



PEOPLE PLACES
By FLOR S. YNCINO

The Bisaya Picnic

For the first time in 20 years, the so-called pure Visayan migrants (some are already citizens of Uncle Sam), gathered together if only to know each other better. More often than not, here in California, you see a lot of Filipinos but don't know them personally unless you have known them back home. So many Cebuanos speak Tagalog since they are outnumbered by migrants from Luzon. To better identify the Cebuanos from other Pinoys from the Philippines, the "Bisaya Picnic" was organized by a few Cebuanos headed by May Mediano and Teresa Martinez Sepulveda. With the high tech communication of this 21st century, the guys were able to reach Cebuanos living in Ventura, Palos Verdes, Orange County and other parts of Southern California.

Still young, full of life and working exceedingly hard, mostly in their early forties, these Cebuanos (who used to live within the vicinity of Cebu City up to Mambaling and Labangon in the south, Banilad up to Mandau in the north, Lahug and Guadalupe in the west, and even Lapu-Lapu City in the east), came bringing with them Cebuano food like com-on-the-cob, *dinuguan*, chicken barbecue, fried and fresh *lumpia*, *banana toron*, *callos* and a whole *lechon* to boot. A table full of desserts like *puto*, *biko*, *torta*, *budbud* and seasonal fruits were laid in abundance.

After introducing themselves (by families), fun games with prizes galore, and warm camaraderie, the "lunsay ug tinuod nga mga Sugbuanon" promised to meet, at least twice a year, if only to remind each other that they are truly "diay mga Sugbuanon!" It was great to see the real Sugbuanons came to the fore, stood up and proudly recognized as the real McCoy Cebuanos. At the end of the day, the Cebuanos all shouted "Mabuhí ang mga Sugbuanon!"

Cebuanos present and not in the pictures were: Gerry Malixi, Dotty Bertulfo, Rosalie Japitana Ricaforte, Stella Antigua, Peyton and Mackenzie, Josephine Borromeo Cemore, Suzette Camello, Marichu Celis, Joan Alcosoba, Stephen and Carmel Alcosoba, Eric Romero, Bob and Ellen Laurente, Marie Murillo, Grace Salonga, Celia Macachor, Wheeler and family.



Teresa M. Sepulveda and May Mediano (organizers), Madeline Filart and Mom Meding Romero



Maribeth Macalintal, Mitis Gonzalez Legaspi, Lotus Mallari and Fiza Du



(Above) The Yncino group - Fiza and Gerry Du, this writer, Tada and Jing Yncino. (Left) The Solanos - Tom and Alana with daughters Whitney and Katherine



The Sepulveda family - Stella Antigua, Danette Esmas Engina, Auralee Sepulveda, Eddie Bueno, Christi Esmas Mendoza



Christi Mendoza, Melvin, Fiza, Raymond, Hazel, Claribel Ybanez, Mike Mediano and daughter



Marichu Layug, Grace Salonga, Dinah Katindig, Maribeth and Edwin Macalintal, May, Winnie Murillo, Dr. Jun de Guia, Felicia Yncino and Fiza Du



Manolo, Carmen and Cynthia Burgos