



The '50s QCHS Alumni Association USA NEWSLETTER

Winter Newsletter Dec. 2001 -Feb.2002

Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat! Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!



One of the most distinctive features of a Filipino Christmas is the parol, a fanciful lantern that hangs in the windows of almost every home, from the most humble nipa hut to the palatial residence in exclusive city suburbs. In some, it also decorates the frontages of many commercial buildings. To some, it represents the bright star that led the Magi to Bethlehem; to others, it was there to act as a guide for Joseph and Mary in their search for shelter on the first Christmas Eve.

Traditionally, it is in the shape of a star within a circle, but Filipino ingenuity has produced a galaxy of other imaginative designs that when illuminated at night turn cities and towns into a softly glowing wonderland.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I wish to greet you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a prosperous HAPPY NEW YEAR. Christmas is a season of giving. A time for us to give, and a time to give the very best to our loved ones.

On this occasion, let us not forget the loved ones we left back home. One in particular is our Alma Mater. Surely we remember her. She had been good to us and was always there for us when we needed her. Old age had caught up with her fragile structure. She is now old and gray, but still too proud to ask for handouts. Her caretaker, Mrs. Josefina Perlado, once said that she is in dire need of help and loving care. Her one wish for Christmas is to have a piano to replace the one, which is as old as she is. In the spirit of Christmas and in the joy of giving, please join me in making Alma's wish a reality.

Sgd. Nomy Ramirez, President,
QCHS '1950s Alumni Assoc USA,
2000-2002



A **Piano Fund for QCHS** has been set up to raise money solely for this purpose. Donations will be accepted until the cost of the piano is raised. Although some of us are willing and able to make a lump sum donation for the entire cost, we would prefer that all members participate in this project. Donations are voluntary and any amount you can give will be appreciated. Please send your generous donation to **Dr. Edna Domantay, 7500 Vantage Ave. North Hollywood, CA 91605.**

Note: Although we had received numerous pledges to this fund, only Dr. Angel Dizon has actually contributed, with his \$100 donation.

REUNION CRUISE 2002 slated for May 4-11, 2002

The reunion-cruise is now all set for May 4 – 11, 2002. The alumni and their family and friends who have signed up for the cruise will be visiting the exciting Eastern Caribbean aboard the Celebrity Century sailing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Ports of call include the beautiful islands of San Juan in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, and Nassau in the Bahamas.



The reunion will consist of two parts. Alumni who will not be able to join the cruise will have the opportunity to see and meet former classmates during the "Pagtitipon sa Fort Lauderdale" which will be held on May 3, 2002, one day before the meeting will be an important item on the agenda will be a decision we next reunion everyone to '50s style will be part of this gathering. This event will be held at the Villas by the Sea Resort compound. The second part will be the cruise to be highlighted by "Filipiniana" night and the selection of the Reunion Queen. Remember the "harana"? Don't miss out on this and recapture the wonderful days of our youth.



It is not too late to sign up for the cruise. Please contact Steven Sher of the Galaxsea Cruises at 1-800-331-7245, or e-mail to Travelslow@aol.com. Mention that you are with the QCHS '50s Alumni Association. The low price of \$816. + per person still holds for an inside cabin, Category 11. Upgrades to ocean-view and staterooms are available.

If you plan to be at the "Pagtitipon" please reserve your room by January 6, 2002 at the Villas by the Sea

FIRST CHRISTMAS ACCOUNTS

Terry Sarceda Arcabos, Class '56

First Christmas - Parang kailan lang. Masayang, malungkot. Masaya dahil ang aking familia ay magkakasama na naman, since my husband came to the US one year ahead of us. Malungkot dahil malayo sa ating bayan at ang ibang kamag-anak. It was so cold. We tried to duplicate the things we used to do in the Philippines. Went to mass with new outfits although it did not matter as we had to cover up with coats anyway.

We showered the three kids aged 5, 4 and 2 with toys that we could not afford in the Philippines. We ate Filipino delicacies, sang christmas songs around our christmas tree and called relatives from the Philippines. We were lucky that the apartment we were on had all Filipino residents. There were three families and we celebrated part of Christmas with them. And that's our 1st Christmas in Chicago.

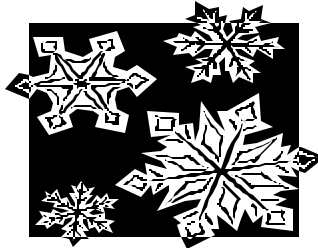
MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

By D. Reyno Jaurigue, '56

Christmas, 1967 would have been just another holiday with the family, and indeed it was, but I spent it with my husband and baby daughter, just the three of us in a little, old house in Independence, Iowa. We had arrived there that summer and this was our first Christmas away from home. It's true that everything was so different and we seemed isolated as we had no relatives around. However, I did not feel particularly lonesome for the type of Christmas we were accustomed to. In fact, I found my first experience with winter quite enchanting, as I beheld the postcard pretty Currier & Ives winter wonderland around me. I was just in awe as I gazed at the softly falling snow, just calmness enveloped me. Christmas, truly, is in the heart. The

words of the song," Silent Night, Holy Night" came to mind. It was so beautiful and so peaceful that the scenery seemed to mesmerize me.

After a simple meal, Oscar and I took turns taking pictures of our baby, with either one of us, to send to loved ones back home. Perhaps they missed us, indeed we missed them. But we thank God for a joyous and simple Christmas we had together as a young family in our new home: America. –



My First Christmas away from PI Eddie AAA Calderon, Class'56

My first foreign Christmas experience was in 1964 when I came to the USA. It was not my first Christmas without my parents. I remember spending many Christmases with my sister at my maternal grandmother's hometown in Taal, Batangas. But it is the USA Christmas experience that made the big difference. I was just 22 years old, when I had my first over-sea Christmas. I was with four other Filipino Graduate students in Diplomacy spending a Christmas party on December 22, 1964, which was held at the residence of my professor and faculty adviser in Eagle Rock, California. All of us were UP graduates. I remember Perla Sulit from Batangas who cried because it was her first Christmas away from home. I also had a feeling of sadness for missing my parents and my country.

We did have a good time because we ate, sang, and danced. A classmate by the name of Ferdinand Littaua from Cagayan was our star as he was the Tango dancer. I was the singer and the guitarist and the rest of our

Resort, Tel. 800-247-8963 where a block of rooms had been reserved for our group and where the pre-cruise activities will be held. Rates are from \$69 to 79.00 depending on location and facilities.

For further details, please contact Leandro Tanega @ (732) 957-9762 or e-mail Ltanega@aol.com or Nomy Ramirez, (1954) 438-4260 or e-mail NPRamirez@aol.com.

female classmates danced magnificently during the party.

I spent my Christmas day partly with the landlady of the house I was renting. An American family invited me to their residence in Pasadena, California to spend the rest of my Christmas day. I still missed my parents despite having such a wonderful Christmas away from home.

By Zona Gray-Tugonon, '55

My first Christmas in the US was spent in my Uncle's apartment in 1971. My then 71-year old Uncle had been here since he was 17 years old (old timer) so he had been used to the American way of celebrating Christmas, and he wanted to show it to us.

When we arrived in his apartment for the Christmas dinner, everything had been prepared. He set up the table like he was serving a formal dinner, complete with all the table accessories. Christmas music was being played on his stereo. He prepared roast turkey, baked ham and all the trimmings, like mashed potato, yam, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, apple pie, etc. I had mentioned to him before that I did not like turkey because I just was not used to eating turkey, so he baked a Cornish hen for me. I felt so special because he went out of his way to cook something else for me. It was a very good dinner not only for the food but because my parents were also present, so with all the members of my family.

After dinner, we received presents from my uncle, nicely wrapped like we have never seen before. We were all so happy, specially my children who were only 3 1/2 and 2 years old at that time.

My First Christmas Down Under By Mely Bonco

In Australia, autumn is from March to May, winter is from June to August,

banned here with a fine to those who go against the regulation. Right after the midnight mass, we went home to eat our traditional "spring is from September to November, and summer is from December to February. I arrived in Sydney in the month of May, 1986.

In October all the shopping malls/centers started putting up beautiful Christmas decorations- a familiar sight back home. When December came, the weather became so unbearably hot-unlike weather Pinoy when it starts getting a little bit cooler, even colder by February.

On Christmas Eve, I didn't hear church bells ring, the sound of a single firecracker or see a bonfire at the middle of the street. These were totally Noche Buena", the usual ham, "queso de bola", spaghetti, hot "pan de sal", hot chocolate (a concoction of native chocolate with peanuts from Batangas). After thanksgiving prayers, hugs and kisses to everyone in the family, we went to bed.

The next day, we visited the Contemplacions and a few circle of close relatives and friends who kept in touch with us through the years. We looked to this get-together with everyone bringing his own Filipino recipe (commonly called "potluck" or BYO-Bring Your Own plate to share). We wrapped Christmas presents (not more than \$5) for the exchange gifts- "palabunutan" style; and enjoyed singing our own Christmas carols with the accompaniment of a guitar, piano or the "karaoke-minus one".

"Tunay na Kakaiba sa Ating Katutubong Kaugalian tuwing Pasko sa Pilipinas" Mely Bongco,



NOTE:I attached my latest picture taken (with Roxanne Estanislao) during our SBS Radio Station gathering at the Phil. Village Restaurant last Sept. 28, 2001.

The Christmas Story

In the mid-fifties, Rosemary Clooney sang this Christ-mas



song, which was pop-ular during that time:

When I was but a youngster
 Christmas meant one thing-
 That I'll be getting lots of toys that day. I learned the whole word's different, when Mother sat me down and told me Christmas was spelled this way this way----

- C** is for the Christ Child, born upon this day
- H** for herald angels singing high
- R** means our Redeemer
- I** means Israel
- S** is for the star that shone so bright
- T** is for Three Wise Men, they who traveled far
- M** is for the manger where He lay
- A** is for all He stands for
- S** means shepherd's cane

And that's why there's a Christmas Day.

LOOKING FOR YOUR BUDDY!



Is there a particular friend you have been wondering about all these years, where he or she is? Send us your name, address, phone number and e-mail address if any, and give us the name of the friend (including maiden name for the women). Hopefully, this friend will see your name and address in the newsletter or someone in our association may have information and will contact you.

Sally Peralta Antoni, Class '56, is looking for her best buddy, Emma Magno, also Class '56. If you know where she is, please contact us and we'll put her in touch with Sally.

Newsbits from the Grapevine

..Julie and Leandro Tanega, Class '54 announce the forthcoming wedding of their youngest son Ruel

to Abigail Gregorio, daughter of Cresing Venturanza, class '56 and Orlando Gregorio of Quezon City. The wedding will take place at the San Augustin Church in Manila on Feb. 16, 2002. Ruel teaches Investigation in NY City and is also a private investigator. Abigail teaches computers to teachers in the Philippines.

... The **committee members and officers of the association for business communications as early as 1999 originally initiated the E-mail Exchange**. This has now expanded to include a large number of QCHS alumni. The new excitement in the e-mail exchange was generated by Eddie AAA Calderon with his *pangingiliti*, **Tony Encarnacion** with his poetry, **Zona Lisa Gray Tugonon** and **Debbie Reyno Jaurigue** with their prompt responses, **Nomy Ramirez** with his jokes, **Forting Sunio** with his straight forward views on different issues, etc.

Topics range from language lessons, health, politics, computer tutorials, Kamuning memoirs, QCHS flash-backs, jokes, music, just general information, you name it and somebody is willing to add an opinion or two. Thanks to **Romy Abacan**, Class '63, brother to **Ted' 54**, for including the e-mail exchange in his web site at <http://qchs.tripod.com>. You will also see a gallery of photos and samples from our email exchange. Now we have 2 web sites including that of **Tony Encarnacion** at <http://go.to/QCHS> Kamuning

..**Johnny Madlangbayan**, '54 attend-ed a dinner-dance reunion of QCHS Class 1965 sometime in July, chaired by **Perla Rebueno Flores**. This was held in Rockville, Maryland at the Double Tree Plaza Hotel. There were three other guests at that event, one of them was **Dana Domingo**, a sister to **Belen Didulo**.

...Talk about coincidence, **Josie Regio Patria** met **Belen Didulo** in Europe this fall. The two didn't recognize each other until Belen started talking to supposedly a stranger.

..Gloria Canonizado, formerly a Barangay Dance Troupe lead dancer has now formed the Maharlika Dance Troupe in her state.

..Danny and Lulu Contemplacion from Australia and Minda Ramos, Illinois, are actively involved in Couples for Christ.

..Linda Ramos, '59, opted for early retirement after working for many years as a chemist with Pfizer Inc of the Viagra fame.

..Dora Arcilla Golez, '58 is an architect for an international firm.

MUTYA NG KYRGYZSTAN

Ang kasaysayan ng isang Pusong Nagmamahal)

By Eddie AAA Calderon

Sa internet kita nakilala
Sa internet din kita sininta
Ang internet and nagsabing
dumalaw
Sa iyo giliw, buhay ko'y ikaw

Nagtungo sa bayan mong malayo
Tatlong araw din and nilakbay ko
Sa wakas nagkaniig na tayo
Petisyon na ang lakad ko sa'yo

Ang pagibig ko's tulad ng batis
Sa linaw ay wala nang kawangis
Paghintay ay nakakahinagpis
SA 'yo hirang, handa 'kong magtiis

Ng umoo na ang imigrasyon
Sa 'king hinihintay na petisyon
Matutuloy na rin ang ambisyon
Na makapiling ka'y aking misyon

Nguni't ang puso ko'y nadismaya
ng pasabugin ng terorista
Ang World Trade Center
at ang bahagi ng Pentagon

Sa madali't sabi libo-libong patay at sugatan

Naghari ang gawang kabuktutan
Trabaho't negosyo'y napinsala
Kay saklt ng buhay aking sinta

Ngayo'y mayroon bagong problema
At ito'y magsilbing dilema
Ano pa't nakikipagdigma-an
Ang Amerika sa Afghanistan

Ang digma-an ay magiging hadlang
Sa madaling pagtatagpo
Mithi-in sa re-union dumalo
Baka hindi maganap aking hirang

Balakid pa rin ang naghihintay
Sa 'yo liyag tila't walang humpay
Sa Moscow ang interview at ang visa
Doon mo raw sila makukuha

Kay layo naman ng 'yong interview
Giliw ko kahirapan 'to sa 'yo
Manggagaling ka pa sa Kyrgyzstan
Kahit may digma sa Afghanistan

Tulong hiningi kay Senador Dayton

Ganoon din kay Senador Wellstone
Mailipat sana ang interview
Sa Bishkek na lang, ito'y lunsod mo

Dinalhan ko ng sulat si George Bush
Ng matulungan ako ng lubos
Gano-on na rin kay Richard Cheney
At baka mayroon mai-ani

Maraming salamat, Doktor Forting,
Sa inyong lahat, at pareng Tonying
Ang tula ninyo'y nagbibigay buhay
Sa pusong tigib na naghihintay

Hihintayin ko ikaw Naziyat
Pagkagaling mo sa ibang dagat
Pagsuyo ko'y lubhang mataimtim
Sa 'yo aking minumutyang Muslim

**Naziyat, linda, eres mi vida
De corazon con todo el alma
Quisiere que fuere el futuro
Lleno de amor entre tu y yo**

I hinto ko na muna ang tula
At tapos na ang pagkamakata
Kay Bathla na lang ang dalangin
Ay dumating ka Naziyat sa 'kin

TAOS PUSO KAHIT KAPOS

By Tony R. Encarnacion Class 58

Tayo dito sa Prodigy ay parang
magkakakilala na
Kahit hindi tayo lahat personal na
nagkikita

Sa pamamagitan man lang ng
Bulletin Board na ito
I pinahihawatig ko sa lahat...ang

Maligayang Pasko.

At kung itong mga huling linya'y tila
kukulangin

Aba, eh, di sa lahat sa
inyo'y...Happy New Year na rin.

New Member:
Rafael
Arcenas,

An Invitation
to be a member
of the '50s
QCHS Alumni
Association is
extended to all the QCHS
graduates .Send your name and
telephone number to Zona Lisa
Gray Tugonon and a check for
\$20.00 for one year, \$ 50.00 for 3
years. It's that simple. Please join
us!

'50s QCHS Alumni Association Officers

President: Nomy Ramirez,'54

Vice-Presidents:
(West Coast) Josie Regio-Patria,'54
(East Coast) Camille Dumlaol-
Weiner,'53

Secretary Zona Lisa Gray

Tugonon,'55

Treasurer Edna Ramirez

Domantay,'56

Board of Directors:

Class 1950	Fortunato Sunio
1951	Jesus Allado
1952	Eduardo Guerrero
1953	Ernesto Madarang
1954	Teodoro Abacan
1955	Jovencio Político
1956	Clemente Follosa, Jr.
1957	Rafael Arcenas
1958	Renato Ramirez
1959	Alex Cruz

Publications Committee

Debbie Reyno Jaurigue
Zona Lisa Gray Tugonon
Moninia Sianghio Oliveros
Eddie A Calderon
Tony Reyno Encarnacion (+ web site)

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