

TRANSPORTATION:

Provincial coaster and the five ambulances were to transport the missionaries to each clinical site. Lunch for the doctors in the hospital, is to be shouldered by the provincial hospital while off-site health workers are to be shouldered by the Mission. Each site was given one thousand pesos (P1000) to be spent in food and preparations.

The problem of doctors doing overtime surgery was also discussed and the hospital physicians were familiar with the problems. The nursing supervisor requested no over time later than 7 pm. I underestimated this particular problem and therefore a food caterer is to be called each night with a request for food for personnel working over time. The dedicated Physicians worked until the wee hours of the night.

The Provincial Health Officer requested that two days of on site clinic be given to Buenavista, as it is a medically depressed area, and there is no practicing MD in town. I promised to intercede and scheduled this as such, but was outvoted by the foreign group.

The secretary of Mr. Arsenio Tanco, the current President of the Club Marinduqueño, Inc. (CMI) called me from Quezon City to ask me - in what way their association could help. Although they are willing to help, the group is not financially capable of helping M.I. yet. Mr. Tanco invited me to a dinner with a group from their organization at the Club Filipino in Greenhills. We discussed problems and needs for the Mission.

Mr. Arsenio Tanco hosted a joint meeting between The Club Marinduqueño, Inc. and the Marinduque International, Inc. headed by Dr. Rudy Jao on Friday, May 18, 2001 at Long Yuan Restaurant, Cubao, Quezon City.

At the last minute at the night of the dinner given by the CMI, the promised AFP airplane transport came through. Rudy and Hector called long distance on Friday night of May 18th to inform me of the change of plans.

Some thirty-five missionaries will be transported to Marinduque commitments of President Arroyo. I had to cancel all transportation arrangements made to pick up missionaries in Balanacan. So, my apologies to those people who were left stranded without a welcoming party on Saturday, May 19th.

Among those, Dr. Homer Buñag, who came to join our Mission, is from Indiana. Chito Madla, at least knows the province. Lucy L. Rubio & Espie Logatoc, nurses from Chicago and Canada decided that they would just stay with their relatives in Mogpog.

Since the Lupac lodging was not ready yet, Homer and Chito did not have any reason not to accept the Katague's invitation to stay with us for the night.

May 18th, FRIDAY

The Canadian contingents have arrived and paid a visit to ask for their assignments. Cora Mirafuente Deperio and Susie Malangis-Due, came to Amoingon to inform me that they are staying at Cora's beach house in Ihatob. We had a good talk on what possible assignments they could take. Aida Jao-Mariposque informed me that the boxes of medicines that his brother Rudy sent has not arrived yet.

The missionaries from the U.S. have arrived in Manila. They attended the dinner given by Mr. Arsenio Tanco. Rudy Jao, the president of the Marinduque International, Inc. (M.I., Inc.) called to inform me that they have arrived, but the plane being provided by the Philippine Air Force which was going to bring them to Marinduque is not a sure thing yet.

Friday night at 11:30 pm., Drs. Rudy Jao and Hector Sulit called from the dinner party at Cubao, Q.C. to inform me that the Philippine Airforce plane will be available on Sunday to transport some missionaries to Marinduque.

May 19th – SATURDAY

The Sulit's arrived on Saturday morning and they have their own transpor-

tation. The van from Manila delivered them home, door-to-door. Since the bus was cancelled, a few missionaries arriving in Balanacan were left on their own.

May 20th - SUNDAY

Chito Madla and I woke up early to meet Dr. Jao and about 35 missionaries who took the Philippine Airforce plane in Masiga Airport. The only welcoming committee for those who took the Philippine Air Force Plane was Chito Madla, Me (Macrine), as well as the three ladies from the provincial government office and their big coaster van. The big air force plane was on time; it came barreling down the small landing field, a little too high as it passed my eye level. I made a joking remark ... "Hey, he is too high, the pilot must not be use to this airport. He might land in the ocean." Everybody laughed. Then ten seconds later, the plane did not taxied to the terminal. I made another comment.. He must have landed in the ocean. Miss Lumitao scolded me for making a not so funny joke. The fire truck started to run thru the airstrip. I called the driver of the coaster to come and follow the fire truck. Thanks God, they are safe; the pilot overshot the airstrip and had to bunk the plane on a mound of sand at the end of the runway. Nobody was hurt, but the plane had a flat tire.

We quickly re-grouped for the Sunday Mass that was offered for the Medical Mission. Basket of offering in hand, all the missionaries who came to church said thanks for the safe landing.

This was followed by the Medical Seminar and Brunch at the "Love-Bay Resort". After the seminar, the physicians hurriedly went to the hospital to check the patients who were scheduled for surgery the following day. Dinner was hosted, that first night by Gov. Carmencita Reyes, at their beach house in Lupac. The food was sumptuous and everybody enjoyed the beautiful place.