



To Wait Forever

night is a blackbird in a hollow mind
and the mind tiptoes in a penumbra . . .

it cannot use the sight for
groping is a habit of death —

a red ember that waits in the dark;
its darkness-light an end, a beginning.

there are no footprints
in the sand of time —

silly, there is no sand, no time . . .

only the waiting, the long, timeless
waiting and wishing

for the beginning to end

and for the end to begin.

EDITHA A. OCANTE

The PATRIA

tion of Our Lady, was the date on which the cornerstone was laid by Archbishop Rosales in a simple but solemn ceremony graced by the presence of prominent citizens and leaders of various community organizations. The venerable ex-President Sergio Osmeña, Sr., was among those present.

The actual construction work started on September 12, 1955, with Engr. H. del Rosario as the construction engineer and Jose Mercado and Teodoro Trinidad as architects. Employment of an average number of 80 laborers continued throughout the more than 35 weeks of construction, resulting in what is now the completed Main Unit of the structure. This finished portion sheltering the 10-alley bowling hall, the billiard rooms, the chess and pingpong rooms, the spacious lobby, and the different sections for offices. At the time of writing, the gross expense of the Patria amounts to no less than one-hundred thousand pesos.

Students' Participation in the Project

Probably no other student organization can boast of a stronger loyalty and a more unflinching devotion to a cause than the Student Catholic Action at the time when it undertook the building of a gigantic project. Catching the thrill of seeing the building gaining form, everybody rallied behind the cause and rendered every sort of service they could offer in behalf of the project. When the construction was threatened with lack of funds, the SCA members went out, individually or in groups, soliciting for aid from one house to another. The courage and enthusiasm with which they performed this taxing job should be taken as a merit of the character of these young student actionists. The youthful and brave crusaders approached even people who did not sympathize with the aims behind the establishment of the Patria, explaining the urgency of having a community center. Undoubtedly, it was this spirit of certainty and enthusiasm which finally won for them the support of the people to the project. But what probably was