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**The Association
Wishes Everyone
A Prosperous 2003!**

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12th Fiesta Celebrated in California

Memories of the 12th Annual Bobon-USA Fiesta

By Louise M. Cornillez

Los Angeles, CA--There was an almost electric buzz in the air as more and more Bobonanons parked their cars at the San Fernando Mission Church in Mission Hills, California, on August 25, 2002. Hugs and kisses were exchanged between relatives and friends who hadn't seen each other in a year or more. It was that time again; the 12th Annual Bobon-USA Fiesta was here and it was time to celebrate. Urged on by Noel and Bobbie Cornillez, the hermano and hermana of this year's Fiesta,



The Gorgonias (2003 sponsors) receive the image of the Sto. Niño being turned over by Fiesta 2002 sponsors, Noel and Bobbie Cornillez.

the crowd made its way into the church inside the mission.

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Bobonanons after the mass with Fr. Anly Galias.

Fiesta 2002 in pictures...



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The church was richly and elaborately decorated with gilded altar pieces and high-beamed, painted ceilings, and yet it was a surprisingly intimate space with antique, dark-wood pews typical of the Spanish-colonial style. Mass was celebrated by Father Anly Galias, a visiting priest from Lavesares, Northern Samar, Philippines. Father Anly in his sermon spoke about the Santo Nino ! and the origins of our Fiesta, and the importance of both to our faith. It was a very moving mass complete with Waray-waray songs sung by the congregation.



After the mass, and after much catching up, everyone gathered on the grassy courtyard and took several group pictures. And now it was time to party!



The reception took place at The Odyssey, a banquet hall situated on the crest of a hill offering a breathtaking view of the San Fernando Valley. A gurgling fountain welcomed Bobonanons into an elegant ballroom filled with oak panelling, tall vases filled with tropical-colored flowers and floor-to-ceiling windows. After a welcome speech given by Noel Cornillez, everyone got ready to have a good time. Bobonanons were in good spirits as they enjoyed a sumptuous dinner while regaling each other with stories and memories of Bobon. Music was provided by DJs Sean Cornillez and Tommy Solis, and Louise Marie Cornillez provided live vocal entertainment. In addition, a surprise number by the "paraghubog" trio Ber Carpina, Noel Cornillez, and Steve Tobes in their



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The Many Faces of Fiesta '02



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rendition of "Dandansoy" brought down the house! The kuratsa was danced by Espie (Gorgonia) Genne & Noel Cornillez, Bobbie Cornillez & Ber Carpina, and Rose Ford & Jesus Agasang.

Throughout the night, everyone tore up the dance floor with the cha-cha, the boogie, the salsa, the twist, disco, tango, and swing. Ganie and Neria Garcia led group dances such as "Mambo #5," the "Todo Todo," "YMCA," and other line dancing. DJ Sean even added some hip-hop and trance music into the mix for the younger (and young-at-heart) crowd. The evening wound down with the adults and children waltzing to traditional Waray music. The perfect end to the 12th Annual Bobon-USA Fiesta.

This fiesta was one of the most well-attended celebrations we have had to date. Bobonanons from all over the US as well as outside the country (New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Arizona, Maryland, Virginia, Atlanta, Australia, & Philippines) came to join us this year! ; not to mention all of the faithful Northern and Southern Californians who try to attend every year. Our attendance has steadily increased the past few years; hopefully this shows a higher level of commitment from our members to our organization that will only get stronger.

The Cornillez family would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the Santo Nino for the many blessings he has given our family, to Father Anly Galias for celebrating the mass, Dick Paredes for the video, Lydee Hershey for the photos and to all of you who came to celebrate the fiesta with us.

Bobon-USA website has been updated

Our website has been updated to include more information about our hometown. Point your browsers to: <http://www.rparedes.com/bobon> and click the About Bobon button.

You will also see the online version of this Newsletter where you can see more pictures and download them if you want.

Happy surfing!



Louise Cornillez in Broadway



Last February, our very own Louise Cornillez performed as Maria, the main character in the Broadway musical "West Side Story" which was presented by the Huntington Beach Playhouse. She was joined in the cast by Jason Prefontaine as Tony. According



WEST SIDE STORY

to Tom Titus of the Huntington Beach Independent: "Playhouse's 'West Side Story' is grand. Its latest local incarnation, at the Huntington Beach Playhouse, is a sterling example of the fine art of bringing a vintage musical into the 21st century."

Bobonanons are proud of you, Louise!

Kent Bolhayon joins Operation Iraqi Freedom

Another one of our own, Kent Bolhayon, son of Precy and Vic Bolhayon joined Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was with the 101st Airborne Division, Aviation Regiment.

Our prayers and wishes for a safe return are with you, Kent!



Please help the Association by paying your dues.

Treasurer's Report

By Bobbie Cornillez

Beginning Balance as of August 2001		\$6,159.61
Petty Cash		225.00
Add:		
Fiesta 2002 Income:		
Membership Fees	415.00	
Food Donation	3,840.00	
Kuracha	355.00	4,620.00
Less:		
Fiesta 2002 Food expenses	3,143.89	
Postage	107.61	
Petty Replenishemen	200.00	3,451.50
Ending Balance as of August 2002		\$7,553.11
Bank Balance as of 8/2002		\$7,616.90
Petty Cash Balance		115.25
Total Cash as of 8/2002		<u>\$7,732.15</u>

Fiesta 2003 will be in sunny California and 2004 will be in windy Chicago

Fiesta 2003 will be held on August 23, 2003 in Santa Barbara with the Gorgonia family as our hosts.

Details will be in a separate announcement.

Then in 2004, Acit and Estela Cornillez will be our fiesta sponsors in Chicago.

Sponsors of both fiesta celebrations promise to make each celebration a unique experience for all *mamaratrons*. So mark your calendars, folks, and plan to be with your fellow Bobonanons this year in California and next year in Chicago!