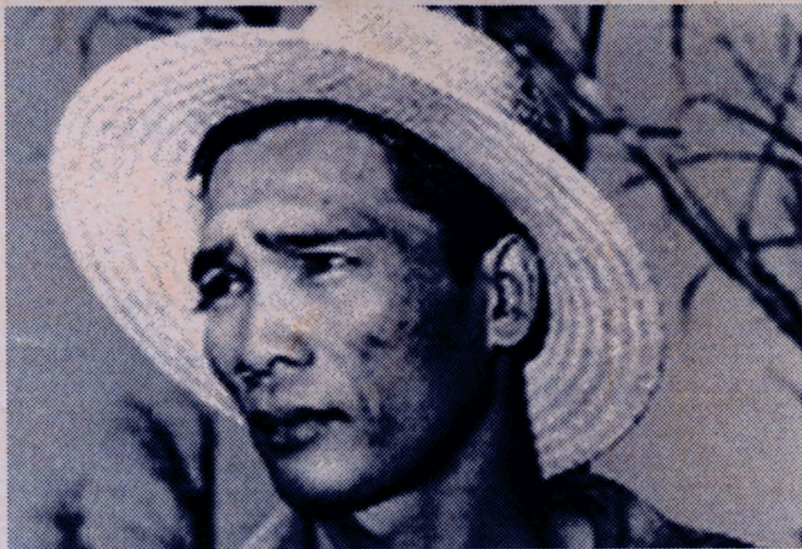




"The Filipinos' Continuing Quest for Freedom and Dignity"

*A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT
for PAGDIRIWANG '96*



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"The Filipinos' Continuing Quest for Freedom and Dignity"

The lives of Filipinos in Hawai'i have been impacted by all four of the elements of Pagdiriwang '96: The Centennial of the Philippine Revolution against Spain; the 90th Anniversary of the First Immigrant Filipino Laborers to Hawai'i; the 50th Anniversary of the Last Recruitment of Filipino Laborers to Hawai'i; and the 50th Anniversary of Philippine Independence from the United States. "The Filipinos' Continuing Quest for Freedom and Dignity," the theme this photographic exhibit for Pagdiriwang '96," is a fitting title considering the history of the Philippines. If the Americans had not quelled the Filipino's rebellion and established its rule, thus giving Filipinos the status "American Nationals," American sugar planters wouldn't have recruited the cheap labor which they sought from the Philippines.

The effort of Filipino nationalists to end the centuries-long rule of Spain culminating in the Revolution of 1896 provided the opportunity for American expansionists to intervene and establish their first Asian colony in 1898. This, in turn, provided American sugar planters in newly annexed Hawai'i with a source of inexpensive, hard-working field laborers at a time when anti-Asian immigration laws were taking full effect. In 1906, following American suppression of the Filipino revolt, the importation of contract laborers to work on Hawaiian plantations began. It reached its high point in the decade following World War I when about 75,000 workers and their families were imported. When Philippine independence was imminent following World War II in 1946, faced with the expectation of an end to free access to the Philippine labor market, and for other reasons, sugar and pineapple planters in Hawai'i conducted a final recruitment of family members. A fifth event of great importance to the lives of Filipinos in Hawai'i was the major change in U.S. immigration laws in 1965. During the decade-and-a-half following passage of that law, Filipinos accounted for more than one half of the total immigrants to Hawai'i.

While some women and children accompanied the male workers who were recruited during the 40 years from 1906 to 1946, this was discouraged by the recruiters. As a result the ratio of men to women during this period was in the order of 12 to 1. Those women who did come to Hawai'i were accorded extra-



ordinary status. This disparity in number between men and women in the pre-1965 years contributed to the difficulties of the Filipinos, socially, economically and politically.

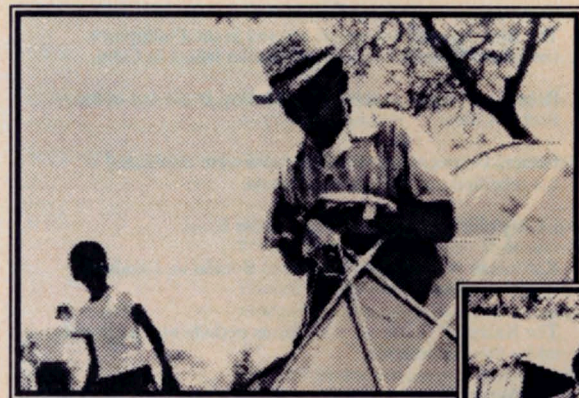
Early in their sojourn in Hawaii a number of the immigrants who had been active in the Philippine Revolution sought to improve the working conditions of Filipinos through such organizations as Luzviminda (an acronym derived from the three major sections of the Philippines; Luzon, the Visayan Islands and Mindanao). While the plantation management's efforts to play one major ethnic group against the other during threats of strikes were largely successful in the early years, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) succeeded in its efforts to organize all of the sugar and pineapple plantations in the year's following World War II and to encourage a spirit of ethnic cooperation that marks Hawai'i today.

When the Filipinos left their homeland to work on Hawai'i's sugar plantations, they thought of improving their lives and those of their parents, siblings, and other relatives, and eventually returning home themselves. The modern homes and better standard of living, and university, professional and technical school training which their families enjoy in the homeland attest to the success of plantation workers in attaining their goals.



The photo exhibit is an attempt to remember and honor these plantation workers whose lives and sacrifices changed their families' lives in the Philippines for the better, and helped to modernize Hawai'i. On the plantations, they managed to hold on to their culture while adapting to "the new culture", and observed the important historical, cultural and family events that merited being recorded by their cameras.

—Helen Nagtalon-Miller



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

March 1521	The first Spanish colonizers arrived in the Philippines. Ferdinand Magellan landed on Mactan Island in Cebu.
January 20, 1872	Rebellion, known as the Cavite Mutiny, broke out in the Fort of Cavite.
February 17, 1872	Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora were implicated in the rebellion and executed at Luneta.
June 6, 1892	La Liga Filipina was founded by Jose Rizal.
July 7, 1892	Katipunan was founded by Andres Bonifacio, Deodato Arellano and others.
Early 1896	The Kalayaan (Liberty), a seditious periodical, was founded by the Katipuneros.
June 1896	Lt. Manuel Sityar reported suspicious recruiting activity in the Mandaluyong and San Juan del Monte areas.
August 19, 1896	Father Mariano Gil discovered the printing equipment, and incriminating documents belonging to the Katipunan, at the office of El Diario de Manila.
August 24, 1896	The Cry of Balintawak: the Katipuneros defiantly tore up their cedula (their identification papers) shouting, "Long live Philippine independence!" declaring their independence from Spain.
August 30, 1896	The first encounter between the Spanish forces and the Katipuneros under Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Jacinto.
March 22, 1897	Convention at the Tejeros Estate forming the revolutionary government. Emilio Aguinaldo was the first president.
December 14, 1897	The signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, the truce with Spain.
May 1, 1898	Admiral Dewey defeated the Spanish Navy in the Battle of Manila Bay.
June 12, 1898	The proclamation of independence from Spain in Kawit, Cavite. The republic government was formed with Emilio Aguinaldo as the first president.
August 13, 1898	Occupation of Manila by American troops.
September 15, 1898	The Malolos Congress, ratified the declaration of independence from Spain.
February 4, 1899	Pvt. Willie Grayson of the Nebraska Regiment shot a Filipino soldier at the San Juan Bridge triggering the start of the Philippine American War.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN HAWAII

1836	First sugar plantation in Hawaii was started in Koloa, Kauai.
1850	Hawaii Legislature passed an act allowing importation of foreigners as contract laborers.
1855	The first 200 contract laborers came to Hawaii from China.
1882	The Planters' Labor and Supply Company was formed, later to be known as the Hawaii Sugar Planters' Association (HSPA). Hawaii Legislature passed a law creating the Bureau of immigration to supervise the importation of foreign laborers.
1885	The first pineapple plantation was started by Kidwell and Emmeluth.
1893	Overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy by the U.S. Government.
1898	Hawaii's annexation to the United States. Hawaii becomes a U.S. Territory.
1900	The "Big Five" (C. Brewer, Theo H. Davies, American Factors, Castle & Cooke, and Alexander & Baldwin) controls the sugar industry. C & H Sugar (California and Hawaii Sugar Refining Cooperative), a non-profit cooperative, was formed.
1901	The pineapple industry was operated by one man, James Dole.
1906	The first 639 contract laborers from the Philippines arrived in Hawaii.
1920	The "Big Five" got involved in the pineapple industry.
1934	U.S. Congress passed the Jones-Costigan Act classifying Hawaii as a foreign producer, since it was only a territory, and not a state.
1941	The bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces started World War II in the Pacific.
1946	End of World War II Final recruitment of plantation contract laborers from the Philippines.

*Many Filipinos played the 1896 drama.
 A lot of them were peasants, laborers, ordinary
 people and a few intellectuals.
 Andres Bonifacio who was a warehouse clerk
 formed the KKK, a society whose
 membership rituals were fashioned
 from freemasonry.
 He attracted Filipinos like him,
 Filipinos who have nothing to lose
 but could gain dignity
 in winning their battles
 against subservience and tyranny;
 educated middleclass Filipinos
 like Emilio Aguinaldo,
 Emilio Jacinto and
 Apolinario Mabini;
 writers like Aurelio Tolentino,
 Artemio Ricarte
 and Juan Abad.
 Together
 they made 1896
 colorful
 as blood,
 painful as death,
 triumphant
 as the reigning
 of
 freedom.*

—Ruth Elynia Mabanglo



Philippine Revolution against Spain

A Brief History

From the time that Ferdinand Magellan landed on the island of Mactan in Cebu in 1521, the Spanish government ruled the Philippines until 1898, when the Filipinos won the revolution that had begun in 1896.

For several years before that revolution, a patriotic spirit was gradually developing among the Filipinos. Even before the founding of the Katipunan, the Filipinos had been peacefully campaigning for reforms by the Spanish government. Their objective was for the Philippines to become a regular Spanish province, so that they can enjoy the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the Spanish. Jose Rizal and Marcelo del Pilar, both scholars and they well educated, directed the campaign from Madrid, Spain.

When Rizal arrived from Hong Kong in June 1892, he started a series of meetings with his fellow intellectuals, speaking of national solidarity, of social betterment, and of the country that pleaded for redemption. He inspired the Filipinos, and convinced them they possessed the leadership and the common objective needed to constitute a nationality. He founded La Liga Filipina, whose main aim was to unite the archipelago into a vigorous and homogeneous body, and to defend it from violence and injustice. The Spanish government considered this a disloyalty. Rizal was persecuted and imprisoned in Fort Santiago, and later deported to Dapitan in Mindanao. The circulation of his books were banned. His sympathizers were likewise deported and some public officials dismissed.

In July, 1892, after seeing the misfortune of Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, who was a member of La Liga Filipina, founded the Katipunan together with Deodato Arellano and others. The society, which found more acceptance with the humble masses of the people than La Liga did, aimed to arouse national feeling, and work for the freedom of the Filipino race from the tyranny of Spain and the religious despotism.

Years of propaganda had prepared the masses for a change. The writings of Rizal, Del Pilar and others, and the endless series of handbills, which were secretly distributed, narrated and discussed the abuses per by the friars and the



government. These led to a rapid transformation of the Katipunan into becoming more radical and threatening

In January 1894, Emilio Aguinaldo became a member of the Katipunan at the same time he was appointed Capitan Municipal of Kawit, Cavite. In 1896, the Katipuneros founded a seditious periodical called Kalayaan (Liberty).

Rizal in Dapitan was still against an armed revolt, and felt that the Filipinos were not adequately prepared for it. When a delegation from the Katipunan went to Dapitan to offer him the leadership of the insurrection, he declined and suggested Juan Luna instead. A few months later, when Rizal was on his way to Spain, another delegation tried to talk to him again, and again he refused. The disappointed Katipuneros felt that The intellectuals were not giving the support that they needed, and decided that they would have to undertake the great and difficult task on their own.

All the organizations that campaigned for reforms disbanded one after another when funds dwindled. When the Filipinos in Madrid failed to convene at a general assembly in Hong Kong in the Spring of 1896 (Del Pilar suddenly took ill and died shortly afterwards), the patriots in Manila decided that they should go ahead without the help of the Filipinos in Spain.

On June of that year, Lt. Manuel Silyar, a guardia civil in Pasig, got suspicious when he noticed unusual recruiting activity in the Mandaluyong and San Juan del Monte areas, and immediately sent a letter to the Civil Governor of Manila. On August 13, Father Agustino Fernandez, parish priest at San Pedro, Makati, wrote to the Civil Governor of Manila warning of anti-Spanish separatists and encouraging them to take "bloody action" to intimidate the townspeople. These reports were confirmed when an inmate in the orphanage at Mandaluyong revealed the Katipunan plot to Father Mariano Gil, a priest at Tondo. When Father Gil went to the offices of El Diario de Manila, he found the printing equipment, the By-Laws of the Katipunan and other incriminating documents. Hundreds were arrested, tortured, and forced confessions followed, unraveling the whole secret plot.

On August 24, guardias civiles were dispatched to Pugad Lawin, Balintawak because of a large suspicious gathering. They dispersed the crowd of about 1000, not knowing that the crowd had been called to a meeting by Bonifacio, and had just torn their cedula (their identification papers and poll tax receipts) signifying the moment that they had broken their ties with Spain and shouted defiantly, long live Philippine independence." Though not fully prepared for the ensuing battle, the Katipuneros were fully committed to the fight for freedom and dignity.

In the months that followed, there was a bloodbath all over Luzon. The Katipuneros engaged in a fearless revolt in the various localities around Manila, from Tarlac and Nueva Ecija to Batangas and Zambales. Thus was the start of the revolution against Spain. This went for almost two years until their declaration of independence from Spanish rule in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898.

—Lyna O. Burian

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THE FILIPINO HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII is a non-profit organization which seeks to preserve, enhance and promote the appreciation of Filipino heritage and experience of Filipino-Americans in Hawaii. It was organized in December 1980, and has been registered with the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The society initiates and sponsors community forums, workshops, exhibits, audio-visual presentations, performances in the arts, research and documentation, translations and the publication of materials relating to the heritage and experience of Filipino-Americans in Hawaii.



*Pagdiriwang 1996 and Central Pacific Bank,
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