



April 2006

Pinoy roadrunner



NEWSLETTER FOR THE FILIPINO AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY – RIO GRANDE CHAPTER
AND THE FILIPINO AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF NEW MEXICO

*In our continuing effort to improve our community and to maximize our reach to our fellow Filipino Americans, FANHS Rio Grande and the Filipino American Foundation of New Mexico have merged the two newsletters (the Balita and FANHS Rio Grande Newsletter) into one, The **Pinoy Roadrunner Newsletter**, beginning in 2005. We welcome your feedback and comments to how we can better serve you. We are hopeful that we can be more consistent in delivering to you the news. You can reach us at pinoyroadrunner@gmail.com ; ph: 505-417-5774 or **PO Box 94146, Albuquerque, NM 87199-4146** Thank you -- from the newsletter staff.*

OUR NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor – Vanessa Alter
Staff – Joselle Bautista
James Custodio
Tessie Greenfield
Madonna Ramirez
Evelio Sabay
Myrna Samson

Contributors:

Tessie Greenfield
Sima Greenfield
James Custodio
Ligaya White
Cora Romillo

Sons of Sakadas Featured at the Centennial Celebration of Filipino Immigration to the US

By Tessie Greenfield

In December 20, 1906, fifteen Filipinos aged 14 to 56, majority from Ilocos region, were the first wave of Filipino immigrants who reached Honolulu, Hawaii through the auspices of the Hawaii Sugar Planters' Association (HSPA). They were the Sakadas or the contract plantation workers who were subjected to 10 to 12-hour days of backbreaking work in the canefields under the searing sun, homelessness and isolation. In the article, *The Filipino Century in Hawaii: Out of the Crucible*, by Belinda A. Aquino, Center of Philippine Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa (2006), (Filipinos in Hawaii: 100 Years and Beyond Souvenir Program), she states that "Innocent Filipinos were easily duped into mortgaging properties or borrowing from relatives to pay their passage to Hawaii. Once in Hawaii, the sakadas would send money to the homeland, giving the impression that they had struck it rich in Hawaii. These young sakadas were mostly single without the benefit of schooling. The recruiters used only one criterion "no read" "no write," as the educated ones were potential troublemakers."

Between 1906 and 1930, the HSPA brought approximately 120,000 Filipinos in Hawaii. During these periods, others went to California. The sakadas were also known as migrant workers because they followed the crops and ended up in different states such as New Mexico.

The Filipino American National Historical Society Rio Grande Chapter (FANHS RG) featured three sons of these Sakadas on February 11 at the Oral History Gathering/Potluck at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, Albuquerque. This is one of the events celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Coming of Filipinos to the US. Their ancestors helped shape the landscape of Filipino Americans in New Mexico, especially in the agricultural field.

The stories of a teacher, a research analyst, and a police dept. chief were potent reminders of their fathers and what they had lived through. Their education and health care took a backseat while they migrated and worked hand in hand with their parents wherever work took them. What they all have in common are: their Filipino fathers (who have all passed away) were sakadas, they intermarried and settled in NM, and all three, took their own career paths different from their fathers'.

Michael Gorospe fondly referred to his father, Pete, as a Filipino "Hillbillie" from Pangasinan, who married Mary, a nurse from Pueblo de Laguna tribe. Pete loved to go fishing and make his own "bagoong" (Philippine anchovy). He loved "kanding" (goat stew), a regular dish when they had get together with other sakada families. Pete was one of the few who purchased eight acres of land in Los Lunas from a couple, Elias and Theresa Chavez, who were behind in paying taxes. Michael and his siblings learned to tie and sort carrots and other crops and worked in the fields in Arizona and New Mexico. In due time, his mother urged the children to go to school in Santa Fe. Michael is currently a teacher at the Santa Fe Indian School. *(continued on page 2)*



Photos: (top) Michael Gorospe, (middle) David Galbiso, (bottom) Nick Balido.

Special Thanks to:

First Financial Credit Union for their generous donation to the FAFNM scholarship fund.

You can become a member.

Call 766-5600 or log on at www.ffnm.org for more information.

FirstFinancial
CREDIT UNION

Offices in Albuquerque & Rio Rancho
(505) 766-5600 • 1-800-342-8298
www.ffnm.org

Federally insured • Member NCUA • Equal Housing Lender

Sons of Sakadas (continued from page 1)

David Galbiso, the second president of FANHS RG (2001-2002), recalled that his father, Simplicio, worked in Bluewater, NM where he met Josephine of Corrales. Miscegenation (mixing of races in marriages) was tabooed but David's parents made it to Bernalillo to get married. Simplicio's two brothers, also Sakadas worked in Hawaii and moved to other states. David marveled at how the three brothers with no education and little English skills survived during the great depression. Simplicio took his family to California to work. When he was killed in a fire accident, Josephine took their children back to New Mexico where they were raised. David currently works at the Homeland Security as a research analyst.

Nick Balido grew up and still lives in Los Lunas. His father, Bert, married his mother, Carmen (who passed away a few years ago). According to Nick, farming was governed by rich ranchers from Texas. The family moved and lived in abandoned labor camps. They not only suffered from physical exhaustion but also from racial discrimination. After 25 years following crops with the family, Nick made a clean break and took control of his life. He is now the Chief of Police in Los Lunas.

The 100th Anniversary also celebrated the coming of "pensionados" who arrived in the same year. They were the elite members of society who were sent to the US with the intent of returning to their homeland, although many remained to become US citizens. (Filipino Reporter, Dec. 23-29, 2005). FANHS RG will join 26 other FANHS chapters at the National Conference in Hawaii from June 29 to July 1 to celebrate this milestone.

Photos courtesy of Pat Teston and Wayne Skyiepal.

Photo: (left) Nick Balido, (right) Michael Gorospe.



FAFNM 2005 Christmas Party

By Jim Custodio

The FAFNM celebrated the end of 2005 with much fanfare during its 2005 Christmas Party held at the MCM Elegante Hotel on December 16. Over 120 members and guests attended this fun-filled event. The party program started off with an introduction by Dr. Dely Alcantara, who emceed the event. The invocation was given by Brothers Lawrence Pilarca and Caedmon Eco from the Monastery of Christ in the Desert followed by welcome remarks by FAFNM President Jim Custodio. Jim then introduced the newly-elected FAFNM Board of Directors: Efren Afante, Dely Alcantara, Jessica Pascual (who was not present that evening) Cora Romillo, Evelio Sabay, Bing Skyiepal and current President Roderick Ventura. The induction ceremony was officiated by Rio Rancho City Councilman Michael Williams. The main entertainment for the night was provided by the Kulintang Ensemble of Albuquerque, directed by Cristal Everette. They performed three cultural dances. The program ended with an exciting surprise number by Brother Caedmon Eco, who sang a couple of songs plus an encore performance at the audience's urging. A number of cool door prizes were raffled off and awarded to several lucky attendees, courtesy of several FAFNM sponsors and donors. After the program, the remainder of the night was open to social dancing for all to the tunes by DJ Jimsy & Co. It was certainly a night where everyone had a jolly good time! The FAFNM extends its special thanks to Councilman Michael Williams, all sponsors and donors, Mrs. Connie Perkins, and the Kulintang Ensemble of Albuquerque.

FAFNM Board of Directors:	<i>TERMS EXPIRING 2007</i>
<i>TERMS EXPIRING 2006</i>	Dely Alcantara
Jimmy Custodio	Jessica Pascual
Aurora Noriega	Cora Romillo- treasurer
Juanita Pascual	Evelio Sabay- vice president
Patricia Teston-(resigned)	Roderick Ventura- president
Myrna Samson	Celia Tomlinson
Cris Underwood	Bing Skyiepal
Emilie Underwood- secretary	Efren Afante-(resigned)

You may have heard about the Massive Mudslide on Feb. 17 in Southern Leyte in the Philippines. It literally "swallowed" the village including an elementary school with 240 children and staff. According to Filipino Reporter (March 3-9, 2006), Leyte toll: 139 dead and 973 missing. There are 3,272 people living in evacuation centers who have lost everything.

Ayala Foundation USA is currently accepting donations in collaboration with the Philippine National Red Cross directly involved with the relief efforts. You can send donations to:

Ayala Foundation USA, 255 Shoreline Drive, Suite 428, Redwood City, CA 94065 (Tel. 650-598-3126, www.af-usa.org) or you can also contact the Philippine Consulates of San Francisco (Tel. 415-433-6666) and New York (Tel. 212-764-1330)

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION NEEDS ARTICLES.

In celebrating the Centennial of the Filipino Immigration to the US, Smithsonian Institution is inviting Fil-Ams to send articles for the commemorative program magazine to be distributed at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. The Filipino Young Professionals, a nonprofit organization is taking the leadership in soliciting contributions and designing the publication. Visit www.filamcentennial.com or contact Michael Chupeco at 571-216-2218 or mchupeco@filamcentennial.com.

FANHS-RG Updates:

National Level:

The 11th FANHS Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii (June 29-July 1) is fast approaching. The conference staff is expecting around 400 delegates from all over the US, including the 26th Chapter (Pennsylvania) which joined FANHS this year. The theme is: "*Sakadas and Beyond: Connecting Our Past to Inspire the Future.*" It is open to non-members as well (\$25 more in registration). If you are not a member of FANHS RG and are interested, please contact: Tessie Greenfield (information@pinoy-newmexico.com) or visit the website: www.fanhs-national.org.

FANHS National Museum Project Chairperson Mel LaGasca of Stockton, CA Chapter has reported that \$50,000 has been raised for the Museum which plans to house exhibits of all FANHS chapters in the Little Manila area in Stockton. Their annual fund raising project is the the FANHS Golf Tournament in May in Stockton. Since we,

Filipino New Mexicans, cannot attend, donations are welcomed. Make checks payable to FANHS National Museum, 1840 McPeak Ct., Tracy, CA 95376.

Rio Grande Chapter:

Book Committee members, Rod Ventura, Bing Skyiepal, Emilie Underwood and Tessie Greenfield attended the NM Book Co-op meeting on Feb. 24 at the Home Buffet. This co-op aims to help self-published authors about printing and promoting books and meets every last Friday of the month at the Home Buffet in Coors (Alb). If you want to attend, contact Paul Rhett and Barbe Awalt at info@nmbookcoop.com. The book committee, spearheaded by Dr. Ted Jojola, is composed of 9 FANHS RG members. They also welcome two editors who are volunteering to help: Aggie Dagucon and Tessie Centenera, both have worked as professional editors in the past. The committee hopes to finish the book this year in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Coming of Filipinos. This first book will feature Fil-Am individuals or groups in 5 categories (agriculture, military, education, religious and medical fields) who have contributed to NM.

FANHS RG has joined the Southwest Oral History Association which will have its regional conference on April 20, 21 at the Hotel Albuquerque (former Sheraton Old Town). This non-profit organization is composed of American members from Southern CA, AZ, NV and NM.

Community News

By Sima Greenfield

Births: Congratulations to the new parents: Glen and Maritess Rose who welcome their new child **Ashley Angel Rose** (photo, right) on January 2, and Rowena and Don Bradley's **Joy de Leon Bradley** (6 lbs, 5 oz) on March 1. Also, Perli Cunanan, Tom Clark and their 21-month-old son, Tom Pete welcome **Maria Isabel Cunanan-Clark** (8 lbs) on May 7.



Moving: **Patricia Teston**, FAFNM's Secretary and FANHS RG member, is moving to Cincinnati, Ohio. Pat, a former naval officer, has acquired a new position as a Senior Buyer (plastics), Supplier Management at Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc., Johnson and Johnson.

Efren and Josie Afante have just moved back to the Philippines (after 35 years). Efren will be working at the Nakabuhi Community Radio and TV Station in Buhi, Camarines Sur (where you'll also find the smallest fish in the world!). Efren was a FAFNM Board member and active member of Rondalla Maharlika. Although Pat and Efren/Josie are out of NM, we can still contact them through the same e-mail addresses.

Deaths: (February) **Dick Long**, Heddy's husband worked with her on the marriage encounter program for more than 30 years. Dick was also instrumental in drafting the FANHS RG by-laws. **Silvestre Ares**, Marie Ares-Banez' father passed away after a lingering disease. Silvestre Ares was a Bataan survivor and was honored with full military burial. **Sean Efford**, Lorna Efford's high school son also passed away in March.

Fil-Am College Scholars: Those who have availed of the scholarship funds from FAFNM are: Kathleen Baniqued, Kristelle Siarza and Jonathan Lumibao. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

The Rondalla members and other Filipinos in Rio Rancho gave the **new 15 Intel Filipino employees and their families** a welcome party on Feb. 18 at a community center.

Photo exhibits: See some incredible photos of the tribal people in the Philippines included in the Exhibit: **First Seen: Portraits of the World's People (1840 – 1880)** at the UNM Fine Arts Bldg. (where Popejoy is located). Free. Open until May 7 (Tues to Fri, 9 am to 4 pm, Sunday 1 to 4 pm and during special events at Popejoy Hall).

Don't miss the photo exhibit of the Albuquerque Indian School at the Albuquerque Art Museum which was curated by our own, Dr. Ted Jojola.

Fil-Am teen artist, **Amyel Oliveros**, is featured on the internet. Amyel is the son of Gigi and Tony Carlson. See the article and Amyel's artwork at:

<http://adobe.com/education/digkids/showcases/amyel.html>

Filipino News on Channel 108. If you have cable and get Channel 108, an Asian Channel (AZNT), check out the Friday (6:30 pm) news. Lately (but not consistently), they have featured "The Philippines Tonight" news from ABS-CBN.

Indonesian Neighbors to the Rescue. Among the first to respond to the Mudslide Catastrophe Rescue mission in Leyte are the Muslim/Christian Indonesian alumni from a Jakarta University called the Aranyacala Club. They sent donation to the Phil. Embassy in New York. Tuti Quinton, an Indonesian who is a member of the Asian American Association of New Mexico also informed us that their group sent a medical team and other logistics (blankets, food and water) to the Leyte victims. Thank you, Indonesian neighbors!

FIL-AM Youth Group

By: Ligaya White

The FAFNM welcomes a new and young committee, the Fil-Am Youth Group.

This new committee has currently 26 members ranging from 4 to 20 years old. The members are planning to come up with a new name and has elected its first officers: **Amanda Randolph**, *President*; **Patrick Custodio**, *VP*; **Carmela Trias**, *Secretary*; **Mae Alipat**, *Treasurer*.

The committee's mission statement is, "To help develop a positive environment for our Filipino-American youth so that they may experience healthy development as they transition to adulthood." This goal can be achieved through our high quality programs such as Fil-Am Cultural activities.

Purposes for the new committee:

-To increase youth involvement and participation through Fil-Am youth activities

-To help develop their leadership skill

-To help them reflect of their identity through their culture, ethnicity and values

-To keep their enthusiasm and motivation alive

-To help them pave their way for higher education through community involvement (good points for scholarship and grants)

-To help improve their morale and help keep them out of trouble

-To take care of our own (Filipino-Americans in New Mexico)

-To give them sense of belonging and cultural awareness

Meeting times: Fridays from 5:30-8:30 PM at FIL-AM Fastfood Mart. If you wish to join this new committee and be part of the

Fil-Am youth group, please contact Cora Romillo at 265-4064, Evelio Sabay at 417-5774 or Ligaya at 459-8010.

2006 Schedule of Activities

FAFNM, FANHS RG activities, and other related events of interest to Fil-Ams.

Contact points (unless otherwise indicated): Emilie Underwood 255-2060 (crisunderwood@hotmail.com) or Tessie Greenfield 341-2281 (information@pinoy-newmexico.com) or visit Fil-Am Fastfood, 600-A Louisiana SE (corner of Trumbull).

APRIL

4/22, Sat., 9:00 am, FAFNM members (in their Philippine attire) will join the **Albuquerque Tricentennial Parade**. Meet at Tingley Beach & Central Ave NW. The float, to be designed by Ver Velasco, will be pulled by Ted Jojola's antique jeepney. (Contact Cora 265-4064 for latest information)

4/22, Sat. (same day) 6:00 pm, come in your Philippine costumes to the **FAFNM Maria Clara Ball**, MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE (corner of University), Albuquerque, \$30 (includes dinner). Fundraising project for the Fil-Am Youth Scholarship Fund. Tickets are available at the Fil-Am Fastfood Mart, 600-A Louisiana (corner Trumbull) or call Cora.

4/29, Sat., 11:00 am **FANHS RG Oral History Gathering/Potluck** in Santa Fe. At the home of Nita and Jose Pascual's, 20 Paintbrush Circle, Santa Fe. Speaker: Daphne de Leon, Director of NM State Archives Division. Hosts: Aurora Noriega and Maria Spurrell. Open to everybody. Free (but please bring a dish, preferably main or salad.)

MAY (Asian/Pacific Heritage Month)

5/6, Sat., (starts at 8 am) **Garage Sale** at the Underwoods, 1501 California NE, Alb. (Tentative place), a fund raising project for FANHS RG. Are your closets or storage areas getting full? Why not donate items you don't need to us? Call Tessie or Emilie. We also need volunteers the day before to sort and price them and during the garage sale day itself.

5/6, Sat. (same day), 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, **Asian American Heritage Day** at the National Atomic Museum, 1905 Mountain Rd SW. (Entrance: \$5) (Call Atomic Museum: 245-2137)

5/7, Sun, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, **Festival of Asian Cultures** featuring Asian dances, music, food, displays, and fashion show of Asian costumes from 12 countries, Civic Plaza, Alb., (free entrance; food are for sale) Sponsored by the Asian American Assn. of NM, City of Albuquerque Urban Enhancement Trust Fund/Cultural Services, and Stop Tobacco on My People. Feel free to wear our native attire or costumes. (Contact: Bobbie Nobles 265-1056)

5/20, Sat., 5:00 pm. **FAFNM Santacruzán**, Old Town Plaza (We need reynas and rey.) (Contact Cora 265-4064). Starts with mass at the San Felipe de Neri followed by procession, reception and entertainment (Philippine dances) at the Old Town Plaza Gazebo.

5/29, Mon. (Holiday), **Memorial Day celebration at Angel Fire**. Bus arranged by the Asian American Assn. of NM, time & location TBD (Contact Bobbie Nobles: 265-1056)

JUNE - JULY

6/11, Sun., 11:30 am; **FAFNM Annual Picnic/Potluck**, Bataan Park, celebrating the Independence of the Philippines. Lechon will be provided free to the members. Non-members will be charged \$5 due to the rising cost of lechon.

6/17, Sat., **FAFNM's Pista sa Nayon**, UNM Continuing Education, 1624 University (corner of Indian School). Food Tasting starts at 5:00 pm at the banquet area; followed by a show at 7:00 pm at the auditorium. The theme, "*Filipino Pearl in the Land of Enchantment*" with Betsy and Jim Custodio as the artistic directors. Volunteers please step forward to help with this fun event.. Tickets: \$10 (includes food & entertainment).

6/29 to 7/1, **FANHS National Conference** at the Renaissance Illikai Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. Theme: *Sakadas and Beyond: Connecting our Past to Inspire the Future*. It will be attended by FANHS members from 26 chapters all over the US and members of the above groups. Non-members are welcome. Visit fanhs-national.org.

SEPTEMBER

9/9, Sat., 11:30 am, **FAFNM Membership Meeting/Potluck** will feature a Talk on the Immigration Issues (New rules, Homeland Security, and other related topics). Invited speakers: Hellen Barber, Philippine Deputy Consul General, Betty Garcia of The Office of Immigration Services, and Barbara Rowe, Esq, an Immigration lawyer. Mesa Verde Community Center (new center – tentative venue).

9/17, Sun, 11:30 am, **FANHS RG Anniversary Picnic/Potluck**, Venue to be announced. (This is a biennial activity that alternates with Pamana Awards Night). Open to all. Free (but please bring a dish.)

NOV-DEC

11/4, Sat., 11:30 am, **FANHS RG Oral History Gathering/Potluck**, guest speaker and venue to be announced; **Election of FANHS RG Officers** (Years 2007-2008)

12/2, Sat. 11:30 am . **FAFNM Membership Meeting/Potluck and Election of Board of Directors**

12/16, Sat., 6:00 pm, **FAFNM Annual Christmas Party** and Induction of the elected board. Venue and ticket price TBD.

(NO ACTIVITIES: AUGUST & OCTOBER)

PINOY roadrunner

P.O. Box 94146

Albuquerque, NM

87199-4146

