupa Public Market, a well-designed, well ventilated, and well-equipped with necessary facilities.

MAYOR ARGANA.....

please everybody as when private interest conflicts with public interest. And he admits ruefully being unhappy when he displeases his townmates.

"I am doing all the best I can for the munici ality," he added, "because this is the place where my children as well as their children will grow, so, despite occasional differences, together we are building hopefully a stable future for our (ildren."

Muntinlupa's chief executive who turned 51 last June, is a multi-awardee. In 1978, he was cited by two groups as the *"Most Outstanding Municipal Mayor of the Year,"* namely: the International School of Travel and Tourism, and the Philippine Center for Advanced National Studies, Earlier the Federation of Southern Luzon Radio-TV Press Clubs named him the *"Most Outstanding Mayor of Southern Luzon."*

In 1975 he was cited as *"One of the Most Outstanding Mayors of Greater Manila"*, by the Philippine Life Magazine.

The *"Outstanding Municipal Award"* came from, citing only a few, the Asian Anti-Communist League of the Philippines, 1965; Tinig Ng Nayon, 1973; Brotherhood Veterans Association, 1975; Philippine Veterans Legion Auxiliary Association, 1976; the Far East Civic organization, 1977 Philippine Labor Examiner Review, 1978 Federation of Women Civic Organizations of Quezon City; and the Philippine Veterans of World War II, both in 1979.

For exemplary achievement, dedication to public service, and for excellence in leadership, recognitions and commendations came from government groups and from many professional and civic organizations, among them: the Inter-Provincial Press Information Service and the Historical Research Society, 1976; Southern Rizal Chamber of Industries, 1977; Alay Lakad '77 Committee Association of Barangay Councils of Muntinlupa, the Federation of Homeowners organizations of Muntinlupa, Federation of Home owners organizations of Muntinlupa and the Asian Writers and Cultural Researchers Guild.

But, he says a bit wistfully, the best recognition he receives come from his constitutents who cheer, loudly and clearly, even little matters he does for the community. The townspeople interviewed by this writer are very proud of their homegrown mayor whom they dub as a dynamic leader and a forceful speaker. But, what is more significant, we found out that Mayor Maximino Arciaga Argana *is even more proud of his constituents.* –N. Valera

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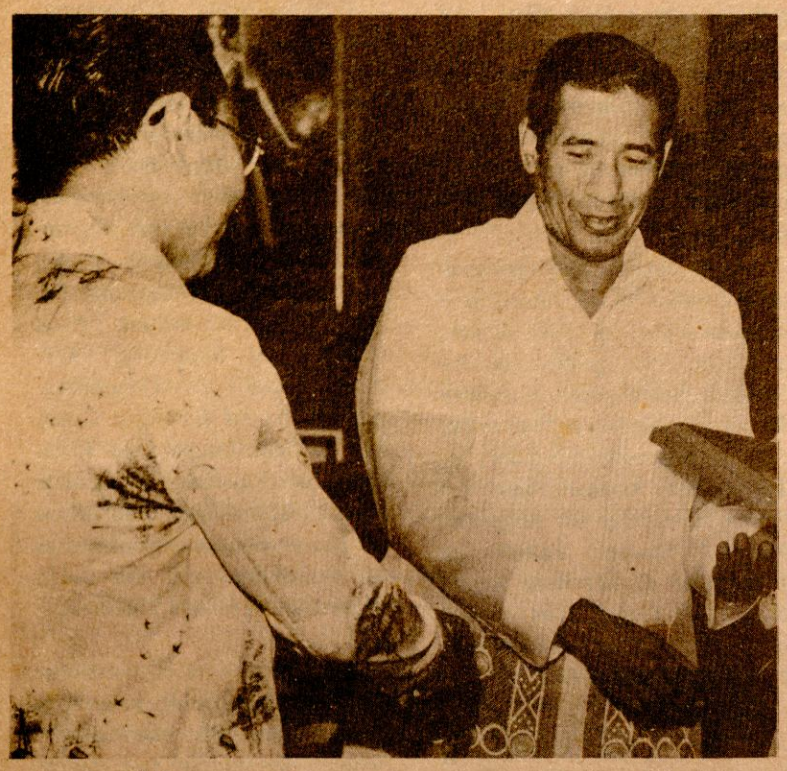
MAYOR OF MUNTINLUPA

He is always on the go – this local chief executive whose enthusiasm in pursuing the programs of the national leadership has spurred him to transform his town into a model of community development.

In an interview held in barrio Putatan, where he was undertaking a *Kagandahan Maharlika* project, the Muntinlupa mayor, lawyer Maximino A. Argana, reported that the people-oriented programs of Metro Manila Governor Imelda R. Marcos have excited and inspired the people to create and to build – the reason, he prided, that the municipality does not only have a new face but also a new spirit.



In Malacanang, Mayor Argana receives from Presidential Finance Assistant Cesar A. Dumlao a plaque of recognition for the construction of the Liwasan Ng Mga Bayani Park in Alabang, which was undertaken against great odds.

The Filipino people will long remember this remarkable municipality for in the referendum held on December 7, 1977, on the issue as to whether the people wanted President Marcos to continue as Prime Minister, it was through the Mayor's leadership that this southern border town of Metro Manila gave the highest percentage of affirmative votes in the entire country, 99.98%.

However, the Mayor quickly asserts that it was the national administration's extraordinary achievements which carried the overwhelming yes-votes in his town.

His first term as mayor was in 1964-67, and was reelected in 1971. He still holds the position today after President Marcos had extended his term which, like other elective officials, expired in 1975.

"It is because of the President's confidence," he confided, "that I do the best I can to be worthy of his trust." To effect the program of Governor Marcos towards the improvement of the quality of life, the Mayor undertook massive development projects in all fields of community need.

His administration improved and constructed additional school buildings and rooms, purchased additional school sites in the barrios of Tunasan, Bayanan Unit 1 and in Buli, built a school administration building in barrio Putatan, installed lights and waterlines, and even put up a barrio high school in Sucat.

Concerned deeply in the health of the residents, under his leadership the municipal government constructed puericulture and health centers that are manned round-the-clock. In barrios Putatan and Bayanan the two most depressed places in the municipality, he established Day Care classes. Also, he arranged seminars for housewives on the subjects of proper child care, health education and family planning. He scheduled deworming and immunization, as well as milk feeding, in the barrios.

Basketball courts have been built in the barrios, a project close to his heart, being an athlete himself. He created the Municipal Athletic Commission which holds a continuing sports competition and above all, he established what is to be his gift to the youth – the Muntinlupa Youth Development Foundation, now with 60 scholars composed of honor elementary graduates whose secondary and college education will be paid for by the Foundation as long as the grantees maintain an honor status.

The *Liwasan ng mga Bayani*, the first public park in the municipality, is said to be a tribute to his leadership for he had undergone, eventually overcome, legal suits when he moved out shanties at the site to pave the way for this beautiful island resort. In fact, people who watched the fire he had to go through, admired his courage for risking his peace of mind for the cause of the youth. For that fortitude and commitment to public interest, Presidential Finance Assistant Cesar A. Dumlao, adviser of the Metro Manila league of civic-spirited citizens, then awarded him a plaque of recognition in Malacanang on September 4, 1978.

In the spirit of *balikatan*, the townpeople and the local officials led by hard working mayor, constructed feeder roads not only leading to schools but connecting barrios to the national highway.

Another first in the municipality is the well-designed Muntinlupa Market in Alabang, a spacious and a healthfully ventilated shopping center. It is operated by a cooperative, a favorite project of the Mayor, which turns over a monthly revenue of P15,000 earned from stall rentals.

During the fifth anniversary of the Metropolitan Police Force in March, 1979, Mayor Argana was awarded a plaque of recognition for his municipality has the lowest crime rate in Metro Manila according to PC statistics. Before the integration of policemen in the Capital Region, Mayor Argana had caused the increase of the policemen's monthly pay by P70.00, provided radio communication equipments in all police vehicles, and purchased mobile cars complete with two-way radios. He, however, attributes the low rate principally to the residents' kindly and peace-loving nature.

Like other political leaders, Mayor Argana says he cannot

(turn to page 14)

(turn to page 17)

Sunshine



The Gift of One's Presence

By LEA T. CASTELO

There was a seven-year-old boy who lived in a rural community which has a manger every Christmas season. One day his rich aunt took him to the city. Bringing him to a plushy supermarket on Christmas day, she saw the boy worriedly looking under display tables and behind loaded shelves while the piped-in stereo music blared with Christmas carols. Asking what he was looking for, the bewildered child exclaimed: "I can hear the Christmas songs but I do not see the Baby Jesus!"

How often do people celebrate the occasion with man's contrivance – music from a wooden box, a gift in a beribboned cartoon.

I was reared in a country where parents gather in the cold December nights exchanging notes on their ripened fields and their harvests. They sit around crackling fires, seeping coffee. *In the country, love is communicative.*

One day in a beautiful beach in La Union, I saw an elderly couple, their hands locked in each other. As the summer sunset burned the western horizon and the immense ocean came beating the shore with sparkling billows, their faces glowed with overwhelming affection. *In the country, love is a person to person affair.*

In the city, where men struggle for material superiority, social or political status, and intellectual excellence, the human touch is unfortunately lost.

Songs are dedicated through the sound media, flowers are sent through a deliveryman, gifts are sent only on red-letter days, while self is brought through one's posed picture in a greeting card.

Do these have to be because people in the city are too busy, or insensitive, they have to take a shortcut. Are you true. Are you feeling Are you there. These are questions universally asked by a humanity wrapped in a web of other people's indifference.

A story was told of a Russian mother whose son was killed by a German soldier during the last global war. A compensation check was sent to her for his death, and holding the letter and check, she sobbed: "Cannot the soldier's mother come to me or write to me, for it is my heart that is pained? "

The power of touch and the language of the heart – there can never – no never – be a substitute!

Christmas then is a relevant season for finding the giver among the heaps of wrapped boxes and amidst the strains of Christmas carols in the streets. Christmas is an invitation to live: to cup the warmth of the sun, to kiss the wafting breeze, and to share, in person, the luster and laughter that are lost in the dizzying race for material and social survival.

A government scholar who was going to Europe on a 3-month observation tour asked his girlfriend what homecoming gift she wanted. Her answer echoes the yearning of many people especially this Yuletide Season. She said: "Please, do please, bring home to me the best of all gifts. . . *The gift of your abiding presence!*"

