

# The "LET YOUR HAIR DOWN"

## Column

"I WAS pleasantly surprised," said the editor, "that at a meeting of a certain committee, last night, four or five of the members of which are important Manila businessmen, when one of them happened to mention the article, 'Tondol, Pangasinan', in last month's *Journal*, all the others present said they had read it, too, and found it very interesting. Also, they all had read the editorial

review of the McMillan-Rivera Report on 'the rural Philippines.'"

"Why should you have been surprised?" we asked, with none-too-delicate flattery. The editor did not seem to catch that, and answered seriously: "Well, of course, because the remarks made showed that the *Journal* is carefully read by such men. Also, because they showed that businessmen are genuinely in-

terested in President Magsaysay's program of barrio up-lift."

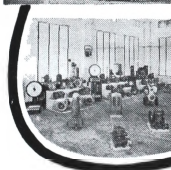
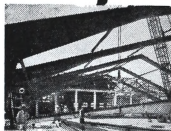
During the month, the editor received the following letter from Mr. J. H. Carpenter, President of the Chamber last year and now Executive Vice-President of Crusellas & Co., S. A., at Havana, Cuba, an affiliate of the Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company:

"I have read with great interest and certainly with a tremendous pride the most interesting and congratulatory editorial which you wrote for the November issue of the American Chamber of Commerce *Journal* regarding my 15 years of association in the Philippines. It gives me a great amount of pride to know that thoughts of this kind were in the minds of my associates, my friends and colleagues throughout the Islands. My stay in the Philippines was an enjoyable part of my life and I shall always look back upon it as most memorable, most pleasurable, and a part that I shall always treasure in my memories.

"I want to thank you personally for the outstanding cooperation and assistance that you gave me during my term as President of the Chamber and to tell you that many things you did on my behalf made my assignment much easier and much more enjoyable than it would have been otherwise.

"May I take this opportunity of extending to you and all of yours my very best wishes for many more years of continued happiness and success and again extend my personal appreciation to you for all of the things that you have done in behalf of the community in general over the past years. Sincerely, etc."

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MRS. GONDER, Chamber Executive Vice-President, received the following letter from Mr. J. H. Carpenter, President of the Chamber last year, dated January 19, and from Havana, Cuba:

"Many thanks for sending me a copy of the 'Welcome Brochure' covering the visit of Vice-President Nixon. I have thought many times about the excellent work that you have been doing for the Chamber and on many occasions have a happy feeling that my associations with the American Chamber have been so extremely pleasant and beneficial. I wish you would please extend my appreciation to all members of the Board for the cooperation they gave me during my term as President, and ask Mr. Palmer to express my thanks to the membership in general at the annual meeting. I would like to ask a favor of you and that is if you would send me one bound copy of all the issues of the *Journal* issued during my term as President. I would greatly appreciate having this for my files if the Board would agree to sending this to me. Mrs. Carpenter and little Jay join me in wishing you and yours the very best throughout the New Year."

From the Consul for Sweden, Mr. Ed. Varland, Royal Swedish Consulate, Manila:

"It is a pleasure for us to confirm that your monthly business review (the *Journal*), to which the Philippine Match Company subscribes and which has been placed at our disposal by courtesy of the mentioned Company, had proved to be of great value to us in our efforts to keep the Swedish Government and various trade organizations informed on the Philippines. . ."

The editor received another letter from Mrs. Hornbostel during the month in which she ordered another copy of his "Short History of Industry and Trade of the Philippines" after receiving three copies she had previously ordered:

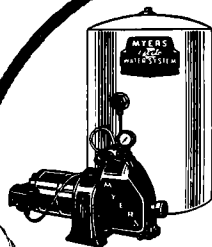
"We received the three copies of your Short History and find it extremely interesting reading. I am inclosing \$5.15 for another copy of it for my brother's son, a cum laude graduate of the School of Journalism of Syracuse University, who is now doing his stint in Tokyo, from where, I believe, he has written you concerning chances in the Philippines. He is a very bright boy and is married. His wife is going to have a baby next month. She also is a journalist. He has fallen in love with the Orient and would very much like to locate out there somewhere. . . . From what my brother said, your letter sounded a bit pessimistic for the Philippines. Nevertheless he has made up his mind to visit the Philippines sometime this summer and will probably look you up. . . . We were all very much delighted about having Magasaysay as the new President. He will have a hard road to travel, but I think he will make a go of it. . . ."

THE editor received a belated letter and an original hand-painted Christmas card from Mr. and Mrs. John Risley, sculptor and potter (ceramics), respectively, who were here with the M.S.A. and assigned to PRISCO. Their present address is Second Rangeway, Waterville, Maine, U.S.A. Mr. Risley wrote:

"A terrible address we have for you—wish you would send us a letter since we can't find your home address, not even in your book. We had a magnificent trip home through Europe—a very busy summer working, and then we bought a shell of a house, small but with a large studio, fixed it up, and are now at work. The *be-hang* looked magnificent in a clump of birches—silvery white—to make a fearsome and wonderful contrast. Now he is safely tucked away for the winter. Mary joins me in wishing you and your family the best of seasons. Sincerely, etc."

The *be-hang* referred to is an Ifugao image, a village guardian god, carved out of a tree-fern trunk, a very black kind of wood, which was a parting gift of the editor to the Risleys.

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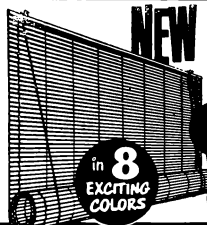


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The following was crowded out of an earlier issue of the *Journal* for which it was written, but is perhaps still of interest:

"I was among the small group of former Santo Tomas internees and their friends who attended, yesterday evening, the unveiling of the

memorial plaque which was placed on the wall beside the entrance to the main building of the University of Santo Tomas by the American Association," said the editor. "The plaque reads of the three years of suffering and humiliation the internees went through and of the final happy liberation. And, you know," he went on, "that the expression, 'bowels of compassion' is used in the Bible. The bowel was formerly supposed to be the seat of pity and tenderness and other such emotions. Well, we stood there, out in the open, listening to short speeches by Mr. Thomas, President of the Association, Earl Carroll, head of the internee executive committee, the Rev. Fonger, and a Catholic priest, and suddenly there was a flight of planes in the air, Philippine Air Force planes, I guess, which had no connection with the event but which served as an additional reminder of those terrible war days, and then, very oddly, there was a heavy rumble, as of armed tanks, like those which crashed through the Santo Tomas gate on that memorable night of February 3, 1945, and,—I tell you, I felt it in my viscera, a strange, creeping, shuddery feeling, and I caught my breath. Then I looked around, and what it was was just a common tractor used for some sort of work on the campus. When the affair was over, I could hardly bear to speak to people and got home as quickly as I could to get me a big, stiff drink."

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