

For whom the bell tolls

Maximino Calasan, Jr., 63, died on July 7, 2003 of trouble in his kidneys and lungs. His remains lay in state at Eric Santiago Memorial Chapel in Concepcion, Marikina.

He was interred on July 13, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina. He is survived by his wife, Thelma, children, Mathe and Thess, Minette (+), Mina Grace and Minnie, brothers, Eling and Pabling (+), Greg (+) and Mila, Maring (+), Yoly and Joe, Orlie and Elvie.

Amanda Buenavides Mercado, 82, died on July 17, 2003 in Vancouver, Canada of heart attack.

She is survived by her children, two girls and two boys.

(Emilia "Miling" Buenavides, her sister-in-law, informed me of this)

Juan "Johnny" Perez Ragasa, 76, died on June 29, 2003 of heart attack after a successful operation of his gall bladder at the Heart Center, East Ave., Q.C. His remains lay in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati. He was cremated on July 3, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

He is survived by his wife, Eliria, sister, Josephine who is in the States and also sick, brother, Jim.

Clarification

There is a fund-raising campaign going on for a project of Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan with Gen. Edgar Aglipay leading it. For Aparrianos who would want to give their donation but don't know whom to give it, they could send it through Edna Battung Azurin. Edna wants it clearly understood that her role is merely as a conduit for your donation so it would reach the proper hands. She does not have her own organization pertaining to this matter.



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Render unto them ...

Benito Simbahan, 49, most wanted criminal in CALABARZON who carried a P500,000 bounty on his head surrendered on June 25, 2003 to police led by Cavite police commander Senior Superintendent Roberto Rosales. Simbahan was said to be involved in kidnapping, drug trafficking, car theft, gun-for-hire and other criminal activities in Southern Tagalog.

(Police Commander Rosales is a son of the late Armando Rosales, my cousin)

Jim Balisi's son, James Albert, his wife, Elena, his three children came home from the United States for a short visit on the last week of June 2003. In a show of strength of family ties, they were treated to a simple party by the family of the late Raymond Balisi – his widow, Trinidad, children Judy, Mary Jane, Jopet, Janet, Jorge, Jessie, John and Jonathan at their residence in Villamor Air Base, Pasay. Also present were Jim's wife, Delia (Jim couldn't make it due to health reasons), his son Jerome, Teresing's son, Rogie Tamayo, Anita Balisi, Bency's daughter, Heidi Rigunan and William's daughters, Ching and Marissa Ponce Enrile and myself.

Thanks to my donors



- 1. James Balisi, Georgia, USA
- 2. Rema Manzano, Las Piñas
- 3. Mael Calata, Parañaque
- 4. Rudy Tan, Parañaque
- 5. Marilyn Suguitan Morales, Florida, USA thru her brother, Benjamin Suguitan in Fairview

AN OPEN LETTER
of Aparrianos - by Aparrianos- for Aparrianos

MANILA, July 31, 2003

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"The moving finger writes"

"And, having writ, moves on over all thy Piety
Nor wit shall lure it back cancel half a line,
Nor all thy tears wash out a Word of it."

It has written that Anthony Elmo Tan, Jr. would die on May 31, 2003. So depressed by his loss, Elmo, Sr. believe it or not, has lost 15 pounds.

Further it wrote that 30 days later, or on June 30, 2003, another member of the Tan family would meet sudden death. True enough, Bingbee Tan Manzano Aguila, 34, was having a snack with her husband in one of the eateries in Makati. She was seated with her back against the wall and her husband seated at the right side of the table.

Suddenly, a wayward jeep evidently with faulty brake mechanism roared into the building and found its way right against the table of the couple ramming it forcibly on the unprotected body of Bingbee. Of course, the impact shattered the delicate organs of the poor woman with the wall serving as chopping block.

Then the Moving Finger continued to write. It wrote that Bingbee's mother, Rema Tan Manzano, would not, or should not, celebrate her birthday the following day, July 1, 2003 because shortly before midnight of June 30, she had received the call informing her of the tragedy. What a jolting birthday gift!

Her remains lay in state at Rizal Funeral Homes in Pasay. She was interred on July 6, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

She is survived by her husband, Roy Aguila, three children, brother, Jayson Joseph who came home from New York with his son, her parents, Rema and Boysie Manzano.

There were friends and relatives at the memorial park who gave short eulogies and one

Glimpses of the past and the present

It was sometime in 1938 when this picture was taken at Nichols Air Base by a photographer of the National Geographic Magazine. This picture subsequently appeared in one of its issues that year. We were supposed to participate in a model-airplane contest at Nichols Air Base which was earlier postponed without our knowledge.

My companions were my uncle, Manila Asst. City Fiscal Melecio Aguayo, an incurable hobbyist, who made these model airplanes, and his son, Leonardo, the little boy with me in the

of them was Titang Manzano Leabres, one of the aunts of Bingbee. Titang recounted the many virtues of Bingbee who had shown great love for her husband and their children. Which now has made it incumbent upon Titang's family to also love those whom Bingbee had loved. And one manifestation of this could be seen in the presence of Titang's and Boysie's mother, Assang Balao Manzano, now 89, who, if need be, would have crept on her knees and hands just to be there.

It was quite surprising but heartening to hear what Boysie felt about the matter. Instead of anger in his heart, he seemed to have found alleviation of his grief and violent shock in his belief that God had something to do with this. So firm had been his stand that he even had told his son-in-law not to take any action against the driver. For even if his son-in-law would insist on taking action, Boysie said he would recommend another lawyer to handle the case. Boysie said he had no hard feelings against anybody, even the driver. Being a lawyer himself and the aggrieved party at that, why should he not do this alone or lead a team of his compañeros? He said he should not be involved in this.

Really, not all thy tears could wash a word of what the Moving Finger has written!

(Veron Lansi informed me of this)



picture, who is now a doctor of medicine, married to Elvie Sanchez Zuñiga. They have three children – all girls.

This picture appeared in the Geographic News Bulletin, No. 2 of Nov. 18, 1940 and photographed by J. Baylor Roberts.

It is said that the best things in life are free. It was one of the best things in our life that we got this picture in the National Geographic Magazine. And we got it free. Can you beat that?