

PIONEER AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS IN MINDANAO

Ernesto Corcino

One little known facet of the American presence in Mindanao pertains to the pioneering entrepreneurial activities of those intrepid souls, who saw in the untapped wilderness of the region a "New West" full of opportunities and challenges for self-fulfillment. The outlook, determination and ideas of those enterprising Westerners found application in a broad range of endeavors. As they labored to make their dreams into realities, they also, consciously or not, brought Mindanao into the mainstream of the national economy and further thrust the region into direct international trading and commerce.

This paper attempts to identify and describe the different entrepreneurial ventures of those little-known pioneers, many of whom are now fully forgotten. The scarce account written about them and their enterprises leave one wondering why, in obscurity, their imprint in the development of Mindanao is often cited with nostalgia and praise. Fortunately, through patient inquiry of oldtimers, including a few surviving relatives and former employees, a better picture of their economic endeavors is being brought to light. Many more interesting if not intriguing questions, however, remain to be answered. For instance, there is the identification of places formerly mentioned but now having new names and delineation. The question as to what happened finally to those pioneering Americans and their ventures or properties comes naturally to mind. How about their families, if any? These, indeed, are challenging but interesting questions for the researcher to look into in order to gain a clearer understanding of the legacy of those pioneers. Despite our limited knowledge, however, it is quite evident that the activities of those early American entrepreneurs in Mindanao had created an impact that changed not only the face of the land, the character of its inhabitants and their institutions, but most of all, the level of economic productivity and the standard of living of the people in the region.

Understandably, time limitation at this "First Conference on the American Presence in Mindanao" precludes the mentioning of the many interesting experiences and sidelights—the sacrifices, the intrigues the romances and disappointments that marked many an American's life in

the Mindanao frontier. If one could but interview in greater detail the widely scattered informants, one would uncover fascinating stories that would perhaps inspire the making into movies of the "Mindanao Frontier Story" in a variety of themes—adventure, romance, pathos and the other "Western" genres.

For example, to mention a few, the inspiring leadership and foresight of Capt. James Burchfield who introduced many "firsts" in the field of entrepreneurship in Davao; the dedication and sacrifices of Lt. Edward C. Bolton, the first politico-military governor of Davao, who ironically died from the hands of the natives he was trying to help; the diplomacy and techniques used by Capt. Loren Cheever amongst his Moro workers to make them more productive; the dynamic leadership and eccentricities of Orville Wood; the discipline and meticulousness which Maj. Frank McGee tried to impart to his native laborers; the unusual methods and alleged cruelty of the Mexican-American Domingo Pelardo towards the native workers which catapulted a young and dramatic prosecution lawyer to popularity and the governorship of Davao; the story behind the deportation of a Mr. Smith; the rivalry between Billy and Ralph for an American widow; and the patient labors in Basilan and Zamboanga of Dr. James Strong in the culture and propagation of a wide variety of imported plants to benefit the Mindanao farmers, are subjects that may provide interesting human insights if explored in depth.

The progressive transformations brought about individually and collectively by those determined American settler-entrepreneurs in Mindanao may be appreciated better by recalling and forming a mental vision of the scenario prevailing in the Mindanao region, particularly the southern section, prior to the arrival here in September 1899 of the American soldiers of occupation.

During that era, Mindanao was sparsely inhabited, with centers of population established in Zamboanga, Jolo, Cotabato, and Davao, plus the much smaller towns of Mati, Caraga, Baganga and Cateel on the Davao east coast. Less accessible populated communities could be found along the Lake Lanao basin, the Rio Grande valley and some scattered settlements along the upper reaches and mouths of rivers. The great majority of the inhabitants were so thinly spread out that two-thirds of the Mindanao region, which became known as the Moro Province in 1903, had an estimated population of 50,000 Christians and

350,000 Moslems and pagans, which taken together represented about 5% of the national total. Some 360,000 other inhabitants, mainly Christians, were more densely settled in the narrower coastal communities of the northern districts of Misamis and Surigao: Dapitan, Iligan, Ozamis, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan and Surigao. Furthermore, a larger portion of the inhabitants of southern Mindanao were categorized by writers of that period as "primitive" with some tribal groups even referred to as "wild," quick to run away at the sight of a stranger if not lay in ambush with spear or bow and arrow at the intruder.

Vast tracts of virgin coastal forests, of talahib and cogon-covered plains lay unused, unpossessed. The rain forests and luxuriant greenery that blanketed the broad valleys and coastal plains indicated the richness of the soil, and with it the abundance of tropical wild life, replete with wild pigs, monkeys, deers, pythons, crocodiles and different varieties of orchids and fruits. Crop cultivation was limited to small patches of land, primarily to meet family subsistence, although a few, among them the Spanish *mestizo* oldtimers and tribal *datu*s also cultivated some abaca and coconuts for commerce since trading vessels also made calls twice or thrice a year on an irregular basis.

Paddle bancas and sailboats were the major means of transport. But foot travel was the most common mode of getting from one place to another because wheeled carts were a rarity and cannot be used in the seashores and forest trails that served to link one settlement to another.

Money was so scarce that goods changed hands through barter and even services or labor were often paid in kind. There were no public works projects nor sinecure job prospects from which one might secure employment because municipal income was minimal as to be able to support treasury coffers which often was short of funds. Hunger was not uncommon especially when droughts or prolonged rains occurred, or insects infested the crops, as there were but a few *tiendas* existing. Even then their stock for trade and foodstuffs were scant.

In sum, life in Mindanao during that era was dormant, sluggish. If there were excitements, these usually happened when a tribal group invaded another to give vent to their traditional, internecine warfare, or when a raiding party attacked a community for booty or slaves. Amusements to give spice to people's lives generally came in the form of gambling—*monte*, *pang-guinggi* and *cockfight*, or in a happier vein,

during the celebration of a wedding feast, the town fiesta or other important occasions.

Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, U.S. Army, Governor of the Moro Province, gave a more pathetic picture as Spanish rule came to a close when he reported:

The interim between the Spanish evacuation and the coming of the American forces was marked by anarchy and chaos. Burning and destruction of property, theft, rapine and murder were almost daily occurrence. A reign of terror ensued.

These took place, for some reason or another, in Zamboanga, Cotabato, Davao and Caraga.

Let us now shift our attention, in order to have an overview of the rationale for the American advent on our verdant shores. Why did they come in the first place? What did they want? What breed of people were they?

The reasons that impelled the American leaders to extend America's frontiers to the Orient were but reflections of their people's desires and interests. As early as 1876, evidence of the urge to expand American territory had been expressed in one of the issues of the *Overland Review* in the United States when it said:

The subjugation of a continent was sufficient to keep the American people busy at home for a century but now that the continent is subdued, we are looking for fresh worlds to conquer."

During that time America had begun to enjoy a favorable balance of trade and was on the road to prosperity from the ruins of its Civil War. Its industrial capacity had expanded and its factories needed raw materials. There was increasing desire for goods and products both at home and in Europe. The extension of its railroad system to the Pacific Coast had induced an influx of settlers to the western frontier and soon good lands there had become scarce. At that time also, a great race was on among the Western Powers towards Asia. European nations had carved extra-territorial rights in China to promote their trade. By 1895 Senator Cullom of Illinois revealed a more anxious urge when he said: "It is time that someone woke up and realized the necessity of annexing some property."

Although America did not join in annexing Chinese territory, its

expansionist dream had become manifest. President William McKinley had ordered the Pacific Naval Squadron to Hongkong where in January 1898 Admiral George Dewey assumed command. It was ordered, following a break with Spain, to engage the Spanish Fleet in Manila and by May 1, 1898 the conquest of the Philippines had commenced.

Justification for American acquisition of the Philippines and the policy towards the new colony were subjects of prolonged debates and sharp divisions both in the halls of Congress and outside. "Expansionism," "manifest destiny," "altruism," "imperialism," "the white man's burden" etc. were issues discussed although in sum they combined to the pursuit of economic, strategic and human considerations. The debates, nevertheless, engendered greater curiosity and interest on the part of the American public towards the Philippines.

The pioneer American who came shared common knowledge about their western frontier and the attendant satisfaction which exploration, adventure and conquest provided. The Philippine frontier, to many, offered visions of opportunities to improve one's lot; to some, to satisfy their compulsive sense for enrichment. To others, it was simply doing something, joining others or helping someone in need. There were also those who came just to visit someone dear. And altogether, many of them decided to stake their future in different productive pursuits in the new colony.

The American pioneers in Mindanao represented a broad cross-section of geographic origins, social and educational backgrounds, professional and technical experience. Most of them were enlisted men hurriedly recruited for the Volunteer Army to carry out the "Pacification Campaigns" in the Philippines following Dewey's victory at Manila. Some were officers who belonged to the professional military service and had fought in the Mexican and Cuban wars. Others, the civilians, including the teachers, who later joined in the entrepreneurial ventures in Mindanao had varied experiences as businessmen, administrators, educators, agriculturists, lumbermen, miners, engineers, husbandrymen, store-owners, brokers, salesmen, bankers, or accountants, including the self-educated and the selfmade.

Whatever their background "they seldom talked about it," as

Walter Buckish, a pioneer teacher in the Philippines had observed, and they were flexible to adjust in whatever type of work their business required. They belonged to the breed described in *The West: A Meaning for the Westward Movement*, edited by Prof. Bayrd Still of New York University, thus:

It is the most enterprising and unsettled Americans that come West and when they have left their old homes, broken their old ties, resigned the comforts and pleasures of their former homes, they are resolved to obtain wealth and success for which they come. They throw themselves into work with feverish yet sustained intensity. They rise early, they work all day, they have few pleasures, few opportunities for relaxation.

Spearheading the pioneering entrepreneurs in Mindanao were the private contractors/supplier who catered to the needs of the military. They represented the companies in Manila that had, earlier, entered into contract with the Army for the provision of foodstuffs and supplies. But soon the soldiers, who had been mustered out of the service and opted to be discharged locally, set up independent ventures to reinforce or meet other requirements for services, products and materials needed not only in the new colony but also for the export market. Those were the soldiers apparently referred to by Richard Corwine, Chief of the Industrial Office, Moro Province in 1909:

Almost from the day the American landed in Mindanao and Jolo in 1899, the desire to settle in what is now the Moro Province took deep hold on many. The 23rd U.S. Infantry and the 31st Volunteer Infantry left a goodly number of officers and men behind and a large portion of these is still here.

It is generally accepted that different districts attract and foster entrepreneurial activities peculiar to the conditions and resources of its environment. In this connection, let us consider for the sake of convenience the division of southern Mindanao, which is the focus of this study, into three districts since each gave rise to a more or less preponderant type of entrepreneurship.

Zamboanga offered the first opportunity to the original American entrepreneurs to engage in different types of venture. The place served as the jump-off base for the military-politico sector which run coloni-

zation affairs in southern Mindanao and Sulu. The presence of both the military garrison and civil administrators required the provisioning from local sources of some items which were not readily available or in short supply from the military's post exchange or commissary. Common sense dictated the procurement of commodities and supplies abundantly available locally at lower prices.

Early establishment of regular and improved shipping and communication linkages with Manila, Iloilo, Cebu and the outside world promoted commercial and trading activities in the Zamboanga area. The regional government had subsidized shipping vessels, such as the "Borneo" and the "Bolinao" aside from the military or navy boats in order to enhance inter-provincial trade, services and communication in the region. It constructed or improved port facilities and other public works. The government also set up trading centers known as "Moro Exchanges" in strategic places for the convenience of the inhabitants and the "hill people," thereby further encouraging commercial intercourse. Being the terminus of inter-island shipping as well as the hub of coastwise trade in Mindanao, Zamboanga grew as the premiere commercial and trading center of the early period.

The areas surrounding Zamboanga offered varied opportunities to entrepreneurs who early realized the need for products that could be extracted or grown and then marketed with relative convenience through the port of nearby Zamboanga which by now was visited regularly by inter-island as well as foreign shipping. Basilan's lush forest and gently sloping plains attracted lumber processors and agricultural investors. So did the contiguous Zamboanga peninsula itself up towards the north to the Sibuguey Bay area. The broad Sulu seas invited entrepreneurs for pearl, shell, sponge, and other marine products.

The abundant natural resources, the increasing needs of a growing population, the desire for improved public facilities and the broadened outlook of people for life's conveniences, combined to bring about in the newly established American colony varied challenges to the perceptive entrepreneurial minds. While the obvious procurement and supply business of consumer goods and service-contracting offered immediate opportunities, these were soon followed by ventures in lumbering, coal mining and commercial cultivation of crops such as coconuts, rubber, cacao, coffee and citrus, as well as cattle raising, hostelry, brokerage, real estate and other types of business.

In the district of Davao, the broad coastal plains, with its rich soil drained by numerous rivers and creeks, readily attracted those who saw the potentialities in agriculture. Vast tracts of sparsely populated land were available practically for nothing (usually ₱10 per hectare of government land) and the ex-soldiers' meager capital would, with hard-work and tenacity, get returns a hundred times over from the harvests of the land. In addition, the calm and deep waters of Davao Gulf surrounded by high mountains provided a natural protection for shipping and convenient place for boats to pick up the produce direct from the farms. Thus even if the initial individual planters with some capital were few, they were soon joined by scores of others who pooled their capital for joint venture, or those who first began by working in the other earlier plantations so as to earn starting capital to open up their own hacienda.

One of the earliest Davao planters, Capt. James Burchfield of the 31st Infantry, U.S. Volunteers, later to be known as the Patriarch of the Davao Planters, was a leading figure who encouraged his fellow Americans to stake their future in Davao. One of his contemporaries, Sgt. William Gohn, 17th Infantry, did likewise and both became the leading and popular planters and business "tycoons" of early Davao. There was Lt. Edward C. Bolton, 17th Infantry U.S. Volunteers, founder of the famous Culaman Plantation in Malita and later designated as the first politico-military governor of Davao, who spurred the formation of corporations to open up large scale plantations in Davao. There was also a group of men from the 44th Volunteers, one member of which, David Jacobson, labored for four years in an adjacent American plantation so as to save capital in order to start his own farm. His plantation gradually grew to become a model one, and before his death in 1970 his 445 hectares of highly productive coconut land was deeded in his will to the Brokenshire Memorial Hospital and to his plantation employees and laborers.

From 1906 to 1909 a continuous trickle of ex-servicemen came to Davao some of them with capital but most with but the little savings they had earned from civilian jobs after their discharge from the Army. Many of them were members of the Manila police and fire departments, who were inspired with the stories told by members of a survey party that came to Davao in 1906 to delineate the boundaries of the Crumb estate in Digos. Many of those formed partnerships or corporations

with friends from Zamboanga, Manila or abroad, and occupied the broad plains from Digos to Malalag. Others ventured alone or with their buddies to occupy smaller tracts of flat lands along the mountainous coast farther south of Malita. Still others occupied the narrow coastal plains on the northeast side of Davao Gulf. Altogether by 1909 some 40 plantations had been established, their areas ranging from 100 hectares to 1,024 hectares or more. Their plantings at that time aggregated 2,670,000 hills of hemp and 122,000 coconut trees.

The Davao planters had formed, not long after they were settled, a cooperative and it arranged with manufacturers the purchase of their produce, as well as with shipping companies for direct calls of vessels at the port of Davao. Thus, higher price and better margin of profit was made possible. This arrangement also opened up Davao to direct international trading.

As the requirements for labor in the expanding plantations increased, so did the number of settlers who came to Davao. Even the Japanese laborers in the Baguio-Benguet Road construction were brought in after the completion of that project. As early as 1903 the initial Japanese group of seven laborers, later followed by 30 others, started to work in the American plantations as contract workers paid by the area cleared and planted, instead of daily wages as heretofore practised. The *pakyaw* work system became the fad.

Coconut seedlings by the tens of thousands from the San Ramon Penal Farm in Zamboanga were brought to Davao for planting in the large plantations. New breeds of cattle, horses and hogs, as well as foodstuffs were introduced from Australia which has now a direct link with Davao through the vessels that called on regular schedule. Different types of plants were introduced from America and elsewhere for experimental cultivation. Coal-fed machines for plowing and digging irrigation canals and compacting new roads were introduced for the first time. So with kerosene-operated engines to run locally invented abaca stripping machines and sawmills. In time, electric power, the printing press, the silent cinema and cold refreshments were available. Telephone lines introduced by the military were eventually reinforced by American civilian investors, who set up the Philippine Long Distance branch in Davao.

The increase in Davao's population required ancillary services and goods. With work available everywhere, money circulation increased.

Davao was on the road to prosperity it had never known in the past. The small wooden pier at Sta. Ana originally constructed in 1904 with donations from the pioneer American planters was lengthened and improved, and made Davao a more convenient port of call by inter-island and overseas shipping. Shipping lines which originally called directly at Zamboanga now changed their schedule to Davao. By 1913 the first gasoline-run truck was introduced in Davao. Soon the trucking business and PU passenger car business came into being. Where earlier the small, coal-run steamboat and animal-drawn carts were used for transporting cargoes and produce from the plantations, the hauling trucks induced the development of farms farther from the seashores.

In the first and second decades following the arrival in Davao of those pioneer planters, several plantations were noted to have changed ownership. Some of the original owners have died, leaving their estate to their heirs or partners, some of whom in turn sold out the property later. Others found it difficult to carry on and had either abandoned them or sold out to their partners or other American firms. Many of the plantations, however, were sold or leased to the new wave of land seekers—the Japanese corporations of Otha and Furukawa who by now had received investment capital from the large corporations in the Japanese mainland. Some pioneer planters thought it high time to sell at a modest profit to enable them to return home to America and retire. On the other hand, some plantations were maintained by their original American owners up to the outbreak of the war with Japan and still others maintained them until the termination of the Parity Rights quite recently which required the owners to divest of their property to meet Philippine laws.

In the district of Cotabato and the southern coast of Lanao, a different group of pioneers—many of whom retired teachers, mostly from Cebu—ventured in the area between Parang and Malabang. They came not so much for the purpose of cultivating plantations in large scale as the Davao planters did. Theirs were for securing a place to retire on and at the same time cultivating the land for their self-satisfaction and leisure, looking forward to increments for the benefit of their children. As with most American ex-soldier pioneers, they had chosen Filipina spouses and were determined to stay here for good. Some of them, through time, expanded their holdings and had become large planters; however, others experienced so much difficulties and left, while still

others did not live long enough and their families returned home to Cebu or transferred elsewhere.

In the southern coast of Cotabato towards Davao, the virgin forests attracted the lumbermen and rubber planters from the Zamboanga-Basilan district. Goodyear Rubber and Weyerhaeuser lumber interests under joint venture or new ownership extended their operations in Lebak and vicinity, giving rise to the development of new communities which gradually grew into towns. Late in the 1920s, other American retirees from government service from Cotabato area also ventured in the same area cultivating coconuts and abaca or engaged in ranching. They were soon joined by former employees of American plantations from Davao who felt they could do better in the new area to establish a brighter future for their children, rather than remaining in Davao which by now was dominated by Japanese interests. The Buayan or Makar area at the head of Sarangani Bay also attracted a couple of Americans to venture in ranching, who soon left to join their relatives in Davao to consolidate their investment.

Whether by encouragement or inducement of their predecessors or contemporaries, by their own volition, or just plain adventure, the American pioneers had gradually spread out from Zamboanga to the coasts of Cotabato and Davao to carve a niche for themselves or the interests they represented. They were in the main, the people who saw "plantations to be hacked out of the jungle of Mindanao providing a challenge to the intrepid and hardworking" as described by Lewis Gleeck, Jr., in his well-researched book *Americans in the Philippine Frontiers*.

The extent of American interests and the individuals or firms that ventured into the three districts of southern Mindanao may be better appreciated with an enumeration of their endeavors, as follows:

ENTREPRENEURS IN ZAMBOANGA-SULU DISTRICT

1. S.W. ALLEN - Jeweler and Optician.
2. THE AMERICAN BAZAAR (1902) - Mr. A. Broad, proprietor. General merchandise and representative of different Manila firms. Supplies merchandise to other towns in the Moro Province. Began as travelling salesman in Moro Province.
3. THE AMERICAN PHARMACY - Geo. W. McClintock, M.D.

- Tarbel, proprietors. Most up-to-date drugstore to be found in the Orient. By 1913, E. M. Saleeby became proprietor.
4. C.F. BADDER - Dealer in real estate and owned several properties in Zamboanga City. Former representative of Pacific and Oriental Trading Company. A member of the City Council Later contractor also.
 5. BEEBE, LYON & CO., later Lyon & Co. - Lumber producer (1902) in Mindanao, with sawmill at Isabela in Basilan, with lumber yards in Zamboanga and Cebu. Operated a launch, sloop and schooner.
 6. BEHN, MEYER & CO., Ltd. - General Importers; produce and coal merchants; shipping agents, worldwide; marine insurance; initial agents for Davao planters; cement and kerosene dealers. Mr. Wessman, chief of engineering of Behn, Meyer & Co. made the survey and estimate of the *Zamboanga Water and Electric Light System* (₱200,000) which was subscribed to by local residents, including Americans, and in which the following were officers: President - P.J. Moore; Vice President - D.G. Beebe; Treasurer - John Sorrig.
 7. THE PULUAN RANCH COMPANY - F.W. Redding, president. Rubber and coconut plantations. Cattle ranch initiated cross-breeding of Bengalie and native cows.
 8. THE CHANCE BAR - M.C. Jensen, proprietor.
 9. CHASE AND BROWN - Mssrs. P.P. Chase and J.M. Browne, proprietors. Hemp, rubber and citrus.
 10. W.N. CLUMB CO. - General Contractor and builder
 11. DENISON & BEYERSDOFFER - R.M. Denison & John Beyersdoffer. Pioneer sponge fisher in Sitangkai, with sponge fishing area claim in that island.
 12. STEPHEN GANSCN - Lawyer.
 13. LEO T. GIBBENS - Lawyer and notary.
 14. MR. GREGG - Sawmill in Zamboanga, supplied lumber to government.
 15. JOS. S. JOHNSTON - Stevedoring and owns a local furniture and supply store. Later also sawmill and motor launches.
 16. KUENZLE & STREIFF - Mr. A. Huber, branch manager. Also a director of the Zamboanga Chamber of Commerce, Inc. - Hardware; Imports; Insurance and general agents.
 17. W.L. LAMB - Sanitary Agent.

18. THE MILLER PLANTATION - Isabela in Basilan. Carlos Miller, proprietor. Hemp and rubber. Hemp planting known for high yield and length of fibers, 23 feet in length not uncommon.
19. THE MINDANAO HERALD PUBLISHING CO. (1903) which published the weekly —*The Mindanao Herald*, with J.A. Hackett as editor and J.H. Sutherland as associate editor. This Zamboanga newspaper which was continuously published for 38 years until the outbreak of the war with Japan, provided the major source of recorded accounts of the American presence as well as rich general information on Mindanao.
20. MINDANAO HOTEL GARAGE—P.H. Frank, proprietor.
21. THE MORO PLANTATION on the Bagasan River, east coast of Zamboanga managed by Charles Bannister.
22. MOORE AND MALLOT—Lawyers.
23. McLANE HEMP STRIPPING MACHINE—Local invention by M.J. McLane. Manufacturing finance by D.G. Beebe, P.H. Frank, M.G. Maddy and M.G. McLane.
24. PACIFIC COMMERCIAL CO.—(1917) Zamboanga Branch Manager —A.W. Crosby. Export-Import. Transportation. General Merchandise. Water drilling.
25. PHILIPPINE DESSICATED COCGNUT CORPORATION (1922) —Dessicated coconut factory in Zamboanga, with Mr. J.B. Cooley, former superintendent of the San Ramon Penal Colony, was the manager. Assistant manager was Frederick L. Worcester, son of Dean Worcester. J.W. Harriman of Harriman National Bank of New York, and Dean Worcester formed the corporation, which became later the Blue Bar Coconut Company.
26. PLAZA HOTEL—Leonard and Gaylor, proprietors (1913).
27. C.S. RIVERS—Proprietor of a circulating library, in which the classics are included.
28. THE SAN RAFAEL PLANTATION CO.—Principal owners—Dr. Merchant and Mr. R.C. McGrath. Henry Musser is manager. Rubber, cassava, coconuts.
29. J.I. SCOTT—owner-operator of the Piang Studio, the celebrated photo studio in Zamboanga employing Japanese technicians. Pioneered in the use of water-coloring in photographs.
30. DR. A.T. SHORT—Physician and surgeon.
31. SHUCK BROS. of Tawi-Tawi—Timber concessioners.

32. SIASI PLANTATION & TRADING COMPANY, in Siasi - President - George R. Harvey, Vice-President - Carson Taylor; and Secretary - Dr. H. S. Kneedler. Mr. N.M. Holmes was Superintendent. Sponge fishing and trading.
33. SPRUNGLI & CO. - Mr. F. Blum, local branch manager. Post Exchange Business.
34. THE J. W. STRONG PLANTATION (1905) - Dr. James W. Strong, proprietor. A graduate dental surgeon and a registered pharmacist, Dr. Strong had a large dental practice. He owns the most notable hacienda in Basilan Island. One of the first American to engage in cultivation of hemp and coconuts. Propagated Liberian hybrid coffee. Brought in Washington navel oranges, Lisbon and Eureka lemons, Marsh seedless and Triumph pomelos, and different varieties of rubber. Also brought in Italian honey bees. He came to the Philippines in 1899 and two years later moved to Zamboanga. First planter in the Philippines to tap rubber in commercial scale.
35. G. STRATTON & CO. (1906) - Coconut plantation and ranch in Cagayan de Sulu.
36. HENRY E. TACK - Customs broker. He served for eight years as a Customs Official but decided to get out and open a customs brokerage office.
37. M. E. WAGNER - Horseshoer.
38. WILLIAMSON, REEDING & CO. - (1900) Largest cutters and shippers of lumber. Organized the Port Banga Lumber Co. which owned sawmill at Port Banga and supplied timber for bridges and railroad ties for Philippine Railway, which in 1908 alone was supplied with 4,000,000 bd. ft. The same firm constructed the Zamboanga seawalls and sidewalks, and the 18,000 cubic foot earthfill at the back of the Military Hospital.
39. F. H. YOUNG - Attorney.
40. ZAMBOANGA BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, with J.A. Hackett, Jr. as treasurer.
41. ZAMBOANGA CINE - W.C. Collins and M. Teague, co-owners.
42. ZAMBOANGA HOTEL - Mr. McIlvain, proprietor.
43. THE ZAMBOANGA COLD STORAGE PLANT (1904). Capitalized by local residents of ₱40,000, among them Americans. The plant has Mr. Wilson as plant engineer.

44. BUENAVISTA PLANTATION - in Curuan. Bought by E.M. Smoyer with A.D. Richy as partner. Smoyer was supervisor of schools in Sulu since 1911, later resigned to be in Manila but re-joined Department of Education and retired in 1924. Came back to Zamboanga and bought the plantation. He later bought out Richy.
45. SIBUCO PLANTATION, 60 miles up west on Zamboanga coast. Owned by Mrs. Stephen Juricka (Blanche) and R.F. Wendover. Coconuts plantation. During his early days in Zamboanga Mr. Juricka was a hardware merchant and a broker with interests in Jolo.
46. LLOYD NEULAND - Trading company. (1910s)

AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS IN DAVAO DISTRICT

1. AMERICAN HEMP PLANTATION CO. in Mahanob, Baganga. Founded in 1902 by Milburne A. Maxey, one of the first American teachers assigned in the Davao east coast. Mr. Christian Ade was partner and plantation manager. Latter drowned at Cuabo River while on trip to Davao. Rubber initially planted but later changed to coconuts. Wild animals and difficulty in getting adequate labor hampered progress. Maxey stayed on in Davao to become Superintendent of Schools. After the war he sold the property to Baganga residents. (136 has.)
2. AMES AND McCLELLAN PLANTATION in Balutakai (upper Padada). Originally purchased from pioneer owner, R.W. Wooten. Alex McClellan became manager of the 1,580-acre plantation. Primarily hemp but later coconuts also planted.
3. BALUTAKAI HEMP CO. (lower Padada). Organized in New York with \$200,000 capitalization, this was the first incorporated stock company to operate in Davao. Mr. J.C. Lenhart, the promoter and general manager, began in 1906 with a full complement of farm implements, including wagons, mowers, plows, harrows, wire fencing and 14 heads of Indian draft cattle. Planted hemp, coconuts and rubber. Hemp planted in rows ten feet apart and ten feet in a row so that it could be cultivated both ways by machinery. Also introduced a variety of crops and forage plants. Successful

plantings of bananas, papaya, pineapples, cassava, sorghum, broom corn, millet, ginger, sesame, cotton, kapok, peanuts, field peas and corn. Good growth also of mango, bread fruit, etc. Established excellent irrigation system bringing water 2½ miles from a dam on Balutakai River.

4. CHARLES B. BAKER PLANTATION in Limot (Pintatagan) Pantukan. (198 has.) A former Captain in Cavalry, he was with some ten others who came to Davao in 1907. Worked for a while with the B.A Crumb plantation in Digos before starting his own. Hemp and coconuts. Had a trading post. Mr. Baker served as manager of the Davao office of Elizalde and Co. before the outbreak of WW II. Part of plantation today still owned by children and other heirs since portions had been sold.
5. COMASSIE PLANTATION CO. in Tibungoy (Basiawan) south of Malalag. (802 has.). Hemp planting began in 1906 with R.W. Haley as manager. One of the incorporators was a brother of an Australian Prime Minister. Plantation later managed by a Mr. Pelardo, Mexican-American, who was charged of impressing forcibly passers-by as plantation workers and of cruelty to laborers. He was later replaced by Capt. Leslie Stevens, co-owner, who served as manager until war broke out. Capt. A.S. Crossfield also was co-owner. Plantation today owned by one Mr. Almario of Cebu.
6. CULAMAN PLANTATION in Malita. The first plantation established in the Malita-Caburan district of south Davao, it was organized in 1903 by then Lt. Edward Bolton, 17th Inf., U.S. Volunteers, who became by 1904 the first politico-military governor of Davao up to his death in 1906. Incorporators included Dr. R. King Cole, Orville V. Wood, D. M. Cheston, 17th Inf. and Lt. F.D. Tulois, also of the 17th Infantry. Mr. O.V. Wood as manager of the plantation was responsible in arranging for the first direct pick-up by an American cargo ship in the Davao Gulf area of the planters' produce for shipment to the U.S. When Mr. Wood got sick of malaria, he hired Charles Harvey who served as manager. Harvey died in the Japanese concentration camp, so that after the war, Mrs. Orville Wood took over as manager. Later, her son-in-law, Tom McGrath came to succeed her. Red Munford succeeded McGrath when the latter decided to live in Los Angeles although he came to visit Davao every two years. In 1970 the famous Cula-

- man plantation, with its highly productive coconuts and herd of hybrid cattle was sold to Filipino ownership, reportedly to a Mr. Ponce.
7. DAVAO TRADING & DEVELOPMENT CO. in Kibulan (south of Malalag). Began operations in 1904 with extensive plantings of hemp. Manager - John Clark.
 8. DEAN & COMPANY. Plantation in Laji (upper Magnaga) Pantukan. Manager - H.C. May. In 1909 some 20,000 hills of abaca had been planted with the use of laborers mainly from Visayas. This was later on known as the Lahi River Plantation Co. (332 has.)
 9. EDWARDS, H.A. in Magdug (Sigaboy). Although Mr. Edwards (black American?) had in 1909 just began a small hemp and coconut farm, his place had a trading post.
 10. GOHN & CO. in Sta. Cruz (44 kms. south of Davao poblacion). Founded in 1903 by William H. Gohn, a former 1st Sgt. of Co. "C", 17th Inf. U.S. Volunteers, with Messrs. Baldwin and Kelly as partners. The Company was among the first to construct irrigation and employed Japanese workers to supplement native labor comprising different indigenous tribes. Started with only ₱600 for capital, Mr. Gohn who was acquainted with the farm practices in his home state, Pennsylvania, was able to make his area (126 has.) highly productive despite the insistence of old Filipino residents that hemp could not grow well in the place for they had tried it. He later opened a larger plantation (841 has.) with Mr. Haley in Balutakai, southern Digos, under the firm name Gohn & Haley. Mr. Gohn also went into the trading business, became one of the principal stockholders of the Davao Light Company, agents for various Manila distribution firms, including Ford cars and trucks.
 11. GULF PLANTATION CO. in Magnaga (Pantukan). Managers William A. Reece and Herschel H. Ames. Operations in the 1,024 hectare plantation began in 1906 and by 1909 plantings consisted of 94,000 hills of hemp, about 3,000 Ceara rubber trees and some 1,000 coconuts. Around 70 Mandaya workers with a few Japanese and Visayans were employed.
 12. KENTUCKY PLANTATION at Daliao, 18 kms. south of Davao poblacion. The first American to establish a plantation in Davao, Capt. James L. Burchfield, 31st Inf. U.S. Volunteers, had known very well the Davao-Cotabato area. As an officer of the first

American occupation troops sent to Davao in December 1899, among his assignments was to explore the territory and map out appropriate trails for the construction of roads. Daliao, with its rich sandy-loam soil and wide plains immediately attracted his interest. He requested in 1901 to be discharged in Davao, and began to develop Daliao. He named it Kentucky Plantation after his home State. He then sent for his wife, Evelyn and son, David.

Burchfield was the first to employ modern farm machineries, with plows and disc harrow to cultivate his 100, 000 hills of hemp and 3,000 coconut trees. His 600 acre plantation had also a flourishing stock of cattle. Most of his workers were Kalagans (Davao Moros), with Visayan foremen.

In 1915 Burchfield sold his Kentucky Plantation to Furu-kawa and bought nearer Libby Plantation at Km. 14. He put up the Luneta Hotel in Manila with his son David as manager. The hotel, however, was sold after a couple of years. In 1917 he also sold the Davao Ice and Cold Storage Plant to the Japanese. He went into the transportation business — hauling trucks and motor launches and owned a high-speed 35-foot gasoline motor launch, the first of its kind in Davao.

In addition to the Libby plantation, he had another plantation devoted to coconuts and cattle raising in Piso, Lupon, in partnership with Peter Harding.

His store in Davao was one of the nearest and most up-to-date, serving as suppliers to the other Davao planters. A stern but kindly man, Burchfield is remembered by his contemporaries and former employees as “Mr. Gardemit” and for a peculiar behaviour: If his hat’s brim is turned down to almost cover his eyebrows, one can approach him for a loan or hand-out; if his hat is up, then one better beware . . . “Gardemit.”

13. LAIS TRADING & DEVELOPMENT CO., in Lais, Malita. Gen. Manager - Heine S. Peabody. Organized in 1905, this company was believed to be a sister company of the Culaman Plantation while Mrs. Orville Wood served as Secretary-Treasurer of Lais Trading & Development Co. The 615 hectares plantation had, in 1909, some 100,000 hills of hemp, 3,000 rubber trees and large plantings of bananas and pineapples. It had extensive plantings of tobacco (3,000 lbs. in past year’s production) comparable in quality to

that produced in Isabela if not better. Numerous other crops were planted on experimental basis. Laborers were mixed group of Visayans, Manobos, Tagacaolos and Bila-ans. Mr. Peabody had night school for his "wild people."

14. LEWIS PLANTATION, Talomo, 10 kms. south of Davao poblacion. Manager - Fred Lewis. No reliable informant so far has been found. This may be the plantation fronting Talomo Beach which became the site of the large Japanese bodegas and residences for the Otha plantation officials. This was possibly owned by the same family which owned the Southern Cross Plantation Co., Inc., located in Pangasinan Point, Pantukan, of which L. D. Lewis was President and F. F. Lewis was Secretary-Treasurer. (See item No. 34).
15. MAGNAGA PLANTATION CO. in Magnaga, Pantukan. Manager - Charles Lindsley. Hemp of 50,000 hills doing well. (1909).
16. MALALAG BAY PLANTATION CO. in Bolton (Malalag). Manager - Orval Hughes. In 1909 this had been stripping fine quality hemp from a large acreage (856 has.). Laborers mainly Tagacaolos. Native cattle and plows used in cultivation. Heirs are (as of 1980) still fighting in court for the ownership of parts of land, most of which have been squatted on. Land under receivership.
17. MAYO PLANTATION in Mati (Davao Oriental). Manager - Henry Hubbel. Opened in 1904, the plantation had in 1909 over 100,000 hills of abaca and the coconut plantings was one of the largest in Davao Gulf. Most of the laborers were native Moros. The manager had been recognized for his great civilizing work by educating the Moros. Plantation was later managed in 1908 by James Elliot up to the outbreak of the war. It was bought after the war by the Almarios of Mati.
18. MINDANAO AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL CO. - Cooksville (in upper Magnaga, Pantukan). Manager - J.M. Welborn. In 1909 some 20,000 coconuts and a larger planting of hemp was reported. Welborn's daughter, Magnolia, became wife of Senator Gaudencio Antonino, while a son is now municipal council in Kingking, Pantukan. Now owned by Gimperly.
19. MINDANAO ESTATES CO. in Padada. (1,024 has.). Manager - (1909) Otto V. Hanson. The estate is divided by the Padada River

- and a large pumping plant installed for irrigation purposes. Principal stockholders were Paul Gullick, Jan Hausserman and Ernest Oesch. Organized as "Sociedad Anonima" following Spanish laws, its corporate duration has no time limit. Its original manager, Edward Christensen, later developed an adjacent area which became known as the Christensen Plantation. The Mindanao Estate Company, through the years, was managed by Ernest Oesch, Paul Gullick and just a year before the outbreak of the war with Japan, by Mr. Walstrom. Mrs. Gabriela Walstrom, with daughter, Gilda, took over management of the plantation after the war, up to mid-1960s when it was leased. Currently the plantation is operated by the Lapanday Banana Plantation Co. for cavendish banana production. Its sprinkle type irrigation system from the waters of the Hagonoy River is the best that could be found in the region.
20. MINDANAO LAND DEVELOPMENT CO. at Ipil (Madaum) North Davao. Manager Loren Cheever. This was the first plantation at the head of Davao Gulf which later evolved into what was popularly known as the Madaum plantation. Captain Cheever married an adopted daughter of the local Datu and bought lands from local Moros who composed his workers. When he died, the place was taken over by Mr. J. H. Ankrom sometime in 1914. The estate was eventually bought sometime in 1928 (several years after the death of Mr. Ankrom in 1921) by a group composed of Mr. Odell, Mr. Otley and Mr. Barrett, with Mr. N. H. Duckworth as manager. The plantation encompassed over 3,000 hectares, and the cultivation of abaca and coconuts was expanded. The place was popularly referred to as Madaum Plantation. After the war ownership again changed to other parties. It was the only abaca plantation that operated the high speed stripping machine wherein the entire abaca trunk is fed and out comes the clean fibers.
21. MINDANAO PLANTATION CO. Digos, south Davao. (2,500 acres) Manager - Bordick A. Crumb. Organized in San Francisco in 1906, work in large scale began in August same year. By 1909 had planted 175,000 hills of abaca, 50,000 of which was being stripped. It established a village for 800 Bagobos, which eventually grew into a town, and today the capital of Davao del Sur. Plantation irrigated from Digos River. It operated a whole sale and retail general store. The company, being one of the biggest in the Davao Gulf, served

as training ground for many American landseekers who following their employment in the Company eventually founded and operated plantations of their own. In 1910 Mr. Henderson served as manager during the absence of Mr. Crumb. The company president—Mr. Zook and the treasurer, Mr. Gibson were residents of California. He also owned a large iron works fabricating and blacksmithing shop on Anda St. in Davao poblacion, but was sold to a Mr. Oye, a Japanese. Mr. Crumb who died on June 29, 1924 in Davao was married to a Filipina. The Crumb estate was the subject of long litigation before the Courts between the squatters and heirs of the estate, but was finally resolved some three years ago in favor of the Government and squatters.

22. MORO IMPROVEMENT AND TRADING CO. Tagnaman (Pantukan). Manager—Wm. Grill. Began in 1906, with 75,000 hills already planted by 1909. Workers from local Moro villages and importations from Visayan islands.
23. MORO PLANTATION COMPANY. Mampising and Copiat Island in present day town of Mabini, Davao. Company organized in California in 1906 with Mr. F. A. Crowhurst (an Englishman, and newspaperman by profession) as manager. Occupied 2,000 acres with plantings in 1907 of 70,000 strippable hemp and coconuts. Mrs. Crowhurst devoted time to giving instructions to wives of native workers—the Mansaka, Moros and Visayans. Mr. Crowhurst was president (1909) of the Davao Planter's Association, with Otto Hanson as Secretary.
24. MT. APO PLANTATION CO., Lawa, some 10 miles south of Malita. Mr. E. J. Beardsley, manager. Some 50,000 hemp hills planted (1909) and irrigated Manobo workers in sufficient number. In 1913 a Mr. Carlson became new manager, having been turned over by Mr. L. B. Newman of the Pacific Commerical Co., owner. In the 1920s this was bought by Mr. N. H. Duckworth, Manager of International Harvester Co. branch in Davao. He leased the plantation to Furukawa in 1939, and following WW II claimed back the property and eventually sold it to a Mr. Sinclair.
25. PADADA PLANTATION Co. Maxville, Padada. (500 acres cleared) Actually opened in June 1905 by the "Jolo Planting Company," which later became incorporated into the Padada Plantation Co., with Alex McClellan as President and General Manager. Some

- 122,000 hemp which in 1907 had 30,000 hills harvestable. Three months production sold the equivalent of 13% of the entire cost of the plantation. Although irrigation system was being constructed a heavy drought occurred and caused the hemp to fall down. The company was crippled and then sold, eventually passing into the hands of Awad and Saleeby, owners of the best abaca plantation located at Lapanday, some 10 kms. from Davao poblacion.
26. PINDASAN PLANTATION CO. Pindasan, Pantukan. (1,024 has.). Mr. L.A. Schoppe, manager. Began operation in 1905 in area about 10 miles up the Hijo River, where 30,000 hemp had been planted. It was expanded in 1907 in the place after which the company is named, Pindasan, which is located along the shore north of the Moro Plantation Co. on the east side of Davao Gulf. Mr. Schoppe assisted many members of the 1906 group of former enlisted men who ventured in Davao by providing them with jobs. Several of his former American employees have acquired plantations of their own in later years. Mr. Schoppe in later years was manager of Hanson & Orth, hemp buyer and exporters. F.H. Garrett, a Manila attorney, had an interest in the plantation.
 27. PIEDAD PLANTATION, Lipadas, Toril. R.E. McFie, Manager. Planting began in 1906, with labor mainly imported from the Visayas. Mr. McFie served as Secretary of the Davao Planters Association. He died in Davao in 1924. His property eventually passed on to a Japanese corporation.
 28. PIONEER MALALAG, Bolton, south of Malalag. John T. Byrne, Manager. Planting of abaca began in 1904 with Tagacaolo and some Bilaans as laborers. High grade hemp produced. Modern plows used for cultivation.
 29. PISO COCONUT PLANTATION, Piso, Lupon. (1904) Peter Harding, manager. Joint venture of Harding and Capt. James Burchfield for coconut and cattle production, the latter project later on being handled by David Burchfield, son of James. Harding, known for his gift in managing native labor was a gold prospector of the Klondike before coming to Davao. He has planted 55,000 coconut trees in the five years since the plantation was started, which at that time (1909) was considered one of the largest single grooves in the world.
 30. POND PLANTATION. Tagum, Davao. George Pond, manager.

Actual location of the plantation was called Batiano, along the beach near the mouth of Bincungan River. In 1908, Pond was manager of Capt. Loren Day's plantation located upstream, and when he found an area of his own, he resigned and started the Pond plantation sometime in 1909.

31. REID & COCHRANE, Bolton, Malalag. H.E. Reid, Manager. Began planting in 1904, using cattle-drawn plow for cultivation. Three fires in a row which destroyed not only the buildings and equipment forced the owners to give up. Reid with a large family to support, worked for the Mindanao Estate for some time until he was able to secure a parcel in Tagabuli, developed it to abaca, but sold it later to a Chinese. Some of the children were killed by the Japanese during the occupation years although some have survived and are presently residing in Hagonoy, Davao.
32. ROGERS, I. H. — Matiao, below Pintatagan in Pantukan. One of the earliest hemp plantations on the east side of Davao Gulf, striping had been going on for one and half years now (1909). Moros and Mandayas are being used. His son Bob now owns the land.
33. SAWYER, C.H. — La Union, south of Sigaboy. (100 has.). Hemp planting quite recent (1907) but there is a trading post. He later acquired a larger area at Bitaugan, some 15 kms. north of La Union, with a Mr. Duncan as in-charge. Both plantations were sold some time in 1920 by a Japanese — Isaboro Nakani.
34. SOUTHERN CROSS PLANTATION, Pangasinan Point, Kingking, Pantukan. F.F. Lewis, Manager. Began in 1906 by Fay Lewis for five years with the Post Office Dept. in Washington, D.C. following his academic and business education, he resigned his position and came to the hemp fields of Davao. His plantation covers a strip one mile along the shores and four miles east towards the foothills. Land surveyed and lease application made. Planted 2,500 coconuts but wild animals destroyed some. Hemp being planted. Complained about scarce labor and losses due to non-appearance of workers from Luzon who received advances for transportation and personal effects. This plantation was later sold to a corporation whose members included Murukami, Ogawa and Atty. Juan Sarenas. It is now owned by the Sarenas family (See also item Lewis Plantation, no. 14).

35. TEAGUE PLANTATION, Tagum, northern Davao. — Max Teague, manager.
36. TALOMO PLANTATION, Talomo, some 14 kms. south of Davao poblacion and three miles in the interior from Talomo beach. P.C. Libby, manager. Popularly known as Libby Plantation, this was began in 1906. Laborers from Cotabato and Luzon are used. Hemp and coconuts. Following the death of Mr. Libby, the plantation was bought by Capt. James Burchfield after he had sold his Kentucky Plantation to a Mr. Ledesma of Iloilo, who after WW II sold it to Roman Cuison, Davao logger. Land now under expropriation. Litigation by Davao City government for BLISS Housing project.
37. TAGUM PLANTATION CO., Tagum (actually Bincungan) north bank of Bincungan River, along the highway. Started in 1905 by Capt. Loren L. Day, some 40,000 hemp planted by 1909. This was sold some time in 1917 by Capt. Day to his right hand man, a Filipino—Mr. Tomas Mundiz, on installment basis. Mr. Mundiz was manager of the plantation since 1908 when George Pond resigned to begin his own plantation. Heirs of Mr. Mundiz still own part of the land.
38. TARBELL PLANTATION, in Lapinigan, (creek of same name) north of Cuambog, Mabini. The owner, 1st Lt. Jesse E. Tarbell early in 1909 was CO of the PC Company assigned in Boston, Cateel, Davao east coast. He started his plantation soon after he left the service.
39. TIBUNGOY PLANTATION CO., Basiawan, south of Malalag. Dr. M.A. Beecher, manager. Opened in 1906 and had 25,000 hemp planted. Tagacaolos laborers.
40. VANDERMIEREN & CO., Sta. Cruz, 44 kms. south of Davao poblacion. V. Vandermieren, manager. Opened in 1904 and placed under irrigation in 1909. Some 50,000 hemp have been planted. Bagobo and Manobo laborers. This adjoins the Gohn Plantation. It was bought before the war by Mr. & Mrs. E. Schlinger previously of Zamboanga but now owned by the Bendigos.
41. WILSON PLANTATION CO. in Lacaron, (popularly known as the LACARON PLANTATION) north of Malita's Culaman Plantation. Charles D. Wilson, manager. Organized in 1905, it had planted by 1909, some 141,000 hills of hemp in its area of the 672 has. which

was already surveyed by the government. Peaceful and quiet Manobos make up the principal laborers. Incorporated with Lewis Fred Patstone as president; Sam T.F. Caches, vice-president; C.D. Wilson, manager; and H.W. Elser, Secretary-Treasurer. Company already stripping 50,000 hills (1909) and expected to double in another four months, when up-to-date stripping machines shall have been installed. Patstone gradually bought out the shares of other incorporators and the property eventually went to his son, William Patstone, who in 1916 also owned a cattle ranch in Dadiangas. The plantation passed on to William's daughter, Mary Patstone who became the wife of Leonilo Doromal, a Davao old-timer originally from Dumangas, Iloilo. The property still belongs to the same family.

42. WILSON, HARRY B. in Padada, south of Digos. Opened in 1906, it had in 1909 some 45,000 hemp planted.
43. CLARK WHITEHORN — owned a small coconut area (24 has. with additional 16 has. later) in Busa-on, lower Bircungan, amidst Moslem neighbors. Following his discharge in 1902 from "E" Co., 10th U.S. Infantry he came to work as foreman of the Mindanao Land Dev. Co. owned by Capt. Loren Cheever at Ipil (now Madaum). He married a native Moslem and began his own plantings. His children are still in Davao.

Other American plantations not mentioned in the listing of the *Mindanao Herald*, Decennial Issue, 1909, which is the main source of the preceding enumeration, are the following:

1. THOMAS SCHNEIDER — owner of a modest sized area in Lanipao located south of Lamidan in Malita. A former Manila policeman, he personally worked the land until gradually his coconut plantings covered 50 hectares.
2. F. A. THOMPSON — in 1908 was mentioned in relation to a plantation in Digos, southern Davao, with hemp plantings with irrigation.
3. MAX L. McCULLOUGH — In 1907 he was mentioned as a leading planter in Davao. In July 1908 served as Secretary of the Davao Planters Association. He said that in 1908, 40 American companies were developing plantations and had more than 4 million hills of abaca planted.
4. HENRY WALLACE PAHL AND YOUNGER BROTHER GEORGE PAHL — Original owners of plantation which they

developed at Lapuan and at Kalian, farther south of Malita. Henry was in-charge at Lapuan previous to his death in 1950 and George at Kalian until he died in 1970. The Lapuan plantation was bought by William Joyce in 1949. The Kalian plantation passed on to Henry's son, Agustin Pahl, who was actually named George. After the death of Agustin, the property passed on to his widow, Remedios, who has now re-married. In 1937, Henry Pahl also operated a number of PU service cars which served not only Davao area but also carried passengers from Davao to Iligan.

5. MAJ. FRANK J. MCGEE — owner of Lawayon Plantation, farther south of Malita. McGee was on a world tour on a friend's yacht which came in early 1920s to Davao, but the yacht got grounded on the reefs at Lawayon. He saw the area which was then owned by Mr. Rudes, and immediately decided to buy it. The original owner, Mr. Rudes later went to Kling on the southern coast of Cotabato where he established another plantation. McGee was known to have cut down the rubber trees already ready for tapping when he discovered it was the wrong variety. He replanted the plantation to coconuts using a surveyor's transit to ensure the straight alignment of the plants. He required his native workers to stand up for inspection like soldiers, and looked over their working tools to check that they are properly sharpened, their hands to ensure that they are clean and nails properly trimmed and that they are generally neat and proper like soldiers. One Mr. Dore later managed the plantation up to the outbreak of the war. McGee who was a veteran of WW I became a leading officer of the Guerrillas in Davao-Cotabato Bukidnon sector, but died during the Liberation of Davao from a sniper's bullet at Kiotoy, upper Bunawan, Davao City. After the war, his brother, Fred sold the plantation to Mr. Bownass of IHC, Mr. Hoover of STANVAC and Mr. Merle Robie of Columbian Rope. Lawayon Plantation eventually passed on to Filipino ownership.
6. EDWARD E. CHRISTENSEN — originally worked as manager of the Mindanao Estate (popularly referred to as Walstrom plantation today) in its formative years; Mr. Christensen founded the 936 has. Christensen Plantation in Hagonoy. Some 105,000 coconut trees were planted and had 750 heads of cattle grazing in the area. Mr. Christensen also owned a big store in Davao City located at Sta. Ana, which was managed by a Filipino industrial partner—Mr. Marcelo Pimentel. The store engaged in general merchandizing and distributing of American products. (Goodrich tires and Philips

- radio, etc.) When Mr. Christensen died at age 78 in 1953, the plantation passed on to his daughter. It was sold recently to the Cojuangcos where cacao was planted, making the area the biggest cacao plantation hereabouts.
7. HERRY ROSCOM — Came to Davao as a young man in 1901, employed as one of the teamsters, a civilian position, in the 15th U.S. Cavalry. Through the years he prospered and acquired several properties in the heart of Davao poblacion including a large area in Lanang, at Kilometer 6 north of the poblacion now traversed by the Davao highway. He operated several pioneering enterprises—the first cinema house on his property along San Pedro street; the first printing press, also on his property, now a portion of the site of the University of Mindanao and cattle raising and trucking business. He was however a prolific casanova and through the years, he sold out his investments and properties little by little to provide for his large and extended family. He went into mineral exploration in the Davao East Coast mountains without success. In his advanced years, he was hospitalized for a long time at the American Hospital in Manila under the auspices of the American Association of the Philippines, until he breathe his last.
 8. N. H. DUCKWORTH — a highly respected but self-effacing Davao pioneer about whom practically no written account could be found, this business tycoon of the period had holdings in several plantations. Known as an inventor from Los Angeles and married to a niece of the Winchester family of Boston, he opened the McCleod and Co. branch in Davao which was absorbed by the International Harvester Co. and in which he later became the manager. He organized the acquisition of the Madaum Plantation in which he became the administrator and later he bought the Mt. Apo Plantation Co. He had holdings also with the Lawayon Plantation and the Hanson, Orth & Stevenson, which engaged in hemp buying, bailing and exporting. Mr. Duckworth owned the finest and fastest speedboat in Davao Gulf area, obviously necessary to carry him in visiting his several plantations.
 9. SGT. HARDIN MONROE JOYCE was among the earliest group of soldiers assigned to Zamboanga and Jolo in 1899 but joined the police force in Manila upon his discharge from military service. He came to Davao in 1909 with eleven others that included his plantation neighbor John Martin Johnson. He first worked in Culaman Plantation in Malita as a foreman under Orville Wood, taking charge of the place when Wood went to the US on home leave. By

- 1912 he found a place farther south—near Caburan, and established his own modest farm, and named the place “Culaman,” after the place in which he was first employed in Davao. He married a native here and his children — Henry, William, John and Monroe eventually founded haciendas of their own. Sgt. Joyce’s Culaman plantation gradually expanded to encompass some 1,000 hectares of level and hilly terrain planted to coconuts. Henry developed his own farm at Marabatuan; William who early accompanied his father in the motor launch transportation business, and carried on with the trade till the present, bought the Lapuan Plantation from Pahl in 1949 for his own; John stayed put to manage the original plantation in Culaman; and Monroe opened his own at Bugis.
10. JOHN MARTIN JOHNSON — was among the contemporaries of Joyce and Pahl in the Manila police before coming to Davao. He established his plantation at Lamidan, near Caburan, which gradually developed into plantings of 100 hectares of abaca and coconuts. He also married a native and after his death in 1960, his sons Fred and Tom decided to divide the property: Fred occupied the southern portion while Tom has the northern portion.
 11. VAN PLANTATION in Basiawan, south of Malalag. Originally owned by Harvey & Obrian. Manager — Harry B. Hughes, but under Obrian’s son-in-law, Drake Ford, of STANVAC in Cebu. This is the plantation eventually bought by the Almarios of Cebu.
 12. YOUNG PLANTATION — Mr. Young, more known as “Emong” to his contemporaries, (*Emong* is nickname for Guillermo, so the American equivalent is possibly Jerome) had occupied some time in 1910 a place in Margus, near Sarangani Point.
 13. MR. & MRS. GEAR — Missionaries; occupied an area in Culaman, near Caburan, so that they could reach out to their intended flock of Bila-an natives. They operated a store to serve the natives. Not long after they had established in the place, their house and store was burned, Mr. Gear was killed. All these occurred while Mrs. Gear was away in Zamboanga to shop. On her return she was met on the ship that stopped by Culaman and told of what had transpired. The brave woman wanted to remain but her neighbors convinced her to abandon the place, and she sailed on the same ship to Zamboanga. Later, Mr. Young came to the same place but was attacked again by the same person who killed Mr. Gear.
 14. MR. GILBERT, a retired road construction foreman, acquired a parcel of land in Camansi, Mati, settled there and hired one Mr. Dizon to manage the farm. After the American died Mr. Dizon

- applied for the land and had become the owner since then. It is now in the possession of his heirs.
15. CAPT. LEVI CASE — Original owner of Pujada Island Plantation (276 has.) Mayo Bay, Mati. Capt. Case was the last American station commander assigned in Mati (around 1913) and stayed on when the last of the U.S. Army unit was pulled out of Davao in 1914. Married a native of Tagabakid, Mati, begot three children. Owned a motor launch for commuting between Mati and his island. Case returned to Florida, USA — 1937. The property was sold in 1950 by his heirs to the Angliongtos. Case had stock with the Davao Light and Power Company. Daughter, Letty, lives in Mati.
 16. HOMER HAWKINS — Manager of the Davao Lumber Co.
 17. ANDERSON P. BRADLEY — Brought in the first motor vehicle, a truck, to Davao in 1913. He engaged in sand and gravel hauling. In 1925 transferred to Mati, where he also introduced the first truck. Later he transferred to Sigaboy where he managed the Hanson & Orth agency engaged in buying copra and hemp. (He was a black American.)
 18. MR. BOARDMAN — Owner of the first paddlewheel steamer which provided transport facility in Davao Gulf area, 1905.
 19. JACK CARRIGAN — early part of 1912 had a business in Davao, but had become an orchid hunter. He was commissioned by rich orchid fanciers in the U.S. to locate rare specimens.
 20. A. H. SHOEMAKER — Mining engineer of the Davao Gold Mines.
 21. SAMUEL ZACKS — Manager of H.E. Heacocks Co., the forerunner of the modern department store which engaged in wholesale and retail.
 22. ERIC ERICKSON — Fabricated and installed sawmills in Davao, including the early one owned by the Dacudaos in the Lacson Plantation, upper Calinan. He later established a sawmill of his own in Mati.
 23. NICK BALCOM — Sand gravel business, and boxing promoter.
 24. E. SCHELINGER. Originally from Zamboanga, he owned the Helen's Hotel and ice-cream parlor on corner Bolton-Magallanes Sts., a Resort Hotel at Bayabas, upper Toril, a 170 has. coconut plantation in Sta. Cruz that is now owned by the Bendigos.
 25. MR. SCOTT — (Black American) owned a blacksmith and repair shop and also engaged in boxing promotion as well as other small-time money making ventures. He promoted what was known as rejuvenation elixirs, a concoction using the juice of kangkong

leaves, although we don't know what success he achieved from it. One thing sure, he was a popular man about town, especially with parents whose young children needed to be reminded or reprimanded because of their prolonged absence at play or exposure to the sun or because of their messy, dirty appearance. "There . . . you have become 'escot'; or 'You! 'escot' you!" — the parents or elder sister of the younger would say.

AMERICANS IN COTABATO/SOUTH LANA O DISTRICT

1. MR. T. DIEHL — Procurement of railroad ties for Philippine Railways, with Datu Piang (1907)
2. BILL MANION PLANTATION in Parang. Primarily coconuts.
3. LANDIS DONNER — Pioneer cassava planter and cassava flour miller using innovated equipment from local materials. Married a Cebuana who is greatly admired for her industriousness and hospitality.
4. CAPT. IRVING B. EDWARDS — Upi, Cotabato. Married to a native Tiruray, he is known for promoting educational opportunities for the inhabitants around him. Ranch and rice plantings.
5. GARRIGUEZ PLANTATION at Matuber, southern coast of Cotabato. Founded by Dwight E. Garriguez, son of a Supreme Court judge in Missouri. Coconuts, rice and cattle. Married to one from Iloilo.
6. GOODYEAR RUBBER CO. (1912) — A. W. Prautch, manager in Lebak, South Cotabato.
7. KANLAON PLANTATION — Mrs. Mae Perrett.
8. KLING PLANTATION — Founded by Mr. Rudes, originally from Lawayon Plantation in Davao. Kling was bought by a group led by Sam Frazier, of Columbian Rope. Later bought by Chiongbian. Son, Marvin Rudes had established one of his own at Mabay, 4 kms. away from Maitum, and planted to coconuts and rice.
9. LEBAK PLANTATION CO., Kalamasig. David Staples.
10. HERBERT C. PAGE — at Nalkan, South Cotabato. Coconuts. Married a native.
11. PORT LEBAK' LUMBER CO. — Mr. Kedwell, manager. This was sold to a Filipino/Chinese from Iloilo in 1932, but in 1939 it was taken over by Sta. Clara Lumber Co.

12. MR. REISLAND — Came with Mr. Rudes from Lawayon Plantation in Davao to Kling and later established his own coconut farm at Lumuyon, next to Kling.
13. THE RIO GRANDE ESTATE — Thomas J. Wolff, owner of the Sanitary Laundry in Manila, had a major interest in this plantation before it was sold to the Japanese prior to the outbreak of the War. Often called Kabacan Rubber Estate, although substantial coconut plantings also made.
14. MR. SPENCER — a former teacher from Cebu who retired in 1916 and came with a group of fellow teachers to settle in the Malabang area. Mr. Spencer owns Matling Plantation which gradually expanded to become over 2,000 hectares today. Assorted commercial crops from hemp, coconuts, coffee, cacao, cassava to lumbering. His son Dick, a pilot who flew with the Flying Tigers in China during the last war, now runs the place.
15. JAMES STRONG, JR. — Rubber plantings and coconuts at Monteclot, upper Kalaong in Maitum, South Cotabato.
16. TAMBI RANCH — in Lebak, owned by Col. James Grinstead.

In the Cotabato-Lanao coastal area, the names of many more pioneer Americans and their plantations remain to be identified, i.e. Keller, Doherty, Shroeder, Duggert, Henry, and Assad, among others. So with plantations, such as American Land Commercial Co., Tran Plantation, Taguisa, Salaman, Bugasan, etc.

There were several others, however, who engaged in different ventures. There was Walther A. Smith who operated a lumberyard in Cotabato; a Mr. McClaren who managed a sawmill with Oswald Fleming and run a hardware store; a W. T. Hollis who was vice-president and manager of the Cotabato Valley Transportation Co., Inc., etc.

In other sections of Mindanao, several other names of pioneering Americans were mentioned: Mr. Bingham, a planter; a Mr. Chalonger; Frank Shepherd, with large plantings of hemp and rubber and big general stores in Iligan; a Mr. Kramer, also with large hemp plantings; George Wade; Mr. Larsen; Lt. Jesse Gaston; Mr. Richard Paradise in Cagayan de Oro City with his large department store; a Mr. Goodier in upper Agusan engaged in buying copra and selling gas or petroleum; and the large American community in Mumungan, Lanao. Bukidnon also had its share of investors in ranching, one of whom being Dean Worcester.

One geologist, however, Gilbert Lyons, appears to have left an outstanding legacy, what we call technology transfer, which gave a continuing spin-off resulting from his pioneering explorations of the remote places in Mindanao. In his peregrinations in the riverbeds and mountains of Mindanao, a young man from Cagayan de Oro who then served as his traveling companion and handy-man, acquired not only the art and techniques of mineral exploration, but also the identification and location of those minerals. With additional formal education afterwards, he now has become a leading consultant to several foreign investors in mineral explorations. Needless to say, he has become a millionaire several times over since he too has shares in a number of mines in Mindanao which he originally claimed or help discover.

Conclusion

The impact of American presence in Mindanao, as viewed from the the numerous types of endeavors and investments just presented, is too complex to discuss in this short session. It is probably sufficient to look around us and reflect on the changes that had taken place since the arrival of the early Americans in 1899, on our present physical environment and cultural attainment. The economic development and the improvement in the quality of life in general bespeak of the far-reaching influences that those intrepid pioneers brought to bear upon us. Indeed, I personally feel grateful that these Americans had come.

*The following, mostly friends of long standing, have provided various information concerning certain individuals and firms described in this paper. To them are due proper acknowledgement and the grateful thanks of the author. The sequence of names does not indicate that the ones listed ahead had given more data; rather, it was made on alphabetical order for convenience.

Mr. Pablo AGUILAR; Engr. Jose ANGLIONGTO; Mr. Frederick BAKER; Atty. Leonardo BARNES; Mr. & Mrs. Macario BERMUDEZ; Mr. Rashid BORGAILY; Mr. Celso BUAN; Mrs. Dolores Daba BUYCO; Mr. James H. CUTLER; Mr. Leonilo DOROMAL; Dr. Vicente GAHOL; Mr. Arturo IGNACIO; Mr. Fred JOHNSON; Mr. & Mrs. William JOYCE; Mr. Liberato MABASLAY; Mr. Hipolito MANUEL; Mr. Marcelo PIMENTEL; Mr. Crisostomo SANDOVAL; Atty. Rodolfo SARENAS; Mr. Charlie SASIM; Mr. Luis SECRETARIA; Engr. Jose B. SUAREZ; Mr. Amadeo SUAZO; Atty. Arsenio SUAZO; Mr. Teodolfo TOCAO; Mr. Regino VALDEZ; Mr. Carl WHITEHORN; and last but not least, to my well-travelled colleague in the then USIS Mr. Macario P. YARES, and of course to my Father, Mr. Alejandro C. CORCINO, who himself is a Mindanao pioneer, now 84 years and going strong.

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Samuel K. Tan, *Selected Essays on the Filipino Muslims*. Marawi City: University Research Center, Mindanao State University, 1982, 166 pp. With an Introduction by Alfredo T. Tiamson.

A collection of fifteen essays by the author, himself a Muslim from Sulu, who has extensively written on the history of Filipino Muslims. The essays reflect a perception of the Filipino Muslim struggle of the liberal tradition. Partitioned into three broad topics, they are as follows: *Part I - History*, A Preliminary Note on Philippine Muslim Historiography, Local History in Perspective, The Methodology and Practice of Regional History, Social History for National Awareness and Survival, Historical Perspective for National Integration, Historical Note on the Religious Basis of Muslim-Christian Understanding; *Part II - Politics*, Unity and Disunity in the Muslim struggle, Cession of Cagayan de Jolo and Sibutu; *Part III - Culture*, Panglima Hassan: Profile of a Sulu Leader, Ethnicity and National Consciousness: A Muslim Perspective, Emergence of Tausug Historical Consciousness, Development of Muslim Literature, On Tausug Literature, Understanding Philippine Culture Through the Filipino Muslims and Other National Minorities, and A Conceptual Approach to the Historical and Cultural Development of the Sulu Archipelago.

For more information, contact us in the address below:

University Research Center
Mindanao State University
P.O. Box 5594
Iligan City, Philippines