



BARRIO Sapang Bato is a small village sprawled at the foot of a mountain. Although quite distant from its mother town, a dirt road lay between the two places.

The dust-filled road has not been passed on by a motor vehicle since the village was visited by a stumping politician before the last election. But one Sunday morning, the people curiously watched a rising column of dust smoke as two jeeps sped to their village.

When the jeeps arrived, some of the village people, who went to the town sometimes, recognized two physicians, a dentist, a lawyer and a few other respected members of the town community. They also greeted the parish priest of the town. What important business brought these prominent people to their insignificant little barrio, they wondered.

Soon, everything became clear as the *teniente del barrio* announced that the group were Knights of Columbus from the town, who would like to give the people free medical and dental treatment and free legal advice, after holy Mass was celebrated by the priest.

At the end of the visit, the people were very thankful for the material help. But they were specially grateful for the Sunday services, which before took place in their barrio only during special feast days. The priest could not come every Sunday, because of lack of transportation.

This story of charity is now repeated every week-end in many barrios, thanks to the Columbian Farmers' Aid Association.

The CFAA is an auxiliary organization of the Knights of Columbus in the Philippines dedicated to rural amelioration work. For its membership, it counts with the Knights of Columbus throughout the country. It depends on the various KC councils for the implementation of its objectives.

Fortunately, the projects promoted by the CFAA have been found suitable by many KC councils. Every KC council which chooses to adopt the CFAA organizes a special committee to take charge of implementing the association's objectives.

The CFAA has geared its projects for farmers to a self-help policy. When necessary, it has extended outright assistance. But as much as possible, it undertakes projects by which the farmers will be taught

## The RURAL ARM of the Knights of Columbus

It undertakes projects for the farmer's economic, social and spiritual well-being.

how to use the resources at his disposal, to improve his life economically, socially and spiritually. Thus the farmer is taught how to obtain better yield from the soil. He is taught how profitably to utilize his idle hours with cottage industries. He is taught how to form a cooperative together with his fellow farmers, in order to protect their interest. He is taught rules of hygiene and sanitation, in order to reduce disease and death in his family.

The "traveling free clinic" is the project that has made a hit among many KC councils. And as shown in the story about Barrio Sapang Bato, it is a project that has also made a hit among the barrio folk. Easy to organize, CFAA committees in the various KC councils have found that it is very helpful to the farmers not only materially but psychologically. To see the prominent members of the town coming to visit and help them is a great boost to their spirits. No doubt, it helps them better to resist Communist propaganda.

Seven years ago, Communist influence was still very strong especially in the rural areas. With their little initiative suppressed by the abuses of unscrupulous landlords, many farmers were unable to climb out of their miserable rut of bondage and poverty. They began to turn their heads when the Huks painted on their imagination the fabled classless society where every farmer owned the land he tilled.

With this state of affairs, the Columbian  
(Continued on page 18)

## THE RURAL... (Continued from page 11)

Farmers' Aid Association was propitiously organized by Manila Council 1000 in 1951 to extend practical assistance to small farmers and tenants throughout the country. The CFAA, as envisioned by the organizers, would help to erase the ignorance of the farmers, so that they could better resist the onslaughts of red propaganda. The association would also promote social justice and implement Catholic social doctrines with a program that would redound to the material benefit of the barrio people.

Specifically, the objectives of the association set down by the organizers are as follows:

1. To take such steps as the circumstances may require to further promote the general welfare of the Filipino farmers and tenants.
2. To help elevate the condition of the farmers and tenants throughout the country by increasing their crop yields through instruction and the proper use of fertilizers, lime, treatment of soil, the adoption of modern methods of farming, the use of irrigation and diversification of crops.
3. To solicit and receive donations of real and personal property for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of the association.

## HOW I WON... (Continued from page 8)

afternoon of May 25, 1958, and there were many prominent people among the spectators, one of them being Prince Akihito.

The pairings for the tournament were carefully made to provide a good match. All foreigners — Filipinos, Chinese and Koreans — were given Japanese opponents of the same weight class and grade, each winner to be awarded the Asian Games gold medal.

The results for the Filipinos were as follows: — Eduardo Ignacio and I defeated our Japanese opponents. Frank Robles fought his opponent to a draw. Ramon Montes, Chito Gavieres, Ramon Padre and Crisanto Quindoy, Jr., lost. I was able to counter one of my opponent's attacks and pin him for the required time when he fell on his back. Mr. Hirose, our coach and instructor, remarked later that I shortened his life by five years when my struggling opponent almost escaped from my hold!

The general consensus of opinion among the Japanese players was that we had put up a good showing. They appreciated our aggressiveness and the way we played judo.

After the tournament, the foreign judo players were entertained at a dinner recep-

tion; and generally to do and perform all acts and things reasonably necessary and proper for the carrying out of these purposes.

After its initial success, the CFAA ceased to be a local group sponsored by Manila Council 1000. It was incorporated and made a national auxiliary organization of the Knights of Columbus in the Philippines.

The association is ably headed by Senator Oscar Ledesma, who was recently re-elected as president for the eighth term. Senator Ledesma is chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. This committee is presently gathering data on how the government can better develop the country agriculturally with the cooperation of the people themselves. Following an established practice where the CFAA coordinates its activities with those of government and other agencies engaged in rural amelioration work, Senator Ledesma has asked the help of the Knights through the CFAA to help his Committee gather information.

The CFAA offers a vast field of opportunity for service to our rural masses. It is hoped that all KC councils, which have not yet done so, will lend their cooperation soon by adopting the CFAA as a project.

tioning by Mr. Risei Kano, president of the Kodokan Judo Institute. Through the influence of our coach, Mr. Hirose, who stood high in the good graces of the Kodokan, we were very well received at the Kodokan and given special coaching every afternoon during our stay.

Their best instructors were assigned to answer any questions we had and also instructed us in the latest techniques of sport-judo and of self-defense. It was not all work and study, however, for they also took us on sight-seeing tours, invited us to dinner parties and made certain that we returned to Manila laden with gifts and souvenirs. Our short stay in Tokyo had been an enjoyable and memorable one.

From my observation of judo, I believe that this is a sport ideally suited for our people. It promotes mental alertness as well as physical development and a keen spirit of sportsmanship. With serious training and study, there is no reason why we should not rank among the champions of this game not too many years from now. It was an honor for me to win a gold medal for the Philippines and I felt especially glad that in this field the Knights of Columbus had also been represented.