

NEWSLETTER

Fiesta '93 Held In Phoenix, Arizona

August 7, 1993 would have been just like one of those ordinary hot Arizona summer days if not for the successful holding of the Bobon-USA Residents Association's Fiesta '93.

Bobonanons from all over America -- from New Jersey to California -- and from the



Philippines, too, once again gathered to celebrate their Annual Fiesta in honor of the Santo Niño.

This year's fiesta was sponsored by Tony and Nelly (Batiles) Hill and held at the

Clubhouse in Phoenix, Arizona.

This is the third fiesta the association has observed. The first one was held on August 10, 1991 at the Mile Square Regional Park in Orange County, California and was sponsored by Neneng Paredes-Bautista, Dick Paredes, Lydee Paredes-Hershey, and Butch Paredes. 65 Bobonanons attended this first gathering. So encouraging was the attendance that it was decided to make the celebration an annual affair and an association of Bobonanons in the USA be formed. Hence, the Bobon-USA Residents Association was born.

The second fiesta was sponsored by Fred and Terry Knoth and was held on August 8, 1992 at their residence in Downey, California. 83 Bobonanons attended this time.

Fred and Terry made the celebration something to remember

by presenting a pictorial and video exhibit of Bobon memorabilia that dated back to the 1960's when Fred was still a Peace Corps volunteer to the Philippines.

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The Fiesta as seen from a Teen's Eyes

By Arpee Paredes

The 1993 Bobonanon Fiesta was hot -- literally. Held in Phoenix, Arizona, the land of the eternal sun, the heat did very little to affect the festive atmosphere at the annual reunion.

The fiesta brought together people of different ages. From the "oldies but goodies" to the innocent-looking toddlers, from the happy-go-lucky beer bunch to the hip-hopping teens. All these various groups were key ingredients to the success of the annual event.

Entertainment was not a



problem. The first act featured two young children performing the *kuratsa* which brought in a sizable amount of money. More *kuratsa* followed which all provided entertainment and attracted cash as well. So well that a Philippine ten peso bill was found in the

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Bobonanons during their first fiesta celebration at the Mile Square Regional Park.

A Newsletter is Born!

In our effort to inform members of our association on past and upcoming events, we are



publishing this Newsletter at least once every quarter or as often as there are information materials that need to be disseminated to all Bobonanons.

We encourage everyone to send in articles or information materials that we can publish in this Newsletter. Please send them to:

Butch E. Paredes
920 N. Samar Court #5
Corona, CA 91720

Fiesta '94 In San Diego



Mark your calendars now for our next year's fiesta. It will be held on August 13, 1994 in San Diego, California and will be sponsored by Walt and Gloria (Madeja) Emde. Though it's not as hot in San Diego as in Phoenix, the fiesta promises to be a hot and sizzling one nevertheless.

For those who have missed the past three fun-filled fiestas, this is your time to meet your fellow Bobonanons, dance the *cha-cha* and the *kuratsa*, or simply renew old acquaintances.

Support your Association! Get involved! Please pay your dues.

Feast of the Sto. Niño Observed

Bobonanons, mostly from California, observed the Feast of the Sto. Niño last January 16, 1993. The celebration was



Sr. Sto. Niño

hosted by Gani and Neria (Cornillez) Garcia at their residence in Los Angeles.

Despite the short notice and the rain, 43 Bobonanons came to celebrate the occasion. It was during this affair that the idea to have *Balik-Bobon '96* (reported in a related article) was presented and discussed.

Fiesta '93 Held...

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The baby boomers had fun looking at the pictures and seeing how they looked 30 years ago; the kids had a great time at the adjoining park; while the rest enjoyed the afternoon of dances, songs, and the *kuratsa*.

A thanksgiving mass in honor of the Sto. Niño has always been the central part of the celebration. Potluck had also been the order of the day except in Phoenix where we have allowed those who could not bring food to just donate \$10.00 per person to the association. The *kuratsa* had always been fun and had become the fund-raiser for the association.

The Fiesta as seen...

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collected money.

Later, the dance floor was open to everyone. The teenagers had their share of music, dancing to modern sounds of Tag Team and Naughty by Nature, who made the two anthems of modern rap: Hip-Hop Hooray and Whoomp (There It Is).

The electric slide was also on the agenda, with people of all ages joining on the dance. But the show belonged to *cha-cha*, which has been the traditional dance of the fiesta ever since its conception, and is now being passed on to the young.

All in all, the fiesta was a success. It was hot in Phoenix, but this year's summer spectacular was sizzling!

SMI Scholarship Program Established

Early this year, the Seno Memorial Institute (SMI) [formerly BCI and HCA] has announced the establishment of its Scholarship

Program. The program aims to find benefactors who, for just \$60.00 per school year, can help finance the high school education of financially-in-need but deserving high school students in Bobon.

As of this writing, the following generous benefactors have pledged support for the program:

Ber & Fatima Carpina - 2 scholars
Noel & Bobbie Cornillez - 1 scholar
Erick del Monte - 1 scholar
Elizabeth Gorgonia-Perez - 1 scholar
Esper Gorgonia - 1 scholar
Leo Gorgonia - 1 scholar
Basilia E. de Jesus - 1 scholar
Agustin C. Paredes Scholarship Fund - 4 scholars

SMI's initial target for this school year is 40-50 scholars. Obviously, the school needs more benefactors.

Since its founding in 1953, the school has become Alma Mater to 1,124 Bobonanons as of the end of School Year 1992. It is now asking Bobonanons everywhere to support a worthy program. If you want to help a scholar, please fill out the following and mail it to Butch E. Paredes: (address on page 1)

✂ Pls. cut along dotted lines ✂

Yes, I want to help a scholar. Here's a \$60.00 check. (Payable to SMI)

I am willing to help. Please send me more information.

Name:

Address:

Tel.:

Balik-Bobon '96 Planned

During the Sto. Niño celebration held last January 16, 1993 at Gani & Neria Garcia's place, it was suggested that in August, 1996, the association will celebrate its annual fiesta in Bobon.



This will be a big undertaking that will require long-range planning and commitment from those who will participate.

We will report updates on this project. In the meantime, please take note of the following general guidelines:

1. Those who are going should have a *firm decision by August, 1995.*
2. We will be travelling as a group going to Bobon and back.

Treasurer's Report

By *Bobbie Cornillez*

As of August 31, 1993, the financial status of the association is as follows:

Income:	
Membership Fees	-\$ 450.00
Kuratsa	- 411.40
Donations	- 395.00
Total	-\$1256.40
Less: Expenses	
Mailings	-\$ 66.00
Food (Fiesta)	- 209.20
Others	- 76.00
Total	-\$ 351.20
Cash On Hand	-\$ 905.20

Those who have not paid their membership fee, please send payment (payable to Bobon-USA Residents Association) to:

Bobbie Cornillez
359 1/2 N. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Projects Lined up for Implementation

The Association plans to implement the following projects:

1. Bobon Church Repair Assistance.
2. Scholarship Program.
3. Books for Bobon Project.

Sto. Niño '94 slated for January 8, 1994

Preparations are now



underway for next year's Feast of the Sto. Niño. It will be held in Corona, California and will be sponsored by Michelle Hershey, Yette and Liv Bautista, Arpee and Dustin Paredes. More details will be announced later and as usual this will be a potluck affair.

To help them in the preparation, the sponsors are requesting those who are planning to attend to please call Neneng Bautista at (909) 735-4605.

Beach Party Held



Bobonanons had themselves tanned when just a week after the August 7 Fiesta, they again organized a picnic at the

Doheney State Beach in Dana Point, California. The occasion gave Marit (Celespara) Antazo and Vilma (Tapang) Taldelore a chance to meet their "long-time-no-see &

hear" relatives and friends. Marit came all the way from Chicago but could not make it on time for the fiesta while Vilma came from New Jersey with Neneng (Abellar) Purisima but had to proceed to Los Angeles and could not make it to the fiesta, too.

Also at the picnic was Farida (Yturriaga) Aquino. Farida and brother Gerry and his wife jetted in from the Philippines and also attended the Phoenix fiesta.

The Hills From the Valley of the Sun...Thanks for the Memories...

By *Sheena "Tata" Hill*

Noted for its hot climate, the Grand Canyon, and its six "C's"--copper, citrus, climate, cotton, coal, and cowboys, Phoenix, Arizona, the second hometown of the Hills was the venue for this year's Fiesta of the young Bobon-USA Residents Association.

When my family left the Philippines five years ago, I was still in my tender age. The only things I could remember about fiesta celebrations are guests at home, a lot of food on the table, a new dress and shoes. That's it.

When Mom & Dad started planning for the fiesta, I kept wondering if it was like preparing for a birthday celebration?

Days went by and I still could not picture what was going on.



At the Doheney State Beach. Standing (L-R) Leony, Catherine, Dick, Neneng B., Marit, Bobbie, Louise, Alice, Neneng P., Susan. Seated (L-R) Orvil, Vilma, Butch, Arpee, Neneng P.'s kids.

Two days before the big day, some long lost uncles and aunts came to Phoenix. Dad did some small house repairs and Mom was busy calling up everybody. I could tell then that a special event was going to happen.

I heard that the Sto. Niño is "mati-aw". On the night before the fiesta, He tried His trick on Mom. She was informed that Fr. Mike Java left for the Philippines and could not officiate the mass next morning. Also, while we were decorating the hall in preparation for the mass, it rained hard with thunderstorm and 2-inch flooding. This was unusual in Arizona during summer time. I asked myself:

"Does Baby Niño want to show us how almighty He is?"

August 7, Saturday, the day of the Fiesta, Mom and Dad searched all over Phoenix for a priest. One hour before the mass, Mom found a Filipino priest, Fr. Tito Cruz. It



Cha-Cha, anyone?

target shooting in the morning. The heaviest part, however, was the thank you's, see-you-next-year hugs and kisses and goodbyes in the afternoon.

To my Mom and Dad, Nelly and Tony, the sponsors; to the ever energetic president of the

Tobeses, Yturriagas (not enough space to mention them all); relatives like Lolo Tanoy, friends, my barkadas, and invited guests; all who graced the occasion, helped carry the burden, pressure, tension and problems -- from us, Manay Lenlen, Kuya Ronald, Aaron, Dondon, the Hill children, our heartfelt thanks for sharing with us the experience and for the memories. ■

"...while we were decorating the hall in preparation for the mass, it rained hard with thunderstorm and 2-inch flooding. This was unusual in Arizona during summer time..."

- Sheena "Tata" Hill

was really a show of how much faith Bobonanons have on Him.

Mamaratron from Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco started coming as early as 6:00 a.m. The celebration started at 11:00 a.m. with a mass in honor of the Sto. Niño. Lunch followed and after a short program, dance began.

At this time I had a picture of what the fiesta is all about. The mass; the cha-cha and the kuratsa; brothers and sisters meeting in one place; seeing aunts and cousins again after so many years; Bobonanons telling stories about life in Bobon: the helpers, the neighbors you could call on to babysit for free, the vegetables and rice from next door, the sarayaw every weekend at the Elders' Park, folkdances on Independence Day, the floristas during Flores de Mayo, etc., etc..

The next day saw my Dad and Bobon's bulls-eye pistoleros open-

association, Uncle Butch; to the other officers like Auntie Bobbie and Auntie Precy; to Uncle Ber, all uncles and aunts, Ates and Kuyas; to the families of Abaquins, Abellars, Bolhayons, Carpinas, Cornillezes, Gorgonias, Paredeses,

Editor's Note:

The Association joins Tata in thanking all its members and friends who made the Phoenix Fiesta a success.

The Association also thanks all those who have extended support and contribution in the past and who will do so in the future.

Butch



At the Phoenix fiesta. Standing (L-R) Butch, Totoy, Dick, Nelly, Bobbie, Louise, Lydee, Neneng, Precy, Inat, Fatima, Neria. Seated (L-R) Steve, Eric, Ber, and a guest.