

Introducing the Original Settlers of Pagsanjan

Franciscans Push Onward Around Lake Laguna Into Tayabas

Commencing this ninth excursion along the great mission trail in the Philippines, we give somewhat extended space to Pagsanjan because it is always been unique among provincial towns. This latter-day period, it is true, seems to be taking away the best talent and causing it to reside in Manila; so that only a few years ago it was reported that Pagsanjan had no candidates for the town mayorship. Nevertheless, Pagsanjan remains distinguished. Deans Conrado and Francisco Benitez hail from Pagsanjan, and Mrs. Benitez, head of the Philippine Women's College. Pagsanjan has always gone in for higher education; towns in the islands twice and thrice her size have sent fewer students to the University and to universities in the United States.

Scrutiny of the civil service records would also reveal that Pagsanjan folk know how to live off the government; seemingly they pass the examinations with high marks, and when once employed they are able to stick to the job and earn promotions. A son of Pagsanjan, ex-Representative Benitez, was the first legislator in the Philippines to make a speech in English on the floor of the house during a regular session of that body. It was a staged performance; Benitez got little attention, but many members who laughed at him then are no longer lending their levity to our public affairs; speeches in English have also become quite the regular thing in the house.

Pagsanjan has many claims to leadership; she is a fountain, though by no means the only one in the islands, of native enterprise. We smile, of course, when we see a good deal of this enterprise exerted only to the end of annexing government jobs; but that is not altogether Pagsanjan's fault, and such as it is it is something out of the ordinary.

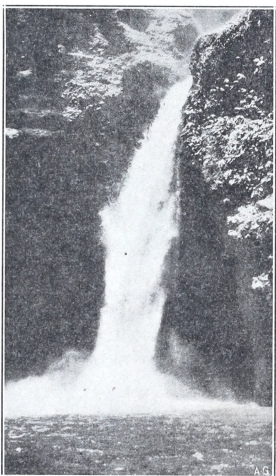
"Of a barrio of the town of Lumbang," writes Father Huerta, "composed of various Chinese and Japanese occupied in the *bouga* industry, this town was formed, being separated from the mother town in civil affairs in 1668 and in spiritual affairs in 1687, the first minister being Fr. Agustin de la Magdalena. In 1688, upon the recommendation of Sergeant Major D. Mateo Lopez Perea, *alcalde mayor* of the province, the superior government decided to remove the seat of justice of the province from Bay to this town, establishing in it the capital. In 1697 some 200 native taxpayers were added to the pueblo, who were conceded the right of naming their own *gobernadorcillo*, which office fell to D. Francisco Umale; and from then on this town had two captains (meaning local chieftains), one for the mestizos and the other for the natives."

Huerta wrote in 1865, when this type of government for Pagsanjan seemed still to be in its infancy. Two centuries ago, when connected with the church, one made up of the members of the mestizo grange (*gremio de mistizos*) and the other of natives. Huerta remarks the prosperity of the first of these confraternities; its common fund of P9000 in 1847 had increased to P16,000 in 1852. It was the Archconfraternity of the Holy Sacrament and dated from 1807; its crown was received from the royal savings July 23, 1819, and bulls of the Pope in 1820 and 1826 confirmed its rights and granted indulgence to its members.

The original church was of course of nipa and bamboo, 1688. The present one, of brick, dates from 1690 and was "built under the direction of a Christian Chinese called Miguel Guanaco." It is curious that this crown the royal savings saved the silver with which Sr. D. Simon de Anda y Salazar could begin the defense of these islands against the British invasion in the year 1762, which action afterward cost this province of San Gregorio so much unpleasantness."

The tribute collected and held at that time in Pagsanjan as for the provincial capital was P111,000 a year. In Manila the authorities were collecting the ransom, and they had sent to the provincial treasurer, D. Nicolas Echa-

Beaumont, for all this silver to be delivered to Manila and put with the growing heap making up the ransom. But Anda had already escaped to the provinces and begun his resistance. The Franciscans knew he was in dire need of funds, and the friars of their order stationed at Pagsanjan were determined that he, and not the British, should have this P111,000. They enlisted the aid of D. Francisco de San Juan, who had held high military command in the Spanish insular forces and was then the leading figure in Tayabas. He came down to Pagsanjan with 500 horsemen, who stationed themselves around the provincial building while the two friars went in to parley with the agents from Manila. However, these men were so stubborn that one of the friars had to cover them with a blunder-



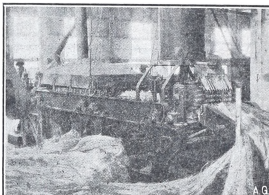
Pagsanjan Falls. "The canoe journey up the gorge to these beautiful falls is a never-forgotten experience, and the return trip, shooting the rapids"

buss while he impressed on them the fact that not one peso of that silver was going back with them to Manila.

Things were at this impasse when agents howe into town from Anda, saying to send the silver to him; and so Beaumont did so "with much lamenting on his part and much rejoicing by the religious."

Besides its wonderful falls, Pagsanjan has medicinal springs once widely renowned for cures effected in diseases of the alimentary system. Why it is that the many curative springs existing in the Philippines are not more recommended by physicians nowadays is past finding out. The Jesuits especially have some records and analyses of their waters which would be sufficient to base further scientific investigation on. The springs exist in every part of the islands and there is no question but that their more adequate exploitation would have a salubrious effect. The Franciscans discovered many of these springs, or first observed their use by the native inhabitants; and so it was at Pagsanjan, where they long maintained an infirmary.

San Antonio. Established in 1736 out of two villages theretofore attached to Longos



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and Paete. "The first church, dedicated to San Antonio de Padua, was burned by the Moros of Mindanao in 1760, the Moros also capturing more than 100 prisoners. The second church, of boards and bamboo, endured until 1814, when the one now existing was commenced by Fr. José Garcia, Fr. Agapito de Aranzuez completing it in 1845. It is of ordinary architecture, with a wooden tower, and the cost was defrayed by the friars, certain charitable contributions, and the aid of the townspeople."


Bay. Founded by the Augustinians, but ceded to the Franciscans in 1737. Capital of Laguna until 1688, when the capital was removed to Pagsanjan; the reign of Santa Cruz as the provincial capital is recent and postdates 1865, the year in which Huerta wrote, when Pagsanjan was still the capital. Only a bamboo and nipa church existed in Bay when the Franciscans took over the town, but the church of stone, now standing, was begun in 1804 by the Franciscan parish priest, Fr. Gerónimo Herbas. Patron saint, San Augustin. Bay has extensive irrigated lands.

Magdalena. "Four barrios pertaining to the town of Mahayhay formed a *visita* called Ambling, and this, being separated from the mother town in 1821, was erected in turn into a town bearing its present name. Fr. Antonio Moreno being the first parish priest. The church, dedicated to the heroine of love, Santa Maria Magdalena, is of solid construction situated on a small hill of slate stone, extremely durable. This church was built by Friars Máximo Rico, José Cuesta, Joaquin de Corta and Francisco de Paula Gonzalez, the zealous curate, Fr. José Urbina de Esparragos, completing and adorning it in 1854."

Luisiana. Separated from Mahayhay in 1848 politically, and spiritually in 1854, "by decree," of course, "of the superior government." When Huerta wrote in 1865, there was only a small temporary church dedicated to the Holy Virgin. The traveler of today, may observe how well the zeal of the people have carried them on, and whether they have thought fit to build in the substantial manner of their forbears

in the older towns. As a matter of fact, the progress of time brought a change of predominant notions; in this day men and women are observed, for instance in a conquest of the air, who, at the time the older churches were built which are not standing in the Philippines, would have been making knights of the Cross, friars and nuns of themselves; for such were the envied activities of that ancient age. While human nature changes but little if at all, the human viewpoint certainly changes a great deal.

Next month we journey on with the doughy Franciscans into the Bicol region, the bishopric of Nueva Caceres. They had indeed one more town which is now an important one in Laguna, San Pablo, the province's main commercial center, where half the desiccated coconut to supply the American market is manufactured—where, therefore, coconut cakes and fudge begin—but when Huerta wrote in 1865 this town was still embraced in the neighboring



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REAL ESTATE

By P. D. CARMAN

San Juan Heights Addition



The following are the totals for the first quarter of each year from 1919 to 1928 inclusive, showing a decided improvement: 1919, 5,721,562; 1920, 4,577,250; 1921, 2,979,880; 1922, 2,621,551; 1923, 2,499,948; 1924, 3,856,879; 1925, 3,539,851; 1926, 3,421,002; 1927, 3,543,539; 1928, 4,485,875.

	February 1928	March 1928
Binondo.....	P 57,475	P 1,955
San Nicolas.....	64,450	226,805
Tondo.....	173,450	78,457
Sta. Cruz.....	138,913	189,806
Sampaloc.....	145,011	73,302
San Miguel.....	1,200	
Quiapo.....	30,500	19,806
Sta. Mesa.....	28,900	19,806
Sta. Ana.....	47,616	60,954
Pandacan.....	2,017	
Paco.....	10,403	34,424
Malate.....	136,286	203,024
Ermita.....	276,624	288,781
Intramuros.....	26,500	

P'1,138,445 P'1,216,515

	1920	1921	1922	1923
January.....	P 1,796,773	P 1,631,492	P 1,273,713	P 570,486
February.....	1,637,883	492,768	657,012	1,151,309
March.....	1,142,594	855,620	690,826	778,153
April.....	1,535,135	401,997	704,789	729,829
May.....	1,089,946	1,199,531	1,465,538	694,211
June.....	1,609,212	499,569	667,869	1,027,668
July.....	882,695	480,105	1,029,019	717,859
August.....	1,886,047	558,491	692,891	504,123
September.....	1,321,489	1,022,093	1,040,814	1,153,444
October.....	1,186,673	857,446	812,464	550,507
November.....	803,865	457,699	746,545	863,772
December.....	2,870,499	486,321	1,071,936	848,833

Totals..... P'17,677,811 P'8,227,859 P'10,082,089 P'10,277,448

	1924	1925	1926	1927
January.....	P 1,879,030	P 883,818	P 1,128,773	P 1,215,531
February.....	840,673	972,578	919,150	594,903
March.....	1,137,176	1,673,455	1,373,079	1,733,195
April.....	689,218	1,199,531	1,298,722	673,760
May.....	791,276	1,284,940	749,975	600,547
June.....	868,874	749,122	738,503	1,045,121
July.....	975,450	1,635,527	1,843,930	894,398
August.....	795,260	1,295,260	585,519	649,662
September.....	1,652,377	1,164,819	1,167,921	722,047
October.....	1,543,486	2,358,825	752,130	1,311,380
November.....	1,092,858	1,292,416	1,480,859	1,154,245
December.....	773,183	867,231	672,075	1,400,504

Totals..... P'13,038,861 P'15,404,742 P'12,710,666 P'11,995,124

province on the south, Batangas. The original name of San Pablo, founded by the Augustinians, was Sampaloc; in 1794 the founders ceded the town to the Franciscans. "The church, under the advocacy of San Pablo, is of brick, quite strong and spacious." The Augustinians built this church, but a Franciscan, Fr. Pelegrin Pospes, renovated and repaired it in 1840, making it so fine that "it had nothing to envy in the vicinity are all the work of different friars stationed at one time or another in San Pablo.

Here is another first rate outing place little patronized. Up a side street only a little distance from the main highway, a crater lake is encountered—cool placid waters resting amid the hills. Wide green sward borders this lake, and trees are large and frequent enough to afford shade for picnic parties. Swimming is ideal. A day may be most profitably and delightfully spent in San Pablo, visiting the two busy coconut factories, the market and the church, and this remarkable lake. Then there's another smaller lake, the work of a miracle. A handsome house and grounds were once there, the property of a rich but selfish woman who would not let the poor of the town come into the grounds to gather tamarind beans from her burdened trees. The result of one of her tirades was that Heaven shook the earth, caused the total ruin of the property and the death, by drowning, of the mean widow, and put the lake there so that the destruction could never be repaired.

No doubt a dozen legends of the picnic lake exist too.

RAIL COMMODITY MOVEMENTS
 By M. D. ROYER
 Traffic Manager, Manila Railroad Company



The following commodities were received in Manila February 26, 1928, to March 25, 1928, both inclusive, via Manila Railroad:

	1928 March	February
Rice, cavans.....	252,500	332,854
Sugar, piculs.....	382,590	399,370
Tobacco, bales.....	3,480	3,880
Copra, piculs.....	60,100	49,144
Coconuts.....	2,240,900	2,048,200
Lumber, B.F.....	297,000	118,800
Desiccated coconuts, cases	12,382	11,800

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