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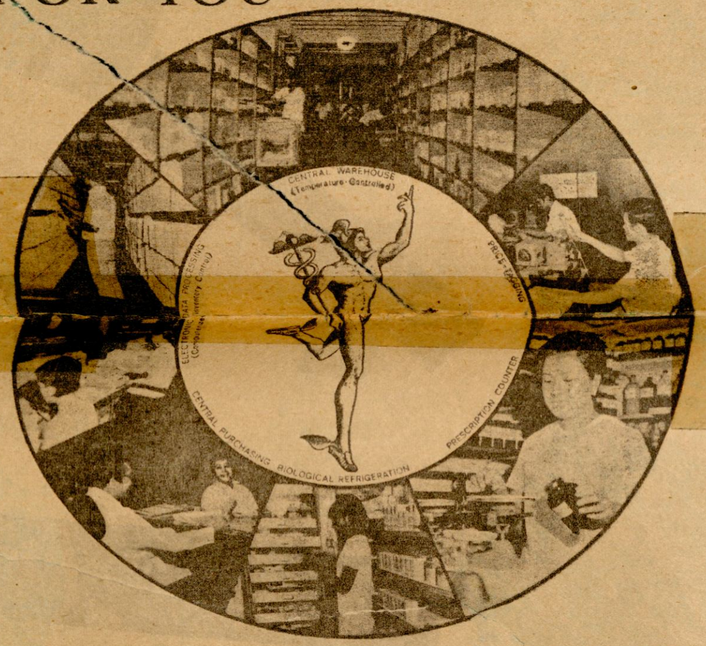

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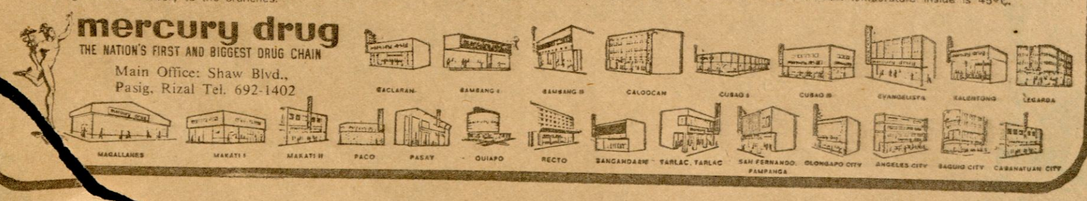

Quezon And The City Of His Dreams



QUEZON AND HIS MILITARY ADVISER, Gen. Douglas MacArthur exchange pleasantries before the start of a parade at the Luneta.

By Celso Al. Carunungan

WHEN the body of President Manuel L. Quezon was brought home for a hero's burial, President Manuel A. Roxas spoke before the joint session of the Philippine Congress on July 28, 1946, extolling the glorious virtues of this great man. One of the things he mentioned as an outstanding achievement of Quezon was the founding of Quezon City.

"He dreamed and designed the construction of a magnificent capital city," declaimed President Roxas, "the crowning jewel of the fame that was to outlast him."

True enough, Quezon City was the consuming dream of President Quezon. And it formed a vital part in the fulfilment of his obsession to give social justice to the working man. "The poor and the weak should not be oppressed," he said, "and the fundamental governmental policy should be not to make the poor poorer and the rich richer, but to make the poor rich and to provide relief for the needy."

Thus, he envisioned a place where the laborers would find a good home. He thought of a housing project for laborers and employees, where the government would construct houses to be sold or leased to the poor laborers. "The homesite project," he said, in his message to the second assembly of the Philippine Commonwealth, on September 18, 1939, "is designed to provide the working men and permanent employees with homes at a reasonable cost and, also, to serve as a model residential and community center."

In the same address, Quezon underscored the need for transferring the site of the University of the Philippines "to provide adequate educational plant in an atmosphere conducive to moral and scholastic standards appropriate to our highest public institution of learning."

For these two projects, President Quezon proposed "to create a new city... chartered to do all things necessary for the health, safety and happiness of the inhabitants."

While having breakfast one morning in Malacañang, Quezon and Don Alejandro Roces Sr. talked about these projects. At once, Don Alejandro recommended the Diliman Estate for them. Realizing the prospects of an ever-expanding Manila, Quezon agreed with Don Alejandro that the site was ideal and, forthwith, he authorized Don Alejandro to negotiate for the purchase of the said site with the Tuasons.

Don Alejandro asked his son Ramon to make all the necessary arrangements with the Tuason family who owned the property. Within a few days, the People's Homesite Corporation was organized under the National Development Company. Although Don Alejandro was appointed general manager of this homesite, it was his son Ramon who actually did all the work.

The government bought 1,572 hectares from the Tuason family at five centavos per square meter, and the Tuasons donated to the government 493 hectares on condition that the land would be used as the new site of the University of the Philippines.

One bright morning, with his friend and physician, Dr. Antonio Sison, Quezon stood upon a hill and surveyed the Diliman area where the new city was to be built. He dreamed of a paradise for the workers and a modern university that would be the best in the Orient. Actually, with the area given by the Tuasons, this university would have the largest campus in the world.

Quezon worked furiously on his dream city. Every time he was free, he would rush to Diliman. He would talk with the laborers on the road, the carpenters in the homesite, and even the small children. With Don Alejandro, he would spend many hours going all over the place. At times, he would go up to what is now Bago Bantay, where there used to be a small lake, and where he planned to build a small resthouse for his family and friends.

On September 18, 1939, in his message to the National Assembly, Quezon recommended the official separation of the new city he was building in the Diliman Estate, north of Manila. He had no name for that city. In fact, when his friends and colleagues suggested that they name it after him, he objected strongly. "I'm still alive," he said. "Give me a chance to die first. Besides, there are many other better names we can use."

But the people working in the site had started calling it Quezon City. The newspapers referred to it in the same way. The usage had become so popular that even Quezon had to withdraw his objection later. Thus, when the National Assembly passed Commonwealth Act No. 502, which was subsequently signed into law by the President on October 12, 1939, the new city was officially named after Quezon, and the law became the city's first charter.

When the nation celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Commonwealth on November 15, 1939, Quezon announced the creation of the new city to the entire Filipino nation. The subject was of such deeply-felt sentimental value to him that tears actually welled in his eyes as he spoke.

"Within a short time," he said, "you will see a new city built over the region occupied today by the barrio of Balara and the municipalities of Mariquina, San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Caloocan. It will be a model Philippine city with streets as big and as wide as the spacious avenues of the cities of Europe and America and the government will establish there modern communities where our laborers acn live in a comfortable manner appropriate to their well being."

The dream of President Quez was to make this city the capit of the Philippines. In truth, had been consulting his frien for several years about transf ring the capital of the coun away from Manila. It had be talked about that Manila would b an easy target for any invadin force, since it was too open fo any naval bombardment. Quezo had actually studied the possibili ties of Baguio, Tagaytay, even Dan salan, Lanao (now Marawi City) for the capital site. But Quezon knew what he wanted. And he saw in the Diliman site the place he had in mind: one that was near Manila, but large enough in area to permit the development of a future urban community.

"Physically, it was desired," said Don Pio Pedrosa, who was very close to President Quezon during those years, "that the nation's capital should be a beautiful, placid and sedate metropolis, criss-crossed by wide, tree-lined and sidewalk-bordered avenues and boulevards, where the public buildings and the residential areas would be interspersed between and inside public parks, and which would, as much as possible, be free of the noises and hurly-burly of commercial and industrial traffic."

Then on February 26, 1940, Quezon met with the officials of Quezon City and the board of directors of the People's Homesite Corporation. At this meeting, he said: "I called this joint meeting to dis-

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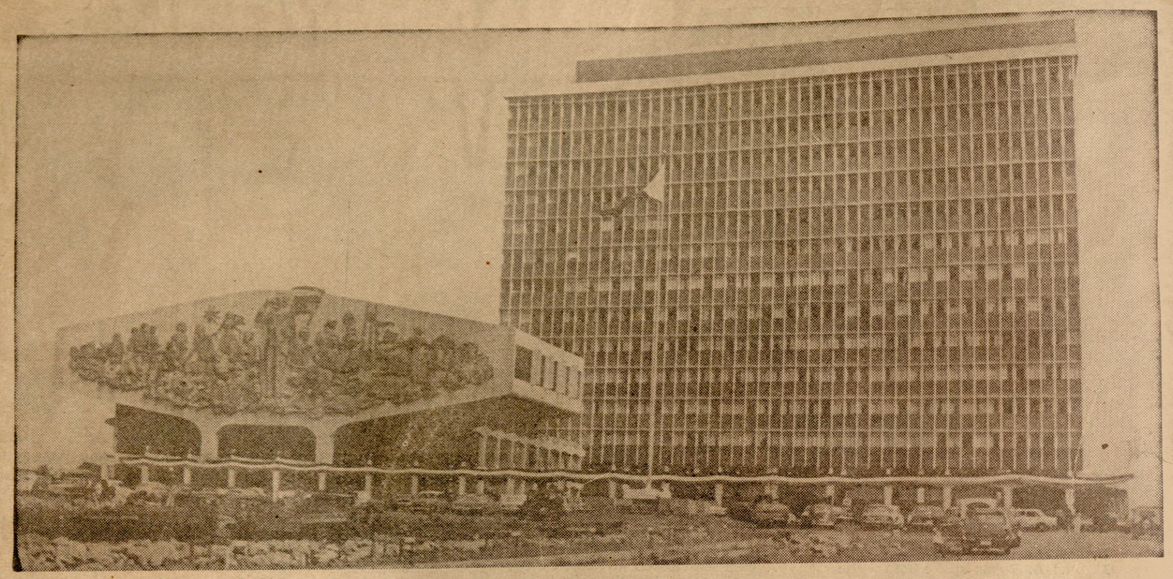

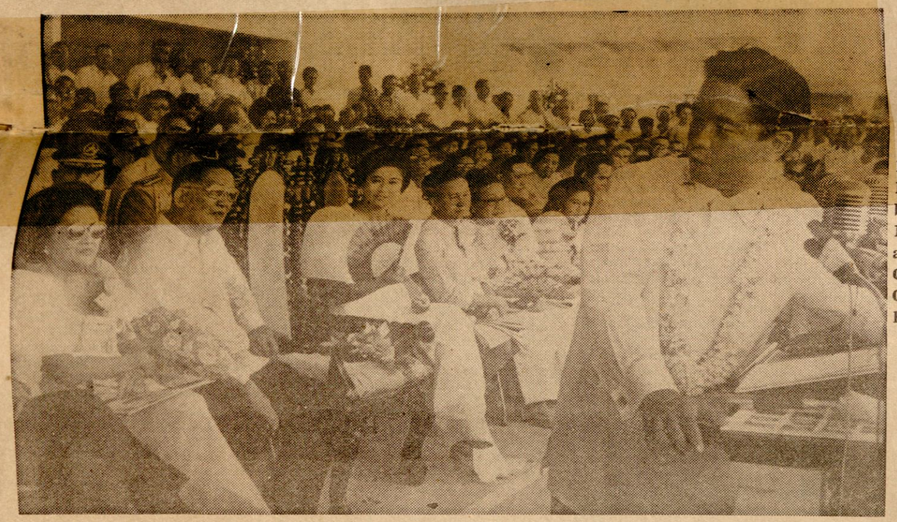

A QUEZON DAY celebration in the capital city has President Marcos as principal speaker and Mrs. Inday Garcia, Mayor Norberto Amoranto, the First Lady, Mrs. Mariquit Lopez, and others as guests. Shown above is the Quezon City Hall, where the Constitutional Convention is also holding its sessions.

Quezon's Dream City

(Continued from page 3)

cuss the plan of future development of Quezon City and the People's Homesite Corporation. In my opinion, Quezon City should be made the capital of the Philippines. It is now a settled matter that the Capital Building shall be erected in Quezon City and I am seriously considering recommending the construction of the Executive Mansion and the executive offices as well in Quezon City. The city government should, therefore, plan now the development of Quezon City as the future capital of the Philippines..."

Just before the war broke out, the foundations for the proposed capitol building were placed in the middle of the elliptical circle where the unfinished Quezon monument now stands. But after the war, those who came after Quezon thought that this was not an ideal site for the national capitol and, instead, decided to put it up in that area near La Mesa reservoir, where now only the grim rusting skeletal frame has been built.

After Quezon died at Saranac Lake, New York, there was doubt whether his dream of making his city the Philippine capital would be realized. On July 23, 1946, President Manuel Roxas, through Administrative Order No. 5, created the Committee on Capital City site, "to take charge of the selection of the most suitable site on which to build the capital city of the Philippines and the capitol building or buildings."

There were extensive studies made of various sites. Public hearings were held for the purpose of gauging public opinion. Sixteen sites were proposed — from Bataan to San Pablo to Iloilo.

After months of serious investigation and research, the Committee chose Quezon City over all the others, because it alone satisfied all the requirements that the Committee stipulated for an ideal capital city.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 33, Quezon City was declared, on July 17, 1948, the capital of the Philippines and the permanent seat of the national government.

It has been a long time since Quezon stood upon that hill in Diliman to survey the site upon which was to stand the city he dreamed about and loved so much." "I dream of a capital city," he told his closest friends then, "that, politically, shall be the seat of the national government; aesthetically, the showplace of the nation — a place that thousands of people will come to visit as the epitome of the culture and the spirit of the country; socially, a dignified concentration of human life, aspirations, endeavors and achievements; and economically, as a productive, self-contained community."

As we look at Quezon City today, at its progress and tremendous expansion, it is not difficult to imagine that if Quezon were alive today, he will probably smile and be happy, too. For after thirty-three tempestuous years, his dream city has at least become a glowing, breathing reality.

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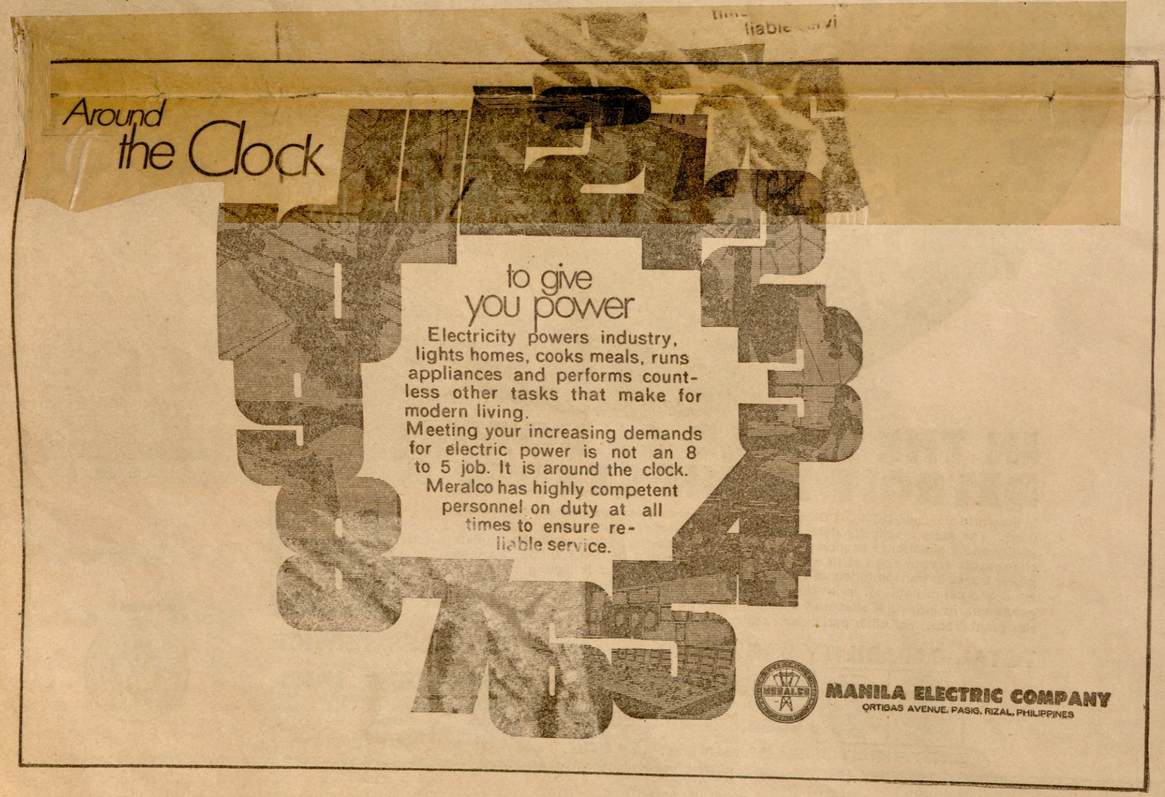

Kaleidan Farm:

Quezon's Testing Ground For His Social Justice Program

(Reprinted, Courtesy of S. Canceran.)

ESCAPING from the boredom of officialdom at times, the late President Manuel L. Quezon used to motor to his Kaledian farm at the foothills of the legendary Arayat mountain in Pampanga. Here, the fiery chief executive had built himself a country home — a simple nipa-roofed cottage — surrounded by fruit-bearing trees which had been planted by official dignitaries that used to visit this model farm. Here members of the cabinet used to hold meetings, discussing the affairs of the state amid bucolic surroundings.

President Quezon lorded over 625 hectares of rich, rolling ricefields tenanted by 150 farmers with their families. He had made this ideal farm a testing ground of his social justice program. In the midst of brewing agrarian trouble, Quezon's tenants lived lives of contentment and industry. Quezon gave them a fair percentage of the harvest, provided them with food rations, clothing, farm implements, work animals and even cash.

The First Lady, Doña Aurora, assisted her loving husband in maintaining the model farm. The welfare of the tenants' families was taken care of: a chapel, hospital, schoolhouse, and playgrounds were built for them within the hacienda.

During the early days of the Pacific war, President Quezon sought in his somnolent retreat a few moments of relief from the growing tension. When finally he bade goodbye to his tenants, all of them cried for their master.

In gratitude for the benefits that President Quezon had given the Arayat folks, the town has adopted him as their favorite son.

Now, only memories of the great leader remain: the concrete stairway of his residence leading to nowhere; the abandoned swimming pool now converted into a tilapia pond; the fruit-bearing trees in the orchards; the image of San Isidro, patron of farmers, enthroned in the altar built by Dona Aurora, said other familiar sights, remind the tenants of the late President But the memory these folks treasure above all was the love showered on them by President Quezon and his family.

The farm was purchased in 1932 from rich Pampango *hacenderos* by President Quezon, and was converted into a model community immediately. Here, he sowed the seeds of his social justice program. Here, too, he planted rice seedlings with the tenants, thus making their toil his.



THE QUEZON FAMILY — From left: Dona Aurora, President Quezon, Zenaida, Nini (now Mrs. Avanceña), and Nonong (in front).

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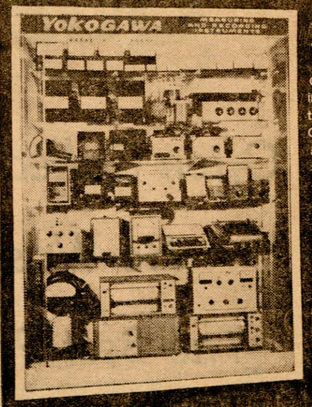

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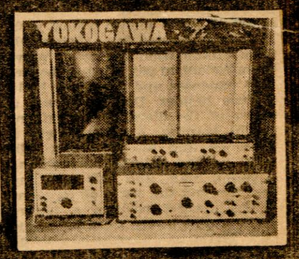

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PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT share his elation with President Quezon shortly after the signing of the United Nations Agreement in Dumbarton Oaks.

QUEZON:

Often Called a Dictator, He Was Still The Best President We Ever Had

By CARLOS QUIRINO

PRESIDENT Manuel L. Quezon of the Commonwealth Government, forerunner of and independent Republic of the Philippines, died in Saranac Lake New York, on August 1, 1944 from tuberculosis of the lungs. That was 28 years ago. Sufficient time has elapsed for us to evaluate him not only as a man but as the leader of his people.

Born on August 19, 1878, of Lucio Quezon and his wife Maria Dolores Molina in Baler Tayabas province. His parents were the town's school teachers in the primary grades, and earned a combined salary of P12 a month which, with the rice harvested from their small farm inland from the coast, proved sufficient to pay all their household expenses and provide a little savings besides. Don Lucio was a native of the district of Peñafrancia in Manila; his father was a Spaniard and his mother a Filipina; he had entered the army as a young man, and left after he had reached the rank of sergeant — the highest position a native could aspire in the colonial army. Dña. Maria was likewise a *mestiza española;* hence Manuel was, by blood, also a *mestizo.* In looks, however, he appeared more like a Spaniard with his aquiline nose and fair complexion; and that is why, later, he was called by his subordinates the *kastila.* Early in his political career, many persons — including former Governor General W. Cameron Forbes — suspected that his father was the Franciscan friar of Baler; but a cursory study of the blood lines of Don Lucio and Dña. Maria disproves their suspicion.

Young Manuel had an excellent education for his time. His mother was his first teacher from whom he learned his a b c's and the catechism of the Catholic church. At the age of seven his parents sent him to the parish priest, Fray Teodoro Fernandez, who taught him the rudiments of history, geography, religion and Latin. When the friar was transferred to the Franciscan convent in the Walled City or Intramuros in Manila some years later, Manuel accompanied him as a *muchacho* or houseboy to continue with his education. His teacher believed he was ready for the elementary school, which was the San Juan de Letran managed by the Dominicans. Manuel, after serving his mentor for a year — because the priest was assigned to another province — transferred his residence to an aunt who was living in Paco, where Don Lucio formerly resided. Here the parents paid twelve pesos a month for Manuel's room and board. But Paco was too far to walk four times a day to Intramuros for an eleven-year-old boy. Since Manuel was not happy living with his aunt, his father entered him as a boarder in Letran. The savings of the Quezon couple dwindled rapidly in the next few years, so after Manuel's graduation from Letran with a *bachillerato* in 1894, when he was 16 years old, they informed him they could no longer afford the financial burden of sending him to the University of Santo Tomas.

The death of his mother from tuberculosis of the lungs in the middle of that year delayed his return to Manila for the opening of school classes in June. When he returned home that summer, he was shocked by her condition: she was thin, pale, and racked by coughs flecked with blood. Since Don Lucio had to work in the fields with his other son Pedro and stepsons, the task of nursing her fell on Manuel, in whose arms she died. He most probably contracted the tubercular bacilli during this period, and although they remained in a dormant state for many years, they eventually cost him his life. It was the price he had to pay for the maternal love and care she had showered on him.

The Dominican teachers at Letran had grown fond of Manuel, not only because of his gregarious and frank nature, but because he was bright and quick to learn. Apprised of Manuel's lack of money, Fray Serapio Tamayo, dean of interns at the university, offered him free tuition, books, room and board in return for coaching the more backward students. He thus became a *capista* or tutor until 1896 when the Philippine Revolution broke out under the leadership of Andres Bonifacio.

Manuel did not join the revolutionary activities mainly because his father had promised the Spanish provincial governor that he would not engage in any subversive activities. The promise was made during that summer of 1894 after Manuel had been imprisoned in the village school for a fortnight on the suspicion that he was proselytizing for the Katipunan, Bonifacio's secret society. Bonifacio had not sought adherents among the university's student body, probably because of the fear that a single apostate among the student members would be enough to endanger the entire society. Manuel continued with his law studies after classes reopened in 1897 when the rebels had been pinned to the northeastern mountains of Bulacan province.

Young Quezon was an eyewitness to the debacle of the Spanish navy before Commodore Dewey's flotilla on May 1, 1898. He had heard the firing of the first salvos of the engagement from his boarding house in Intramuros, and had rushed to the parapet of the city walls to witness the naval duel that ended so disastrously for the warships of Castile.

The Philippine-American war broke out on the night of February 4, 1899, at the Balsahan bridge in San Juan del Monte. The unequal struggle between the poorly armed Filipinos and the Yankees with their artillery and Gatling guns had begun.

"I decided at once that my duty lay in fighting for the freedom of our country," said Quezon years later in his memoirs. "Neither my father, while he was alive, nor I had any commitment with the United States army. On the contrary, it was that army, as I thought, which had broken faith with my people."

The 21-year-old law student from Baler was commissioned a second lieutenant in the revolutionary army. He was assigned to a Nueva Ecija unit, but after he had captured a gang of bandits weeks later, he was immediately promoted to first lieutenant and after a few months made a captain. His good looks and excellent record must have impressed General Aguinaldo, for the latter made him one of his aides-de-camp after the assassination of General Antonio Luna in Cabanatuan. But the life of a staff officer bored him. He craved for action.

"So you want to fight the Americans?" said Aguinaldo when he presented his request for a transfer. "Report to General Mascardo."

Mascardo commanded the army of patriots in western Pampanga, and soon enough Manuel had his baptism of enemy fire. Mascardo's forces retreated to Bataan, and here for the next two years Quezon stayed in relative peace except for a couple of skirmishes with the Americans. By that time Aguinaldo's army had wilted under the advance of General Arthur MacArthur's well-equipped divisions, and the generallissimo sought refuge by hiding in the remote town of Palanan, on the northeastern coast of Luzon. His capture in March of 1901 spelt the doom of the revolution.

Sick with malaria and dysentery, Manuel surrendered to the enemy a few months later but was imprisoned on a false charge, and only through the help of a former Dominican teacher was he cleared and released. The suffering he had undergone at the hands of the conqueror did not endear them to him. After being cured of his illness through the kindness of his physician friends, he worked as an overseer of the friar hacienda in Dinalupihan, then as a clerk in the Monte de Piedad while he studied for the bar examinations of 1903. He passed the examinations with a high total average and was duly licensed as a practising lawyer.

One incident of that era in his life should not escape us: when he applied for the bar examinations, he signed his name with an "s" rather than a "z." There is no "z" in the Tagalog or other native alphabets, and as the feeling of nationalism ran strong in him, he preferred to use "s" in signing his family name. Three decades earlier, although he didn't know it, another Filipino nationalist signed his name with an "s" rather than a "z": Father Mariano Gomes de los Angeles, who perished by the garrote with Fathers Burgos and Zamora in 1872. When he did change to "z" later on, it was probably done when he entered public service as a prosecuting attorney or fiscal of Mindoro, when practically everybody insisted on mispelling his name with the Spanish "z."

This was as far as his formal education was concerned. He did not take any graduate courses in the islands or abroad. He read sporadically on subjects that interested him: on political science, biography of great leaders, and a little on economics. But he was such a gifted individual that he learned or absorbed quickly any topic that occupied his interest. When he was chosen chairman of the appropriations committee of the Philippine Assembly in 1907, he approached Macario Adriatico, the acknowledged scholar in the Assembly, for advice as to what books to read and consult.

"You study?" remarked Adriatico in surprise. "Why, you're a scholar by instinct. People like you have no need for books or authors. You could make up a theory on finance in a minute, and then write a whole book about it later."

Quezon had a forceful personality. He was undoubtedly the foremost orator of his generation. He could move crowds to tears or to anger by his skillfull use of words and by playing on their emotions. Many of his contemporaries have related that while hearing Quezon orate, they were convinced of what he was telling them. But later, perhaps next morning, they would begin to have doubts about the argu-

(Continued on page 10)

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ORIGINAL KNIGHTS OF RIZAL members in their first uniform. From left, first row: Arsenio Gomez, Cesar Arcinas, President Quezon, Col Antonio C. Torres, Martin Ocampo, Juan Quimson, and Juan Flameno. Second row: Pablo del Rosario, Jose Limjap, Jose A. del Rosario Patricio Mariano, and Jose E. Canseco. Third row: Alberto Loyola, Benito Arambulo, Vicente Legarda and Andres E. Rivero.

QUEZON

(Continued from page 9)

ments or points he had expounded the day previous.

The president possessed a personal magnetism on individuals and on the masses — but not the charisma that other leaders, such as Adolf Hitler or even Ramon Magsaysay had.

He never won individuals over to his side just by his presence: he had to cajole, and even threaten *them some times, to win their support. These two cases on how he* won over followers have been cited below, because they occurred repeatedly during his lifetime.

When he went to Lipa, Batangas, during the height of the controversy over the Hawes-Hare-Cuttting independence bill some time in 1933, he was met by a silently inimical crowd, for that province was the home of Senator Jose P. Laurel and the residence of Teodoro M. Kalaw Sr., who were staunch supporters of the bill and therefore against him. Just before he got on the platform in the public meeting called by his adherents, he saw a cross-eyed man approaching him.

"Hoy, putang ina mong duling ano ang ginagawa mo dito? (hey, you cross-eyed whoreson, what are you doing here?)," he loudly greeted him in Tagalog, and together they went up the platform.

That friendly gesture thawed out the crowd, for apparently the cross-eyed man was somebody in the community. Good-natured laughter arose, and later cheers and loud applause as Quezon launched into his speech.

"Mr. President," asked one of his friends with the party, after the gathering had broken up, "who was that man you greeted?"

"I'll be damned if I know his name," said Quezon. "This is the first time I've seen him in my life!"

When Vicente Vera, political kingpin of Sorsogon was wavering as to whether he would support Quezon or Senator Sergio Osmeña in the controversy over the Hawes-Hare-Cutting bill, the Senate President convinced him to join the "antis" by pointing out that his leading opponent in the province was an Osmeña man, and unless he Vera) joined them, he would be left "out in the cold." Quezon's argument made such good political sense that Vera jumped into his bandwagon.

Was he a conservative? To the extent of not changing the economic and social patterns that had developed in the four decades of the American regime — yes. The country had prospered under the American system. The people were well fed, clothed, and educated: they were content, although they still cherished the desire to be a free and independent people; but not to the extent of starting an armed rebellion against the colonial power. The country was prosperous: free trade with the United States had benefited the Filipinos. To be sure, it had made the Filipinos want the manufactured goods of America — the automobiles, refrigerators, textiles and other items that made for comfort if not for luxury.

There was a saying that the Philippines was a century behind Spain in progress and methods, and that Spain itself was a century behind the rest of modern Europe What was therefore wrong with letting the Philippines catch up with the rest of the world during the four decades of capitalist rule? With the good, the Filipinos had imbibed the bad: the political chicaneries, the economic inbalance in the population, the transformation of the country into a supplier of raw materials and a consumer of manufactured goods, and the increasing stranglehood on the national economy by a relatively small class of the population. All these defects were to be brought out in sharp relief after World War II, and if Quezon was aware of them after he became President and had plans to remedy these ills, his untimely demise in 1944 prevented his taking any action.

That he had such plans to reshape Philippine conditions has been voiced by Japanese Consul General Uchiyama Kiyoshi who reported to his foreign office in Tokyo that Quezon had "undergone a great change" since his trip (in 1937), "utilizing all opportunities (to attack) capitalist monopolies and emphasizing the necessity to protect the public."

The Sakdalista uprising in Laguna and central Luzon a couple of years after his inauguration as President of the Commonwealth opened his eyes to the need of improving the condition of the peasantry. But in the few years before the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, he failed to make overt acts to do so. Was it because of lack of time, or was he truly a captive of the landlord class as Alex Sycip had claimed?

In 1932, he made a commentary on changing world conditions as follows: "Today, the world is in a state of upheavel, of change, reacting to two significant movements in government." He was referring to the rise of the Mussolini dictatorship in Italy and the transformation of Russia into a communist state which he said resulted in economic upheavals. "In fact, both the Russian revolt of 1917 and Mussolini's march to Rome were in essence economic movements," he said. "They also bring about changes in thought, new tendencies in ideas and ideals. . . . We should adopt and adapt for our purposes whatever is best in these new ideas. . . And as I see all this, my message to the people is — go slow. The world is changing. It is futile to get away from the change and folly to try to escape the trend. Let us watch — let us judge carefully and without passion these new things that whirl about us. Haste and unreasoning passion will sweep us into danger. We must go slow."

* * *

One of the qualities that endeared Manuel Quezon to his people was his refusal to kowtow to representatives of the sovereign power. He never possessed an inferiority complex, and therefore treated the white man as an equal. Even when he was a teen-aged student in his home town of Baler, he got into the bad graces of the new parish priest when he refused to kiss the hand of the friar at the convent. This friar thereupon took a dislike to him, and later filed a false information with the provincial military governor who accused him of being a Katipunero. That is why young Manuel was detained at the schoolhouse for a fortnight, until his father promised that the Quezons would never conspire against Spain.

When Quezon became fiscal of Tayabas, an American lawyer tried to browbeat him into registering 25 parcels of land owned by poor farmers that the newcomer had obtained under false pretenses. When he said that he had not been able to do so because of the lack of time, the American threatened to file administrative charges, and since he was an influential man in Manila, the owner of the *Cablenews* daily newspaper, most provincial officials would have jumped at his bidding. But not Quezon, who investigated the sale, found they had been acquired falsely, and accused the American in court for swindling. Rather than face a conviction and a jail sentence, the American jumped bail and fled from the Philippines.

His controversy with General Leonard Wood made his countrymen wonder if the Americans would concoct some excuse to imprison him. But Wood was an honorable man, and if some Manila American had whispered into his ear a plan to "cut down Quezon to size" he refused to listen. Their differences of opinion were conducted on a high levell, in accordance with democratic processes, and neither in Wood's diary nor in Quezon's memoirs can be found a single denigrating word of each other. Quezon may have spoken of Wood as a dictator, and Wood of Quezon as a fool, but they never insulted each other in harsh terms, publicly or privately. As antagonists, they respected each other. And as gentlemen, they never exceeded the bounds of propriety.

But Quezon never allowed anybody, much less a Spaniard or an American, to impair his dignity as an individual or as a leader of the Filipinos. Shortly after the cabinet crisis of 1923, when led by Quezon and Osmeña the cabinet members tendered their resignation to the Governor General, Quezon left for the United States on an independence mission. The U.S. House of Representatives was then holding hearings on the bill submitted by Congressman Louis M. Fairfield of Indiana, chairman of the House Insular Affairs Committee, granting independence after a twenty-year period of autonomy, similar to the later Commonwealth Government under the Tydings-McDuffie law. Quezon was invited to attend the hearings and, in the company of the then Resident Commissioners Pedro Guevara and Isauro Gabaldon, and Rep. Jose Topacio Nueno of Cavite. he went to Capitol Hill.

A certain Congressman Shaffer, a Republican from Wisconsin, was a member of the committee. Although Wisconsin has been known as one of the bulwarks of liberal thought in the United States, the home of Senator Robert M. LaFollette and Rep. Cooper who recited Rizal's farewell poem on the floor of the House and a staunch supporter of independence for the Philippines, Shaffer was of a different breed. The Wisconsin representative took the floor and bitterly denounced the Filipino stand in fighting against General Wood as an indirect attack against the sovereignty of the United States. In effect, he chastised the Quezon mission for having opposed Wood. Quezon's nostrils began to flare, while his eyebrows twitched — a sure sign that his volcanic temper had been aroused. Nevertheless, he kept a tight rein on his temper, and in measured words said:

"Gentlemen, I did not come here to be abused by some members of this committee, but rather to be heard in the traditional American manner of giving our country the chance to seek redress peacefully and under constitutional guarantees. If the attitude of Rep. Shaffer is to prevail in this committee, this hearing will be useless, and I shall have no recourse but to return to my country immediately and so inform my people. Let me remind you, however, of the American promise of independence to my country, and this unexpected attitude will certainly have untoward repercussions among our people. Gentlemen, you must be ready to face the consequences, whatever they may be."

Then he picked up his briefcase and walked out of the room, followed by Guevara, Gabaldon and Nueno. Rep. Fairfield immediately left the table and hurried after the Filipino officials. He apologized, promised that Shaffer would apologize if only Quezon would stay. The apology was made, and Quezon stayed for the continuation of the hearings. Unfortunately, the Fairfield bill was opposed in Manila by other Filipino leaders, and thus never passed Congress.

On another occasion, some years later, when Quezon wanted to confer with President Calvin Coolidge on the successor of General Wood as governor general, he failed to secure an appointment from the White House to see the U.S. chief executive. So he moved to Philadelphia to hide his impatience. Some days later he received a long distance telephone call from a friend relaying the information that Secretary of War Weeks wanted to know how long Quezon wanted to interview the President. r

"Tell Secretary Weeks for me," he said, "that if the President of the United States is not interested in Philippine affairs, all that I shall say to him is — "I bring you the greetings of the Filipino people, Mr. President. Good-day." But if the President is interested, then it is up to him to determine the length of our conversation."

Coolidge granted Quezon half an hour for the conference.

Some years later, he had a similar incident with Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, the Democratic floorleader of the Senate. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, chairman of the committee through which any legislation on the Philippines had to go through, called for a conference between Quezon and Senate leaders on the former's objections to the Hawes-Hare-Cutting law. Quezon verbally described the plight of a Filipino President who, to visit certain parts of the islands where U.S. bases would be located, would be surrounded by American flags. That would be ignominy that a Filipino chief executive would not bear, he said.

This reply angered the blunt Senator from Arkansas. "Why don't you come clean and be frank?" he said. "We believe you don't want independence. In that case, why don't you say so?"

Quezon's eyebrows twitched and his nostrils flared in suppressed anger. He kept quiet, so Robinson leaned forward and pointing a finger at him said: "Go ahead . . . and do what you want with the bill in the Philippines. We will do our duty here as we see it."

"Go to hell!" Quezon exploded, no longer able to contain his anger. Then he left the room for his hotel where he packed his suitcases and left Washington, D.C. He returned later for a talk with President Franklin D. Roosevelt who, however, refused to commit himself because he was too astute a politician to favor one side or the

(Continued on page 12)



PRESIDENTIAL AIDES try hard to keep up with President Quezon as he strides briskly up the pier of Malacañang Park.

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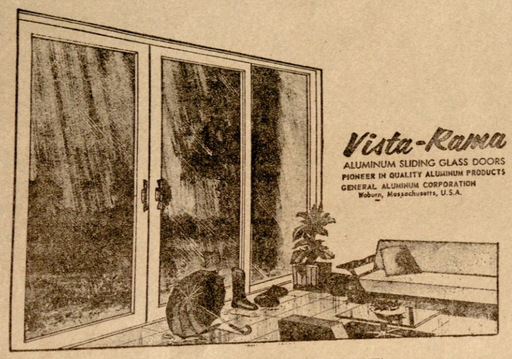

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QUEZON

(Continued from page 11)

other in the struggle for power in the islands. Instead, he indirectly hinted that the Filipinos would first have to act on the acceptance or rejection of the Hawes-Hare-Cutting law before he would take any action. So Quezon, Osmeña and their entourage of some 50-odd members boarded the S.S. Ile de France for Europe on their way home, girding themselves for the titanic political struggle that would ensue once they reached Manila.

All these incidents appeared in local newspapers and magazines. Filipinos in every walk of life admired Quezon for having stood up before the representatives of the sovereign power. For centuries in the past Asians were regarded as inferiors by the colonizing power. But here was Manuel Quezon who resolutely refused to be treated as such. And the peoples all over the Orient applauded him for having maintained their racial dignity. He was, they felt, a true and worthy leader of the Filipinos.

The celebrated Cuevo-Barredo case which took place in 1937 gave Quezon the occasion to expound further his views favoring the poor and the needy. A laborer had drowned in the Pasig river in a futile attempt to save some logs belonging to his employer. The mother sued for a just compensation from the employer. The court of first instance decided against her on the grounds that her son's death was the result of carelessness on his part. The Court of Appeals, with one dissenting vote, confirmed the decision. The case was duly elevated to the Supreme Court, and was pending there when Quezon was asked by newspapermen what he thought of the case.

Forgetting that the case was sub judice — that is, pending final decision by the upper tribunal and therefore not subject to public comment — Quezon exploded with the words: "This is the most atrocious decision I have seen. The government will not tolerate a judiciary which does not know how to interpret faithfully human rights. A twentieth-century judge who thinks in terms of the sixteenth century has no place in the judiciary. If judges of the Philippines decide cases in this manner, the day is not far distant when we will have here a revolution!"

These remarks drew a host of criticism from members of the bar and Congress. Judge Guillermo Guevara, former city fiscal, told members of the Lawyers' League that "if by social justice President Quezon means that in all judicial proceedings the poor and the laborer should always be given justice while the rich or the employer is deprived of it, then we are against his social justice program." Their criticism, of course, was based on a misinterpretation of his policy on social justice. Most of the critics belonging to the bar resented his having spoken out of turn, as they firmly believed in the impartial role of the judiciary. Some months later the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the lower courts, sustaining Quezon's views.

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Quezon and Amoranto

By CELSO AL. CARUNUNGAN

IN 1908, Manuel L. Quezon was a fiery, thirty-year-old majority floor leader and chairman of the appropriations committee of the first National Assembly. Sergio Osmeña, also thirty-years old, was the speaker. In the beginning, both did not know what they were supposed to do. Osmeña hardly knew anything about parliamentary procedure, while Quezon had to ask Macario Adriatico, the scholar of the Assembly, for pointers on what he should do as chairman of the Assembly's most important committee.

But both Quezon and Osmeña were imbued with an over-riding love of country, and both were obsessed with the idea of obtaining independence for the Filipinos. As they worked assiduously for this, fighting any American move to delay the grant of independence, on June 4, 1908, a boy was born in the small but prosperous town of Biñan, Laguna, about thirty-five kilometers from Manila. The boy's mother was a market vendor, while the father was a farmer whose name was Lucio, like that of Quezon's father. The boy, raised as a farmer and helper of his father at the public market, probably never even heard of Quezon or Osmeña then. And even as he grew up, became educated, worked for the government, and then become imbued with public service the boy never realized that his life would be intertwined with the dream of Quezon, and that his own work will play a very vital role in bringing this dream into reality.

The boy, a humble **provinciano** like Quezon, was Norberto Salandanan Amoranto who, in the years that followed, took the torch from Quezon's hand and planted it firmly in the heart of a city that Quezon dreamed about, and made it blaze with great power, as he held the reins of this city for eighteen tumultuous years.

The two never met — Quezon and Amoranto. If ever, it would have been an inconsequential meeting. Amoranto was a young man when Quezon was president of the Commonwealth. In fact, at the time when Quezon had thought of building his dream city, Amoranto had just gotten married to pretty, petite Asiscla Lim, whom he had met at the Laguna provincial high school.

But Quezon inspired Amoranto. His love for the poor, his championing social justice, his abhorrence of corruption and graft, his determination to give his people the best that his ability and wisdom could give, and his devout faith in the Almighty from whom all blessings flow — all these made a deep imprint in the young Amoranto. And this burgeoned further, as he entered public service, as an employe of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.



MAYOR NORBERTO AMORANTO helps clean Quezon's Dream City during Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Isabela-sponsored "Community Clean-Up Drive."

While Quezon found immense pleasure and a deep-seated satisfaction in being with his family, Amoranto's love for his family is legendary. It is this love that made him a parental symbol to many orphans, the dispossessed and the helpless poor.

His office in the City Hall is a veritable marketplace of both

Both Amoranto and Quezon are wonderfully **provinciano** in their manner of dealing with the people. Amoranto, for instance, never refuses the offer of rural folks to eat with them in their homes. He studies the problems of the poor on the spot. Isabelo Crisostomo, a noted writer, says: "Perhaps no other politician in any city has visited as many homes as he has done. Perhaps it is safe to assume that there is hardly any home in Quezon City which he

(Continued on page 14)

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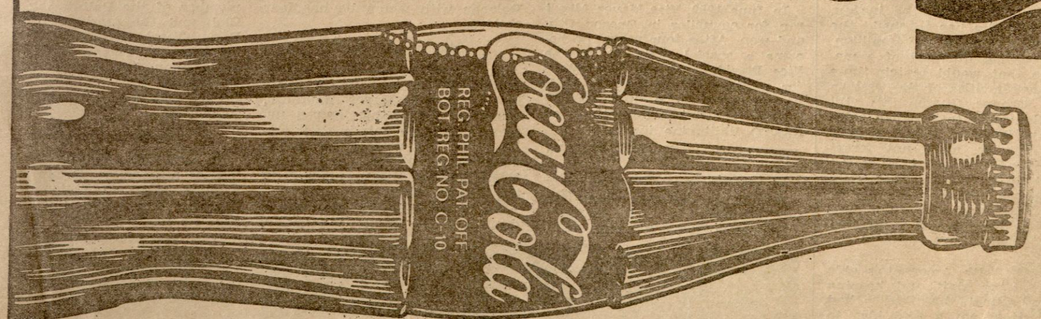

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Quezon and Amoranto

(Continued from page 13)

a long procession of indigents ideas and poor people. Everyday, and those who have been unjustly treated by public officials can be seen in and out of his office. He has been criticized severely for this. His critics have accused him of coddling the squatters and encouraging them to stay where they are. They claim that he was doing this to further his political powers, and ensure a battery of voters.

But this s not true. As far as we know, most of the squatters in Quezon City do not vote here. Many of them are not even registered. Amoranto has consistently refused to play politics with the wellbeing of these poor people. All that we can say is that his heart is too big, too sympathetic, too soft, to see these people go homeless and astray.

"As soon as I know that these squatters will have a place where we can relocate them," Amoranto says, when confronted by those who ask him about the ever-increasing horde of squatters, "I will eject them at once."

It is this attitude for the poor that made him a unique figure in Quezon City politics. In fact, during the last elections, one of his opponents — and a bitter one at that — had used against him the most unusual issue of all: that he is too good a man to remain as Mayor of Quezon City.

Nevertheless, what Amoranto has done for Quezon City eclipses all that the others before him *had done. The great Emperor Augustus* is said to have remarked that he "found Rome of brick and left her of marble." In the same vein, this could, also, be said of Amoranto. Like Augustus' contribution to the improvement of taxation in Rome, Amoranto, for the first time in the history of Quezon City, codified all city ordinances on taxes and revenues. There was, during all his years as Mayor, continuous improvement of public service. Construction of streets, bridges and parks goes on unabated. Garbage problem, through his very efficient garbage czar Architect Luciano Aquino, has been solved once and for all. And, of all cities in the Philippines, Quezon City is the only one that never had a school crisis.

When Amoranto assumed the Mayor's post in 1954, there was hardly any money in the government coffers, and the income was a mere P4 million annually. In fiscal year 1971-1972, the income of Quezon City has reached the astounding sum of P48.4 million.

Quezon had dreamed of a metropolis that would match those of the great cities of the western world. Perhaps, Quezon City still has a long way to go when compared to Paris, or Rome, or New York. But we must not forget that while Rome goes back to the ancient times, Quezon City is only a little over thirty years old — almost the same age that Quezon had when he was a member of that august first National Assembly.

However, with Amoranto's able hand holding aloft and keeping bright the torch that Quezon had passed, it is not a wild idea to imagine that in no time at all, Quezon City will take its rightful place among the great capitals of the world. **END**

Mayor Amoranto's Helpful Partners

By CLARO ARRAZOLA

VICE MAYOR Carlos L. Albert has been prophesied by many political pronosticators of Quezon City as, possibly, the strongest contender for the mayorship after Amoranto retires. His plans are definite and his ideas for President Quezon's dream city — if and when his time comes — are firmly implanted in his mind and heart.

Meanwhile, he cooperates sincerely and strongly with Mayor Amoranto. Although belonging to two different political parties, the two have been pleasantly working together to make Quezon City the best city in the Philippines.

Albert, for instance, is ably helping Mayor Amoranto in the rehabilitation projects of Quezon City. He personally takes active participation in the planning of street cementing, in the restructuring of assessments, in the promotion of peace and order, through improved police service, and in many other aspects of public service in the capital city.

He has plans for solving the squatter-problem which he currently is discussing with Mayor Amoranto. He has his eye on the further increasing of the city's income, in spite of the fact that Mayor Amoranto's record in this is astonishingly marvelous. More than that, he has consulted Mayor Amoranto on his proposals to clean-up and improve further the public service in the capital.

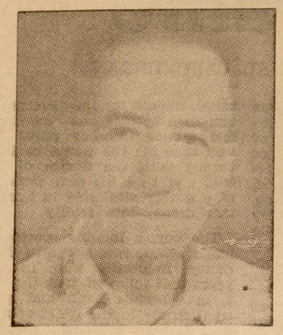
A war hero of World War II and a dedicated public servant Vice Mayor Albert was born in Lucena City on Dec. 11, 1915 to Justice Mariano Albert and Natividad Lukban.

He was educated at De La Salle College, University of the Philippines and the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland.

At the outbreak of the Pacific War on Dec. 7, 1941, he commanded a torpedo boat. He was also detachment commander instructor and training officer of the Off-Shore Patrol Base. He was a special representative in the administration of President Ramon Magsaysay in 1957 and also, the assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 for intelligence, AFP.

He was a member of our diplomatic mission in Spain in 1948 and a Philippine delegate to the first SEATO Council of Ministers meeting in Bangkok and at the second SEATO Council meeting in Karachi, Pakistan.

In June 1959, Vice Mayor Albert ran for councilor in Quezon City and won. After four years, he became a special assistant to the Vice President of the Philippines for military affairs and in 1965, he attended the 10th SEATO Council of Ministers meeting as SEATO Philippine journalist.



VICE MAYOR ALBERT

nated 22 times for the FAMAS award; TV host for the **Rhoda and Me** show, and stars in the **Wala Kang Paki** TV series.

He was born in Iriga, Camarines Sur on Oct. 14, 1935. He finished his elementary and high school education at Ateneo de Naga and acquired his bachelor's degree in Mass Communications at the San Francisco State College, San Francisco, California, after which he worked for his master's degree in Creative Arts in the same college.

His greatest contribution to the motion picture industry was his obtaining recognition by the Philippine Board of Investment of the Philippine film industry as an exporter.

His marriage to the former Jean Feintegrado Rogers of Cavite City is blessed with two children.

Precioso R. Perlas

A young lawyer, Councilor Perlas has been active in civic and business pursuits. He's president of the Aquila Leges Fraternity (Ateneo Law Fraternity), 1959-1960; member of the Capitol Jaycees.

Aside from this, he is also the president of Perlas & Co., Inc., director of the T & C Development Corp. Pleasant Journeys Inc., Aluplast Inc. and corporate secretary of Pan-Asiatic Travel Corp., Luis & Sons, Inc. and Buena Tierra Development Corp.

Born on March 25, 1939, Councilor Perlas is married to the former Marylou Javier of Plaridel, Bulacan with whom he has four children.

Stephen N. Sarino

An old hand in city administration and a well-known figure in the office of Mayor Amoranto, Councilor Sarino has helped numerous city residents in their problems, in his capacity as special performance officer and executive-legislative liaison officer in the mayor's office.

An active Lion, he has been a director of the Capitol Lions Club. In 1969, he was one of the delegates to the Southeast Asian Lions Convention held in Taipei, Taiwan, and was also a delegate to the Lions Convention held in Baguio City in 1971.

Born in Bacoor, Cavite on Dec. 26, 1935, Councilor Sarino has been connected with Philippine Bank of Commerce, Philippine Commercial & Industrial Bank. He is married to the former Wilma L. Amoranto and is blessed with four children.

Danilo B. Roces

The youngest member of the Quezon City Council, Councilor Roces was born in Sta. Cruz, Manila on July 20, 1945. He studied at Ateneo de Manila, Baguio Military Institute and at Lycee Jaccard in Lausanne, Switzerland where he obtained his bachelor of arts degree. He also received the degree of bachelor in business administration from University of the East.

He is presently the president of the Protect-U Security Agency and assistant manager of Roces & Associates Law and Accounting Firm.

He is married to the former Cynthia Gallardo with whom he has three children.

Andres V. Genito Jr.

Born in Ilog, Negros Occidental on Dec. 24, 1933, Councilor Genito has achieved success in business and civic leadership.

A member of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, he is president of the Angenit Investment Corp. and the Andres Genito & Sons, Inc. He was formerly connected with the Industrial Plant Management in Japan. President Marcos appointed him director of the Manila Hotel Corporation in 1965.

He is a holder of a bachelor of arts degree from the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration and finished his third year law at the Philippine Law School.

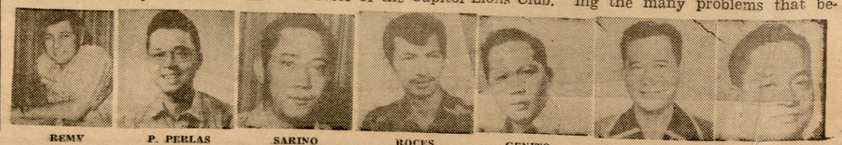
Melencio M. Castelo

A recognized authority in law, Councilor Castelo who comes from Mahusay St., Quezon City, has acquired a vast experience from his civic and educational activities.

He is an executive assistant on special projects of the Quezon City Bar Association, charter member of the Balintawak Lions Club and the president of the Parent-Teachers Association of the Flora A. Ylagan High School on Pinahan, Quezon City and also the director of the Capitol City Confederation of Parent-Teachers Association.

Eulalio L. de la Cruz

As assistant chief of the Complaints and Action Group in the Mayor's office, Councilor de la Cruz has been responsible in solving the many problems that be-



REMY P. PERLAS SARINO ROCES GENITO CASTELO DE LA CRUZ

THE OTHER HELPFUL PARTNERS

Ronald S. Kokooritchkin (Ronald Remy)

Councilor Remy has been nomi-



GONZALES PACULDO ALINEA PAREDES MONTENEGRO FRANCISCO J. PERLAS DAVID PEREZ

set the citizens of Quezon City.

He hails from San Bartolome, Novaliches. During the war, he was a lieutenant in the Elga Guerrilla Unit (Mountain Corps under Gen. Ramsey). After serving the Quezon City government for 17 years as an employee from 1954 to 1971, he resigned and ran for councilor.

He is married to the former Rufina Francisco with whom he has two children.

Emeterio M. Gonzales

Born in Quezon City on Feb. 22, 1926, Councilor Gonzales studied at Bario Culiat Elementary School and had his high school education in Tarlac.

A former policeman, he was recognized as the "Policeman of the Year" in 1956 and has attended the Junior Executive Course, Institute of Public Administration, UP, and the Labor Management Relations Course at the Asian Labor Education Center.

Rising from the ranks, he became chief detective and later was appointed assistant chief of police for operations. He was a 2nd lieutenant as a guerrilla fighter during the war under the Re-Zar Regiment, Manila Division.

Jose J. Paculdo

A product of La Paz, Abra public elementary schools and the La Paz Catholic school, Councilor Paculdo was born in Dolores, Abra on March 17, 1935. He received his Associate in Arts degree at [illegible] College of Commerce, BA at UP and LL.B. degree at the Manila Law College.

A consistent honor student from grade school to high school, he was a self-supporting student while in college. He worked as market vendor, office manager and bookkeeper. In the school year 1970-1971, he was president of the Supreme Student Council of the Manila Law College.

He is the general manager of the Nepa-Q-Mart and the Crespo Market in Project 6, an official of Golden Shower Ventures Inc. and auditor of Integrity Detective and Protective Agency, Quezon City.

Councilor Paculdo is married to the former Corazon Ramos with whom he has two children.

Estanislao G. Alinea Jr.

A dynamic leader in the world of business, social development and civic organizations, Councilor Alinea has been an official of the Capitol Jaycees in various capacities since 1966. He was made national chairman of the Commission on Elections of the Philippine Jaycees in 1970 and national chairman of the government affairs commission of the Philippine Jaycees in 1971 and a delegate in the Multi-Nation Conference of JCI in 1968-1969.

Councilor Alinea was born in San Pablo City on Feb. 23, 1933. He received his degrees of bachelor of laws and bachelor of science from Ateneo de Manila. He was among those who fought assiduously for the passage of the Election Code of 1971.

He is a first lieutenant in the PAF reserves, secretary treasurer of the United Engineers Corp. and secretary of Cancio-Camus Engineering Corp.

As a business leader, he is chairman of the board and president of Able Finance Corp. Board chairman of Transrite Phil. Inc. and Transrite Trading Corp. and a member of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Councilor Alinea who is a Cursillista, a rollista and vice rector of the Cursillo, Diocese of San Pablo, is married to the former Mila Reyes.

Eduardo T. Paredes

An outstanding councilor in the City Council since 1963, Councilor Paredes has been chairman of the committee on finance and appropriations and the committee on ways and means, vice chairman of all standing committees of the Quezon City Council.

Among his various civic activities are: Vice President of the Lions International, Barangay Lions Club, delegate to the 52nd and 53rd Lions International Conventions in Tokyo, Japan and in Atlantic City, respectively. He was also one of the delegates to the US Mayor's Conference in Honolulu and assisted vigorously in the organization of the sisterhood of Asian and western cities of Quezon City, Maui County, Hawaii, Salt Lake City, USA, Taipei, Nationalist China and Chiba, Japan.

A former newspaperman, Councilor Paredes is a member of the National Press Club. He is married to the former Leonor Noñola of Lucban, Quezon.

Mario Montenegro

A full-fledged movie star in 1950, Councilor Montenegro was born in Pagsanjan, Laguna on July 25, 1928. As a war hero, he has received numerous awards among them: Philippine Defense Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Philippine Independence Ribbon, American Defense Medal — to mention only a few.

He joined the Fil-American guerrillas in 1942 and the Hunter's ROTC guerrillas in 1943, the PA in 1945. He is a commander of Hunter's ROTC, member of the Philippine Veterans Administration, and member of the Pasumil Sugar Planters Association.

He is married to the former Leticia J. Arrastia and is blessed with three children.

Alfredo A. Francisco
(Fred Montilla)

A by-word in show business, Councilor Montilla has received the FAMAS award for "Best Actor" in 1954 and is presently an emcee of "Jack Pot Contest" show time on TV.

He was already a councilor in 1968 when he spearheaded numerous projects that brought untold benefits to Quezon City residents. He is vice chairman of three committees in the council and member of six.

He studied at the Sta. Cruz Elementary School, Mabini Intermediate School and the UP where he received his Bachelor of Philosophy and Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Councilor Montilla is married to the former Socorro Zaballero of Lucena City with whom he has five children.

Jesus P. Perlas Jr.

Born in Manila on Oct. 8, 1934, Councilor Perlas is the son of former NWSA general manager, Jesus C. Perlas of Iloilo and Anunciacion Pineda.

He received his elementary and high school education at San Beda College. He obtained his bachelor of science in civil engineering degree from UP and was the 6th highest in the board examination for civil engineers in 1955. The following year he received his Master in Industrial Management degree and in 1961 he took the NEC-ICA course in Effective Business Communication.

For many years, he has been with the Jaycees operations: Vice President for operations, Jaycee International, national president of Philippine Jaycees and president of Capitol Jaycees. For his participation, he reiceved the outstanding performance award from the Philippine Jaycees (1966), "Most Outstanding Jaycee of Luzon" (1965), "Award for Outstanding Achievement" Capitol Jaycees (1964), and was chosen as the "Most Oustanding Capitol Jaycee" in 1962.

Married to the former Sonya M. Acevedo of Aklan, Councilor Perlas is blessed with three children.

Honorio M. David

A member of the Philippine Bar, Councilor David is a member of the advisory council of the Community Chest and Councils of the Philippines, Inc. and chairman of the Quezon City Health and Disaster Council, Quino Park and Playground — to mention a few.

He graduated from Manuel L. Quezon University with the degree of bachelor of laws. He is also a member of the Quezon City Bar Association, Executive Development Academy and Cubao Walking Corporation.

Councilor David is married to the former Lily Sison of Pangasinan with whom he has two children.

Jose Vera Perez

Born on March 26, 1944, Councilor Vera Perez is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Jose R. Perez of Sampaguita and Vera Perez Production and the grandson of the late Senator Jose O. Vera and Dolores H. Vera.

He studied at the Letran College, Ateneo de Manila, UST where he received his AB degree in Political Science and the UST Law School and has attended seminars on incentives for commerce and industry of the Board of Investments, on the Role of Advertising on Commerce and Industry, and a UP seminar on taxation laws.

He is presently the president of the JRP Advertising & Sign Agency, treasurer of Filiem Import Company, director of J.O.V. Fund and Trust Co. and Philippine Motion Picture Producers' Association; president and general manager of United Brothers Productions; and vice president of both Vera Perez Enterprises and Sampaguita Pictures.

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