

The Capitol Standard

A MEASURE OF QUEZON CITY'S METTLE

Vol. IX, No. 7

Quezon City, Metro Manila

October 12, 1982

MESSAGE

I join the officialdom and people of Quezon City in the celebration of the 43rd anniversary of the founding of the city.

This has been a meaningful and productive year. With the launching of the KKK program, many people in the city have availed of the opportunity given them to improve their means of livelihood. Some have gone into business ventures; others have set up income producing projects. They are now beginning to enjoy the fruits of these productive endeavors.

As we celebrate this occasion, let us not overlook the theme that you have so aptly chosen. For it is only through a more vigorous implementation of the KKK program that we can hope to improve the lot of many of our countrymen.

It is my hope that you will be able to sustain the initial interest and enthusiasm which was generated by the launching of the KKK program a year ago. The government has made the first move. Let us see you take it up from there.

ISMAEL A. MATHAY, JR.
Vice Governor



MESSAGE

The response of Quezon City residents to the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran has been fairly good although there is still much to be desired. In view of this, I issued last June, Executive Order No. 6 providing for the creation of a KKK Organizational Machinery to accelerate the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City.

It is very fitting and proper, therefore, that we are observing the 43rd Foundation Day of Quezon City on the theme: "Accelerating the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City."

On this day, it is customary for us to recall and reflect on the great progress that Quezon City has made during the past 43 years: from the virtual wilderness that it was in 1939 to the bustling metropolis that it is today.

But more important than a recollection of this past progress of Quezon City is a visualization of its future progress and the realization that much of this future progress, particularly in the improvement of the economic conditions of the people through the enhancement of employment and livelihood opportunities, will depend on how fully the KKK program will be implemented.

May I, therefore, make this 43rd Foundation Day of Quezon City an occasion to enjoin all concerned — the staff of the KKK Organizational Machinery, barangay officials, civic and business organizations, and prospective KKK proponents — to step up their efforts towards the full implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City and thereby insure a future progress that will match, if not excel, its past progress.

(Mrs.) ADELINA S. RODRIGUEZ
City Mayor



MESSAGE

As we observe the 43rd Foundation Day of Quezon City, we instinctively pause to think of the city's past as well as of its future. We are properly amazed by the spectacular progress it has made during the past 43 years. But what are the prospects for its future progress? With business recession causing rising unemployment and inflation causing rising prices, these prospects do not seem to be very bright.

The Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran, however, provides a ray of light in the otherwise dark economic horizon. Thus, it has been said that this national livelihood program has "unfolded a new hope for the people of Quezon City particularly for those who have less and are seeking more and those who have much and are seeking opportunities to share."

But time is of the essence for the dark economic forces are advancing with speed. Hence, acceleration of efforts to counteract these forces is the need of the hour. It is most timely, therefore, that we are observing our Foundation Day on the theme: "Accelerating the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City."

We have already provided the administrative support and direction for the KKK program through Executive Order No. 6 issued by her Honor, the Mayor, creating a KKK Organizational Machinery. Let all concerned — and this means every residents of Quezon City — do their respective parts in prodding, pushing, boosting — in a word, accelerating — the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City in order that we may stem the fast rising tide of economic deterioration.

STEPHEN N. SARINO
City Vice Mayor



Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez has given the go signal to City Attorney Jose T. Torcuator for him to file a suit against the Land Bank for the collection of the P30 million said bank had loaned to Ramawil in 1980 which is more than one year overdue.

The amount represents idle funds of the city government which were transferred from the Veterans Bank to the Land Bank as a trust deposit. As security for the loan Ramawil had executed a real estate mortgage in favor of the Land Bank over a parcel of land which, however,

turned out to be non-existent and covered by a spurious TCT.

In the suit to be filed by the City Attorney, the president of the Land Bank, Basilio Estanislao, and the Officer-in-Charge of the bank's Trust Department, Flordelis Gregorio, are named the

defendants while Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez, in her capacity as mayor of Quezon City, is named the plaintiff.

The City Attorney states in his suit that the "defendant bank, as trustee of the plaintiff, has miserably failed to exercise due care, skill,

(Turn to page 2)

City Atty. Set To File Collection Suit Against Land Bank

WHY GARBAGE IS UNCOLLECTED IN QUEZON CITY

You can find the answer within the compound of the the North Sector, Environmental Sanitation Center at EDSA corner East Avenue. Within said compound nine (9) Collectomatics (covered garbage trucks) and 13 ordinary dump trucks have been lying idle for how long, only God and North Sector head Luciano V. Aquino know.

Are the vehicles ready for the junk shop. But this is not possible. The collectomatics were purchased only two or three years ago at P300,000 per unit. Why doesn't Aquino ask for funds to have them repaired if indeed they need repairing? Or does the MMC, perhaps, refuse to give funds to the North Sector head? If so, why? Does Mr. Aquino not know how to properly spend funds given to him or raised by him through his many fund raising schemes like the annual "Miss ESC" contest.

Come to think of it, if the ESC canteen had been paying rentals during the six or seven years that it has been operating illegally, perhaps there would be sufficient funds now for the repair of the idle vehicles.

(Editor's Note: The following piece is reprinted from TEMPO. The author is a brother of the Publisher-Editor of this paper. He used to write a column for this paper during its early years. He is now a daily columnist of TEMPO. Tempus Fugit. How time flies!)

TAKE CARE OF THAT FRUSTRATION



TEMPOS

• A.O. Flores

Because Adolf Hitler was frustrated as an artist, he took it on mankind. The result: World

(Turn to page 6)

Mathay Cites Unprecedented Progress Of Quezon City

Noting that Quezon City would observe its 43rd Foundation day today, Vice Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr., who was the guest speaker at the flag-raising ceremony last Monday, October 4, said that the progress made by Quezon City during the past 43 years has been "unprecedented and consistent."

The Vice Governor praised

the leadership of Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez whom he referred to as "very visible and available" to her constituents, probably thinking of how she keeps the door of her office open to everybody and how she periodically goes to the barangays under her "Palagiang Panglingap sa mga Mamamayan."

Mathay pointed out the

many evidences of Quezon City's great progress such as the many important national government offices, hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities in the city; its many public health centers, and its network of cemented or asphalted roads.

(Turn to page 6)



City Treasurer Anselmo O. Regis introducing the Vice Governor. Behind are Areh. Gerardo G. Magat, City Development Coordinator; Vice Mayor Stephen Sarino, Mayor Rodriguez, and Vice Governor Mathay.

QUEZON CITY: A SAGA OF PROGRESS

By Celso Al. Carunungan

A BOOK REVIEW AND DIGEST

By Ben O. Flores

The writing of this book, "Quezon City: A Saga of Progress," must have been some sort of a literary saga for the author himself, for it took him five years to write it during which time he "went into great pains to dig into the intricate but pleasurable details" he needed in chronicling the growth and development of Quezon City, resulting in what he himself calls "the very first detailed history of Quezon City — especially during its first years."

Indeed, the main worth of the book — what makes it excel other historical writings on Quezon City — derives from the wealth of the "intricate but pleasurable details" woven into the story he writes of the persons and events that shaped and spurred the growth and development of the City. Thus, while other writers cite



At the launching of the book last August 18, the author presents a copy to Mayor Rodriguez who was the guest speaker. Looking on are Francis Alvarez, Cultural Affairs and Tourism Officer, and former movie actor Jaime de la Rosa who acted as EMCEE.



STANDARD FARE

By Ben O. Flores

Question for Soc Rodrigo

Dear Soc: Do you remember that letter you sent Assistant Fiscal Virginia Valdez written by someone who called himself "Pogi"? In this column two or three issues back, I commented that it was very ungentlemanly of you to have sent such a letter to a lady fiscal because of the vile language used: "hay-yop na fixcal," "payat na fixcal na may TB," and other equally stinking words.

The letter ended with: "Someday you will also know me." May I know if that "someday" has already come. I am interested to know who is this "Pogi", para naman maalaman namin kung anong klaseng hayop siya."

I do not agree to Fiscal's suspicion that you are "Pogi" himself. Pogi ka nga' ngunit, while you were capable of the ungentlemanly act of sending a lady fiscal such a foul-worded letter, I don't think you were capable of writing it yourself.

By the way, did you know that the room of Fiscal Valdez is adjacent to that of Fiscal Lea T. Castelo's. Fiscal Castelo, who used to write a column for this paper, tells me that you yourself had gone to her to submit some affidavits in support of your case against the robbers who robbed your residence of P1,000,000 worth of jewelry. I was thinking that was your opportunity to have dropped in on Fiscal Valdez and cleared your differences with her. But then, you are very busy; you have to write your Kuro-Kuro column for WE FORUM — thrice a week now. You never run out of darts against the President. Happy shooting!

Will you please let me know if and when "Pogi" identifies himself.

Ilarde Pulls Strings

It is obvious Eddie Ilarde of Student Canteen fame (he is not so famous as a Batasang Pambansa member because of absentism) tried to pull strings to have the libel case against him filed by the Capitol Medical Center quashed. Fiscal Apostol called to his office, Assistant Fiscal Milagros San Juan, who was investigating the case, to tell her that somebody from Malacañang called him up to inquire about the Ilarde case. Of course, Fiscal Apostol could not order Fiscal San Juan outright to dismiss the case. Perhaps, he didn't mean to, anyway. However, he cautioned her to be very sure that if she were to file the case, the justification must be very strong. Fiscal San Juan did file the case, so she must have found very strong prima facie evidence to justify her act. The case is now pending at the sala of Judge Tutaan after Ilarde had pleaded not guilty.

P50 Facilitation Fee for Issuance Of Police Clearance

Under normal procedure, you have to go back after 10 days or so for the issuance of your police clearance. But for P50 you can get your police clearance the same day. Over at the Police Clearance Section, there is a female police aide who can get it for you with abnormal dispatch provided you can give her the P50 facilitation fee.

This was reported to me by a lady friend whom I am helping to get a job at City Hall or elsewhere. She said that this police aide approached her with the offer of instant issuance of her police clearance. Fortunately for her and unfortunately for the hustling police aide, she did not have the P50 facilitation fee.

Marcos Report

Upon his arrival, President Marcos rendered a report on his trip to the U.S. It was superfluous. The entire Filipino people already knew, through TV and the newspapers, every move she and the First Lady made and every word they uttered. What the people are really interested in is a report on the fiscal aspect of the trip. How much did the trip cost the country. And who were the sychopants in his vast entourage who helped the President and the First Lady spend the astronomical amount that the trip must have cost.



SHIRLEY R. PELAGIO
City Assessor's Office
(Editor's Note: No comment)

COLLECTION SUIT . . .

caution and diligence required of a good and prudent father of a family in the administration of its trust obligation with a view to protecting the

same and making it productive without improperly risking the loss of the capital." This is contrary to the assurance the Land Bank had given

QUEZON CITY HISTORICAL EXHIBITS

The first phase in the development of the Quezon City Historical Exhibits at the Quezon City Museum at the Quezon Memorial Circle has been completed and is now open to the public.

The most interesting and impressive objects of the exhibits are dioramas depicting the following:

1. Quezon Contemplating his dream city
2. Tandang Sora feeding the Katipuneros
3. The Cry of Pugad Lawin
4. Barrio Obrero
5. Laying the Cornerstone of the First Quezon City Hall

Also on display are blown-up pictures of important events in the history of Quezon City and accomplishments of past mayors and the incumbent mayor supported by storylines. Relics and memorabilia of past mayors and other persons involved in the creation and progress of Quezon City complete the exhibits.

The project was started last August 19, on the 104th Birth Anniversary of President Quezon. Mayor Rodriguez had assigned the task to the City Public Library and instructed it to coordinate with officials of the National Historical Institute. City Superintendent of Public Libraries had formed a working committee chaired by Ms. Blanquita L. del Barrio, Supervising Librarian. An initial sum of P200,000 was released for the project.

RELINDA A. FELICIANO
Chief Librarian I

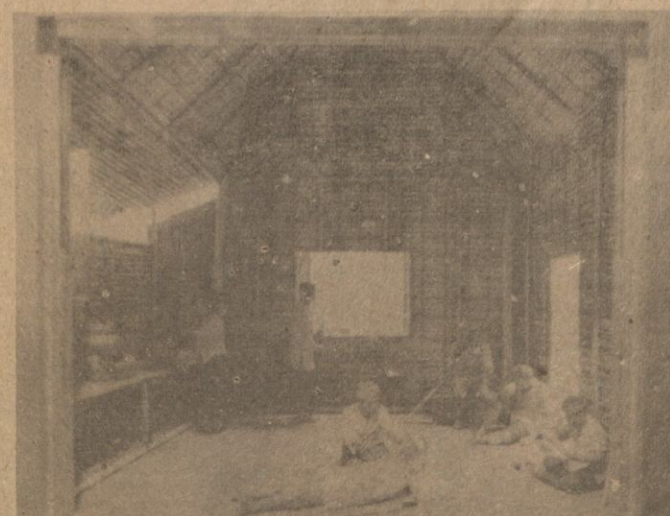
Dioramas depicting historical events are the main attractions. These pictures do not do them justice. They have to be seen to be appreciated.



Pres. Quezon Contemplating his Dream City.



Cry of Pugad Lawin



Tandang Sora Feeding the Katipuneros

that the investment was "safe, beneficial and profitable."

Atty. Torcuator says that he has decided to file the suit "since the Ministry of Justice has ruled that it could not take cognizance of the case claiming that it has no jurisdiction thereof under P.D. 242."

The City Attorney says that he does not quite agree to the ruling of the Ministry

of Justice but would rather not contest it, and is therefore filing the collection suit against the Land Bank. He says he is just waiting for the computations of the City Treasurer to determine the interest at due 17% due on the loan. The filing of the case will entail a filing fee of about P60,000 says the City Attorney.

THE CAPITOL STANDARD

BEN O. FLORES
Publisher-Editor

Editorial Office: 32 Gladiola St., Roxas, Quezon City
Tel.: 97-51-65

Editorial:

Need For KKK Acceleration

There is really a need to accelerate the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City. So far, the implementation has not gone beyond the release of loans to small enterprises — loans ranging from P100 to P3,000. With only very few exceptions, these enterprises have not actually started yet. The KKK City Action Officer, CRO Melencio Castelo, should keep a close watch over these loan recipients to see to it that they do not use their loans for other non-KKK purposes.

As to the really big enterprises, not one of the 26 projects forwarded to the KKK Regional Action Officer for the National Capitol Region, Vice Governor Mathay, has been approved. Some of these big enterprises call for a capitalization of P100,000 to P400,000.

Why are these big projects gathering dust at the office of the KKK Regional Action Officer. Perhaps the KKK City Action Officer should look into the matter. Other towns and cities in many parts of the country have already big on-going KKK financed enterprises.

It is most fitting and proper that the 43rd Foundation Day of the city is being observed on the theme: "Accelerating the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City."

APPROVED KKK PROJECTS

Executive Order No. 6 creates a P3 million KKK Development and Management Fund to finance livelihood projects in Quezon City. The amount "shall be taken regularly starting CY 1983 out of the General Fund and shall be released by the City Treasurer in accordance with the approved guidelines for Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran."

Since the above fund will be available next calendar year yet, for the current year the city government has to finance KKK projects with the P100,000 given by the national government out of the Local Government Special Fund. The amount has already been exhausted to finance some 50 approved KKK projects. Since about 150 more applications for loans are pending, the Mayor requested the MMC to approve the release of P1 million from the P5 million earmarked in the 1982 budget for MMC-Oriented projects. Vice Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr. has approved the request.

The 50 approved and 150 pending KKK projects are for small business on swine raising, poultry, garments, sari-sari store, carinderia, waste utilization, and shelter components, which are entitled to loans, as per Executive Order No. 6, ranging from a minimum of P100 to a maximum of P3,000. The priority given to small business is in accordance with the instructions of the First Lady "to give priority to the poorest of the poor to enable them to start a livelihood within the concept of the KKK."

As to the bigger business enterprises to be financed from the national KKK fund, 42 feasibility studies have been received and pre-evaluated by the Barangay Operations Center. They have been forwarded to the KKK Regional Action Officer for the National Capital Region, Vice Governor Mathay. Eight projects have been approved, 26 are pending approval, while eight have been required to submit additional necessary documents. Only four applications have been disapproved. The projects involved require a funding of more than P16 million. Among the biggest projects are: Metal Crafts and Iron Works, P400,000; Bakery, P1200,000; Swine Enterprise, P165,000; Furniture Making, P150,000; Manufacture of Native Baskets, P150,000; and Marketing Center, P100,000.



Mayor Rodriguez signs a check from KKK fund (upper photo) and hands it to a recipient (lower photo), one of 50 with approved loan applications.

BOOK REVIEW . . .

the same persons and events involved in the history of the city, they do so only in a general way while Mr. Carunungan provides many hitherto unknown facts and incidents. There are, however, many portions where there is an over abundance of details or which consist of lengthy discussions of subjects and narration of incidents which have no real bearing to the "saga of progress" he is relating.

Other writers on the history of Quezon City invariably attribute its creation to President Quezon's "obsession with social justice," but they hardly elaborate. Mr. Carunungan, on the other hand, not only uses the same phrase but gives a detailed account of how two "memorable experiences" of President Quezon served to intensify his "obsession for social justice" and how he waged "his continuing, relentless campaign for the cause of the common man," a major result being the creation of Quezon City.

The two "memorable experiences" of President Quezon according to Mr. Carunungan, refer to the celebrated Cuervo case and his 1938 trip to Mexico. With respect to the Cuervo case — the laborer Cuevo drowned in the Pasig river while trying to retrieve some logs that had fallen from a barge — Mr. Carunungan relates the dramatic, passionate fight of Quezon against the decision of the Court of First Instance disallowing compensation benefits to Cuervo — a decision upheld by the Court of Appeals and supported by the opinion of lawyers associations and legal luminaries of the era. Quezon denounced the decision as an "outrageous injustice" and dared his critics to impeach him, declaring that he would use the powers of his office to win the fight. He did win the fight when the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the two lower courts.

In his 1938 trip to Mexico, Quezon "was deeply impressed by the spectacular reforms of President Lazaro Cardenas, how he had expropriated 40 million acres of landed estates and distributed them to the tenants and the landless. The Mexican visit galvanized Quezon into action."

Other historical writers also mention the breakfast conference between President Quezon and the Roceses, Don Alejandro and son Ramon, during which the site of Quezon's dream city was decided. Again, only Mr. Carunungan could give the details: the exact words that passed during the conversation between Quezon and the Roceses and how the real estate deal with the Tuazon family was consummated.

In the breakfast conference, Mr. Carunungan relates how Quezon, after Don Alejandro had told him that "the best thing to do would be for the government to buy a big tract of land, not far from Manila" to constitute the nucleus of his dream city, instructed Don Ramon "to look for an estate of about 1,000 hectares that the government can purchase for the purpose."

Carunungan then relates how Don Ramon succeeded in locating the estate of about 1,000 hectares through his friend and classmate Bobby Tuazon whose Tia Teresa owned the vast Diliman estate. Tia Teresa was willing to sell provided the government paid her first what it owed her — payment for previously expropriated portions of her estate. Then Secretary of Finance Manuel Roxas informed Quezon that the only available money was "an unused three million peso fund in the name of the National Development Company (NDC)," whereupon Quezon created the Philippine Homesite Corporation as a subsidiary of the NDC. Mr. Carunungan writes:

On October 20 (1938), young Ramon Rocés carried two PNB checks — one for the old indebtedness and the other for the new purchase — in his breast pocket as he delivered them personally to Bobby Tuazon in his home just opposite Malacañang Palace. Two days later, TCT No. 35979, Rizal (now No. 13540), Quezon City) was issued to the PHC."

The purchase consisted of 15,723,191 square meters, about 1,600 hectares of rolling lands, at P.05 per square meter.

In connection with this purchase, Mr. Carunungan points out an inaccuracy in previous writings on the history of Quezon City: "Contrary to widespread impression, the U.P. site was not a 'bonus' given by the Tuazon family for the purchase of the Diliman estate: it was another purchase." Mr. Carunungan, however, fails to give the details of this purchase — not even the purchase cost. He himself had helped to create the faulty "widespread impression". In his article, "Quezon and the City of his Dreams," published in the 94th Quezon Birth Anniversary Souvenir Program, he wrote: "The Tuazons donated 493 hectares on condition that the land would be used as the new site of the University of the Philippines."

Mr. Carunungan relates an interesting incident which occurred shortly before Quezon signed C.A. No. 502 on October 12, 1939 which created Quezon City. While going through the various offices in Malacañang, Quezon met then Maj. General Douglas MacArthur in that palace wing where several American experts on various fields had their offices. Quezon asked MacArthur what he should do to insure the good administration of the new city he was creating, to which MacArthur answered: "You must be sure to have a good mayor and a good chief of police." Asked by Quezon if he knew anyone who would make a good chief of police, MacArthur scanned the tables in the office and pointed to a young American soldier at one table. But when Quezon offered to appoint him chief of police, the young American soldier, who was a lieutenant colonel, Infantry, U.S. army, politely demurred, saying that he had promised his wife that they'd be going home after his tour of duty in the Philippines was over. Carunungan, master fictionist turned historian, delightfully concludes the story with the last-minute identification of the young American soldier concerned:

"Quezon could not do anything about it, of course. But that was how close Quezon City was in having as a chief of police a future president of the United States: Dwight D. Eisenhower."



Pres. EISENHOWER

He almost became the first Chief of Police of Quezon City. Gen. MacArthur had recommended him to Quezon but then Lt. Col. Eisenhower rejected Quezon's offer of the position to him because he said he had promised his wife that they'd return home after his tour of duty in the Philippines.



An old photo of President Quezon with Don Alejandro Rocés, Sr. (extreme left) and his son, Don Ramon (extreme right) who negotiated the purchase of the Diliman estate from the Tuazon Family. Others in photo are Mr. Taylor of the pre-war Bulletin (second from left), Mr. McCullough Dick of the Philippine Free Press (second from right) and Mr. Alejandro Rocés, Jr. standing. (This photo was obtained from the Rocés family through the efforts of Ms. Blanquita del Barrio, Supervising Librarian of the Quezon City Public Library).

In citing the first officials of Quezon City appointed by Quezon, Mr. Carunungan tactfully avoids the mistake of a previous Quezon City historian who stated that Quezon was the first mayor of Quezon City without the qualifying explanation that he merely assumed the functions corresponding to the mayor and did so as President without a formal appointment as mayor. For this unqualified statement, the historian in question was taken to task by a son of Don Tomas Morato who claimed that said unqualified statement detracted from the distinction due his father as the "first appointive mayor of Quezon City." Carunungan handles the ticklish question of who was the first mayor of Quezon City as follows:

"Thus, while Quezon actually did the work of a mayor (for only a few days), there was no actual appointment; the first one duly appointed for the post was Tomas Morato, then acting chief of police of Quezon City. But this was to be eleven days later (October 23, 1939)." Mr. Carunungan does not mention, however, that in his appointment paper, Morato's appointment was made retroactive to October 12, 1939.

After the appointment and assumption of office of the first officials of Quezon City, Carunungan chronicles what he calls "The First Steps" (title of Chapter Three of the book) in the growth and development of the new city which started to function on a loan of P200,000 authorized by Quezon. These first steps consisted in the preparation of the Frost Plan, enactment of ordinances, the establishment of Barrio Obrero which has been called the first truly low-cost housing project in the country, the construction of some school buildings, plans for the establishment of water, electric light, gas and sewer services, garbage collection service, and malaria control work which resulted in the eradication of this dreaded scourge from the Diliman area. Mr. Carunungan reports a building boom from December 1, 1939 to January 27, 1940 during which period of less than a month 33 building permits were issued, the most important of which was for the construction of a Home for Refugees in Cubao. Because of this Home, which accommodated refugees from Europe, "for the first time in its short existence, Quezon City was placed in the international map."

The "saga of progress" narrated by Mr. Carunungan started in earnest as Quezon City moved into its second year of life under Mayor Morato. The saga was interrupted by the War, then resumed after the war, starting with Mayor Ponciano Bernardo followed by Mayors Nicanor Roxas, Ignacio Santos Diaz, Norberto S. Amoranto, and, finally, incumbent mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez. Mr. Carunungan records the accomplishments of each mayor and in the process gives the reader an idea of his or her character or personality. While the accomplishments of each mayor may not be fully reported, especially Mayor Rodriguez, the author states that they were fare all doing their best and with the exception of Mayor Rodriguez, quotes their common avowals of being motivated by their ardent desire to pursue the fulfillment of Quezon's dream city. The reason he makes an exception of Mayor Rodriguez is probably because it was during her administration that President Marcos issued P.D. No. 940 on May 29, 1976, barely two months after her assumption of office, depriving Quezon City

(Turn to page 4)



President Quezon and Mayor Morato

The question has sometimes been raised: Who was the first mayor of Quezon City: Quezon or Morato. The proper answer is: Quezon merely assumed the functions of the mayor and did so as President without a formal appointment as mayor, so that it was Morato who was the first appointed mayor of Quezon City.

BOOK REVIEW . . .

of its status as "the national capital of the Philippines and the permanent seat of the national government" as per provision of R.A. No. 333 — said status being an essential part of Quezon's dream city. Mr. Carunungan states that "no one really knows how far, how vast, how great, Quezon wanted the city to be," but we certainly know that Quezon definitely wanted his dream city to be the "magnificent capital city" of the country. Anyway, it is well that, as Mr. Carunungan states, "Mayor Rodriguez knows Quezon would never be satisfied with anything, however great." And "so, she keeps on working, thinking, planning, developing, serving. . ."

The birth pangs of the new city were, of course, particularly intense under Mayor Morato. In Chapter Four, "The Morato Years", the author depicts the zeal and energy with which Morato tackled the tremendous difficulties beset him in launching the growth and development of Quezon City. Despite very limited funds, he was able to construct a network of roads in accordance with the Frost Master Plan and despite an inadequate police force of only 48, he was able to contain criminality. On the belief that "vice is the father of crime", he caused the "eradication of vices, gambling, dance halls, cockpits, cabarets, and other social evils in the new city."

It was under Morato's term that the cornerstone for the Quezon City Hall was laid on November 15, 1940, fifth anniversary of the Philippine Commonwealth not "National Capitol Building," as erroneously stated by Mr. Carunungan. He describes meticulously the proposed edifice as conceived by the architect — only to state two pages later that "the (Quezon City Hall) building was never realized."

Then came the War. "Upon Morato's arrest and imprisonment, the Japanese Military Administration installed Dr. Florencio T. Cruz, former health officer of Quezon City, as district chief of Greater Manila for Quezon City." The author is not entirely correct here: Quezon City, after having become a part of Greater Manila as per Executive Order of Quezon, was divided into two districts for "police and administrative purposes." Dr. Cruz was designated district chief for the Diliman district while Gregorio Felipe, Sr. was named district chief for San Francisco del Monte district. (A son of Felipe, Gregorio Felipe, Jr., who is a sanitary inspector in the health department, can attest to this.)

Mr. Carunungan has a mix-up of dates with respect to when Quezon City was separated from Greater Manila and when Mayor Ponciano Bernardo assumed office. On page 59, line 4, the author writes: "On October 11, 1946, Sabino de Leon, former chief of police of Quezon City, was appointed assistant mayor of Greater Manila for Quezon City; he held the position until the end of the year 1946." On the same page, lines 24 and 27, he writes: "Before the year (1945) was over, Quezon City was separated from Manila, and Ponciano Bernardo was appointed by President Osmeña to be its mayor. On January 1, 1946, Bernardo assumed the office in simple ceremonies at Malacañang. And Quezon City was again (sic) reborn." Obviously, Mayor Bernardo could not have assumed office on January 1, 1946 because Sabino de Leon "held that position until the end of 1946."

The facts and correct dates are: Quezon City regained its independence by virtue of R.A. No. 45 which was signed into law by President Roxas on October 11, 1946. Sabino de Leon, however, continued to hold office until the end of 1946. Bernardo, who had been appointed mayor of Quezon City on December 24, 1946, assumed office on January 1, 1947.

Mayor Bernardo faced great odds in the rehabilitation of Quezon City after the War. But he was equal to the task, as Mr. Carunungan clearly shows in Chapter XII, "Ponciano Bernardo as Mayor."

"Mayor Bernardo worked like one obsessed to fulfill the dreams of his friend, Manuel Quezon," writes Carunungan. "He assiduously worked without let-up, making frequent on-the-spot inspections and seeing to it that all the public works projects were being pursued with quality and dispatch. His aides would bring sandwiches with them whenever they accompanied him on these tours, because they knew Mayor Bernardo had absolutely no regard for time."

Constructed under Mayor Bernardo's administration were the old City Hall in Cubao, where the reconstructed Ramon Magsaysay High School stands, the Galas market, the Quezon City High School, the park named after him which had a skating rink, and eight health centers. It was also during Bernardo's term that R.A. No. 333 making Quezon City "the national capital of the Philippines and the permanent seat of the national government" was approved by President Quirino who had succeeded President Roxas upon his death on April 16, 1948.

About the infamous ambush that killed the widow of President Quezon on April 28, 1948, Carunungan relates that Bernardo got out of the car and shouted to the attackers: "Don't shoot! This is the car of cold blood."

The next mayor of Quezon City, then Undersecretary of the Interior (not Assistant Executive Secretary) Nicanor Roxas had the shortest term — only about eight months. The author devotes only four and a half pages to him but he considers his term significant because by the end of said term, "Quezon City become the true national focus of development," or, as he puts it in other words, "Quezon City, at last, came into its own." The reason for this, Mr. Carunungan opines, is that on October 22, 1949, Quezon City was inaugurated as the National Capital of the Philippines, the cornerstone of the Capitol Building on Constitution Hill was laid, and President Quirino had expressed the hope "that as the National Government leaves Manila it would leave behind all prejudices and burdens of a troubled world, as well as the effects of halphazard planning. . . I am sure that in the years to come,



The bullet-riddled car in which the widow of President Quezon, Doña Aurora, was riding with her daughter Maria Aurora and son-in-law Philip Buencamino when they were ambushed on April 28, 1949. Of this incident Mr. Carunungan writes: "Mayor Bernardo (who was in another car in the convoy) shouted at the attackers: 'Stop shooting! This is the car of Mrs. Quezon!' But the marauders did not heed him. Instead they trained their guns at him and shot him in cold blood. . ."

"Mayor Bernardo worked like one obsessed to fulfill the dream of his friend, Manuel Quezon," writes Mr. Carunungan. "His aides would bring sandwiches with them whenever they accompanied him on his frequent on-the-spot inspection tours, because they knew Mayor Bernardo had absolutely no regard for time."



Mayor BERNARDO

Quezon City will surpass Manila in historical value and scientific development." We all know, of course, that these grandiose words of President Quirino never came to pass. The Capitol Building never went beyond a skeleton of steel that rusted for more than 30 years until it gave way to the Batasan Pambansa building.

The date of the appointment of the next mayor of Quezon City, former Congressman Ignacio Santos Diaz, given in the book is a typographical error: It should be January 4, 1950, not January 4, 1959." In this chapter, "The City and its Services," devoted to the administration of Mayor Diaz, Mr. Carunungan makes him stand out as one of the most capable and energetic mayors that Quezon City had. During his four-year term, January 4, 1950 to December 30, 1953, an impressive number

He had the shortest term — only eight months, but Mr. Carunungan considers it significant because by the end of said term, "Quezon City became the true national focus of development," with its inauguration on October 22, 1949 as the National Capital of the Philippines.



Mayor ROXAS

of public buildings — 29 in all — were constructed and public services improved tremendously. The police force was increased from 125 to 323, more police outposts were installed and more mobile radio patrols were put in operation. All these resulted in the containment of the crimes that proliferated at the start of his term and the restoration of peace and order. The improvement of educational services was manifested by the result of the survey of general education conducted in 1950 by the Bureau of Public Schools in which Quezon City ranked first in standards among six cities surveyed. More and more private schools also moved to Quezon City during Mayor Diaz's terms, such as the Ateneo University, St. Mary's College and St. Theresa's College. The improvement of health services was likewise manifested by the decrease in the death rate and in infant mortality and by the fact that "In the July fourth celebrations of 1951, Quezon City placed third in the national contest on health conditions and Mayor Diaz received the Diploma of Merit in behalf of the city."

It was also during Mayor Diaz' term that R.A. No. 502, the Quezon City charter, was amended for the first time by R.A. No. 527, known as the Revised Charter of Quezon City, which was signed into law by President Quirino on June 16, 1950. The new law increased the area of Quezon City of 15,539 hectares, the number of councilors from three to eight, and increased the salaries of city officials.

With the defeat of President Quirino in the 1953 elections, Mayor Diaz tendered his resignation and was succeeded by Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto who was designated Vice Mayor on January 11, 1954 by incoming President Magsaysay and mayor on February 4, 1954.

Understandably, Mr. Carunungan devotes a major portion of his book to Mayor Amoranto for he was mayor of Quezon City for 22 years — not 24 years as erroneously stated on page 104: "This was the inauspicious beginning of the Amoranto era that would go on for twenty-four years, spanning the administration of Magsaysay, Garcia, Macapagal and Marcos, and playing the lead role in some of Quezon City's most spectacular and significant political and social dramas."

Shortly after his appointment some dramatic incidents were already occurring and Mr. Carunungan reports them in all their details: the 18 busloads of Quezon City residents who went to Malacañang to protest and renounce the Amoranto appointment and the purges of undesirable employees that went "in full blast from the moment he assumed office" creating a "vociferous hue and cry" from the "victims" and making his first few weeks in office "utterly tumultuous."

In time, however, as Mr. Carunungan puts it: "Mayor Amoranto brought a few and refreshingly relaxed but business-like atmosphere into the city administration. On the policy of "increased collection without increased taxation," Amoranto succeeded quickly in increasing the city's income. "He vowed," writes Mr. Carunungan, "that the city would no longer have a deficit economy and that the city would no longer be beholden to the national treasury for financial assistance in running the government."

With the death of President Magsaysay in an airplane crash on March 17, 1957, Amoranto tendered his courtesy resignation but despite the hordes of aspirants to his position, the threats of his own Vice Mayor "to expose alleged anomalies in the local administration since 1954," and a hostile press that was for "trouncing Amoranto" mainly because his (Garcia's) "spectacular showing in Quezon City (in the 1957 presidential election) convinced him that the incumbent mayor was the one the people wanted."

In the first elections held in Quezon City on November 10, 1959, Amoranto won by a big margin over his closest opponent, Ignacio Santos Diaz, but only one

(Turn to page 5)

As the publisher-editor of THE CAPITOL STANDARD, we are highly flattered that a top writer like Mr. Carunungan had found in our paper something worth quoting. He further flatters us by quoting from our article, "Mayor Rodriguez's Greatest Talent," published in the October 12, 1976 issue of THE CAPITOL STANDARD: "Mayor Rodriguez's greatest talent," said a Quezon City publisher-editor, "consists in her ability to inspire and elicit public support. I think the principal reason for the universal support (accorded her) lies in the sincerity, the dedication and the energy she has shown in tackling the difficult mayoralty job."

Unlike with the other mayors before her, Mr. Carunungan does not enumerate or discuss in detail the many accomplishments of Mayor Rodriguez probably leaving that to some future historian who will write a sequel to his book. He is obviously impressed by what he calls "the now famous City Development Program formulated by Mayor Rodriguez to which the city administration refers in integrating solutions to problems." The correct title of the program is "Comprehensive Development Program" prepared by the City Planning and Development Office under Executive Director Gerardo G. Magat. Its preparation started before Mayor Rodriguez's time but it was she who first adopted it, making it a policy that all developmental projects and programs of the government conform to said "Comprehensive Development Program." Among the development programs under Mayor Rodriguez that Mr. Carunungan could have discussed more thoroughly are its slum improvement program, particularly the Escopa Redevelopment Program which has become well known not only nationally but internationally as a model in the integrated approach to slum improvement, the barrio development program, the manpower development program, the infrastructure development program, and others.

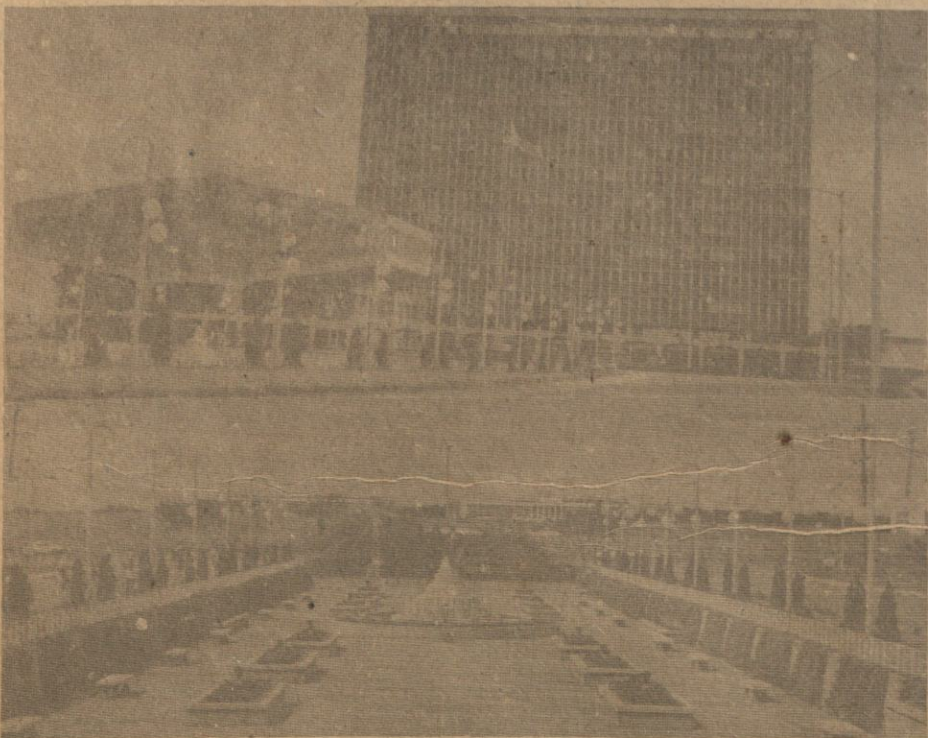
Writing the history of a city with the multifarious factors, events, and persons that go into its growth and development is no easy task. The writing of "Quezon City: A Saga of Progress" is no exception. However, Mr. Carunungan's task had been made less difficult by the fact that he had to cover a relatively short period of time, Quezon City being only 43 years old today — "too minimal a time in the life of a metropolis," to use the author's own words. The task was also made easier by the availability of rich authentic sources of historical materials about Quezon City such as the daily newspapers which continuously reported important events in the growth and development of the city from the time of its creation in 1939; the various official reports and documents, national as well as local; and the eyewitness accounts of still living persons who were personally involved in the growth and development of the city particularly during the earliest years — persons such as Don Ramon Roces, Pio Pedrosa, Proceso Sebastian, Manuel Morato, and others.

We are glad that articles we have written in THE CAPITOL STANDARD and in Quezon City Souvenir Programs have contributed a little to Mr. Carunungan's book. We are particularly pleased by the reference made to our article, "Former Mayor Amorante's Greatest Accomplishment," published in the October 12, 1976 issue of the CAPITOL STANDARD.

The book is fairly comprehensive but far from being exhaustive. For instance, there is hardly a word on the Araneta Complex which has played a vital role in the city's progress. And while it has a wealth of details, it has a dearth of pictures. No pictures of even Quezon and the mayors except Mayor Rodriguez. Pictures of highlights in the history of Quezon City and of its tourist spots would have made the book more interesting, such as those we are using to illustrate this review and digest. The printing of the book must have been under time pressure because many typographical errors, some grammatical lapses, and a few inaccuracies have been allowed to pass.

But despite the above noted defects or deficiencies, "Quezon City: A Saga of Progress" is a history book of great merit, overwhelmingly better than any previous historical writing on Quezon City. Mayor Rodriguez, who has a message in the book, and Cultural Affairs and Tourism Officer Francisco "Pete" Alvarez, who writes the Foreword, justifiably feel elated that Mr. Carunungan's history book has been published under their auspices. At the launching of the book last August 18, Mayor Rodriguez said: "In writing 'Quezon City: A Saga of Progress,' Mr. Carunungan has rendered a great service to the city for which he deserves the commendation and gratitude of the people." She enjoined everybody to get hold of the book and read it "thoroughly and studiously."

"But let us not stop at reading the book," she said. "Let us continue the story it has told — not with our pen for we may not have the writing skill of Mr. Carunungan — but with a more positive and vigorous participation in the task of furthering the growth and development of our city, making it a more peaceful, more pleasant, more prosperous place to live in. Someday, another Celso Al. Carunungan may write a sequel to his book entitling it 'Quezon City: A Saga of Further Progress' in which will be chronicled the further progress that Quezon City may achieve hereafter — progress towards that state of urban development which the First Lady has envisioned as the 'City of Man.'"



Mayor Amoranto considered the City Hall with the sunken garden for a front yard the crowning glory of his infrastructural accomplishments. After jogging one early morning on Dec. 22, 1979 around the Quezon Memorial Circle, he suffered a stroke and died in the premises of the City Hall — a fact over which Mr. Carunungan waxes poetically dramatic: "He chose for his final moment the air, the fragrance and the very feel of the area that he loved so well. It was as if he actually chose the beloved place to die: there just beneath the shadow of the City Hall that he built..."

"Perhaps, the greatest accomplishment of Amoranto in his first term was in opening the city hall to the common tao," writes Mr. Carunungan. "It was frightening to see that while he was standing as he talked with his visitors, a total stranger, dressed in rags even, was sitting in his own chair."



Mayor AMORANTO

of the candidates for councilor in his ticket won with him, Dr. Anastacio Yabut. Six candidates of the Citizens League for Good Government, which Mr. Carunungan calls the Idealists, won. The eighth winning candidate was an independent, Jose Narcelles, who was reportedly supported secretly by Amoranto.

"Perhaps, the greatest achievement of Amoranto in his first term was in opening the city hall to the common man," writes Mr. Carunungan in Chapter 11, "The People Come First." "It is frightening," Mr. Carunungan continues, "to see that while he was standing as he talked with his visitors, a total stranger dressed in rags even, was sitting in his own chair." We had often witnessed such a "frightening" sight. I wish Carunungan had included in his book a famous remark of Mayor Amoranto which reflected his compassionate heart. To political opponents who criticized him for allegedly coddling squatters, he retorted: "If it is wrong to coddle poor squatters, than let it be so. I would rather be wrong and be kind than be right and be unkind."

Mayor Amoranto's victory in the 1963 elections, his first bid for re-election, "astounded everybody — including Amoranto," the author writes. The odds had piled against him: On January 27, 1961 he suffered a stroke; in November that same year, the Liberal party won and Diosdado Macapagal won; and the Citizens League for Good Government conducted a vigorous moneyed campaign. But Mayor Amoranto won "with an unbelievable majority over Vicente Novales, who forsook him and ran on the Liberal party ticket."

The author calls the 1967 elections, Amoranto's second bid for re-election "the most raucous elections ever" with seven candidates for mayor, five for vice mayor, and approximately 85 for councilors.

At this point, Mr. Carunungan focuses the spotlight on Ismael Mathay, Jr. who had won as the vice mayor of Amoranto. In the absence of Amoranto who had gone abroad, Mathay succeeded in evicting the professional squatters at the national park along EDSA where the Manila Seedling Bank is now located and along East Avenue.

Needless to say, much of the progress told in Mr. Carunungan's "Saga of Progress" occurred during the 22 years of Amoranto's regime: the unnumberable school buildings, markets, health centers, parks and playgrounds, roads and bridges, and, above all, the 14-storey City Hall building, the tallest edifice in Quezon City, which mayor Amoranto considered the crowning glory of his infrastructural accomplishments.

Mr. Carunungan does not have anything to say on the 1971 elections, Amoranto's third bid for re-election, except to make this mistake: "Carlos J. Albert, CLGG councilor in 1959-1963, ran against Amoranto for mayor in 1963 and lost; in 1971, he ran as vice mayor in the Amoranto ticket and won!" Albert was the running mate of Carmen Planas.

Oddly enough, Amoranto did not think much of his infrastructural accomplishments, for he said it was easy to construct roads or buildings provided you had the money. "To me," he said, according to the author, "this was better than roads, bridges or buildings — or even centers and schools. A triumph of peace and love is more fulfilling than any infrastructure." By "this," he was referring to the way he had saved the lives of the young U.P. activists who on February 2 to 9, 1971 barricaded the U.P. compound, "Making it impossible for anyone inside to leave the premises nor those outside to enter." Despite terrific pressure exerted on him, he refused to send his policemen to break the barricades for he knew that there would be bloodshed. Instead he boldly and calmly walked towards the barricades, crossed them, and "like a father full of prudence and understanding, talked with them (the young U.P. activists)." The students listened to him and after a lengthy dialogue agreed to remove the barricades, ending the "rebellion."

In a meeting of U.P. students and their parents he convoked at City Hall the following morning, one irate parent chided Mayor Amoranto for not having done his duty in sending the policemen to break the barricades and "teach the brats a lesson." To which the mayor with great patience answered: "If I had done my duty as you would have wanted me to, you would not be here now attending this meeting; you would be in the *funerarias* weeping over your dead children."

Mr. Carunungan notes the salutary effects of martial law in Quezon City: how it reduced criminality, how it "spurred greater progress in business and industry," and how the cleanliness and beautification drive was intensified earning the First Lady's commendation.

The author paves the way for the resignation of Mayor Amoranto in March 1976: "In 1976, when Mayor Amoranto was nearing his 68th year and celebrating his 22nd year as mayor of Quezon City, the chores and responsibilities, the pressures and the demands of his office seemed much heavier." He reproduces without comment the letter of President Marcos accepting Amoranto's resignation. If he had talked to the Mayor after his resignation had been accepted, he would have probably obtained some interesting things to add to his account of his resignation. Outwardly, Mayor Amoranto took the acceptance of his resignation non-chalantly: "Jobless na ako," he said jokingly to friends. But deep in his mind and heart, what were his true thoughts and feelings? A more candid historian would have wanted to find out. We did find out, but then we are not a candid historian.

Mr. Carunungan relates in detail how the end came for Mayor Amoranto when he suffered a stroke on December 22, 1979. Rising to heights of poetic fancy, he writes: "He chose for his final moment the air, the fragrance and the very feel of the area that he loved well. It was as if he actually chose the beloved place to die. There just beneath the shadow of the City Hall that he built, only a child is throw from the Quezon Memorial Circle..."

After Mayor Amoranto, the author finally takes up her Honor, incumbent Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez. In sizing up Mayor Rodriguez, Mr. Carunungan quotes THE CAPITOL STANDARD: "Though Mayor Rodriguez may not bring with her extensive executive experience and knowhow, she comes with something better: faith, courage, vision, sincerity, and, above all, the capacity and the will to serve. Mayor Rodriguez will acquit herself with credit and honor as the capitol city's chief executive. She belongs to an elite clan of achievers — the Rodriguez, senator, governor, congressman — who have maintained a tradition of dedicated public service for the last three decades."

THE LAST CAMPAIGN

The squatter situation in Metro Manila has become so unmanageable that the President and the First Lady themselves had to take a direct hand. Acting on their orders, the National Housing Authority is spearheading a massive, vigorous campaign against squatters. NHA Manager Gaudencio Tobias calls it "The Last Campaign." A do or die effort to recover squatter-occupied territory in Metro Manila.

Quezon City, which has been variously called "the haven of squatters" or "squatters paradise" (no longer the "Workingman's Paradise" that Quezon envisioned) because of its wide open spaces, is overrun by squatters the biggest concentrations being at the Batasang Pambansa Complex, Barangays Old Balara, Culiati and Sauyo, Novaliches. Mayor Rodriguez considers the squatters problem "still the Number One headache of the city government," adding that "it is a problem that all developing countries have to contend with." In her State of the City Address, she said: "It is unfortunate that some Barangay officials (who are supposed to be the frontline guardians of vacant lots against squatters) feel helpless in preventing the influx of squatters."

But the city government has not been exactly helpless against the squatters. Even long before NHA Manager Tobias's "Last Campaign," it has been implementing P.D. No. 772 and LOI 19 ordering the dismantling or removal of illegally constructed structures in public as well as private properties. The city government has a special Committee for the Prevention of Squatting and a Task Force on Squatter Relocation, Resettlement and Rehabilitation headed by Arch. Gerardo G. Magat, City Development Coordinator. In the 1983 Budget, pending approval by the MMC, this Task Force is allocated P2,500,000 for its operations.



Discussing the "Last Campaign" against squatters in a conference at the MMC. From left: Major Gen. Gaudencio Tobias, NHA Manager; Vice Governor Mathay; Mayor Rodriguez; Gen. Prospero Olivas, Metrocom Chief; Arch. Gerardo G. Magat, City Development Coordinator who heads the QC Task Force on Relocation, Resettlement, and Rehabilitation.

The city government is participating actively in "The Last Campaign." The Task Force has been assigned the task of dismantling the structures along the road-right-of-way of the Don Mariano Marcos Avenue starting from Tandang Sora to Barangay Commonwealth. The demolition operation started last July 21 after NHA Manager Tobias had given the go signal in a letter to Mayor Rodriguez. At this writing, 801 structures have been dismantled and 801 families relocated to the Tala Estate of the NHA in Novaliches. Some 569 more structures are due for demolition.

The demolition operation has been singularly marked by the absence of any untoward incident unlike in other operations of the Task Force which encountered resistance which often erupted into violence or stalled by long-drawn out court injunctions obtained by the affected squatters. The smooth operation has been due to the preparation or conditioning of the squatters minds to a peaceful acceptance of their displacement. This was achieved through dialogues with them conducted by social workers of the City Planning and Development Office, the Social Welfare Services Division, and the National Housing Authority. The squatters were told that while initially they may suffer some inconveniences at their relocation site, eventually it will be developed to provide all the facilities and amenities for a healthy, comfortable, pleasant and productive existence. This promise is being presently implemented.



The demolished structures ready to be hauled to the relocation site at the Tala estate of the NHA in Novaliches.



At the relocation site, the squatter families are housed in temporary quarters shown above.

Self-Liquidating

Quezon City Kabuhayan Technological Center

Launched on the President's birthday last year, the Quezon City Kabuhayan Technological Center was the prompt response of the city government to Executive Order No. 715 issued on August 6, 1981 establishing the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran. Developed under the direction of KKK City Action Officer Melencio M. Castelo, the Center has played a significant role in the implementation of the KKK program in Quezon City.

The agro-industrial pilot modules that have been put up at the Center have served as models for KKK participants and have supplied them with planting materials and breeding stock. Among these modules are a vegetable garden, fishpond, duckery, poultry, mini rice field, and tree seedling nursery. Since its launching, the Center has distributed free to KKK participants: 185,350 vegetable seedlings with a market value of P9,167.50; 6,675 teaspoons of vegetable seeds with a market value P332.75; 17,520 tilapia fingerlings with a market value of P3,504.00; 17,900 tree seedlings with a market value of P17,900.00; and 17 ducks with a market value of P425.00. Technical knowhow has been radiated to KKK participants through lectures and demonstrations conducted by technical personnel of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and Nacida.

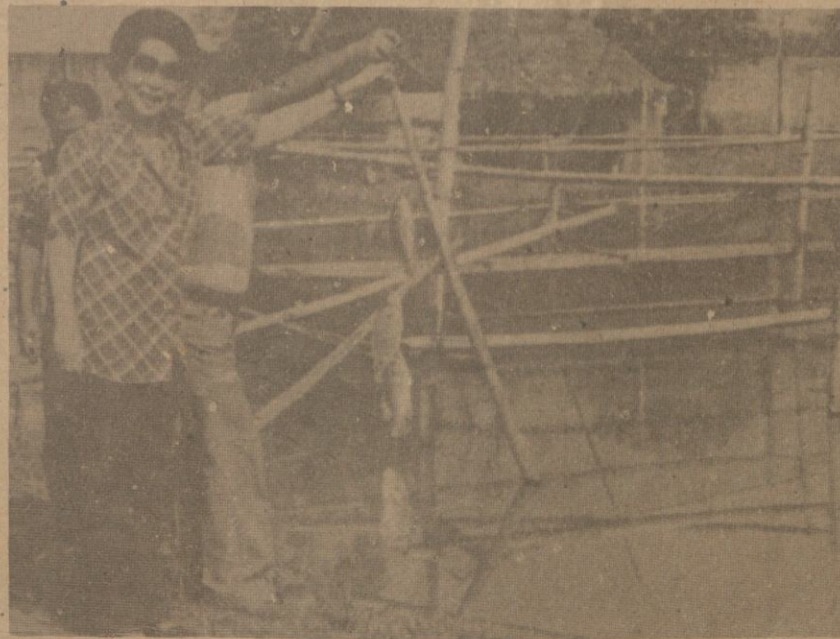
Aside from the planting materials and breeding stock it has distributed free, the Center has produced and sold 33,549 kilos of vegetables, for P50,324.05; 30 cavans of palay for P1,950.00; and 1,000 watermelons for P1,500.00 making a total sales of P53,774.05 of which P35,624.00 has been deposited as a trust fund with the City Treasurer and the balance of P17,150 has been used for the operation of the Center. Castelo says that in due time the Center will be self-liquidating.



Mayor Rodriguez goes under the trellis to examine a cluster of grape fruits.

"Malili-it pa, hindi pa puedeng kainin," says the Mayor. "At saka parang makapal ang balat."

"Ninipis po yan, mam, paglaki," answers KKK City Action Officer and developer of the Center, Melencio Castelo.



"Look what I caught!" exclaims the Mayor, as she displays four full-sized tilapia reared at the Center's fishpond. The Center has distributed free 17,520 tilapia fingerlings to KKK participants.



Each squatter family is allotted a lot. Shown above are some of the permanent squatter houses.



Aquino

TEMPOS FUGIT . . .

War II.

A news item (*Tempo*, Aug. 26) had this conclusion when a watercolor painting by the late Fuehrer came up for auction sale. (If the painting was eventually bought, I'm sure it was not for artistry — because it didn't have any — but for its historicity: a grim reminder of what frustration can do to a man.)

What I'm trying to say is, let's you and I take care of our frustrations. I mean, be very careful of what you set your heart on. Frustration, as has been hinted at, can very well turn "Heil!" into "Hell!" Your frustration may not be as repercussive as Hitler's but it could hurt you bad and one or two of your fellowmen.

Take the case of the proverbial "unrequited love." Thus frustrated, he does himself in or the object of his desire or the two of them.

If you must love as much as that, be prepared for a rebuff. Be philosophical about it, like saying to yourself the old saying "Better to have loved and failed than not to have loved at all." Or, "She's not the only woman in this world."

You will say, That's easier said than done. I know, I know. As regards that old saying, after the rebuff, you may no longer be around to say it. Some manage to say it but only on suicide notes.

As for that "There are other women," business takes some time to realize that. Because she was your world, your only world.

A friend, however, tells me that not all frustrations have sad endings. He told me a story with a happy one. Here in brief is his story:

He had an uncle, a very rich bachelor uncle who said that the reason why he was still single at 39 was that he had yet to meet the right girl. Then at 40 — my, how time flies! — the right girl came along. Trouble was, he was not the right man for her. No matter how hard or how much he tried, things just didn't turn out right. He went the way of all weak lovers. He ended it all.

"You call that a happy ending? I almost cried at my story-telling friend.

"Let me finish," my friend said. "My uncle left everything he owned to me."

MATHAY CITES . . .

Mathay said, however, that it is not really the physical and material things that count most in the "City of Man." What is most important, he said, is that the people are "healthy, happy and satisfied."

Incidentally, the Vice Governor conveyed the thanks of the President and the First Lady to the city government and the people of Quezon City for their participation in the welcome accorded the First Couple upon their arrival from their U.S. trip last September 30.