

— *Final* —

A Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Project for the  
Asan Beach Unit and Agat Unit Management Plan  
War in the Pacific National Historical Park,  
Territory of Guam

*Volume IIb.1: Oral History Transcripts – Asan*



*Ga'an Point and New Agat, 1949*

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*Prepared for:*  
War in the Pacific National Historical Park

*INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY, LLC*

*SEPTEMBER 2021*

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— FINAL —

**A RAPID ETHNOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT FOR THE  
ASAN BEACH UNIT AND AGAT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK,  
TERRITORY OF GUAM  
VOLUME IIB: ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTS – ASAN AND AGAT**

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## ABSTRACT

At the request of the National Park Service, International Archaeology, LLC, has carried out a Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Project (REAP) for the Asan Beach and Agat Units of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA). The purpose of the REAP is to provide ethnographic baseline information for a planned Asan and Agat Unit Management Plan (AAUMP)/environmental assessment (EA), which will involve consultations with the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties. The REAP will also help to assess the effects of the AAUMP for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Eight residents of Asan and Agat were interviewed for the REAP. They range in age from 61 to 83 (as of 2021), with oldest being born in 1938 and the youngest in 1964. The oldest narrators were young children during and after World War II; combined with the stories told them by their parents, their memories provide a look back to the early part of the mid-20th century. The youngest narrators offer perspectives of the 1960s and 1970s. In total, the narrators relate traditions, practices, and history from at least the 1930s to the present.

Given the age range of the REAP narrators, the study focused on the period from roughly the late 1930s to the 1970s, with consideration of the period up to the present. The research also included review of historical documents (including graphical materials such as maps and photographs) and earlier ethnographic reports to provide a context and inform the synthesis of current interviews.

Volume I presents the narrative of the REAP. Volume IIa contains the full transcripts of the oral history interviews for five Asan residents. The companion Volume IIb (the present volume) contains the transcripts of interviews for one Asan resident and two Agat residents.



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## I. INTRODUCTION

At the request of the National Park Service (NPS), International Archaeology, LLC (IA), has carried out a Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Project (REAP) for the Asan Beach and Agat Units of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park (WAPA). The project was conducted under Task Order No. 140P8519F0004, Contract No. P16PC00627. Authorized in 1978, WAPA encompasses 2,114 acres on the west coast of Guam in seven discrete units. The subjects of the present project are the Asan Beach Unit and the Agat Unit; the other WAPA units are the Asan Inland Unit, Mount Alifan Unit, Fonte Plateau Unit, Piti Guns Unit, and Mount Chachao-Mount Tenjo Unit.

The REAP is presented in three volumes, of which Volume I is the REAP narrative. The present Volume IIa contains the full transcripts of oral history interviews that were conducted with five Asan residents; Volume IIb contains the interview transcripts for one Asan resident and two Agat residents.

### PROJECT PURPOSE

The statement of work (SOW) for the WAPA REAP states that an Asan and Agat Unit Management Plan (AAUMP)/environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared for WAPA, and that it has been determined that a REAP:

... is needed to identify ethnographic resources and historic properties of cultural and religious significance within the AAUMP's area of potential effects (APE). The information in the REAP will provide baseline data for the EA and consultations with the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties (e.g., Chamorro, Filipino organizations, veterans groups), as well as help assess the effects of the AAUMP for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

It further specifies that the REAP will “document the mythic landscape and traditional practices, as well as identify ethnographic resources, of Chamorro and other traditionally associated people” and will include interviews with eight to ten individuals. The end-product of the project will be a study that incorporates “existing archival and published information relevant to summarizing traditional cultural practices and cultural resources within the APE including detailed maps of access to resources and locations of resources where available from informants.”

In discussion with the project contracting officer's representative (COR) and WAPA staff at a kick-off meeting on September 11, 2019 (September 12 on Guam), the project purpose was further elaborated. As stated in an email from COR Elizabeth Gordon to participants in the kick-off meeting (dated September 17, 2019), the REAP is to discuss and analyze practices that may have changed, been interrupted, or stayed the same from pre-World War II through the war, and into the post-war period, as a result of larger events, environmental changes, and regulations imposed during these time periods. The REAP can also include recommendations for further and more in-depth research and/or interviews with other individuals.

The project area coverage was also clarified during the kick-off meeting. The SOW defines the study area as “WAPA lands and lands adjacent to park boundaries that are within the APE,” with reference to a figure that shows the Agat and Asan park units encircled by large circles. The area of study was clarified to be the land and water within the two park units, and lands immediately adjacent (sufficient to provide a context for the park-specific areas).

## PROJECT TEAM AND SCHEDULE

The IA project team includes J. Stephen Athens, Ph.D., as project manager/principal investigator, and Myra Jean Tuggle, M.A., and Lisa Humphrey, Ph.D., as co-project directors. Oral history interviews were carried out by consultant Rlene S. Steffy of Rlene “Live” Productions of Hagatña. Transcripts of oral history interviews were prepared by Kaumakamanōkalanipō Anae, Lisa Humphrey, Vanessa Bautista, and Tanya Sortor; all transcriptions were reviewed by Rlene Steffy for accuracy and consistency.

The project was initiated in September 2019. Interviews with eight individuals from Asan and Agat were carried out between October 2019 and May 2020.

## WAPA REAP ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Oral history interviews for the REAP were carried out with eight individuals, six from Asan and two from Agat. Rlene Steffy conducted the interviews, coordinated the transcriptions, and reviewed and annotated the transcripts (e.g., defining CHamoru words; explaining people’s relationships; identifying individuals mentioned).

The following table lists the narrators in the order that their transcripts appear in Volumes IIa and IIb; the village in which they are associated, their year of birth, and the date of the REAP interviews. Following are brief biographies of the narrators.

<b>Narrator</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Birth Year</b>	<b>Interview Date</b>
Cabral, Luis Francis Mendiola, II	Asan	1960	10-29-2019 11-07-2019
Cabral, Luis Francisco	Asan	1939	01-08-2020
Cabral, Nicolasa Mendiola	Asan	1943	01-08-2020 05-09-2020
Garrido, Jose “Joe” Ulloa	Asan	1944	12-21-2019
Santos, Joaquin “Danny” Siguenza, Jr.	Asan	1938	11-13-2019
Terlaje, James David Tenorio	Asan	1964	12-09-2019
Babauta, Antonio Babauta	Agat	1938	02-20-2020
Cruz, Jlawrence Materne	Agat	1954	03-14-2020

### SHORT BIOGRAPHIES: ASAN NARRATORS

#### **Luis Francis Mendiola Cabral II**

Luis Francis Mendiola Cabral, II (Luis Cabral) was born on July 8, 1960, the eldest of Luis Francisco and Nicolasa Mendiola Cabral’s three sons. In Assan, he grew up in the low-lying area behind the old Joe & Flo’s Mexican Restaurant building along the river that runs through there. In the late 1970s, when Luis was in high school, the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA) carried out a significant redevelopment of Assan Village; GHURA purchased the family house and property, and the

family moved to Mangilao. In 1979, Luis left Guam for college at Seattle University, where he majored in Fine Arts (music); he subsequently received a Master's in Education from the University of Portland. He followed in his parents' teaching footsteps and became a music teacher with the Guam Department of Education, and also served in administrative roles such as Fine Arts coordinator and vice-principal. Luis is an avid SCUBA diver and diving instructor.

### **Luis Francisco "Frank" Cabral**

Frank Cabral was born on March 23, 1939, at the Cabrini Hospital in Manhattan, New York. His father was from Bogota, Colombia, and his grandfather was originally from a tribe called the Chibcha. Frank's mother is Maria Melo Cabral. After joining the Air Force, Frank was stationed at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam in 1957. He met Nicolasa Mendiola during the Fiesta of Niño Perdido, the Assan community's patron saint.

After being honorably discharged from the Air Force on the U.S. mainland, he returned to Guam and married Nicolasa on July 11, 1959. Nicolasa's father gave Frank and Nicolasa property near the river that runs from east to west behind Joe and Flo's Restaurant to build a home. Frank and Nicolasa were teachers with the Guam Department of Education, and in 1982, they participated in a teachers' strike. Like hundreds of others who participated in the strike, they were forced to relocate. They moved to Hawai'i for almost five years, and then to Majuro in the Marshall Islands, where Frank eventually became the Administrator of a co-op school. While in Majuro, he and Nicolasa completed doctorates in elementary education.

In his younger years before teaching, Frank taught himself to play the guitar. After returning to Guam from Majuro, he supplemented the family income by playing in bands at dinner shows in hotels and at events around the island.

### **Nicolasa Toves Mendiola Cabral**

Nicolasa Cabral was born on March 2, 1943. She grew up in Assan, which is the Mendiola family's home village. Her parents built a three-floor home, with a store on the street level called "Hillside Store." On July 11, 1959, she married Frank Cabral, and Nicolasa's father gave Frank and Nicolasa property near the river that runs from east to west behind Joe and Flo's Restaurant to build an Assan house. Nicolasa was a teacher with the Guam Department of Education, and in 1982, she and Frank participated in a teachers' strike. Forced to relocate, they moved to Hawai'i for almost five years and then to Majuro in the Marshall Islands, where Nicolasa and Frank completed doctorates in elementary education.

### **Jose "Joe" Ulloa Garrido**

Joe Garrido was born on March 31, 1944, at his grandfather's ranch in Ungaguan (close to the present Admiral Nimitz Golf Course at Radio Barrigada). Joe's parents were initially from Hagåtña, but during the Japanese occupation, the family moved to his grandfather's five-hectare ranch in Barrigada. Just before the U.S. invasion in July 1944, the Japanese forced CHamoru to gather at Manenggon, and Joe was told that his mother and sister carried him on the trek from Barrigada to Manenggon. They stayed at Manenggon for a short time before the Americans attempted to relocate everyone back to their homes. However, the family chose to live in Talo'fo'fo' for a few years. When his grandfather could go to Barrigada to check on their ranch, he discovered that the Navy had condemned the land and built large antennas (it became known as Radio Barrigada).

When Joe was around five years old (in late 1949), his family moved to Assan, where the Navy had built a resettlement village for displaced families. Houses cost \$50 each. When Joe was almost 17 years old, his family moved to Agana Heights. He graduated from George Washington High School in 1963. He joined the U.S. Army in 1964 and was stationed primarily in Europe. In 1967, he left the service and returned to Guam.

### **Joaquin “Danny” Siguenza Santos, Jr. (Colonel, ret.)**

Danny Santos, who is a retired Marine Colonel, was born on October 9, 1935, the oldest of 11 children of Joaquin Siguenza Santos and Josefina San Nicolas Limtiaco. His father was from Assan, and his mother was from Piti. He grew up in Assan, and his mother inherited land in Nimitz Hill, where he and his siblings eventually built permanent residences. During the Japanese occupation, he lived with his paternal grandmother, Maria Siguenza Santos. Danny left Guam in 1955.

### **James David Tenorio Terlaje**

James David Tenorio Terlaje was born on March 8, 1964, in Paris, France, and is the seventh of nine children of Agapito Taijito Terlaje and Cynthia Pangelinan Tenorio Terlaje (Cynthia Terlaje was interviewed in 2013 for an NPS WAPA project). His parents met while attending the high school at Julale, Hagåtña. Neither of them graduated, but Agapito took the GED test, and after passing, entered the U.S. Army. He returned after two years and married Cynthia on July 18, 1953. Except for deployment to Vietnam and Korea, Agapito took his family to his military career’s tour duty assignments. The Terlaje children were born in North Carolina, California, England, and France. Their eldest, John, and youngest, Cindy, were born on Guam. The family returned to Guam around 1966, but a year later, Agapito was deployed to Vietnam.

Agapito retired on Guam in 1970, after which he got a job at Land Management in the Guam government. According to James, things at home were different after his father retired, and although they had medical insurance, his father focused on animal husbandry, farming, and fishing to supplement his family’s growing demands. Agapito purchased several *chenchulu* nets and invited single boys and adults in Assan to join in fishing. The Terlaje family became known as a traditional fishing family, and gained the community’s respect for providing the youth with life skills, and providing fresh fish to Assan villagers. As word got out about this, residents from different villages came to Assan when the Terlajes were out fishing.

James, on the other hand, did not enjoy fishing. He considered it hard work, and he felt he had given up many childhood pleasures because he had chores to complete at home. Fishing was just another household chore as far as James was concerned, and he did not enjoy killing fish—even if he was to eat it later. He resisted going, but no one was allowed to stay home without a parent. Resentment turned into rebellion as he grew, and eventually James moved to California to prove to his father that he could make it on his own.

James subsequently met Ninamaria Pereira, a gifted operatic singer, and they married at Assan’s Niño Perdido y Sâgrada Familia Catholic Church on February 15, 1975. Together, they have three children: Jade Lauren, Luke Edward, and Seth Philip. The Terlaje family has resided in Kalâkkak in Assan for generations, even before Guam’s first American administration in 1898. His mother’s family, the Tenorios, lived in Agana Heights, but her parents had a mom-and-pop store called Two Leaf Store in Assan.

## **SHORT BIOGRAPHIES: AGAT NARRATORS**

### **Antonio Babauta Babauta**

Antonio Babauta Babauta was born in Hagåtña on August 2, 1938. He is the oldest of seven children of Vicente Charfauros Babauta and Rosalia Sablan Babauta. The family moved to Sumay and then to Agat before the Japanese invasion. In 1944, the Japanese forced CHamoru to march to a camp at Manenggon; the family was there when word came that the Americans had recaptured the island. The family returned to Agat, where Antonio grew up.

He graduated from George Washington High School (the only high school in Guam) in 1958 and immediately joined the U.S. Navy. He retired from the Navy after 27 years. He had been stationed in Guam off and on during his service and was in Guam when he retired. The family settled in Agat.

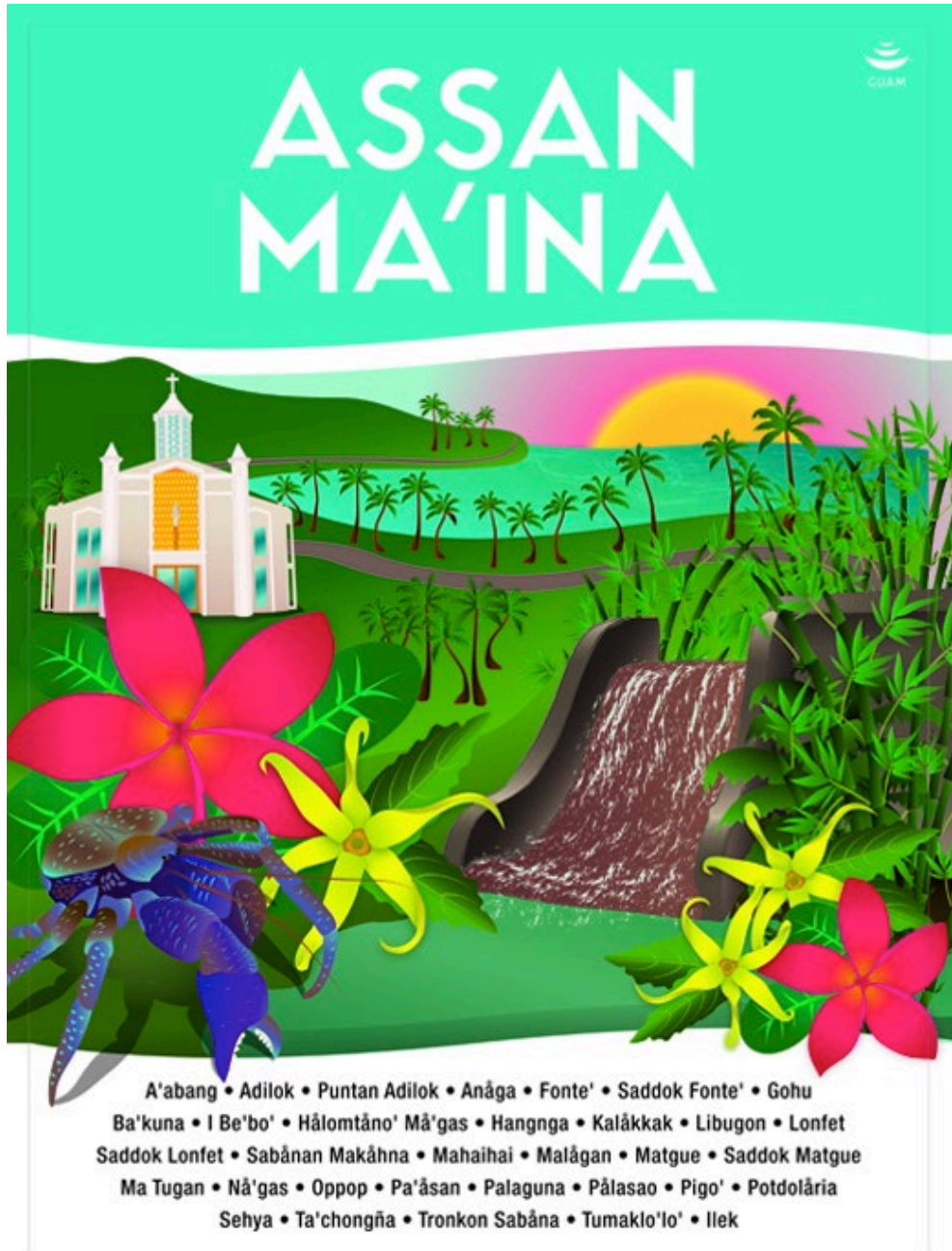
**Jlawrence Materne Cruz**

Jlawrence Materne Cruz was born at Agat in November 1954. His father is Lorenzo Cruz Cruz from Familian Tanaguan and Sungot, and his mother is Maria Cruz Materne from Familian Pinalek and Familian Pó from Agaña. His parents moved to Agat in the late 1940s. Jlawrence grew up in Agat. He graduated from Father Duenas Memorial High School in Tai', Mangilao, in 1972. After high school, he pursued a religious life in teaching; in 1978, he entered the monastery Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Hawai'i. He eventually returned to Guam.



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II. ASAN INTERVIEW



Assan Village Entrance Sign

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In 2013, the Guam Economic Development Authority awarded Maeda Pacific the Guam Village signs project. W.B. Flores & Associates Consulting Engineers was the project team leader for the design and construction. Architect Enrico A. Cristobal, AIA, conducted the research on place names, revealing the CHamoru names and each village's spelling. Nineteen village entrance signs were erected, and each of the village signs includes scenic features and sites specific to each village. Flores prepared the structural design. The artwork was done by Maria Cristobal. The project was funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax bond. The CHamoru spelling of the village names and locations were from Nâ'an Lugât Siha Gi Ya Guåhan (Guam Place Names) published by the Guam Department of Chamorro Affairs.

There are three different transcription types: verbatim, edited, and intelligent. The transcription type used for the following transcriptions is an "intelligent verbatim," which does not summarize or leave anything out it, it only removes all the 'ums,' and grammatical and vocabulary ticks as 'you know' and 'like.' Comments such as 'cause' is changed to because, and is 'gonna' changed to going to, etc., and repeated statements have also been removed.

By editing this way, our objective is to improve the reading ease by removing false starts and repetitions and unnecessary noises in human utterances, environmental sounds, and repeated words that do not add anything other than disrupting the reading ease.



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JAMES DAVID TENORIO TERLAJE



Interview Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy, December 9, 2019

**Rlene Santos Steffy:** Today is the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, and this interview is with?

**James David Tenorio Terlaje:** My name is James David Tenorio Terlaje.

**RSS:** All right, and this is for the National Park Service WAPA<sup>1</sup> Project on the village of Assan. So, James, could you tell us your earliest memories of living in Assan.

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<sup>1</sup> War in the Pacific National Historic Park.

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**JDTT:** The earliest memories that I have is meeting my grandparents on my dad's side. They were very old fashioned CHamoru. My *nāna*,<sup>2</sup> she wore the *mestisa*<sup>3</sup> every day. My *tāta*<sup>4</sup> always wore white t-shirt with khaki pants and was always up outside with a *fusiños*<sup>5</sup> going around the yard, cleaning up all the grass growing around. One thing that I do remember a lot about them is [that] they really loved us. They always had a smile on their face when they were seeing all the kids, especially my family. I'm just one of nine [children], seven boys, [and] two girls. And they were very happy to see us. They loved us, and that's one of the things that I can remember about them. And, just growing up in our village, it was just something different than what we were accustomed to growing [up] because we were all raised in the Mainland<sup>6</sup>. Then, we got back to Guam around 1967, and then, all of a sudden, we were not moving anymore. And, so, we're settled. This is home. This is where we're going to be spending the rest of our lives. So, we had to grow accustomed to the changes that are now being given to us by our families and our culture, learning our culture all over again.

**RSS:** Okay. Before you go any further when you mention an individual, your mother, cousin, father, brother, grandparents, uncle or aunt, please address who they are first because I need to know, 'my grandfather from my father's side's name is, and then you say, Grandpa James' after that. Then we already know his full name. You get it? So, if you're going to say my brother, I have seven brothers and two sisters, the eldest is, we need to do that, okay?

**JDTT:** Okay.

**RSS:** So, let's go back to the beginning. Please tell me the full names of your parents, the siblings in the order of birth, and then the maternal grandparents and the paternal grandparents, and let's just get that out of the way.

**JDTT:** Okay. My father's name is Agapito Taijito Terlaje,<sup>7</sup> and my mother's name is Cynthia Pangelinan Tenorio Terlaje. My father's parents is Juan Terlaje and, my grandmother, my dad's mother, is Ana Terlaje.

**RSS:** You don't know the middle name?

**JDTT:** Probably, Taijito?

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<sup>2</sup> Grandmother.

<sup>3</sup> Blouse-formal, esp. used by elderly women for religious or traditional ceremonies.

<sup>4</sup> Grandfather.

<sup>5</sup> Hoe-long handled with a straight blade, used for weeding or clearing tall grass. *Fuñot*. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>6</sup> North Carolina and California in the United States and England and France in Europe. (C. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, September 2, 2020.)

<sup>7</sup> Born 13 Aug 1930, died 9 Nov 2000 (70 years). Buried at Guam Veterans Cemetery, Piti, Guam. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, September 1, 2020.)

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RSS: We'll check.<sup>8</sup>

JDTT: And, my mom's parents is Calisto Tenorio from Saipan, and my mom's mother is Luise Pangelinan Tenorio<sup>9</sup> from Saipan also.

RSS: Okay. And the order of birth of your siblings.

JDTT: My oldest brother is John; he lives in Alaska. My second oldest is my brother Paul; he lives on Guam. My sister Florentina; also known as Tina. She is living here on Guam as well. My brother Peter, Michael, Mark, myself, my brother Matthew, and the youngest in the family is my sister Cindy.<sup>10</sup>

RSS: Okay. Nine kids. So, when you first moved to Assan, you said you had been traveling. Was your father in the military?

JDTT: Yes, he was. We came back to Guam from California. And prior to my dad being sent to Vietnam, my uncle, who worked at the Oakland Shipyard,<sup>11</sup> told my dad to take a boat back to Guam so he can spend some time with the family and ship your car at the same time. And you can spend some time with the family before you get deployed to Vietnam and Korea. My dad took him up on that, and we arrived on Guam in 1966 on the USS Upshur. My dad was deployed from Guam to Vietnam right after that.

RSS: What's right after?

JDTT: Probably a good year after coming and setting the family down.

RSS: Why did they pick Assan?

JDTT: Well, my dad is originally from Assan, and my mom grew up also in Assan. Her family used to live in Agana Heights, but they had a store in Assan, the store was

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<sup>8</sup> Juan Terlaje Terlaje and Manuela Taijito Taijito. (C. Pangelinan Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 28, 2020.)

<sup>9</sup> Calisto Pangelinan Tenorio (1905-1984) and Louise Sablan Pangelinan Tenorio (1909-2001) of Sa'ipan. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 28, 2020.)

<sup>10</sup> John Joseph, Paul Jesse, Florentina Maria, Peter Thomas, Michael Alfred, Mark Anthony, James David, Matthew Christopher, and Cynthia Manuela. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 31, 2020.)

<sup>11</sup> Paul Whiteman.

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called Two Leaf Store.<sup>12</sup> My mom met my dad<sup>13</sup> through, I guess, living in the same village, and the rest is history.

RSS: Nine of them. (chuckles)

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: Okay. So, your paternal grandparents were the ones you were speaking about?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: Okay. So, describe that, your first introduction to them, shortly after you arrived?

JDTT: Yes. Actually, we're like afraid of them because we're seeing these people and they looked like they came from the past! But when we found out that they're my grandparents, I guess we all had to accept it. Grandparents are supposed to be loving, and everything and they were very loving. But they were very busy as well, [as we were] growing up. Mom had to watch each of us, and Nāna and my tātā from my dad's side always had their daily chores. They were always busy.

RSS: What did they do?

JDTT: Oh, just around the house things, [they] took care of the livestock, they had chickens and pigs and stuff like that. My grandfather went out, and he was just doing a lot of yard work, gardening. I guess in those days, they lived off the land.

RSS: Do you remember what he grew?

JDTT: We had a lot of fruit trees in the back, that's one thing I can tell you. Outside of that, I guess just whatever he came across, [local] bananas, coconuts, *bilembines*,<sup>14</sup> star apple, *ābas*,<sup>15</sup> and *ibbā*,<sup>16</sup> that's what we had around the house. And so, they were growing a lot of fruits.

RSS: What did you remember about Assan other than them?

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<sup>12</sup> Two Leaf store sold beer, canned goods, and homemade bread, potu, and rosketti. The owners were James' maternal grandparents, Luise Pangelinan Tenorio and Mariano Dueñas Pangelinan. (Terlaje, 2019)

<sup>13</sup> Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje said she met Agapito while they were attending Julale High School in Hagåtña. (C. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, September 2, 2020.)

<sup>14</sup> Star apple. Type of plant-*Averrhoa carambola*. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>15</sup> Sugar apple. Type of plant-*Psidium guavaja*. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>16</sup> Type of tree-fruit grows on trunk or branches; fruit has a sour taste that causes the lips to pucker up. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

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**JDTT:** Growing up in the village, it was very peaceful. There wasn't many automobiles at the time. There were a lot of cars on the island, but not like now where they widen up the roads because of too many cars, and you had to have a two-way intersection inside the village. But growing up, the road was just a single road.<sup>17</sup> I remember we used to go out there and play, and every time, we'd have to stop because someone would say, "Car!" and everybody jumped, (chuckled) they got off the road, and went to the side of the road and waited for the car to pass by and then we'd go back and start playing kickball again.

**RSS:** Who played with you?

**JDTT:** I played with all my brothers. We played together. We grew up very close. There is no such thing as sibling rivalry; you know how it is where brothers against brothers. Mom and Dad raised us up in a very strict manner. Whoever is older, you listen to that person, and you don't talk back. And it reciprocated back down to you, they'll show their respect. You show respect to the elder, the elder will show the respect back.

**RSS:** Did that carry through?

**JDTT:** Oh, yes, it did. Even up to this day, I see my brothers and my sisters, and the first thing we do is hug each other, embrace each other, and tell them how much we love each other. It is being trickled down through our family, through the grandkids and their kids as well.

**RSS:** What service was your father in?

**JDTT:** My father was in the United States Army, he was a staff sergeant, and he retired as a staff sergeant. He's a recipient of the bronze medal due to the Korean War and Vietnam War. He was an outstanding man. (cries and speaks while crying) He's very outstanding. I love the man. You know when you're young, you're a very rebellious person. But, as you get older, you realize that everything that he dared teaching you, it's all right. It's good. It's the right choice. It's the right decision to make. And, whenever I think about him, because you know I was a rebellious kid and there were times when I thought that he was wrong, and I was right. And there's times when I would [say,] 'I hate him! I hate him! I hate him!' But you know, I've outgrown that. I've realized as I got older that I actually became my dad, as well. I remember an instance when we were preparing for a party at the house, and my dad asked me to clean the coolers. And he's telling me, "Clean it inside and outside." I'm like, "Why the outside? The drinks are going on the inside, you don't have to clean the outside." And then, I get a family. I start having my own kids, and here I am, telling my sons, "Clean the

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<sup>17</sup> Ramona Street, named after the GHURA project in Assan.

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coolers inside and outside." And my boy asked me, "Why the outside?" I go, "Because people are going to be taking drinks, and they don't want to take a drink from a dirty cooler."

**RSS:** One of the goals that we have is to explain what Assan was like, how the people used the village. I mean, every village has its own particulars, but this one is a horseshoe-shaped village with two peninsulas on the east and west side of it, and this was before the war. After the war, they blew out those peninsulas in the midsections to be able to have Marine Corps Drive.<sup>18</sup> So, we need to speak about Assan as a village. Mention as many of the names of the families that you remember. Activities that you and your friends, boys or girls, participated in. What kind of features, like Camel Rock and Assan *sågua*—

**JDTT:** The Sågua.

**RSS:** The Sågua, Kalåkkak, things like all the different [place] names that you can think of? Because even though Assan is one small village, is it a mile wide?

**JDTT:** It's over a mile.

**RSS:** Over a mile wide.

**JDTT:** Yes.

**RSS:** Okay. That's a small village, respectively, right? But there are features in that village, and that's what we want to document. The National Parks Service wants to document it, specifically their properties, like the ones where the National Park Service is today.<sup>19</sup> The landing of the Marines and things like that. Now, you didn't get back until '65, but I'm sure, and I'm hoping that there was some handing down of memories that came from your grandparents or your parents who both lived in Assan. And so, that's what I'm hoping to get. And if you can cover all the different areas all the way up to Nimitz Hill, any kind of activities that you played there with the boys, hunting, fishing, gathering coconuts. Anything like that, gathering *lumot*,<sup>20</sup> the one that they use for the [Christmas] *nobena*.<sup>21</sup> If there's a location, somebody said there might have been things like that. So, we're looking for what you can share about the village.

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<sup>18</sup> At the time, it was known as Marine Drive. Former U.S. Marine, Johnny Gerber lobbied to change the name to Marine Corps Drive to inform the people that the road was named in honor of the U.S. Marine Corps for their efforts in liberating the people of Guam from Japanese occupation.

<sup>19</sup> The National Park Service has an office across the street from the War in the Pacific National Park in Assan.

<sup>20</sup> Moss, lichen. There is a location on the hill of Assan where village residents gathered lumot to line the manger's base for their Christmas displays.

<sup>21</sup> Novena, devotion. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

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**JDTT:** Yeah. When we got back to Guam, and we were living in Assan, the War in the Pacific Park area, it was actually a Marine Corps base. It was “Camp Assan.”<sup>22</sup> There were military people that were still living there. And I remember they had an outside theater, and we used to go there and watch movies. It's on the far-left side of the War in the Pacific Park right outside where the Marine Corps Memorial was at. And we used to watch movies. It's on a hillside, and the screen was right there on the oceanfront, and we used to watch movies until they were showing an R-Rated<sup>23</sup> movie and my dad said, “No more watching that stuff over there.” But I remember all the Quonset huts<sup>24</sup> there. And not too long after we got back to Guam, there was a refugee camp.<sup>25</sup> It turned into a refugee camp. And they had the fences being guarded by the [U.S.] Marines. And all of a sudden, we have a big influx<sup>26</sup> of people from Vietnam coming to the island. And that's when they had a curfew for the people of our village because they don't want us to be outside. Eventually, the refugees got tired of being treated or staying in that place. They couldn't go out. They couldn't go fish. They couldn't go eat. They couldn't have a life. They didn't have a life. And so, they eventually had an uprising, and they burned the Quonset huts down. And I remember, the Guam police coming over to our village and everyone in the village, they put out handguns and were ready to protect the families in case of any of the refugees coming over, because we were having that war with Vietnam and nobody knew exactly if these people are going to be friendly or foe.

**RSS:** So, was your father in Vietnam at that time?

**JDTT:** No, he was back. He actually completed his tour in 1970 and retired. And he was living with us, and he started working for the Government of Guam.

**RSS:** Okay. So, the Quonset huts that they burned, where were those Quonset huts located?

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<sup>22</sup> “Operation New Life” 1975 April through November at Camp Assan. The total Vietnamese Refugees on Guam at Orote, Barrigada, and Assan were 111,919.

<sup>23</sup> The film rating system began when William Hays formed the Motion Pictures Distributors Association of America, MPAA, it was known at the Hays Code. In 1966 Jack Valenti was appointed President of the MPAA and embarked on devising a new rating system. In 1968, the voluntary movie rating system was born. Movies are rated G, M, R, or X, and M later changed to PG. [https://www.filmratings.com/Content/Downloads/130208\\_ratings-timeline.final.pdf](https://www.filmratings.com/Content/Downloads/130208_ratings-timeline.final.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/numerical-list-of-images/nhhc-series/all-hands-magazina/1945/331823-quonset-huts---guam.html>

<sup>25</sup> The former Camp Assan used by the U.S. Marines sat empty for years and used to shelter Vietnam refugees from April through November 1975.

<sup>26</sup> On May 10, 1975, the New York Times ran a story with the title, 48,000 REFUGEES JAMMED ON GUAM. The report claimed there were 20,000 more expected. <https://www.nytimes.com/1975/05/10/archives/48000-refugees-jammed-on-guam-3-new-ships-make-influx-largest-since.html>

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**JDTT:** They're located on the grassy part of the Park right now, as you can see it. I have some pictures from another source that actually show the Quonset huts being up. And that's what I remember from growing up, is seeing the military base there.

**RSS:** Okay. The military base photographs that you showed me last night were two-story barracks looking places. Were there Quonset huts on one side of the Park<sup>27</sup> area?

**JDTT:** They had Quonset huts on, probably, the right side of the baseline here.

**RSS:** When you say right, which way are we facing?

**JDTT:** When you're looking at the War in the Pacific [National Park] from the Marine Corps [Drive], they're on the right-hand side, because that's where they kept all their supplies. Quonset huts were for mainly keeping warehouse items, and the two-story buildings were the office spaces and the barracks.

**RSS:** So, the refugees were housed in those Quonset huts?

**JDTT:** They were housed in the whole area, upstairs and downstairs. There was a couple thousand that were being housed there.

**RSS:** So, when they were there, what happened to the Marines?

**JDTT:** The Marines were guarding. They were outside the fence line in attention, marching back and forth and making sure that nobody had escaped.

**RSS:** Were they prisoners of war?

**JDTT:** They were refugees, but coming into a United States territory, they just can't be let go. They have to go through a process as with any type of immigration services. They want to make sure that the people are inoculated from viruses. And there's not going to be no outbreak on the island that the United States had worked so hard and taken care of. Making sure that nobody has TB and all those other childhood diseases.

**RSS:** So, they were quarantined?

**JDTT:** Yes. They were basically quarantined.

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<sup>27</sup> War in the Pacific National Historic Park, Asan Beach Unit.



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**RSS:** Okay. But you said that this was Camp Asan,<sup>28</sup> which indicated that the Marines were there. So, were the Marines still staying in the barracks at the same time that the refugees were there?

**JDTT:** No. Because there were so many. The refugees had taken over to the dwelling places there. So, they were basically living there until they could find a suitable place or be taken off of the island and brought somewhere else where they can be citizens, I guess let go, and enjoy life as normal.

**RSS:** Do you what happened to the Marines then? Did they relocate the Marines somewhere?

**JDTT:** The Marines were probably relocated, I guess, into a Navy Base. I thought it was called Naval Station at the time. And the Marines Corps left the island, and I guess they moved over to Japan, and they started a base over there. Because they no longer needed the Marines on the island<sup>29</sup> since the Navy and the Army was here, and Air Force.

**RSS:** All right. So, do you remember why they burned down the Quonset huts?

**JDTT:** They wanted out. They were complaining that it was taking too long for them to be released into society. And it's like being a caged dog. I mean, you can only handle so much. And then, eventually, you can start rattling the cage, and you want to be released. You want to be let go. These people were brought to the island because of something bad that was happening in their own country for their own protection. But yet, while they're here, they were still being treated as if they were like a caged animal.

**RSS:** Did you interact with people?

**JDTT:** Not at all. The only people that we interacted with were just the people from our village.

**RSS:** So, you were never allowed to go in there?

**JDTT:** Not after the Vietnam Refugees came in.

**RSS:** You never played with the kids?

**JDTT:** No.

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<sup>28</sup> The actual name of the camp at that time was Camp Asan.

<sup>29</sup> Guam.

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RSS: Did you ever see them?

JDTT: We saw them just from the road. It was a lot. And we saw a lot of Military around the base all the way down to the ocean side. I mean, they were there. They were making sure that nobody got away.

RSS: What curiosity drove you guys there? And how far did you get?

JDTT: Well, the curiosity was there, but it wasn't that difficult for us because we lived right across the street from them. And so, we could see everything that was going on.

RSS: From your house?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: What did you see? What do you remember?

JDTT: I remember during the time when they started burning, it was just fire. Fire in the sky. Smoke in the air. Guns going off and all that.

RSS: Guns?

JDTT: Yeah. I guess they're trying to keep them at bay. So, they're shooting friendly fire.

RSS: Shooting it up in the air?

JDTT: Yeah. Up in the air.

RSS: What time of the day did this occur?

JDTT: This was happening late at night. This is when it started to occur. When they started burning, that's when we saw the fire.

RSS: How did you know?

JDTT: Because we were woken up by my parents, "Get up. Get up. Get up." And then the Military Police was driving around our village, making sure that everybody was awake and that no one is going to get hurt.

RSS: They woke up the village?

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**JDTT:** Yes. They used to go around with the sirens and all that to wake people up.

**RSS:** Why did they wake them up?

**JDTT:** I guess during the uprising with the refugees just to be prepared that there's going to be some friendly fire or some type of fight going on.

**RSS:** Did they make an announcement?

**JDTT:** That, I don't remember. All I remember is crying. Because it seemed like we were going into a war on our very own island. And that's one thing that really scared me when I was young, because I used to watch the news with my mom and my dad, and I see all the fighting. Then you see all the newspapers, and it shows about the war, and how ugly it is and how many people have come back to the island and they're in a casket, and we had to go to funerals. That's one thing that we did on the island is to go to a lot of funerals and pay our respects to members of our family that have passed on, that have gone up, that were murdered or killed in action, and we had to go see that. And it was a very somber moment in my life.

**RSS:** Unsettling?

**JDTT:** Eventually, we outgrow it because we experienced other trials and tribulations later on like kids. That's one. But we had to step up to just move forward and just go on with our lives. We can't keep reflecting back on the past, but we can learn from it.

**RSS:** So, you're saying that death affects you deeply.

**JDTT:** It does. Especially when it's a loved one and someone who I really admire like my father. It's been 20 years since his death, but I can still hear him. I can still smell him. And whenever we go to visit his gravesite at Veteran's Cemetery,<sup>30</sup> even right before I even step foot, I'm already in tears. And I go up there, and I tell my kids, "Hey." We go to my dad's gravesite, and we just knock on his nameplate, "Hoi! We're here. We're here." And they're like, "Dad, where you at?" I'm on the side over here. I'm just boohooing away.

**RSS:** Why do you cry?

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<sup>30</sup> Guam Veterans Cemetery, Piti, Guam

[https://www.google.com/maps/uv?pb=!1s0x671f70a97a9b2cfd:0xc6e6568e1cf88f21!3m1!7e115!4shttps://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOqxUV1pAng627Asqtw6WAcZyuEzrxuGOQ69CgI%3Dw213-h160-k-no!5sveterans%27+Cemetery,+guam+-+Google+Search!15zQ2dJZ0FRPT0&imagekey=!1e10!2sAF1QipOqxUV1pAng627Asqtw6WAcZyuEzrxuGOQ69CgI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwik8\\_60mcfAhVCXawKHVnbCNcQoiowGHoECBAQBg](https://www.google.com/maps/uv?pb=!1s0x671f70a97a9b2cfd:0xc6e6568e1cf88f21!3m1!7e115!4shttps://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOqxUV1pAng627Asqtw6WAcZyuEzrxuGOQ69CgI%3Dw213-h160-k-no!5sveterans%27+Cemetery,+guam+-+Google+Search!15zQ2dJZ0FRPT0&imagekey=!1e10!2sAF1QipOqxUV1pAng627Asqtw6WAcZyuEzrxuGOQ69CgI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwik8_60mcfAhVCXawKHVnbCNcQoiowGHoECBAQBg)

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**JDTT:** Because I love him. (tears up) When you love somebody, it's real hard to find someone to fill that void that's gone. But prior to his death, he brought us all into the room, and he told us that he just wanted to thank each and every one of the kids that we never embarrassed him. We never got in trouble with the law. And finally, he said that we were the salt in his life. We were the ones that made everything much more flavorful in his life and made his life a lasting memory in him.

**RSS:** Well, you made it purposeful, right?

**JDTT:** Oh, yes. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be here talking to you right now.

**RSS:** Well, nine children. That's a lot of kids.

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah.

**RSS:** So, how did your father provide for nine kids?

**JDTT:** He was a retired military. And the military at the time—I think things change as time goes on—but they provided. We had healthcare. We had dental and all that stuff. And he worked for the Government of Guam. He got a job working for the local government as a building inspector, and that provided as well. And another thing that helped us out was living off the land. We grew *sigidiyas*,<sup>31</sup> that's a bean. I forgot the type what they call it in English. But we grew it at the house. We raised pigs. We had a goat. And we did a lot of fishing in our life. It's a family tradition. Everybody that knows my family, they go, "Is that the Terlaje family from Assan? They're the fishing family." And with nine kids, you got your fishing crew right there. But some of us, like myself, I was very rebellious. I did not like to go fishing.

**RSS:** Why?

**JDTT:** Because I just didn't want to go out. It was a lot of hard work. But I'm not saying I'm lazy. I just didn't want to go. I'd rather stay at home and watch cartoons on TV and just stay at home. I don't want to go out and work. I mean, I do enough work when they're home, and they tell me what to do. But we had to go because there was no one going to be at the house to watch us. And so, when we went, I do my thing. I'll splash in the water for them to chase the fish inside. And then once the net was closed and everybody jumped in the net with their spears and start spearing the fish, I would go on top of the inner tube and just sit down and wait for them to be done.

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<sup>31</sup> Winged beans.

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RSS: You weren't interested in spearing fish?

JDTT: I was not interested. I felt bad killing anything.

RSS: Even today?

JDTT: No. When I got back when I lived in the Mainland, and I was told by a good friend of mine, he is not CHamoru, and he was telling me that I was very fortunate in this lifetime to know that I have an identity, that my identity is from Guam, that I'm called a CHamoru and that I have all these things that I can do in my lifetime that you can't do in the Mainland. And he made me realize, I am very special. Guam is very special. And so, not too long after that conversation, NAS [Naval Air Station] Alameda was the first base in the Continental United States to close.<sup>32</sup> And I decided, "Where am I going to go? I was given two opportunities, one to move to Utah or two, move to Michigan. And I told myself, "I think it's time for me to go home." And so, it was really good that I came back in 1993. I got just enough time to be with my dad and tell him I love him and everything. And at the same time, when I got back, I remember my friend, TW, telling me how fortunate I am to have an identity that I started to go fishing. [TW, whose real name is Thomas Williams, was a coworker of mine back in California. We worked for the Defense Logistics Agency at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California, as Environmental Protection Specialists, and I lived approximately 45 minutes away from work, and he would pick me up so that I can save money to buy a car. He always brought a lot of food to work and fed me too. He would always ask me if I needed any help with anything. He said that he liked me because I was an honest man. Guam was the first military base closure in the United States. That's why I came home. I had a business trip to the Bay Area and reached out to some of my old coworkers via email to find out how I can get in touch with him and was told that he had passed away a couple of years back. I was very sad because he was a very good friend.]<sup>33</sup> And in fact, I picked it up [fishing], and I loved it. I loved it so much that I was going two days instead of just one. But my mom cooked a lot. My mom can cook anything, and it will be so good. She can boil water, and it would be the best water you ever drank. That's how good my mom is. And everything that my mom did was all eyeball. I mean, she got nine kids, right? She's cooking at the same time turning around and making sure that nobody was getting into no ruckus. And so, I guess her gift of cooking was passed on to me as well because now, I'm the cook in my house. My wife cooks too. My wife,<sup>34</sup> she's a wonderful person, and she's a wonderful mother as well.

<sup>32</sup> The Continental United States: The 49 States (including Alaska, excluding Hawai'i) located on the continent of North America and the District of Columbia. ([https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-constitutes-united-states-what-are-official-definitions?qt-news\\_science\\_products=0#qt-news\\_science\\_products](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-constitutes-united-states-what-are-official-definitions?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products))

<sup>33</sup> Relationship with "TW". (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 31, 2020.)

<sup>34</sup> Ninamaria Pereira. No middle name, Mom said, "What for? You're just going to drop it when you marry your husband. And, anyhow, the male should carry the last name of both parents. So, Edward is Edward Delgado Pereira

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**RSS:** What else can you tell me about Assan? Do you remember any features in Assan that stand out to you where the boys would hang out, or did you play in the river? Did you catch anything in the river? Did you play in the dams?

**JDTT:** That's one thing about living in our village is we have kids that go everywhere. My parents were very strict. But then we had friends whose parents were working or weren't as strict as my mom and dad. And so, they would take us up the hills, through the sword grass, the *sakâti*<sup>35</sup> and we'll do a trail hike to the Assan Dam, that's what they called it. It's a military dam that's been abandoned. It's a small dam between Nimitz Hill and Assan. But it's a long hike to get up there. And so, what we did is we would walk up there and find the dam, and we'll just go swim. It's a rite of passage for our group, the boys in the village.

**RSS:** You wouldn't be permitted to go there?

**JDTT:** We were told not to go there.

**RSS:** Why?

**JDTT:** Mom and Dad was so strict. I mean, we had chores to do. So, many chores. I wanted to play baseball, and I couldn't because I got home from school, I had to feed the pig, I had to go pasture the goat, feed the chickens and all that stuff. Because once my siblings hit 18, they left. They joined the military and left. And so, I'm now the new person to be doing all those chores. And it's a joke now, I tell people about it. Because I wanted to play baseball, but I had all these chores. And there were times where I'll be feeding the pig. It's not pig slop that we did. My dad made us take crack corn and cook it with the pig slop. And so, the pig would have nice hot meal. And so, we couldn't feed the pig that meal because we had to wait for it to cool off. But at the time, it's my turn to feed the pig. I hear the honking of the horns from the kids, "Beep, beep, beep. We won! We won!" And I'm so mad. I wanted to play baseball, and here I had to feed this damn pig, right?" And so, my mom and dad, they didn't know, but there was this little stick on the side of the pigpen. And there were times that I would hear the honking of the horns and hearing, "We won. We won." I'd pick that stick up, and I would start beating the pig with it. I'm like, "Damn it. Damn it. Damn it." Just keep hitting them. And then I felt bad because "Why am I doing that? The pig didn't do anything." And then there was one time I was feeding the pig, and what stopped me was the minute the pig heard the horns honking of the truck, and I saw

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and I'm Ninamaria Pereira." (N.P. Terlaje, personal communications. February 23, 2021.) (Pacific Daily News, 2004)

<sup>35</sup> Sword-grass is *nette* in CHamoru, but many people refer to it as *sakâti* because *sakâti* is hay, and those who own cows cut the *nette* and feed it to cows as hay.

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like the pig knew that this is the time I'm going to get my beating. And so, I stopped. And the pig got up like that. I just looked at it and said, "Okay. I'm not going to do it no more."

**RSS:** Wow.

**JDTT:** It was a joke because every time they would honk and go around the village, "We won. We won." And our team, the Assan Aces, that's what they were called, my neighbor's kids played in it. Everybody in the village by the church they played in that team. And if you didn't play in the team, then they look down upon you.

**RSS:** Did you feel that?

**JDTT:** Did I?

**RSS:** The rejection.

**JDTT:** Yeah. I wasn't part of this group. It was a click back then. I didn't know how you would say it. I think we called it a gang, gangs. But they didn't bring me into that circle of friends.

**RSS:** They were the village jocks?

**JDTT:** Yes. Those were the jocks. And even my own friends that live next door they stopped talking to me. So, we ended up just playing by ourselves, me and my brother. And next to our house, we had an abandoned warehouse. The footprint of the warehouse, the foundation, it was a concrete foundation. And I remember growing up, my mom would always refer as the cement. And so, every time we go out, we were like, "We're going to go play on The Cement." And then The Cement became like a gathering point, too, for the rest of the friends that I had. The leftover friends that I had. "Hey, where do you want to meet? Let's go meet after school at 'The Cement.'<sup>36</sup> And we'll go play kickball or dodge ball. And so, it was good because it kept us off the street. We don't have to worry about "Car!" It was a big place. I think it was probably 200 feet by 150 feet, the length. It was 250 feet in length and 150 feet wide.

**RSS:** What was on top of that?

**JDTT:** There was nothing. It was gone. But the metal studs to hold whatever was there were still there. And we still don't know what it was, but it was a warehouse. That's what we were told, it was a warehouse. And so, we called it 'The Cement.'

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<sup>36</sup> The foundation of a warehouse. Probably a Quonset hut.

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RSS: And where was it located in proximity to the house?

JDTT: It was right adjacent to my mom and dad's place. And right in front of my Auntie Nena and Auntie Dã Santos' house.<sup>37</sup> So, like that.

RSS: Okay. So, your parent's house today, where was that platform?

JDTT: That platform is—when you say platform?

RSS: The foundation.

JDTT: The foundation from my mom and dad's house, it was on the right-hand side of the warehouse. And then right behind the warehouse was my Auntie *Nena* and my Auntie *Dã Santos'* house. And right behind their house was the Assan River.

RSS: Okay. I see. So, you're talking on the other side of where you are?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: Okay. What business establishments do you remember being in that village?

JDTT: Well, right outside by Marine Corps Drive, which was Route 1,<sup>38</sup> they had the *Blas Store*. And the Blas family had a lot of kids in their family as well. I grew up with a couple of members of their family. And we used to go to their store, and they would give us bubblegum. And then, we would go to another store down the street called the *Didang's Store*, which was the San Nicolas Store. And that store had the pool table. And so, those are the games as we were getting older. Those are the games that we started playing was pool. And then, across the street from *Didang's Store* was the Shelton Music<sup>39</sup>. And I remember going over there and seeing, I guess, it was Sonny's dad<sup>40</sup>. And we would see all the instruments, but we weren't able to touch it or try it out. They would play it for us and just let us hear it.

RSS: Who would play it?

JDTT: I think it was Sonny Shelton's dad. He was playing a banjo.

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<sup>37</sup> Auntie Nena (Anna) and Auntie Dã (Soledad) Santos. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 30, 2020.)

<sup>38</sup> Marine Drive at that time. Today its Marine Corps Drive.

<sup>39</sup> Shelton Music, Inc., was a coin operated business that sold pinball and arcade machines, pool tables, jukeboxes, gaming, and vending machines, and musical instruments. (Senator A. Shelton, personal communication, September 1, 2020.)

<sup>40</sup> Austin James Shelton I. (A. Shelton, PhD, personal communication, September 3, 2020.)



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RSS: He'd play for the kids?

JDTT: Mmhm. And so, we just listen. And we'll probably go by, and he'll give us a guitar pick. So, we leave there like, "Wow. Look at what we got. All right. It's a treat. What is it?"

RSS: (laughs)

JDTT: It's a piece of plastic. And then we got home and my brothers, they played instruments. So, they're like, "Hey, where did you get the guitar pick?" "Oh, that's what it is. Okay."

RSS: (laughs)

JDTT: I ended up learning how to play the guitar as well.

RSS: Did you buy a guitar from Mr. Shelton?

JDTT: No. That was very costly at the time. That was back in the early '70s.

RSS: Can you describe Mr. Shelton?

JDTT: Just an old white guy. An old white man.

RSS: Tall, thin?

JDTT: He was big.

RSS: Stocky?

JDTT: He was *yommok*.<sup>41</sup> He was kind of fat. But he always had a smile on his face.

RSS: Was he mean?

JDTT: No. He wasn't mean. If you were going to touch the instruments, then yeah. But everything was located behind a glass panel, the glass display cases. So, we couldn't really touch it. That's why he would show us, and he would play something for us.

RSS: Is he the only one that was there?

JDTT: Yes.

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<sup>41</sup> Fat, plump, overweight.

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RSS: You never saw Mrs. Shelton?

JDTT: No. I can't remember her. Probably I did, but I just can't remember that.

RSS: Did you see Sonny as a kid?

JDTT: I saw Sonny growing up over at church. That's when we would see the Shelton's. It was a thing that we did, every Sunday we had to go to church. And everybody from the village was there. The church was packed. And everybody you had to go and *mannginge*<sup>42</sup> everybody there, even the people that didn't look CHamoru, because Mom was like, "Amen. Amen. Amen."<sup>43</sup> You just got done with church. You have to amen everybody."

RSS: What do you remember of that church?

JDTT: I remember going to *eskuelan pãle*<sup>44</sup>, they call it CCD<sup>45</sup> now. And that's just to prepare the young kids to go through the rituals for the church. To go through first holy communion and then to confirmation, and stuff like that. And I remember Sister Gertrude Quitugua, her brother was the mayor of Assan. They called him *MacMac*.<sup>46</sup> And she was mean. She was a mean nun. If we didn't say [the] "Our Father" prayer right or anything like that, she would hit (slaps his hand) our knuckles.

RSS: With what?

JDTT: With a stick.

RSS: For not saying the prayer correctly?

JDTT: Well, we needed to learn how to say it. If we were talking on the side like that, she would come right behind us and hit us with the stick. "Listen, when you're in church, you should be focused on God," stuff like that.

RSS: And God would smack you if you don't listen.

JDTT: No. I guess he was using Sister Gertrude.

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<sup>42</sup> A term used with small children when directing them to kiss an elder's hand as a sign of respect.

<sup>43</sup> A term used to direct small children to kiss the hands of their elders upon meeting them.

<sup>44</sup> Literally, priest school.

<sup>45</sup> Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, classes conducted on church grounds and conducted by a Catholic priest, nun, or approved laity.

<sup>46</sup> Jose S. Quitugua (1973–1981)

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RSS: No. That was just Sister Gertrude.

JDTT: But I see her now-

RSS: She's still alive?

JDTT: She's still alive, yeah. And she still remembers me, and she has a very big smile. Every time she sees me, she remembers.

RSS: Do you ask her if she remembers hitting you?

JDTT: No. (laughs) I wouldn't do that.

RSS: Why not?

JDTT: That's a traumatized phase in my life I want to forget. I don't want to go and bring it up to her.

RSS: (chuckles) Go *kopbla*.<sup>47</sup>

JDTT: No. I'm not that type of person. Mom and Dad raised us not to go out there and become bullies.

RSS: But you wouldn't be a bully. Just ask her, "Do you remember smacking me?"

JDTT: Yeah. I think we can do it now in a joking way.

RSS: Sure. I'd ask her. (chuckles)

JDTT: And I think the next time I see her with my wife, "Hi, Sister Gertie. Hi. Remember slapping or spanking me during *eskuelan pãle*?"

RSS: Now, you said something about another church in Assan that nobody ever speaks about.

JDTT: That church is on the last peninsula going towards Chorito Point. It's Dead Man's Curve now. That's what they call it nowadays. But that's Charito Point right outside of Assan.

RSS: On the east?

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<sup>47</sup> To account for past action.

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**JDTT:** Right. On the east side. And so, that's church, it's called Church of Christ. I don't know what religion there. I mean, I know it's a Christian Church and everything. I started my education there as a Head Start. And I have a picture of my Head Start class over there. And a lot of my friends that I grew up within Assan and Ma'ina we were all classmates. And it was funny because those same people, we all went to school throughout our whole lives to high school.

**RSS:** Together?

**JDTT:** Mmhmm.

**RSS:** Do you remember when that church was built?

**JDTT:** It was there when we came back. I mean, that was my head start. Mom had put me over there to go to start my education.

**RSS:** I see the building, but I never see people there.

**JDTT:** Yeah. I see it on Sundays now. It's a small group that goes there, I guess, for their worship services. But we went there, it wasn't like a private school or anything like that. To me, it was like babysitting us at the time at the same time teaching us.

**RSS:** Like a nursery?

**JDTT:** Yeah. Like a nursery. And then, teaching us the basics, alphabets, numbers, and stuff like that.

**RSS:** And when did it stop doing that?

**JDTT:** I cannot confirm or deny that one. It's been a long time.

**RSS:** Any other nurseries in the Assan Village?

**JDTT:** That was the only one that I know of. They did have a nursery in Kalåkkak, the area that I live in, but it's a privately-owned nursery there.

**RSS:** Is it still there?

**JDTT:** I don't think so. I think they sold the house to someone, and they ended up just turning it into a residence.

**RSS:** I see. So, what other businesses do you remember in Assan?

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**JDTT:** Joe Flo's,<sup>48</sup> that was a restaurant. It was a Mexican restaurant, and we used to go there for tacos. And then when I left the island, and I came back, I found that later on it turned into a bar.

**RSS:** How many other Mom and Pop stores?

**JDTT:** There was one street in Kalåkkak that was a San Nicolas Store<sup>49</sup> in Kalåkkak. There was the Blas Store<sup>50</sup> on Route 1 right outside the entrance into Kalåkkak. Then they had *Didang's* Store,<sup>51</sup> which is off Route 1. Not too far from Blas Store, but they had the pool table, and they had the jukebox. So, that was the hangout place. Then there was Guerrero's Store down further on the village side. And I think they turned that into an automotive repair shop right now. I'm trying to think because it's been a long time. A lot of changes have happened to Assan. It had undergone a total redevelopment phase.<sup>52</sup> And some of the places that I used to consider stopping grounds are no longer there.

**RSS:** Like what?

**JDTT:** Like 'The Cement', it's gone. There's a house there now. They built a house. They did a total redevelopment of Assan, where even the river was rerouted. The river, growing up, was a life and abundant of aquatic wildlife. And it was deep. It was a flowing river. It moved.

**RSS:** How deep was it?

**JDTT:** It was three to four feet in some areas. I remember watching people go and fish there. And there were these people that lived on the opposite side of the road, these Filipinos that used to go with these 9-volt or 10-volt battery pack connected to two sticks with a wire at the end. And they used to just walk on the side of the river and tap the shrimp with the two lines, and the shrimp would just flow up to the top. They

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<sup>48</sup> Jose Taitano Gutierrez (1910-1999) and Florence Grace Sakakibara (Dec 10, 1919-February 17, 2010) owned and operated a Mexican Restaurant and Bar. Musicians played at Joe & Flo's and a popular place with a dance floor. They are buried at the Custino Cemetery in East Hagåtña. (H. Dean Gutierrez, personal communication, September 2, 2020.)

<sup>49</sup> Antonio "Tuning" and Brejida San Nicolas. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, September 2, 2020.)

<sup>50</sup> Blas Store was a general merchandise store that sold canned goods, snacks, and drinks. The owners were a Greg and Inez Blas. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 30, 2020.)

<sup>51</sup> Dedang's Store had general merchandise but sold cold beer because they also had pool tables and video games. They also sold mestizas from the P.I. The owners were Antonio "Tuning" and Brejida San Nicolas. Their son Leslie still lives in the village. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 30, 2020.)

<sup>52</sup> 1977 08 Asan Community Redevelopment Plan Guam Designation R-3(a).

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grab it with another stick and throw it in their woven basket behind their back. And just keep walking and doing the same thing. And they caught a lot of shrimp.

**RSS:** How big were they?

**JDTT:** They were probably a good foot [in length.] One foot if you're going to have them to stretch their pinchers out, it would be one feet out.

**RSS:** The width of the pinchers or the length from tail to pincher?

**JDTT:** The length of the whole from tail to pincher. They were big. They were what we'd call Tiger Prawns.

**RSS:** Wow. And today?

**JDTT:** I don't see them at all. They're gone.

**RSS:** What stopped the flow of the river?

**JDTT:** I guess when the Army Corps [of Engineers]<sup>53</sup> came in, and they widened the river to become what they call the Surge Protector, or when we have typhoons, how the ocean surges would come in, it became like a floodplain area. It works. I remember [Typhoon] Pongsona<sup>54</sup> when the water was actually flowing into Assan rather than flowing out from the river. And it held. It did what it was supposed to do.

**RSS:** Tell me what it's supposed to do?

**JDTT:** Because in the olden days, we didn't have the concrete-

**RSS:** The coverts?

**JDTT:** Well, the coverts and the concrete strengthening sides. So, the erosion was removed from that process when they built that. The erosion is no longer existent. I mean, if we had any typhoon like that coming back and then we had the old river, the sides would collapse.

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<sup>53</sup> The Assan River Flood Control Project was done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine if it was justified to expand the river to mitigate flooding threats of nearby homes and businesses in the village. The USACE report is available through the Honolulu District Public Information Office. My involvement was as an inspector of the construction after the original inspector left the island. The pictures I took would also be in the Hawai'i office. There is an office on Guam after I retired, not sure if it is still there. I think the contact information for the office is: Guam Field Office Apra Harbor Naval Complex, PSC 455 Box 188, FPO, AP 96540-1088 Guam, (671) 339-2108 CEPOH-RO@usace.army.mil (F. Dayton, personal communication, September 5, 2020.)

<sup>54</sup> Typhoon Pongsona hit Guam in 2002.

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RSS: Because of the floods?

JDTT: The ocean surge.

RSS: The flash flood?

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: Okay. So, in [Typhoon] Pongsona, what happened? The water from the ocean?

JDTT: Was flowing into the island rather than flowing out. Because I actually looked out my window and I could see the water flowing in. It was coming towards my house. And I was like, "Lord, please don't let the water come in my house. I don't have flood insurance."

RSS: Yeah. It was coming in from the ocean into the river.

JDTT: Into the river. The river was full. It was packed. If you come by my house, I could show you the line where the water was actually at on the side of the river.

RSS: When you say full, how high?

JDTT: It was probably a good 12 to 15 feet deep. Right now, the water barely flows. But on a heavy rain, you could see the water will flow. But it's murky water that comes down. But during the typhoon, you can see the ocean waves coming in. And the floodplain worked that the Army Corps had developed.

RSS: So, the Army Corps created a wider river as a channel for the ocean water to come in, so it doesn't go into the village?

JDTT: For the ocean water to come in and, I guess, for the flash floods to go out.

RSS: Okay. Now, you said that you thought the water was going to overflow into your house.

JDTT: Well, I just thought the ocean surge was going to be higher. And so, that means that the water would start getting higher like a tsunami, you know how it is. And I was just like, "Please, don't come into my house. Please don't."

RSS: Did the ocean ever create a tsunami problem for Assan?

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**JDTT:** No. Not at all. I think Guam is blessed to have the Marianas Trench to dissipate vast majority of the energy that's being brought forth by an earthquake or movement of water due from a tsunami.

**RSS:** It slows it down?

**JDTT:** Yeah. Because Guam is basically like a tip of a mountain. And if you have like a pool water and you go push water like that, it's going to go around that mountain, the tip.

**RSS:** So, that's what happens.

**JDTT:** Yeah. I believe that's what happens.

**RSS:** Assan has never flooded ever?

**JDTT:** No. It floods at the aquifers, but that just comes down and goes into the storm drains.

**RSS:** What aquifer?

**JDTT:** We have a lot of aquifers up on the hills. In the village side, during a heavy rain—because freshwater floats on top of saltwater. Guam is surrounded by water. And so, we have water inside our limestone. And so, as rain trickles down into the limestone, the water that lands on top of the limestone tends to accumulate and just build up. And so, during a heavy rain, the springs up there will get overflowed, and then the water will come out.

**RSS:** How many springs?

**JDTT:** I believe we have three springs in our village.

**RSS:** And where are they located?

**JDTT:** They are located in the village. Two in the village, and there's one up by the dam.

**RSS:** Where in the village?

**JDTT:** On Jose Leon Guerrero Street. It's on the upper level of Assan Village. If you go up at the end of the village, go up to the top, there's the Cabral family and the Aquiningoc family, there's a GovGuam spring there that they monitor.



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RSS: When you say spring, what was that mean?

JDTT: It's just a freshwater source that we use.

RSS: Can you see it?

JDTT: Yeah. It's encased in concrete. It's a government subsidy—

RSS: So, it's not exposed?

JDTT: No.

RSS: And where does that water go?

JDTT: It goes out to the storm drains.

RSS: And out to the ocean?

JDTT: Yes. And so, there was so much water in Assan.

RSS: You know, there is a road that goes up, and it's two way. There's constant water flowing. Where does that come from?

JDTT: That's coming from the spring. If you drive all the way up to the top of that road that you're referring to, you will come across that spring, that aquifer. It's a GovGuam building. It's an encasement<sup>55</sup> that just keeps overflowing. It's like a lot of wasted water to me. But Guam's rainwater, the inches compared on an annual basis for Guam rainfall, would be devastating to the United States, but we can handle that here.

RSS: Where is it coming from?

JDTT: It's coming from the ground. It's groundwater.

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<sup>55</sup> Assan Spring Reservoir is the primary name associated with the reservoir since 1917. A secondary reference, Assan Spring Cistern, appeared in the Guam News Letter during its construction in 1916. It is located along the Palasao Ridge facing Assan Village and Bay, on land included in the Assan Ridge Battle Area, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. (Ref#75001916). In 1983 Assan Village was determined eligible for listing in the National Register. Directly inside the entrance of the fenced 90'x90' compound is the pump-room built ca. 1994. There is a rectangular pit several feet deep, measuring 6'-0" x 9'-6" containing a system of 5" diameter pipes with a large valve and hand wheel and a removed valve laying at the bottom, underwater. A concrete slab cover for the pit partially obscures the piping. The second building after the rectangular pit is the 11'-0" x 13'-4" Chlorinator Building. A sketch of the Assan Spring Reservoir compound is found on pg. 15 of Haer No. Gu-10 report. <https://www.loc.gov/item/gu0018/> (Dee Ruzicka Mason Architects, 2016)

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RSS: Oh, okay. So, it's that rising freshwater?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: And why don't they plug it up?

JDTT: It will find its way through the pores through the limestone.

RSS: Another way?

JDTT: Right. Yes. In fact, we have some residences that are having issues with their houses during heavy rains that their house is actually flooded. And they're like, "Why is my house flooding? I live on the top of the hill."

RSS: And the answer?

JDTT: The answer is, "Well, your house is built on top of an aquifer." And so, when that aquifer gets full, it needs to find an avenue to get out.

RSS: So, Assan is on top of an aquifer?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: But I thought the aquifer was on the east coast.

JDTT: That's the military aquifers. We have the natural aquifers. Guam has aquifers all over.

RSS: No. But don't you need limestone?

JDTT: Well, there's limestone. Guam is predominantly a limestone.

RSS: Is Assan on top of the aquifer itself?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: I thought it was south, so it's not then.

JDTT: We have fresh water coming out everywhere. We have the freshwater dam up on the hill, and that water is coming from an aquifer as well. Maybe the aquifer that you're referring to is a GovGuam aquifer that feeds a vast majority of the northern side and military bases.

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RSS: Well, yeah. I mean, I thought we had one aquifer. One huge aquifer.

JDTT: We are sitting on top of the aquifer, yes.

RSS: Okay. But I didn't realize that you had that many springs in Assan.

JDTT: Yeah. We have a couple.

RSS: And there's no way to capture that to use it?

JDTT: It's a lot of water. I'm not a water expert. I guess we would have to refer to that question from GWA, [Guam Waterworks Authority.]

RSS: I have to ask somebody from WERI.<sup>56</sup>

JDTT: Or WERI, yes.

RSS: Okay. Did you swim in that water? Did you ever do anything with the aquifer or the *bo'bo*?

JDTT: No. Well, we did over at the dam but not close to our village. That aquifer that I was referring to is located in *Opop* in Assan. It's another part of the village that we were told not to go to. And there's another area, Hama'.

RSS: Wait. Say the word again.

JDTT: Hama.

RSS: Hama?

JDTT: Hama.

RSS: How do you spell it?

JDTT: I guess it's H-a-m-a with the a'.

RSS: Glota<sup>57</sup>?

JDTT: Yeah.

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<sup>56</sup> Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific.

<sup>57</sup> Orthographic symbol indicating a glottal stop. A glottal only follows a vowel.

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RSS: Hama’?

JDTT: And then *Opop*. We were just told not to go up there when we were young.

RSS: So, Hama’ and Opop have aquifer? I mean, *bo’bo*?

JDTT: Opuc.<sup>58</sup>

RSS: Opuc? Not Opop?

JDTT: Well, I was always told it's Opuc.

RSS: Okay.

JDTT: So, we were told not to go up there or go in those areas. *Taotaomo’na*<sup>59</sup> and all that stuff.

RSS: Just to keep you away?

JDTT: Yeah. I guess, Mom and Dad want to keep us away.

RSS: But you didn't listen.

JDTT: Yeah. You don't mind if I have a drink? (swallowing)

RSS: Not at all. So, you didn't listen?

JDTT: Well, of course we don't listen. We're kids. We have to be defiant every now and then to see if Mom and Dad were right. And usually, we found out at the end that they were.

RSS: It's a good thing you didn't drown.

JDTT: Well, that's why we go with a bunch of guys.

RSS: Was it deep?

JDTT: The dam was relatively deep, probably seven feet.

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<sup>58</sup> Place name is Opop. (C. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 30, 2020.)

<sup>59</sup> Ghost, demon, disembodied soul. Specter. Lit. 'People of before.'

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RSS: How big?

JDTT: It's standard like 16 [feet] by 16 [feet.]

RSS: Bigger than this room.

JDTT: Yeah. It's bigger than this room.

RSS: Maybe twice the size?

JDTT: But it's enough for like eight or nine guys jumping and go swim.

RSS: Did you have anything to jump from like a cliff or rock, anything?

JDTT: There was the natural hillside there that we can jump into it. But it was a dam that was built by the military to hold some water and, I guess, use it for an emergency. But eventually, it was abandoned, and it now became a water source where our river's water come from.

RSS: So, it sounds like that was done for Camp Asan.

JDTT: Probably. I can't confirm or answer that one because that was an engineering study that had done that.

RSS: I wonder where we can get a report for that.

JDTT: Probably, Navy Base, Guam.

RSS: Well, I have to figure something out. I need to figure out why that dam was there. All my contacts in the Army Corps Engineers have retired, but I can ask them where I can find those reports.

JDTT: Okay. I can also ask my wife's godfather who works for the Army Corps in Alabama and see if he has any—

RSS: Who? Candido Damian?<sup>60</sup>

JDTT: Yeah. Candido.

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<sup>60</sup> Candido Damian retired ten years ago from the Army Corps of Engineers and was not from the Pacific Ocean Division (POD), Honolulu, Hawai'i that has jurisdiction over the Micronesia area. He recommended I contact the POD's Honolulu office. (C. Damian, personal communication, September 1, 2020.)

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**RSS:** I have his e-mail address right in front of me. Isn't he retired?

**JDTT:** He may be retired, but he's probably attained so much knowledge.

**RSS:** Yeah. I should call him up and talk to him. Because that just crossed my mind, Candido is Ninamaria's *Ninu*.<sup>61</sup> Because they used to serve together, right, his father or the mother?

**JDTT:** I don't know if they served. I think they're close friends with his wife.

**RSS:** Weren't they on the same base at one point or something like that?

**JDTT:** That's for Nina to answer. I don't know. All I know that he's Uncle Candy.

**RSS:** Yeah. So, Candido Damian's sister, Ursa, married my mother's brother, George.

**JDTT:** Okay. So, that's how you already knew.

**RSS:** That's how I knew Candido. I think that's one of the things that comes back from one of my walks with Nina, is that she said who her Nino was, and I kind of remember that. And so, when you mentioned it, it triggered. Okay, so, I'll e-mail him and see if that e-mail still works. Does she keep in contact with him?

**JDTT:** Oh, yes.

**RSS:** Okay. So, I got to check. All right. So, what other features? You have notes there.

**JDTT:** The channel in Assan. I mean, being that we come from a fishing family, we were always told don't go near the channel because the channel is hungry, especially when the water is high. You can actually see the channel move up and down. And so, we actually believed that it was breathing. But what it is, is there's a rock, a stone coral formation right outside the channel. So, when the waves come in, it creates like a whirlpool effect. And so, when you go out, and you dive in the *sågua*<sup>62</sup> at the time, it will pull you out. But growing up, we had a lot of drownings in that area. And so, Mom and Dad always told us to stay away from there when the ocean is hungry.<sup>63</sup> So, we always stayed away. But we were told later on that if you ever get caught in it, it will pull you out but, eventually, it will pull you back in. And so, when you don't fight, because that's how you drown, is you're panicking. And so, the best thing to do is just

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<sup>61</sup> Godfather in the Catholic faith. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>62</sup> Natural break in the reef creating a channel to access the ocean.

<sup>63</sup> Reference to many drownings.

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to relax and let the currents bring you back in. And once you come back in close enough to get to the reef line, then swim to the reef and get there.

**RSS:** Did you ever prove that?

**JDTT:** I've never proved it, but I can probably get some friends from the village that can actually tell you who are professional divers, and they can probably attest to that.

**RSS:** So, where did you do your fishing if you didn't do it in the channel?

**JDTT:** We did it on the reef. So, we did it going from Shelton Music, all the way down to Chorito Point<sup>64</sup> where the governor's office is.<sup>65</sup> It was *Adelup* Elementary,<sup>66</sup> and we would go all the way down and go back to Shelton and stop there.

**RSS:** What kind of fishing?

**JDTT:** It was a *chenchulu*.<sup>67</sup> We would do net fishing, and I prefer that type of fishing over any other because we became the predator. The net that we used did not capture any fish that were considered inedible. And so, when we go *chenchulu*, you go out, you open the net into a semi-circle, and you have like six or seven guys on each side. My mom and dad would pull in the inner tube to close the net. So, after they open up the semi-circle, seven of us will go on this side, and seven of will go on the right side. And then, we would take some *balâte'* and throw it out towards the reef line. And at the same time, we throw it out, we're running out there with our spears, and we're splashing the water, running like this. And so, while they're running out there, my mom and dad are moving the net out and we start coming in, just splashing, everybody's getting together. We're all splashing. And, as we get closer to my mom and dad, we could see the shadows of the fish in the water just go into the net. And then, my mom and dad would close the net, tie it up, and then everybody would put on their goggles and their snorkel, dive in, and look for the wish that we want to catch. And so, we're very picky on what we wanted.

**RSS:** What did you catch?

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<sup>64</sup> Listed as Chonito Cliff in Appendix 6 World War II Historic Sites and Features Extant in 1967 Administrative History War in the Pacific National Historical Park. <https://www.nps.gov/wapa/learn/management/upload/WAPA-AdminHistory.pdf>

<sup>65</sup> The Chorito Cliff or Point is south of the Governor's Complex at Adelup. The United States Seabees blasted the point to build a wider road through it.

<sup>66</sup> An elementary school built at Adelup to serve the Hagåtña, Agana Heights, Sinahånña, Assan, Ma'ina, and Piti students.

<sup>67</sup> Net, seine, long fishnet having sinkers and other floats.

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JDTT: We caught a lot of *sesyon*,<sup>68</sup> *tátaga*,<sup>69</sup> *gádao*,<sup>70</sup> and whatever was inside the net. The reef fish.

RSS: The *gádao*, what color?

JDTT: The *gádao* is either brown or red.

RSS: The small ones?

JDTT: Well, they weren't small. They were pretty big, yeah.

RSS: Oh.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: How big were the *gádao*?

JDTT: They're probably like a good foot, maybe even bigger. And then we would get some skipjacks, some *tarakitu* or *mamulan*. The *mamulan* is the bigger skipjack. And so, when those come in, everybody is excited, when you see the big fish, especially when you're underwater, and you're about to shoot the *sesyon*, and then this big fish passes by, it freaks you out, right. So, everybody is jumping out, "*Mamulan, mamulan.*" So, everybody is just out there and just looking for it because you could see the silver skin just going around the net and like, "Oh, Lord, let me be the one to catch it. Let me be the one to catch it." And then, here comes one of the kids that my mom and dad taught, his name is Gary Cruz, he's also known as 'The Vacuum' because he can't miss. He always catches it, yeah.

RSS: So, he will say what?

JDTT: Pardon me?

RSS: What would he say?

JDTT: He would catch it. He'd be like, "Oh, thank you, Mr. T," to my dad. And, my dad goes, "Good job, Boy. Your mom is going to love you tonight." (laughs)

RSS: So, you never caught the *mamulan*?<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Rabbitfish. Type of fish-*Siganus spinus* (family Siganidae). (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>69</sup> Unicorn fish. Type of fish-*Naso unicornus* (family Acanthuridae). (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>70</sup> Groupers, sea basses. Type of fish (family Serranidae). (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>71</sup> Large skipjack. Type of fish-(family Carangidae), from 15 to 100 pounds or more. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)



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**JDTT:** I never caught the *mamulan*. Remember, like I said earlier today, I was just sitting on the inner tube until I got back from the Mainland, that's when I realized how much I love fishing. And it was good because it was good workout. It's a workout that you don't get on an everyday gym now because you're walking in waist-deep water. You've got resistance there. You're using muscles when you're walking in the water that you don't use when you're walking on land. And then, running in water, we're doing a lot of good cardio there. And then, when we put on the snorkel and the mask, we're doing respiratory right there and we're swimming, and we're using our arms, and we're using muscles on our arms that we don't use on a daily basis. And so, doing that, people always ask us, my mom and dad, do your kids workout because when we were in high school, we were like physically fit. (laughs) We were ripped.

**RSS:** So, what did you do with the fish once you caught it?

**JDTT:** My catch, I always donated it to the *manâmkô*. I would go to my auntie's house, and I would give it to them, and they would try to give me money. And, I was like, "No, it's okay, it's okay," because I believe that if I give, I will get more next weekend, and it always happens.

**RSS:** What aunt?

**JDTT:** My Auntie Nena Santos and Auntie Dâ Santos.<sup>72</sup>

**RSS:** They were spinsters?

**JDTT:** They're spinsters, yes, they were. And they were always there. They always took care of us. Growing up, they were there. They always give us candies, soda, and they would cook for us, and they would take care of us.

**RSS:** Did they own a store?

**JDTT:** No. They were just very loving women, loving women.

**RSS:** Who are they related to?

**JDTT:** They're related to the Santos family from Assan.

**RSS:** But not your father and mother?

**JDTT:** No.

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<sup>72</sup> Spinster sisters Anna and Soledad Santos. (J. Tenorio Terlaje, personal communication, August 30, 2020.)

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RSS: Oh.

JDTT: But out of respect because they were older, and they were teachers, too. I believe they were teachers at Adelup Elementary, and they never married.

RSS: Sisters?

JDTT: Yes. And, they never had any kids, but they have a lot of grandkids—

RSS: Nephews?

JDTT: Nieces and nephews, yeah, from their cousins and the nephews that they had.

RSS: What were they to David Santos<sup>73</sup>?

JDTT: To David Santos, they were probably related. I never delved more into anybody's life like that, but they were probably related. And it's sad because they both have since passed. But again, their memories of their love for the children that were out there, especially when we played at 'The Cement,' they see that we're all sweaty and everything. They would come out and bring us water and all that to help us because kids, we don't think about drinking. We just want to keep playing and play, play, play until we drop. (laughs)

RSS: What about *fiestas*?<sup>74</sup> Can you talk about *fiestas*?

JDTT: *Fiestas*, in our village, we used to have a really big one. We used to have the *fiesta* for *Santo Niño* because our parish is the Niño Perdido y Sagrada Familia Parish. And, we had a big Filipino community that had really celebrated their patron saint from the Philippines, which is the *Santo Niño*, and it's the same that our church is named after. And we had a lot of drumming, just very festive. And the *fiestas* on the island, you'd ask one person, it's an event that no one shouldn't miss out on because if you're hungry, you can eat and you could eat to your heart's content, and you're invited to eat as much as you want in anybody's house. And the hospitality on the island back then was second to none, right? But as times go on, things get harder, and it's harder to feed families. We have a new influx of migrants from other outer islands that are here. And it's getting hard. It's really hard nowadays.

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73 Former resident of Assan, and the director of Revenue and Taxation during Governor Ricky Bordallo's second term of office. Santos was honored by distinguishing his name with an act that helps small businesses benefit from the Gross Receipt Tax (GRT) exemptions of the Dave Santos Small Business Act.

74 Festival celebrating a village patron saint's day.

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**RSS:** When you say drumming, what kind of drumming?

**JDTT:** They had bongos. They had drums. They had big drums, big tom-toms. They would hit it boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. And, they moved from our parish, and they created their own chapel up in Dededo. From what I gathered from them and from my mom is that the former archbishop<sup>75</sup> saw that it was a big money-making scheme, or they donated a lot of money, let's put it that way. Our church was very—how can I say this? They had money.

**RSS:** Who's he?

**JDTT:** Archbishop Apuron. Yeah.

**RSS:** Oh.

**JDTT:** He had them relocate from Assan to the Archdiocese.<sup>76</sup> Yeah, to celebrate that *Santo Niño* over there.

**RSS:** So, he took the money source.

**JDTT:** Yeah, he took the revenue making. But we're trying to bring him back right now. We have a new priest in our parish, and we have a new archbishop on the island. And, in fact, we have one of our worship leaders from the chapel from Santo Niño. And so, we're trying to talk with our priest in our village to talk with them and tell him to come back there and welcome back into our parish, not for the money, but for the fanfare and for the glorification of our church.

**RSS:** Just to return things, to restore things to what they were.

**JDTT:** Yes, right. Exactly.

**RSS:** Anything else? What's Christmas like in your village?

**JDTT:** Christmas was good. I mean, we went to midnight mass. It was mandatory that we go to midnight mass.

**RSS:** Mandatory?

**JDTT:** Yeah, because if we don't go to church, then we're not going to open up our presents. And there was a time, I remember I wanted something during Christmas, and

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<sup>75</sup> Anthony Sablan Apuron is Guam's ex-archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hagåtña, Guam.

<sup>76</sup> <https://archagana.org/>

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I drew a picture of what I wanted, and I gave it to my dad and my mom. I'm like, "This is what I want, just this." And Christmas morning came, and they said, "Can't open the presents until you go to church." So, we went to church. And I came back and opened up the present, and there it was, the thing I drew. My dad and my mom got it for me.

**RSS:** What was it?

**JDTT:** It was a motorcycle guy, a figurine, and then you rewind it, and you let it go, and he goes, and he jumps everything. It's just a toy. And then, my mom and dad told me, "Oh, you can't play with the toys yet. You still have to go and respect the leaders," the *manamko*<sup>77</sup> around the house. And so, we have to go visit aunties and uncles and all that. And, when I got back, I came home, and I was like, "Where is my present? Where is my present?" And, my mom goes, "Your father gave it to your cousin's son." I'm like, "What?" And my mom goes, "He was crying, and so, Dad didn't have anything to give him, so he gave him that." And I think that was the starting point for my rebellious mode.

**RSS:** You resented it?

**JDTT:** Resented, yeah. I mean, it was something, and I even wanted my nephew killed. I wanted him dead, the one that took the toy because I remember, after I was done, going and visit the aunties, I was running home and like, "Oh, thank you, Lord, for the present. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much." And, I got home, and I had nothing for that Christmas.

**RSS:** Did you ask your father?

**JDTT:** No, I did not. I had to just—you can't talk to dad. Back then, what dad says is law. It's the rule of law. You can't talk back. We can't say nothing unless you're being spoken to. It's different now these days, these kids nowadays they just blurt out anything, their opinions, and everything. They're right all the time.

**RSS:** Well, they'll find out.

**JDTT:** Yeah. I was telling Nina. I said, "With the boys,<sup>78</sup> tell them to join the military after they graduate from high school and let them get some discipline where we had failed." (laughs)

**RSS:** You mean, where you didn't do it?

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<sup>77</sup> A group of ancient or aged adults.

<sup>78</sup> James and Ninamaria's two sons.

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**JDTT:** Yeah, where we had failed. I don't know. *Ai adai*.<sup>79</sup>

**RSS:** Okay. The rice patties, where were they located?

**JDTT:** From what I gathered. It was located near the church. There's a river by the church now, I don't remember that river being there, but it's usually found on a wetland, and there are wetlands in Assan and Piti. And those areas right now are considered federal grounds. You can't build anything on wetlands nowadays.

**RSS:** What about that area to the left of you, on the way to Piti? Is that undeveloped land? The National Park Service across the street inland, not the park.

**JDTT:** That's a government property. And, from what I gathered and there's some private property owners in there also. And that area is also known as Kalåkkak as well.

**RSS:** So, Kalåkkak is all the way to the end?

**JDTT:** Yes. So, Kalåkkak is a pretty [large] portion of the village. In fact, it's probably three quarters or one-quarter of Assan, right there of the whole village.

**RSS:** And Kalåkkak, include the National Park area?

**JDTT:** No, just on the land side.

**RSS:** The inside. Okay.

**JDTT:** The dry side of the island.

**RSS:** What do they call the park area before?

**JDTT:** The War of the Pacific Park, we call it Camp Asan.<sup>80</sup>

**RSS:** Oh, just Camp Asan?

**JDTT:** Yeah, just Camp Asan.

**RSS:** What about the deportees with the village of Assan? What history do they have with it?

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<sup>79</sup> Ai is an interjection oh, ouch, wow. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>80</sup> U.S. Marine Corp Camp established in 1922 with a quartermaster depot, a small arms range, and barracks. <https://www.nps.gov/wapa/planyourvisit/Assan-beach-unit.htm#:~:text=In%201922%2C%20Assan%20Point%20became,small%20arms%20range%2C%20and%20barracks.>

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JDTT: The refugees at—

RSS: Deportees.

JDTT: Deportees.

RSS: Mabini<sup>81</sup> and those guys.

JDTT: I never knew that they were from the village. I never knew that they were from Assan, but I know that there was a monument over at the War in the Pacific for Apolinario.

RSS: Mabini?

JDTT: Mabini, yeah. And, that his granddaughter or one of his, I guess a granddaughter or great-granddaughter was a former senator on the island.

RSS: Oh, she's related to him?

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: Oh, okay.

JDTT: Yeah, Sam Mabini.<sup>82</sup>

RSS: Sam?

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: I should talk to her about that.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: So, what do you know of the newspaper article about the Filipino Association wanting to put a monument in the village over by the mayor's office.

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<sup>81</sup> Apolinario Mabini and other "insurrectos" were captured by Americans at Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, set free, then exiled to Guam after refusing to swear fealty to America. (Esteria, 2020)

<sup>82</sup> Shirley "Sam" Mabini Young, Ph.D., served as a senator in the 31st Guam Legislature. Many believe that her last name indicates a kinship to Apolinario Mabini, however she said they share the same last name but are not related. (S. Mabini Young, PhD, personal communication, September 3, 2020.)

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**JDTT:** Yeah. Well, it was not brought up to the people of the village. I mean, it was just like something that was brought to the previous mayor. And, a lot of people felt, why put another one in the village when there's one already, a monument already for him out there. And it caused a lot of conflict. But the thing it was, the mayor was just trying to do it because if they had erected the monument, they would donate a playground to the village. So, it's like quid pro quo, and if you're not going to do this, then we're not going to do that. And it was met up with a lot of resistance from the villagers that they actually went over there and started to vandalize it while it was being constructed. And the funny thing or the irony about it is, right behind the monument, there was a *trongkon nunu*.<sup>83</sup> And we had Typhoon Dolphin come by, and that the *trongkon nunu* is also known as the *taotaomona* tree. And, that tree actually fell down and broke the whole monument itself.<sup>84</sup> So, it fell down by natural causes instead of the villagers tearing it.

**RSS:** Right after they built it?

**JDTT:** Yes. After they built it, it was torn down by the tree.

**RSS:** So, no one ever fixed it again?

**JDTT:** No.

**RSS:** Why are the people resentful of it?

**JDTT:** I guess there is one already across the street in Assan. We don't need to put another—I guess they didn't want to put another monument for the same purpose, especially when they found out that the person that they want to put the monument was a person who was against the United States. I guess he didn't approve of the United States.

**RSS:** Mabini?

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<sup>83</sup> Banyan tree. Type of tree-*Ficus prolixa*. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

<sup>84</sup> “Regarding the placement of a donated statue (produced by the First Asian Institute of Technology & Humanities, a college in Tanauan, Batangas, Philippines), my mother and I were of a number of donors to help fund the statue's pedestal. I was surprised when the Philippine Consul General explained the proposed site of the new statue was to be at the Assan Mayor's Office property. I cautioned the Consul General of the need for village community buy-in of this installation. I was assured they had the residents' support. An unveiling scheduled for December 2014 was postponed until July 2015, amidst protests from village residents. A soft opening was held instead that December, attended by Mayor Halili from Tanauan, Batangas. A lone protester was present. The statue was damaged by a fallen tree during Typhoon Dolphin (May 15, 2015), prior to the scheduled unveiling.” (S. Mabini Young, personal communication, September 3, 2020.) Apolinario Mabini was given the historical moniker, “Brains of the Revolution,” and would have been 157 years old on July 23, 2020.

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**JDTT:** Mabini, yeah. He was, I think, like an enemy of the United States or something like that.

**RSS:** A rebel?

**JDTT:** Yeah, a rebel. Yeah.

**RSS:** I don't really know his story.

**JDTT:** And so, they didn't want—that's the first time I heard about him.

**RSS:** All those years, you lived across the street, you never saw that monument?

**JDTT:** No, because I told you, I didn't leave Guam until I was 19, and I was always at the house, we had chores. My dad was very strong. We had to do things. I mean, I remember the first time—when you turn 18 in my family, then you can anything you want. And I remember I turned 18, and I was riding with my dad to Department of Public Works because I had a summer job there right after I graduated from high school. I thought I was going to start working for DPW like my dad. I broke out a cigarette, and I put it in my mouth, and I was shaking and everything.

**RSS:** (laughing)

**JDTT:** I lit it up, the Zippo lighter, and my dad is just driving. The first thing out of my dad's mouth was, "Can you afford it?" And, I told him, "Yes." And he goes—that was it, end of discussion.

**RSS:** And you still smoke?

**JDTT:** I still smoke. It's a generational curse. It's a thing that happened here. A lot of people on Guam—I think Guam has the highest per capita rate of smokers in the world, in all of the United States. But yeah, I cut down. I used to smoke this, but it keeps going down from lights to ultralights to super ultralights and everything. And I do catch myself. At work, I don't smoke as much because I'm too busy at, and I can actually count—I probably have three cigarettes a day at work. I just have more cigarettes when I'm at home because I'm at home at rest, and I'm doing a lot of things. The minute I come home from work, I'm busy. I would say that my job at—I work for the Naval Hospital. I'd say my job is—I go to my job to escape the house and they pay me to do it, which is cool.

**RSS:** What do you do at home?



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**JDTT:** After work, I get home, and I become a parent again. And that's one of the hardest jobs in the world. It's very hard to be a parent, especially with kids who have their own individual mindsets and everything. They're always arguing, and we have to keep the peace between those two and try not to make mom get all upset. And we need to eat, so I've got to cook.

**RSS:** What do you cook?

**JDTT:** I cook whatever they want, barbeque. I cook a lot of *estufão*,<sup>85</sup> pork *adobu*,<sup>86</sup> chicken *adobu*, *káddon pika*,<sup>87</sup> pork chops, chicken, everything. We could cook anything if we want, but my kids just have a favorite dish. My daughter was, "Daddy, are you making *estufão* tonight?"

**RSS:** She could eat *estufão* every day?

**JDTT:** Oh, yes, if she wanted to.

**RSS:** Really?

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** Chicken or beef?

**JDTT:** She likes pork.

**RSS:** I mean, pork.

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** Pork *estufão*?

**JDTT:** Yeah, pork, *estufão*. Then she goes, "Do you have any peas?" (chuckles) She likes peas.

**RSS:** In her *estufão*?

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** Do you make it red?

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<sup>85</sup> Pot roast.

<sup>86</sup> Beef, pork, chicken, or fish seasoned with vinegar, garlic, or onion.

<sup>87</sup> Pork or chicken dish cooked in a spicy broth.

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JDTT: Yes, I do.

RSS: *Achoti*.<sup>88</sup>

JDTT: No.

RSS: What?

JDTT: Ketchup.

RSS: Ketchup?

JDTT: Yeah. Heinz Ketchup. I cook it, and right before it's all done, I just take some ketchup, and I throw it in there, and I'll stir it, and then it's all done.

RSS: That's how she likes it?

JDTT: Yes, how she likes it. And that's how my kids all like it.

RSS: They like ketchup?

JDTT: Mhmm.

RSS: And, like it's sweet, huh?

JDTT: Yeah. Well, it's not that sweet because I don't put too much. And remember I was telling about how my mom can cook and everything, I've made some *estufão*, and I brought it over to my mom's house and, my mom goes like, "It tastes ketchup."  
(laughs)

RSS: (laughs)

JDTT: (laughs) She knows it. (laughs) She knows. I go, "Do you put ketchup in yours too?" She's like, "No." I go, "Wow. But you can taste it," she goes, "Yeah." And, growing up, I was a ketchup eater.

RSS: Yeah.

JDTT: They used to tell me that I don't have blood. I have ketchup.

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<sup>88</sup> Anatto. Type of plant-*Bixa orellana*. A small tree bearing red prickly capsules containing seeds which are used for coloring rice or meat dishes. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

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RSS: (laughs) You have ketchup flowing through your veins?

JDTT: Veins, yeah. And then, I—

RSS: Do you put it in your soup?

JDTT: No, no. I only eat it with fried chicken and french fries.

RSS: Oh.

JDTT: But I look at my kids, two of them eat it like how I eat it as a kid. And, when I see my daughter pouring it on her plate, it brings a big smile in my face. I go, “I know where you get that from.” (laughs)

RSS: That’s her favorite condiment.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: What else do we remember about Assan? Any bars in Assan?

JDTT: Eventually, yeah. I remember they had one when I was still in high school. It was on the beachside near Johnny Sablan, the performer, his house. It’s a green building there, and it used to be a pool hall and a bar. And I remember the first time I went in there, it was owned by, I guess, some Korean people, and that’s the first time I saw porn.

RSS: Porn?

JDTT: Yeah, porn videos. And everybody was watching it. They’re like, “Come on, let’s go check this out.” And, I saw that, and I never had an interest in watching that because it looked so degrading. To me, it looked like the lady was getting accosted. That’s how I looked at it. And so, I just don’t watch it.

RSS: So, what did you do? Did you leave?

JDTT: Oh, I left. I left. I didn’t want to be caught in there. Then being a strong Catholic, I don’t want to be sitting in—I don’t know. It’s not a sin, but watching it, I just didn’t think it was right.

RSS: It made you feel bad?

JDTT: Yeah. It made me feel really bad.

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**RSS:** So, how long did that place stay that way?

**JDTT:** It was there for a while. And then, a year, when I turned 19, that's when I left the island. I didn't see anything else other than what was built already in my village.

**RSS:** It's closed up today. It's still there.

**JDTT:** That's still there, yeah, but the residents now.

**RSS:** Oh.

**JDTT:** Yeah. And people, they rent it out to a bunch of people. But I've noticed that when they rent it, the renters don't stay long because their place keeps getting ransacked.

**RSS:** Oh, really?

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** By whom?

**JDTT:** Probably fishing people, people on the beachside. They're watching. No one sees nothing on the beachside. So, I guess when the people leave their house, the people go in there and break in and take all their belongings and walk through the beach and load it somewhere else.

**RSS:** There is a section on the beachside that looks like a fishing place. Is that where the fishermen gather?

**JDTT:** The open area right across Joe & Flo's?

**RSS:** I don't know if it's across. It's to the right of Sonny's place.<sup>89</sup>

**JDTT:** To the right of Sonny's. Okay, so—

**RSS:** On the beach.

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**RSS:** What is that?

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<sup>89</sup> Shelton Music, Inc.

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JDTT: That's the area where they go, and they go rod and reel for *tátaga*'.

RSS: But it looks like a fisherman's shack.

JDTT: A fisherman's shack? I'm trying to think of—

RSS: I mean, I see it when I'm going past.

JDTT: Okay. Is it near Johnny Sablan's place two or—

RSS: Maybe it's Johnny Sablan's.

JDTT: I think it's Johnny's because they have that open area where the people put their canopies up, and they have parties there.

RSS: No. It's not deep. It's a shadow place. You cannot drive into it. You can drive to it, but it's not like that place where you're talking about in the old National Park Service building. Not that deep. That goes out, right, or it's out toward the water? They can camp in it. This one's—it looks—it's like a shack that's there. I've seen fishing nets hang on it.

JDTT: I'm trying to think of that one.

RSS: You can't see it?

JDTT: No, I can't.

RSS: I have to show you.

JDTT: Yeah. Because when I get on the road, my eyes are on the road, make sure that I don't get into no accident.

RSS: Yeah.

JDTT: Accident-free for a very long time. I've never been into an accident.

RSS: I have to show you where that is.

JDTT: Mmhmm.

RSS: Okay. So, what else can you remember?

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**JDTT:** Growing up, I could say that the fishing was good. My mom and dad, they taught a lot of kids in the village how to fish, and those kids ended up becoming adults, and when they became parents, they started their own fishing with their kids. And so, they always talk about my mom and dad saying how they're very thankful that they were brought up into this culture, this tradition from the Terlaje family.

**RSS:** When your friend said you're fortunate that you have an identity, did you have an identity?

**JDTT:** I did not know what an identity was at the time until he told me. All I knew is that I was from Guam, I'm CHamoru, and trying to make something of myself. That's the way I interpreted my identity. I didn't know that my identity was being fortunate to know that I'm from a particular place and that I have all this abundance of people around me that share the same traditions that I do. You know, just being in an island in the middle of the Philippine Sea, it's mindboggling for people in the Continental United States to even think about it. They're thinking about, "Oh, sun, surfing," everything, all that's marketable about being on an island.

**RSS:** So, when TW said identity, did you ever have an identity problem?

**JDTT:** No.

**RSS:** Did you grow up with that identity problem?

**JDTT:** No, I did not. I knew that I was from Guam and that I'm CHamoru and everything. Even when I was living back in the Mainland, I was wearing Guam hats, wearing a Guam jacket, shining my Guam gold, and everything.

**RSS:** (chuckles)

**JDTT:** And I remember riding the BART train coming from San Francisco and this Filipino guy speaking to me in Tagalog. And I'm like, "What? I don't understand you." And he goes, "Oh, you're not Filipino?" And I'm like, "No, no, no. I'm from Guam." And, I go, "See, from my hat." And, he goes, "Oh, plenty Filipinos in Guam, right?" I go, "Oh, lot of Filipinos."

**RSS:** Yeah.

**JDTT:** I have a lot of friends that are from the Philippines. In fact, I can honestly tell you that the Filipinos in the Mainland were much more respectful to me than my own kind.

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**RSS:** Oh, I'm sure that there's that. But what I'm saying is, the Filipinos are not CHamorus.

**JDTT:** No, no, they're not.

**RSS:** And the CHamorus are not Filipinos. That doesn't mean some don't intermarry, but that's two distinct people.

**JDTT:** Mmhmm. I remember the guy going, "What's your last name?" "Tenorio Terlaje." He'd be like, "Terlaje, Terlaje, Terlaje, Terlaje, Terlaje. Oh, that's not Filipino." I go, "That's what I've been trying to tell you." (laughs)

**RSS:** Did TW have an identity crisis?

**JDTT:** He did because he's African American, and his mother was from Mississippi. His dad is from Alabama, and he doesn't really know any member of his mom's side or his dad's side. All he knows is that "I'm from Richmond, California."

**RSS:** Why didn't he know his family?

**JDTT:** I guess it's a big melting pot in the United States.

**RSS:** I'm asking about TW because I find it very curious that he knew about you. Did you share your background with him?

**JDTT:** Yes, I did because it's something to talk about with him. At first, I thought, "I hope this guy's not no sexual predator," right?

**RSS:** Because he was very interested?

**JDTT:** He's very interested in knowing me. And I remember him telling me one time, he goes, "You know, you are not Mexican. You are not Filipino. You know, you're a nice guy. I like you. I like you."

**RSS:** Why do you think he helped you?

**JDTT:** Because he was just a very good person. I mean, he did that even with the black people and the Mexicans. But to me, he had a son named James.

**RSS:** Okay.

**JDTT:** That's one of the reasons, too.

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RSS: Another connection?

JDTT: Yeah. And, his wife, Lucille, they were very nice. They accepted me for who I am and treated me with a lot of respect and vice versa.

RSS: How much older was TW?

JDTT: TW was much older, probably a good 20 years older.

RSS: So, old enough to be your father?

JDTT: Yeah. But he would walk with a swag. He was big guy, big stomach. I mean, he stood probably 6'4". But he wasn't a very clean person. I mean, his car was like trash, and everything and I would sit in there, and I would move stuff off the chair. But he was genuinely a very good person.

RSS: He gave you a ride.

JDTT: He gave me a ride. He brought me food. He would go out and buy this barbeque, Everett and Jones BBQ, and he would get me a plate. And it's like, "Wow. It's nice."

RSS: So, how did you feel when you found out that he died?

JDTT: I felt like I lost somebody, a good friend. I can honestly tell you, I have probably 10 good friends in my life, in my whole world. I mean, you look at the social media, and you have people who have like, "Oh, I've got 7,000 friends. I've got 100 friends."

RSS: That's not a friend.

JDTT: Yeah. Those aren't friends. Friends are people who you can depend on at a time of need, and you know that they will come through. And, I could say I have 10.

RSS: He was there for you at a very critical time in your life.

JDTT: Oh, yes.

RSS: Did you stay in touch with him, at least?

JDTT: I actually left on a bad note.



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RSS: With him?

JDTT: No, not with him, but with the agency I was working with.

RSS: I see.

JDTT: With the DRMO. We had a CHamoru guy come from Southern California who was going to be the new boss, and we had six CHamorus that work there. We've been working together for the past three years. And then, we found out that this CHamoru guy was coming and he's going to become the manager, we're like, "All right. We can have a local guy here." And the first day he arrives, he calls for all the CHamorus that work there to come up and visit him in his office. And he closes the door after we sit down. He doesn't know our name yet. And then, he closes the door. and he goes, "Just because I'm from Guam doesn't mean I'm going to give you preferential treatment."

RSS: Wow.

JDTT: Yeah. That's exactly what he said.

RSS: Sets the tone.

JDTT: Yeah. So, we're like, "He doesn't even know us, and he's talking to us as if we're slackers." We're thousands of miles away from home; what makes you think that we're going to be a slacker.

RSS: What's his name?

JDTT: Let's leave it at a Stateside CHamoru boss. He moved back to Barstow to work in the DRMO there. And then, I left, I resigned in June 1993. And that's how I lost contact with everyone there. But due to the Internet coming into play and e-mail, I managed to connect with certain friends from the past. And, when I found out that he<sup>90</sup> passed, it really hurt.

RSS: Did you try to reach his wife, Lucille?

JDTT: I don't even know where to first look for her.

RSS: Okay.

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<sup>90</sup> Thomas "TW" Williams.

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**JDTT:** I mean, I tried to ask coworkers that lived in Richmond, and they just said that he died, and that was all. Yeah. Other things in Assan, it's changed a lot. The island has changed a lot. We have moved more into the 20th century now. I remember I was in Silicon Valley when they just started, and I remember the fax machine that we had at our work. It was [a] silver paper on a roll, and we were getting this document coming from Utah, and the cylinder just went, "Woot, woot, woot, woot." And we're all looking at this, we're like, "Wow, this thing is actually coming from Ogden, Utah." And it was just a photocopy of a letter. And we're like, "Wow, look at that." And look at technology nowadays. The fax machine is no longer required, and everybody is using a Xerox machine to send all their electronic files and everything.

**RSS:** Xerox or computer?

**JDTT:** Yeah. Xerox and the computer.

**RSS:** Oh.

**JDTT:** I mean, the scanning capabilities from the Xerox machines or any other copier. And then, you have that capability of putting it on your folders and sending it via e-mail.

**RSS:** I'm so fortunate I was one of the first ones on Guam to get an e-mail address. I really was. It felt like, "Wow." This is space-age, right.

**JDTT:** Yeah. Now, you look at it, and you wonder, I think all this technology came from the down flying saucer Area 51. (laughs)

**RSS:** Did you go to Area 51?

**JDTT:** No, I have never been there.

**RSS:** So, after you came back, when was the village changed with the GHURA plan? Do you remember that?

**JDTT:** It was still ongoing when I came back in '93. And then, I met my wife back in '95. I met her two years later.

**RSS:** Okay.

**JDTT:** It was at a karaoke bar. I was with my brother and—

**RSS:** Which one?

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**JDTT:** My brother, Michael. We frequented the karaoke bars because we love to sing.

**RSS:** Okay.

**JDTT:** And so, I went with him one day after work, and Nina came in with her friends. They were going to a bridal shower or something. And, my brother tells me, “Hey, this girl can sing.” I’m like, “Yeah, right. Yeah, right.” And so—

**RSS:** Why didn’t you believe him?

**JDTT:** Because I wasn’t looking for anybody.

**RSS:** Well, why didn’t you believe him?

**JDTT:** I wanted to hear it first. I’m one of those people, I’m like, from Missouri, “Show me first.” And so, she picked a song out, and it was one of my most favorite songs when I used to live in California. It was called “I Will Always Love You” by Taylor Dayne. And, when Nina started to sing the beginning of the song, the entrance there’s this little “Whoo hoo hoo hoo,”<sup>91</sup> she did it to a tee that sounded just like Taylor Dayne and caught my ear and caught my heart.

**RSS:** What do you mean?

**JDTT:** I just knew. I was so attracted to her. You know how a magnet would pull you in, that’s how I felt with her.

**RSS:** Instantly?

**JDTT:** Yeah, instantly. She started singing, even before the—she got to the refrain of the song, I was already standing behind her with this big cheesy smile on my face like, (laughs) looking at her.

**RSS:** Like, “Who are you?”

**JDTT:** Yeah. And I was telling her, “Oh.” After she was done singing because she was going, just looking at me and singing away and I’m just looking at her right in the eyes, and I’m like—

**RSS:** Do you think she was singing to you?

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<sup>91</sup> Taylor Dayne – I’ll Always Love You (Official Video) (Taylor Dayne, 2010)

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**JDTT:** Oh, I know she was singing to me.

**RSS:** Did you ask her later?

**JDTT:** Yeah. She told me after we were going out that she walked in and she goes, “Oh. cute guy.” She saw me and then—

**RSS:** (laughs) Cute guy.

**JDTT:** Yeah. And so, I told her, the first words out of my mouth after she finished with that song was, “Girl, I am so in love with you. I am so in love with you..”

**RSS:** Do you know how corny that sounds?

**JDTT:** I don’t care. It was truth. Some people take the truth, and they think the truth sounds stupid. They don’t believe in the truth.

**RSS:** Mmhmm.

**JDTT:** But sometimes—yeah.

**RSS:** I’m just saying, that really sounds corny.

**JDTT:** Yeah. I don’t know how many people would use that pick-up line, but I tell you—

**RSS:** Yeah. Was it a pick-up line?

**JDTT:** No, it wasn’t. It was coming from my heart. I just opened my mouth, and it came out and—

**RSS:** And how did she react?

**JDTT:** She had a big smile on her face, not as big as mine, though.

**RSS:** (laughs) And so, did she agree to see you?

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah. We started dating each other, and we got to know each other more, and I met her mom because her mom was here on vacation for that wedding that they were doing and—

**RSS:** All in a matter of how many weeks, months?

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**JDTT:** It was probably a matter of—yeah, probably a month or two.

**RSS:** Okay. That's pretty quick.

**JDTT:** Yeah. Well, then, she had to relocate. She had to go back to the Mainland because her mom wanted her to go to school.

**RSS:** What was she doing here?

**JDTT:** She was going to school here at [the] Academy,<sup>92</sup> and she graduated. And then, she ended up having an extended stay. And so, the mom and dad wanted her to move back to the Mainland.

**RSS:** And so, what about James?

**JDTT:** James, I told her, I said, "Well, if it's meant to be, then you will come back, and we will be together." And it just so happened while she was at Arlington<sup>93</sup>, I managed to find a class for my program in Arlington, and I went out, and I met her out there, and she still write me letters. My brother, Paul, would come home from the post office and have 14 letters for me.

**RSS:** Whoa.

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** She was a letter writer?

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah. Because back then, long-distance phone calls in the 90s is, they were still expensive. But I would call her because I didn't like to write. I would like to speak to her. I want to talk to her.

**RSS:** Want to hear her voice?

**JDTT:** Yes.

**RSS:** Do you have those letters today?

**JDTT:** I still have them.

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<sup>92</sup> The Academy of Our Lady of Guam. <https://www.aolg.edu.gu/>

<sup>93</sup> James Terlaje spoke about medical waste disposal at an annual environmental program manager's meeting in Arlington County, D.C. (Terlaje, 2019)

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RSS: Wow, that's fantastic.

JDTT: Mmhm, yeah.

RSS: You ever opened it and read it to each other?

JDTT: Oh, she doesn't want to hear it.

RSS: Why?

JDTT: Because she said she sounds really corny.

RSS: That's what I think. (laughs)

JDTT: (laughs)

RSS: Do you read it to your kids?

JDTT: No. That's something more personal between me and my wife.<sup>94</sup>

RSS: Oh, James, you should share it with the kids.

JDTT: Well, maybe my daughter, Jade. Luke would probably make a big fun and piss my wife. (laughs)

RSS: (laughs) Well, he may now, but he'll remember that—

JDTT: Oh, yeah.

RSS: It could make him a sweetheart.

JDTT: Well, he is a sweetheart already. All my kids, they all have their own personalities, but they're all sweethearts. I love them to death.

RSS: I see that.

JDTT: Mmhm. They are my flesh and blood, and I see personal attributes from myself and Nina in all of them. And it makes me more goo-goo for them, right.

RSS: Does Luke know that he's a rebel like you?

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<sup>94</sup> James married Ninamaria Pereira on February 15, 1997 at Assan's Niño Perdido y Sagrada Familia Church. Their three children, Jade Lauren, Luke Edward, and Seth Philip were born in Guam.

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JDTT: No, he doesn't.

RSS: You should tell him.

JDTT: Well, I do tell him because he doesn't like to eat fish. When I was his age, I hated fish.

RSS: You should tell him, "Luke, you're so much like me. It's not even funny."

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: He's going to want to see this video when we're done.

JDTT: Okay. I'll tell him.

RSS: Then those discussions will go to you, not Auntie R.

JDTT: Mmhmm. Okay.

RSS: He won't drill me when I come.

JDTT: I'll talk to him about it.

RSS: Yeah, just sit down.

JDTT: Because every now and then—whatever I have with me in the car, I start talking to them. And, if there's anything interesting that comes up, I will talk and bring it out.

RSS: Yeah.

JDTT: I don't want to just become a disciplinarian in the family and being looked at as the head of the household, the priest of the household. I also want to be looked upon as someone you could share your burdens with, and that you can always count on me to help you out. That's what a father is supposed to be.

RSS: And I think he needs that now.

JDTT: Yeah. And that's one thing I've learned growing up. No matter how many times I have been mean and disciplined to my children, they always come back to their father. And, I was like, "Wow, is that a scripture?"

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**RSS:** Well, if the father is a good head, and if the wife supports the head, then the children have a rudder. If not, they have no rudder. So, even if they buck and they kick and refuse, that's not natural because they're growing up. But if you're firm and you give them direction, and you reason with them and then you allow them to make their own decisions, then they'll come back home.

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah. They really straighten up when I take away their electronic devices. (laughs)

**RSS:** (laughs)

**JDTT:** Really, they do. I mean, I took it away from one of them earlier this week, and I saw him pull out his homework, and he started doing his homework, and I was like awesome.

**RSS:** But see, James, that's the love right there.

**JDTT:** Mmhmm.

**RSS:** You are firm, and they know there's no quarreling about it. There's no investment in fighting. They respect the authority because you showed that you have authority. If you didn't take that electronic device from them, then you're not teaching them anything.

**JDTT:** Mmhmm.

**RSS:** So, that's very good.

**JDTT:** Yeah. It's a trait I learned from my dad. You've got to be strict. (laughs)

**RSS:** Yeah, which you resented.

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** Which you resented.

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** So, let's go back to the Nina thing. What happened to those letters? So, when you got the letters, how did you feel?



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**JDTT:** I already knew that this was the one woman that I was going to spend the rest of my life with. I didn't need the letters. It was nice to read the letters, but it was also, after reading them, I finally realized our age difference because her spelling. She couldn't spell some words correctly. And, I was like, "Wow, how old are you again?" (laughs)

**RSS:** And, how much older are you?

**JDTT:** I'm 11 years older than her.

**RSS:** You wouldn't know.

**JDTT:** I wouldn't know, no. She's very mature for herself. The letters, when I read them, I knew that she loved me because she always ended it with, "I la la la," but she never said the word. Yeah. So, you don't have to say the word, just the l-a is enough.

**RSS:** Why did she do that?

**JDTT:** Because she loved me. I knew she loved me because I—

**RSS:** Why didn't she say, love?

**JDTT:** Because she's young. She was young at the time. She thought she would scare me away. A lot of people, the minute you say 'I Love You' to someone, they'll leave you.

**RSS:** They fly the coop.

**JDTT:** Yeah, they fly the coop. I actually, out of just, I guess, my testosterone, back in California, I told this one girl, 'I Love You,' but I didn't really love her, but she goes, "What?" And that was the last time I saw her. (laughs)

**RSS:** (Laughs) She flew the coop.

**JDTT:** Yeah, she flew the coop. Can I take a break, real quick?

**RSS:** Yes.

**JDTT:** Okay.

**RSS:** Okay. What else do you have there? Did they ever sell the fish, James?

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**JDTT:** Oh, yeah, we sold the fish. When we get home, there's cars ready in line. They're waiting, and then we sold it for \$1.50 a pound. And, the fish, when they pick it up, we already cleaned it up because when we're in the reef, we clean our fish, we take the guts out, and we throw it back into the ocean, and that feeds the fish again. So, the circle of life continues on. So, what we take, we give back. And we don't waste.

**RSS:** \$1.50 a pound?

**JDTT:** Mmhmm. \$1.50 a pound. So, we used to sell like bags of *sesyon* like a big bag, and that would be \$5. And, they're all happy. "Oh, I can't wait to get home, the wife already got the oil getting heated up."

**RSS:** How did they know you're out there?

**JDTT:** We do it every Saturday.

**RSS:** Oh, okay.

**JDTT:** So, they know. It was a known fact that they knew the Terlaje's would be fishing and that every time we come back, we sell.

**RSS:** So, this is the village itself?

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** Did people from outside the village come there for that?

**JDTT:** Yes.

**RSS:** Okay. How did they know?

**JDTT:** They know from word of mouth, the "Terlaje's from Assan," check them on Saturday around this time. They're usually at the house, and they're selling their fish. Because we invite other kids from the village to come in, and that way they can make some money, and at the same time, feed their families as well. "You give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, teach the man to fish, you can feed him for a lifetime."

**RSS:** So, when you invited other kids in the village to learn, how did they take fish home? How do you determine that?

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**JDTT:** Whatever they catch is theirs, but they have to *pátte*<sup>95</sup> for the net. And so, my brother, Pete, would be the one, “I want that.” He will pick it.

**RSS:** Your brother, Pete, represented the net?

**JDTT:** No, he represented the families to take what he wants for my mom and dad.

**RSS:** Why was he selected?

**JDTT:** Because Pete is very stern. He was very militant, and everybody was afraid of him. Yeah. He wrote this one—took the big plywood and he wrote all these rules about fishing in a Sharpie, right. “If you don’t bring your equipment, you’re not going. If you don’t bring your own food, you can’t eat,” all this stuff. But he wrote this one whole section about fishing equipment, and I was reading it, and I was cracking up, and he goes, “What’s so funny, Jimmy?” And, I go, “You spelled equipment wrong. You don’t put a “t” after equipment, it’s equipment.” (laughing) So, he ended up rewriting the whole thing down.

**RSS:** How do you spell equipment?

**JDTT:** E-q-u-i-p-m-e-n-t. You don’t put the ‘t’ there, e-q-u-i-p-t. You could say equipped, but you can’t put equipt-ment.

**RSS:** Are you sure? (laughing)

**JDTT:** Yeah, I’m certain.

**RSS:** And what did he say?

**JDTT:** Pete is just Pete. We joke around.

**RSS:** Did he get upset?

**JDTT:** He’ll get upset, but he’ll get over it.

**RSS:** Oh.

**JDTT:** That’s Pete.

**RSS:** Is he?

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<sup>95</sup> Share, divide, apportion. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

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JDTT: Uh-huh.

RSS: Who's the easiest to get along with?

JDTT: We're all easy to get along with.

RSS: Okay.

JDTT: There is not one person in my family that will try to strongarm anybody. We're all old now, but growing up, it was relatively fair. You respect the older and, they will respect you back. It's a reciprocating love.

RSS: Has anybody ever tried to fight?

JDTT: Yeah, we fought. There's one time I got mad at my nephew, my brother's boy, because of an incident and my brother didn't like it, and he came up to me, and he said, "Don't talk to my son about that, like that." And, I go, "Your son disrespected me." And right before when I was done, I get a headbutt<sup>96</sup> right in my face, boom!

RSS: From the guy?

JDTT: From my brother, yeah.

RSS: Your brother?

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: Because of his son?

JDTT: Yeah, because of his son disrespecting me.

RSS: Is this Peter?

JDTT: No, it's my brother, Mike.

RSS: Oh.

JDTT: And then, he did it. It almost broke my nose. My nose was bleeding, and my mom got mad at me. She goes, "You say sorry to your brother." I go, "He's the one

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<sup>96</sup> A violent blow with the forehead or crown of the head especially into the face or head of another person (Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, 1828)

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who hit me, Mom,” right. I go, “I’m sorry. I’m sorry.” Nina was coming to my defense, and she was yelling at my brother. I said, “Don’t do anything. Don’t do anything.” And, I said, “We’ll, just go. Let’s go. They’re heated right now, and let’s calm the flames down.” Yeah.

**RSS:** And did you make peace?

**JDTT:** Of course. I mean, we love each other.

**RSS:** Yeah.

**JDTT:** I mean, things happen. We have disagreements, but that doesn’t mean that we’re going to take you off our life.

**RSS:** Yeah.

**JDTT:** I can’t live without my siblings being around. I mean, I need them to keep the glue going on for the Terlaje side. So, we’re a humble family, and we don’t go around boasting about our accolades and stuff like that. The same thing goes with going out and meeting up with politicians. We don’t get into politics.

**RSS:** Yeah. That divides families.

**JDTT:** Yeah. If I see a politician, I’m not going to go out my way and say hi. Eventually, they’ll come by and shake my hand, but I’m not going to go out there and show everybody, “Hey, look, I know this person.” That’s how it is here on this island.

**RSS:** Yeah. I’ve heard people say that they can determine the success of their parties by the number of politicians that show up.

**JDTT:** We went to this one *m̄tai*,<sup>97</sup> this funeral one time, and it was sad because it had one senator, I refuse to name the person because they can be running again. But they situated them self by the *chenchule*<sup>98</sup> box.

**RSS:** Whoa.

**JDTT:** Yeah. Because people, they pay their respects to the family and then take their *chenchule*, and they put it into the box and then the senator standing right there, he goes, “Thank you for coming.”

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<sup>97</sup> Matai is a reference to the funeral of the deceased.

<sup>98</sup> Donation box at funerals.

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RSS: Oh.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: It's not even his *mâtai*.

JDTT: No, it's not.

RSS: Wow.

JDTT: Yeah. But he wants to show everybody, "I'm here."

RSS: Oh, wow.

JDTT: And I told my wife, I go, "The man on the cross, is not blind."

RSS: No, and neither are the people.

JDTT: Yeah. I go, "That was travesty here." Yeah, the family should've said something.

RSS: Yeah, they should have, and he should've known better.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: Okay. Well, are you done?

JDTT: I guess I'm done. I spoke a lot. I gave you a lot of personal information.

RSS: Well, that's what interviews are about.

JDTT: Yeah. And I'm not embarrassed by putting into mouth. I think it's something that I'm really happy of having in my lifetime.

RSS: Well, I'm going to use the Assan portion of it for the project.

JDTT: Okay.

RSS: But the other stuff, I'm going to use for my podcast.

JDTT: Okay.

RSS: I mean, Assan has nothing to do with it.

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JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: It's kind of folded over, but—

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: When you look back at your career, are you happy with where you are?

JDTT: Yes, I am.

RSS: And the epilepsy that you mentioned, how does that affect your life?

JDTT: It doesn't affect my life anymore. It's a disorder that I have, but I'm under medication for it. And I don't look at it as anything. I feel bad when I used to have the seizures. My wife would be the one to witness them because all my seizures happen while I'm sleeping. It's a nocturnal epilepsy. It's only when I'm sleeping, and it usually coincides when I'm under a lot of stress.

RSS: So, then when you were requesting those leaves from Frank, and you would wake up exhausted, you didn't have any idea you were having seizures?

JDTT: No, I did not have any idea.

RSS: How long after that, did you realize that you were having seizures?

JDTT: When I moved back to Guam, and I was sleeping, and my nephews saw it, saw me having a seizure.

RSS: Which nephews?

JDTT: My sister, Tina's boys, Gerald and Eugene, and my brother, Mike's son, Jacob. They saw me have a seizure, and they thought I was dying.

RSS: What happened?

JDTT: I was tired. I told them I'm going to go inside and I'm going to lie down. And so, they went into my mom's house, to grandma's house, and I was lying on the couch, and they were watching TV, and they're playing, and I started having one.

RSS: What did they say happened?

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**JDTT:** They said I started shaking and my legs started moving up and down, my arms started going twitching back and forth and everything, and that I couldn't stop. And so, they called 911, and the EMT<sup>99</sup>s came and took me to the hospital and released me later on that evening. They said that I had a seizure and that I need to go see a neurologist, go see my primary care physician.

**RSS:** And that was the first time you knew of this?

**JDTT:** Yes.

**RSS:** You didn't have it as a child?

**JDTT:** I had febrile seizures as a child, but that's only when you have a high fever. And so, Mom thought it was just normal that kids, some will go into a seizure, most your body's way of protecting itself from any health-related issues.

**RSS:** So, what happened after that?

**JDTT:** I got myself diagnosed with my primary care, but then I went, and I had another second opinion from a neurologist, and he's the one who pinpointed out that I have a partial epileptic mode that's in the area that triggers stress. I got my epilepsy from a car accident.

**RSS:** What do you mean?

**JDTT:** When I was young, in high school, I got into a car accident with my cousin and my brother, and I wasn't wearing a seatbelt. And, seatbelt laws weren't prevalent that time. And I broke the windshield with my head.

**RSS:** Which cousin and what brother?

**JDTT:** My cousin, Vicky Lindlau and my brother, Mark.

**RSS:** Okay.

**JDTT:** Mmhmm.

**RSS:** And you're the one that suffered?

---

<sup>99</sup>Emergency Medical Technicians.



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**JDTT:** Well, the car didn't really have any damage. I was the one that suffered. I made more damage because my brother, Mark, rear-ended somebody. No damage to the vehicles when they rear-ended. But me, hitting the windshield with my big head, I—

**RSS:** You flew from the backseat?

**JDTT:** No, I was sitting in the middle of the truck and I cracked the windshield. And so, as I got older, the area that I cracked it, I probably scarred my brain according to the doctor's information from reading the CAT scans<sup>100</sup> and the MRIs,<sup>101</sup> is that I have an area in the frontal lobe of my brain that triggers stress and it scarred. So, that's how I have the epilepsy. But I haven't had a seizure in a long time.

**RSS:** I mean, you knew this before you got married?

**JDTT:** No. Oh, yeah, I knew it before, I'm sorry. Yeah.

**RSS:** Okay. You have to because the kids are the ones—

**JDTT:** Yeah, I did, because the kids saw it. Yeah. I was—

**RSS:** So, did you tell Nina?

**JDTT:** No, I did not because I didn't have it as much. It only came in when I was stressed.

**RSS:** Ah.

**JDTT:** Uh-huh. And then, as I moved up the ranks at work and I started getting these people, like my nemesis over there at work, I mean, he's still there, and he still doesn't do anything. But I'm not going to let his work ethics—

**RSS:** Affect you?

**JDTT:** —affect me, dictate on how I'm going to do my job. I do my job to the best of my ability. I'm not going to stress out. I've got eight hours to do. I'm willing to do what I can within an eight-hour day, and I'll continue on tomorrow.

**RSS:** Okay. So, you've learned how to cope better?

---

<sup>100</sup> A computed axial tomography (CAT) scan is also known as a computed tomography (CT) scan. It is a scan that allows doctors to examine the internal imaging of the body.

<sup>101</sup> An MRI is a magnetic resonance imaging used to look at organs and structures inside the human body. It was required after James' accident to diagnose his condition.

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JDTT: Oh, yeah.

RSS: Yeah. How did that occur?

JDTT: By prayer, and just living the life. I'm not going to let—I've attained more wisdom as I get older and I'm not going to let the stuff affect me.

RSS: Affect you.

JDTT: Because sometimes it might affect the household.

RSS: Yes.

JDTT: And I don't want that to happen. So, I keep work at work, and I have my home stuff at home.

RSS: That's good.

JDTT: I don't like to divulge too much information on my private life with—

RSS: (laughs) And, hence, you're sitting in front of a video camera. (laughs)

JDTT: (laughs) Well, I mean, you're right, Prima<sup>102</sup>.

RSS: This is going to published.

JDTT: Okay. It's fine.

RSS: Oh, okay.

JDTT: But the epilepsy part, that will be published later on. So, it's—

RSS: No, that part will be published. We're just not going to mention treatment.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: Right?

JDTT: You're right.

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<sup>102</sup> A term used to address a female cousin. Primo for male. (Donald M. Topping, 1975)

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RSS: But you've got all of this under control?

JDTT: Mmhmm.

RSS: And so, now, you're learning to cope and live with it better?

JDTT: Uh-huh.

RSS: That's good.

JDTT: Yeah. I don't find any other issues. I'm actually getting more healthier.

RSS: I was going to say, yeah.

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: How long have you worked for the government, federal government?

JDTT: I have been working for them since '85. This is 35 years now.

RSS: When can you retire?

JDTT: I can retire at age 62.

RSS: That's a long time.

JDTT: It's only seven more years.

RSS: That's a long time.

JDTT: I plan on working even longer.

RSS: Than 62?

JDTT: Yes.

RSS: Why?

JDTT: Why not?

RSS: I don't know.

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**JDTT:** I have a lot of people who have retired that regret from retiring. They're not doing anything.

**RSS:** Yeah. But you could do something else.

**JDTT:** Well, I—

**RSS:** Could you find something else to do?

**JDTT:** I'm five minutes from work.

**RSS:** That's true.

**JDTT:** I live five minutes from work. Nina's asked me if I'm interested in relocating to the Mainland and I told her no. I'd go back every year, three or four times out of the year, and each time I go back there, it's ugly. It raises its ugly head. I do not like what's going on.

**RSS:** How is it ugly?

**JDTT:** The drug epidemic back there, the homeless populations. It's just bad, the environment. I could see what I breathe at five o'clock in the evening.

**RSS:** But we have a bad drug problem on Guam, and we have a problem with homelessness on Guam. So, why do you choose to live here with that and not there?

**JDTT:** It's more hospitable here on the island. You cannot go hungry. The family values that we have here on the island, we are not going to turn you away. Unless you don't help yourself, then eventually it's going to fall on your shoulders. But we would do everything we can to help you get back on your feet. But if you can't help yourself, then it's your fault.

**RSS:** Do you have any family in the States?

**JDTT:** I have lots of family in the States. And I visit them each and every time. And they're asking, "Hey, Jimmy, when are you going to coming and stay out here again? We miss you." "Oh, why don't you come to Guam and stay in Guam."

**RSS:** Why did Nina want to go back?

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**JDTT:** Her brother and just a change of scenery. But I just don't like it. Everything is too available back there. It was too convenient, from drugs to shopping and just travel in itself.

**RSS:** Get in the car and you're in another state?

**JDTT:** Yeah. Just traveling in itself, it's just costly. If you're going to move back to the Mainland, you must have a nice nest egg to rely on, resources and all that. I adapted, that's what you need to do. Anywhere you go, you have to adapt, and I'm tired of adapting. (laughing)

**RSS:** And, here on Guam, you don't adapt?

**JDTT:** I don't need to adapt. I just follow the trends going on with the everyday things that are going on. Yeah, it's a form of adaptation, but I'm not making a big move about it.

**RSS:** Well, you're home.

**JDTT:** Yeah.

**RSS:** You're just adjusting to the discomforts, right?

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah. Whenever I come home and I'm looking down on the plane, looking at the island, I'm like, "Oh, I finally got back to the aircraft carrier."

**RSS:** (laughs) The USS Guam.

**JDTT:** Yeah. Because that's what Guam is basically is.

**RSS:** Yeah.

**JDTT:** It's a big aircraft carrier.

**RSS:** It's kind of neat.

**JDTT:** Mhmm.

**RSS:** I like living on an island.

**JDTT:** Oh, yeah, same here.

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RSS: I don't feel the rock mentality, though.

JDTT: No. That's just a figure of speech.

RSS: Is it?

JDTT: Yeah.

RSS: I've never felt the rock mentality.

JDTT: Mmhmm.

RSS: "I need to get off this rock." Oh, go.

JDTT: Yeah, go. Go and jump in the ocean.

RSS: Yeah. I married a man who came from Philadelphia, born in Philadelphia, grew up in Hawai'i, lived there and I thought, "I marry him. One of these days, we can go to Hawai'i and live there or maybe even the Mainland. Forget it." He has no inclination, whatsoever. This is home for Bob.

JDTT: That's like me finding Nina.

RSS: Yeah.

JDTT: That's home. I'm home.

RSS: He is home. Well, James, it's been a privilege. Thank you very much for spending your weekend, your holiday with me.

JDTT: No worries. Thank you.

RSS: You're not exactly the one that bubbles forth much, but this has been enjoyable.

JDTT: Okay.

RSS: Thank you for sharing your love for Nina.

JDTT: Thank you.

RSS: And I think the people are going to be very interested to hear what it's like to live with Ninamaria Pereira Terlaje, opera singer.

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JDTT: Demonstrates a vocal warmup. (laughs)

RSS: Isn't that something? What is that like to live with someone with so much talent and strength?

JDTT: It's awesome. Like I said earlier, she's the most amazing person I've ever met. Then when people hear her, and I tell you, I've seen people that we go to the church and she's going to do a song and they're like, "First time I'm going to hear your wife sing." And I'm like, "I hope you enjoy it. I hope if she can reach out and bless you or some way." And they always do. She sang "*How Great Thou Art*" in CHamoru and I saw the church just fall. I saw them fall. I saw people, even in our church, when she's singing a song to worship the Lord and I would turn back and I would see people who usually don't go on their knees, fall on their knees, looking up, mascara coming down from the tears that are cleansing their soul. And I look back and I see them and I'm like, "Thank you, Lord. Thank you." Release it. Take anything off of them. Remove that."

RSS: Well, they need to remove the baggage.

JDTT: Yeah, they need to remove it.

RSS: Yeah.

JDTT: But with them coming up and crying out to him, his promises are always kept.

RSS: Absolutely.

JDTT: Mmhmm.

RSS: People tend to keep their baggage with them, and that's why they're so unhappy.

JDTT: Mmhmm.

RSS: We need to ask for forgiveness and let it go. So, good. I'm glad she's touching people with her—

JDTT: Oh, yeah.

RSS: —talent.

JDTT: Amen.

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RSS: She's a wonderful singer.

JDTT: She's a wonderful mother and a wife.

RSS: Yeah. That's good.

JDTT: She's even better at that.

RSS: (laughs) Yeah. That's really good. And she's a good cook.

JDTT: Mmhmm. If you like potatoes. (laughs)

RSS: (laughs) And with that, thank you very much.

JDTT: You're welcome. Thank you. It's my privilege.



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## Appendix A. Photos

Family photos courtesy of James David Tenorio Terlaje.



### Wedding Day

July 18, 1953 Agapito Taijito and Cynthia Pangelinan Tenorio Terlaje

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### Deck of the USS Upshur

Son Paul, Cynthia, and Agapito Tajjito Terlaje (carrying 18-months-old James David.) Cynthia, the mother of eight children, suffered seasickness throughout the 14-day return voyage to Guam on the USS Upshur. "I was useless on that trip. My husband was Mom and Dad to our kids," she said.

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## Disembarking the USS Upshur

Mark Tenorio Terlaje (carrying bag) leads his family down the latter of the USS Upshur after arriving on Guam. Following him are Michael, James David, and Florentina holding James' hand. Then John, Dad Agapito, and Paul. Mom Cynthia is carrying six-months-old Matthew. Peter ran down the steps ahead of the family and is not pictured.

The image above was provided by Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje. The original photo was taken by Glimpses of Guam's photographer, Rossman. It was republished in the Guam Daily Post.

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5 finalists in beauty contest



PILAR AFLAGUE ROSE SOUNGEO MAXINE WARNER ROSE TAJALLE ROSE ALVAREZ

THE PACIFIC JOURNAL Guam's Most Complete Newspaper

VOL. II No. 169 AGANA, GUAM, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1967 TEN CENTS

FIVE FINALISTS in the 1967 Miss Guam Pageant chosen last night are: Pilar Marie Aflague, sponsored by members of the Democratic Party; Rose Alvarez, sponsored by Delgado's Studio; Rose Ann Soungoe, sponsored by Sergeant's Italian Kitchen; Rose Marie Tajalle, sponsored by the Guam Recreation Center; and Maxine Warner, sponsored by Foremost Dairies. The girls were chosen by a panel of seven judges from among 12 semi-finalists selected Thursday night. The finalists will compete tonight in the final evening of the Pageant for the title of Miss Guam 1967 and the honor of representing the island in the Miss Universe Contest next month in Miami Beach, Florida. — DELGADO Photos

Witnesses oppose bill on GMH-Education

Nine persons testified at the hearing yesterday before the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, on bill No. 209, which would permit employees of the Department of Education and Guam Memorial Hospital to appeal dismissals, suspensions or reprimands to the Personnel Board. Eight out of the nine witnesses opposed the bill.

Those who testified included Carlos L. Taitano, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education; Willie Snyder, President of the Hospital Board of Trustees; Sabino C. Flores, director of labor and personnel and executive secretary of the Personnel Board; George H. Finmor, administrator of the GMH; Herb Johnston, assistant Administrator of the hospital; a laboratory technician employed at the hospital; Dr. Thomas Gibson of the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic and chief of GMH medical staff; Dr. James Tinay, private physician at the Catholic Medical Center; and Sister Le Clare of the Franciscan Order of Sisters. Taitano said he is against subordinating one board to another, and if the bill is to be passed, the Board of Education would be made subordinate to the Personnel Board. He said that neither oral nor written reprimands should be appealable. An oral reprimand is between the supervisor and his subordinate only. It does not go on record in the employee's jacket. Written reprimands do go into the employee's jacket but are temporary. (Continued on page 2)

Journal reports from the war zone by Dick Williams, Journal Staffer

(Sixth of series) LONG BINH, VIETNAM—Like I reported before—one is liable to find Guamanians in this country most any place and under most any circumstances. Today, I was securing the docks of Newport (Saigon dock area) for Sgt. Agapito Terlaje, known to his friends as "The Jay". Actually, I had tried to find him a couple of days ago and learned that he was up river some place where I couldn't go because I can't carry a weapon as a civilian. I was told that "The Jay" would be coming in on an LCM landing craft loaded with dump trucks. He was due in at 1400 hours (2 p.m.) I was on the dock at 1430 but no LCM. At 1600 hours (4 p.m.) I decided to give up. The Port Director offered me a ride down the river to Saigon City. We no sooner left the dock in the speed boat than we noticed an LCM straggling up river to the LCM docks. My boat operator pulled alongside the heavily laden LCM and I yelled, "Hey, TerJay aboard!" "Yes, hey, Ter Jay someone's asking for you." Sergeant Terlaje stuck his head out of the pilot house and I yelled that magic greeting, "Hafa Laki, Gai-chung." "Hafa Laki, jump aboard." I climbed aboard the landing craft while my coxswain held steady alongside. I rode the LCM into the dock and had a short chat with the boat combat engineer platoon sergeant. The ramp lowered and I dashed ashore, turned around, shot a picture of the sergeant, waved goodbye and returned to my boat which was waiting to take me back down the river to Saigon City before darkness fell, making the trip dangerous to civilians. (Continued on page 2)

Legislators OK 13 resolutions

The public works manager requested the Governor to direct the appropriate agencies to install street lights in certain areas in Mongmong-Toto-Maitei Institute a program of keeping clear the drainage ditches and culverts in the Mongmong-Toto-Maitei area; to initiate competitive bidding to complete the drainage projects in Asan and Pige; to install street lights in certain areas in Tadofofo; and to install street lights in the Afame and in Agaña Springs areas in Sinajana. Another resolution asked the Governor to direct the appropriate agency to turn the former Asan Elementary School site into a playground for public use. Other resolutions adopted commended Sgt. Victor B. Tainatongro for the valor which won him the Silver Star for combat in Vietnam, expressed appreciation to Capt. B. C. Clements for frequent opportunities extended to various groups to tour the USS Protosus, requested the President to reappoint Secretary of Guam Denver Dickerson, expressed sympathy to the family of Lt. Cpl. James L. Hise, who was killed in Vietnam; requested Gen. William Westwoodland to permit fast and recreational leaves in Guam to men who are not residents of Guam but whose wives are; requested the Governor to cause a study to be made of the cost of subdividing certain government land in Santa Rita; and formed a joint legislative commission to review the salaries and personnel classification.

have last night adopted 13 resolutions, five of which were for public works projects in the various districts. The creation of a commission to study wages and classification. The commission would be composed of five members, three appointed by the Speaker, and two by the Governor. The chairman is to be appointed by the committee. The committee is to report back to the Legislature not later than the 25th legislative day of the first regular session. In other action, the Governor introduced a bill providing that alcoholic beverages sold to military establishments would be exempt from the alcoholic beverage tax. (Continued on page 2)

2 youths formally charged

Two juveniles appeared before the District Court yesterday morning and entered pleas of not guilty to charges of assault with a deadly weapon. Both youngsters had been certified by the Juvenile Court to be tried as adults in the District Court on felony charges, in view of their previous records. According to the charges, between 1:15 and 1:30 a.m. on the morning of June 2, the two attacked Robert F. McNulty and John Moss, both of the USS Iliamna, with (Continued on page 2)

The Pacific Journal

A feature of Sgt. Agapito Terlaje by Dick Williams, in his War Zone coverage.

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Army Sgt. Agapito Terlaje (right) discusses unloading project with fellow soldier. They are inside Army landing craft. Terlaje is from Asan. --JOURNAL photo

## Journal reports...

(Continued from page 1)

During the short ride with Sergeant Terlaje, I learned that he was in the process of moving his platoon and all its equipment back to Long Binh post from Van Tau. The trip required 12 hours by boat through "Charlie" territory. Around each bend the boat was fired on, forcing the men to stay below the protective gunwales of the landing craft, which is operated by an Army Engineer boat crew. The unit is moving back into Long Binh post which is safe except for occasional harassing grenades which usually land harmless.

Sergeant Terlaje is married to the former Cynthia Tenorio, of Saipan. They have eight children. Mrs. Terlaje and the children are staying in Asan, the professional soldier's home.

He has been in the country for 13 months and has extended for another six months. He was home last October on R&R leave and expects to be home again in July.

The 17-year Army veteran wants to get Vietnam behind him so the remainder of his Army career can be spent a little more pleasantly with his family.

War Zone... Continued Pg. 2 with Sgt. Agapito Terlaje

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Juan Terlaje and Manuela Taijito Terlaje

Agapito Taijito Terlaje's parents and James Tenorio Terlaje's grandparents.

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**Manuela Taijito Terlaje**

James David's paternal grandmother is wearing a mestiza and carrying an unidentified infant.

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### “Pop” and Grandchildren

Ignacia Terlaje Santos’ children sit on the steps of her parent’s Assan residence. On the bottom steps are Linda (left), Mary and Liz. Behind them are Pop (Juan Terlaje Terlaje) and grandson Anthony.



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HOME FEATURES CONTENT STORIES

### Abandoned and restored [Image 7 of 7]



ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM

01.17.2015

Photo by Senior Airman Ryan Brooks

36th Wing Public Affairs

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A Tenorio family history book shows Calisto and Luise Pangelinan Tenorio and their five children months after World War II ended in 1945. The woman holding the book is Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje, the second girl to the right in the picture. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ryan Brooks)

(Brooks, 2015)

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### Golden Anniversary

Calistro<sup>103</sup> Pangelinan and Luise Sablan Pangelinan Tenorio, sitting in front of their children, were married on May 4, 1933.<sup>104</sup> They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 6, 1983. Cynthia Balbina Tenorio Terlaje is hugging her father. Siblings Diego Trinidad Tenorio, Elisa Pangelinan Tenorio Aguon, and Lillian Lourdes Tenorio Dimla also pose with their parents.


<sup>103</sup> Genealogist Herman Tenorio Guerrero, of Sa'ipan, MI, provided a genealogy summary of his uncle: Born on October 10, 1907, in Garapan, Sa'ipan, Mariana Islands. He was baptized by Fr. Cornelio Garcia, who spelled his name as Calixto. Tenorio spelled his name as Calistro. (H. T. Guerrero, personal communication, January 22, 2021.)

<sup>104</sup> Individual Report provided by Genealogist Herman Tenorio Guerrero states that Calistro married Luise Sablan Pangelinan on May 4, 1933, in Garapan, Sa'ipan, Mariana Islands. Jose Maria Tardio, S.J. officiated the marriage. (H. T. Guerrero, personal communication, January 22, 2021.)

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**DEATH AND FUNERAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CALISTRO  
PANGELINAN  
TENORIO**  
"Calistro Corazon)



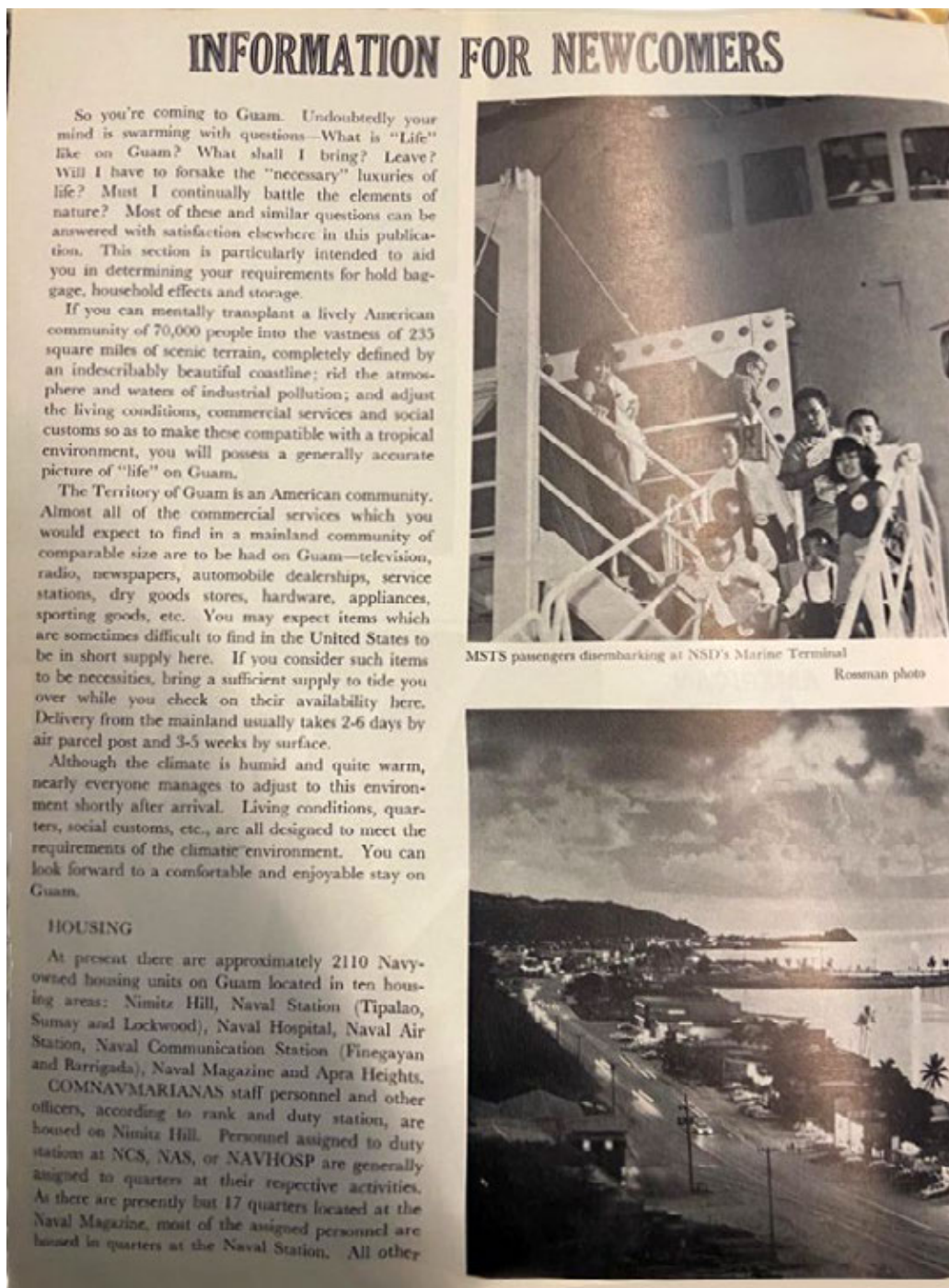
Formerly of Asan and presently of San Leandro, Calif., was called to his Eternal rest on Sunday, Sept. 23, 1984 at Saint Rose Hospital in Hayward, Calif., at the age of 76 yrs.  
NIGHTLY ROSARY IS BEING SAID AT THE NINO PERDIDO CHURCH IN ASAN AT 7:00 P.M. AND WILL END ON TUES., OCT. 02, 1984. WITH ROSARY AT 5:30 P.M. followed by Mass at 6:00 P.M. BURIAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA.  
CALISTRO PANGELINAN TENORIO is survived by his wife, Luise Pangelinan Tenorio of San Leandro, Calif., Children and spouses: Lillian & Art Dimla of Oakland, Ca., Cynthia & Pete Terlaje of Asan, Diego & Mary Tenorio of Westminster, Ca., Elisa and John Aguon of Fairfield, Ca., Thomas & Terry Tenorio of Canada, Barr., and by 29 grandchildren & 16 great grandchildren. Brother & Spouses: Antonio & Ignacio Tenorio of Agat.  
He is additionally survived by his in laws: Joaquin & Magdalena Pangelinan of Saipan, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Pangelinan, Emelia & Vicente Sablan, Dolores Pangelinan, Estella & Bob Trevis of Ca. & by numerous nieces, nephews & cousins.

### Calistro Pangelinan Tenorio (1907-1984)

Calisto Tenorio passed away in Hayward, California, four months after celebrating his 51st wedding anniversary. His daughter Cynthia Terlaje placed her father's memorial announcement, above, in the Pacific Daily News.<sup>105</sup>

105 Memorial as it appeared in the Pacific Daily News (Hagåtña, Guam) on ... Added by: Mark Goniwiecha on 13 Oct 2016. Find a Grave, database and images <https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 January 2021), memorial page for Calistro Pangelinan Tenorio (1908–23 Sep 1984), Find a Grave Memorial no. 171217868, ; Maintained by Mark Goniwiecha (contributor 48174852) Unknown.

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### 1966 Edition of Glimpses of Guam

Agapito and Cynthia Terlaje's family disembark the USS Upshur after arriving at Commercial Port, Apra Harbor, Guam.

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### **Church of Christ, Assan, Guam**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

This is the first building seen on the left of Marine Corps Drive as you enter Assan village. It is the location of the preschool that James David Tenorio Terlaje attended. The preschool or nursery was popular with families from Ma'ina, Agana Heights, Assan and Piti.

The hill on the left of the building, not visible, is the location of Chorrito Point, owned by the National Park Service.

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## Adelup Elementary School

The elementary school was one of several government buildings on Guam designed by Richard Josef Neutra (1892-1970). Other buildings Neutra designed include the Francisco Quinata Sanchez Elementary School, Inarajan School and Government House in Agana Heights. (Steffy, Historic Context: Umatac Historic Sites, 2007) (Richard Josef Neutra (1892-1970), n.d.)

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**Adelup Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class**

Photo courtesy of Robert Peregil

Circa 1970. James David Tenorio Terlaje (third from left in back row) poses for a picture with his classmates celebrating a birthday.

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### Adelup Elementary School Second Grade Class

Circa 1971. James David Tenorio Terlaje (kneeling and resting his chin on his left hand) pose with unidentified classmates and teachers.



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**Fishing at West Hagåtña Bay**

Vicky Pangindian Terlaje poses with her daughter Dana Pangindian Pickop and brother-in-law James David Tenorio Terlaje during a family fishing outing at West Agaña Bay.

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**It Takes a Family**

Portia Quintanilla Terlaje and Kamaka Aquino help Pierre Quintanilla Terlaje, Brandon Pangindian Pickop, and Dana Pangindian Pickop hold up a large eel caught in the bay.



**Teach Them to Fish**

Terlaje grandchildren learn how to fish and bond as a family.

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**Break Time!**

Standing near the gear raft, Michael Tenorio Terlaje and his cousin Manny Pangelinan Taitano. At the back are James David Tenorio Terlaje, Michael Tenorio Terlaje, Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje, and Vicky Pangindian Terlaje.

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**Break Time Extended!**

Manny Taitano sips his Black Tea as the Terlaje Fishing Team at the back strategizes. James David Tenorio Terlaje, Matthew Tenorio Terlaje, Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje and Vicky Pangindian Terlaje (waving). Deborah Cabrera and Mickey San Nicolas Terlaje are on the right.

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War in the Pacific National Historic Park



## Got Octopus!

Dana Pangindian Pickop hold up an octopus on her catch line.

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War in the Pacific National Historic Park**



**Regrouping**

Aaron Pascua Terlaje and Kuauhamakoa Agapito Aquino in front, Kaimana Kalei Terlaje and Justo Aquino in the middle and Vicky Pangindian Terlaje at the back.



**Fueling and Hydrating**

Brandon Pangilinan Pickop (holding up the water bottle, Peter Tenorio Terlaje (left), Pierre Quintanilla Terlaje, Kaimana Kalei Terlaje, Justo Aquino and Dana Pangindian Pickop.

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## Octopus Hunting Team

Pierre Quintanilla Terlaje and Dana Pangindian Pickop in front, Justo Aquino, Kaimana Kalei Terlaje, and Brandon Pangindian Pickop prepare to catch octopus.

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**More Fishing Team Members**

James David Terlaje, Mar Malalis, Jr., Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje (hugging her son) Kaimana Terlaje and Mikey San Nicolas Terlaje at the back.



**Fish to Eat**

Mikey San Nicolas Terlaje, Pedro Lizama, Gerald Terlaje Castro, Kaimana Terlaje, and Portia Terlaje group in from of Brandon Pangindian Pickop, Kamaka Terlaje Aquino, Pia-Donna Quintanilla Terlaje and Dana Pangindian Pickop. Pierre Quintanilla Terlaje is at the back.



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**Show them Bro!**

Kaimana Terlaje holds on to his younger brother Kuauhamakoa Aquino to show his catch on the stringer.

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**Got Guihan!**

Kaimana Terlaje proudly holds up a string of fish while his younger brother Kuauhamakao Agapito Aquino struggle to hold up a string of fish.

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**Trophy Catch!**

Michael Tenorio Terlaje, his son Mikey San Nicolas Terlaje, and Richard Taitano hold up their prize catch. Family head Agapito Tajjito Terlaje is in the background.



**Got Sesyon!**

Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje holds up two adult rabbit fish, called Sesyon in CHamoru.

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### Brothers Pose

Brothers Mark Tenorio (left) and James Tenorio Terlaje pose for a picture. Note the large chenchulu nets hanging on the left behind them.

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Got Guihan!

Sesyon (facing right), Mafute (facing left) and Gãdao (upside down) are preferred reef fish on Guam.<sup>106</sup>



Famous Nāna

Cynthia Pangelinan Tenorio Terlaje is recognized as a spearfishing grandmother in the Pacific Daily News.

<sup>106</sup> Seyun is rabbitfishes. Mafute' is emperor fish and Gadao is grouper. (Kerr, 1990)



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Agapito Tajito Terlaje

Headstone, Veterans Cemetery, Piti, Guam.



Remembering Dad

Father's Day 2016: Cynthia Pangelinan Tenorio Terlaje with her seven sons Mark, Michael, James, Peter, John, Paul and Matthew, observe Father's Day together in memory of her late husband Agapito Tajito Tenorio.

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## Appendix B: Assan Village Features



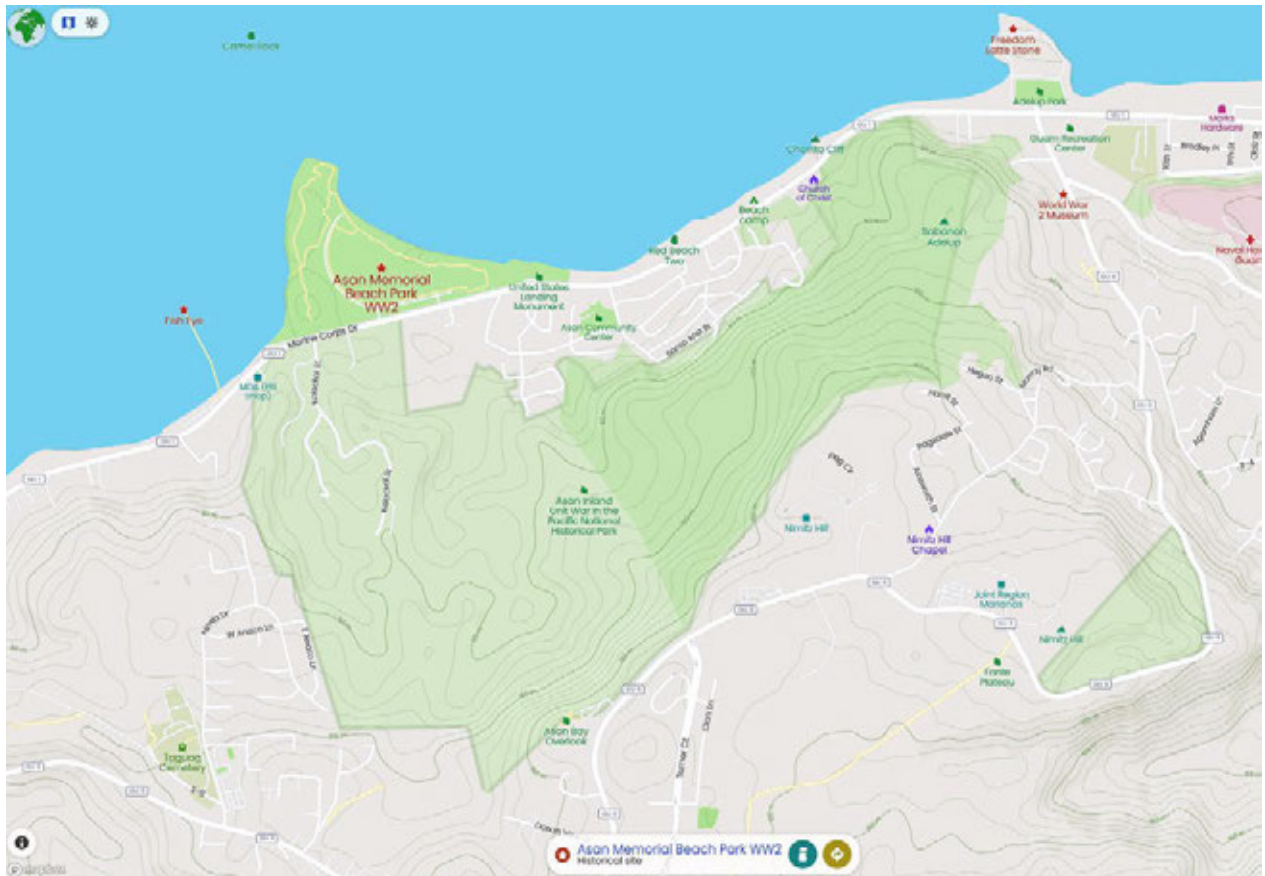
Kalackac Street Sign



The first right turn on Kalackac Street turns to a bridge on the right.



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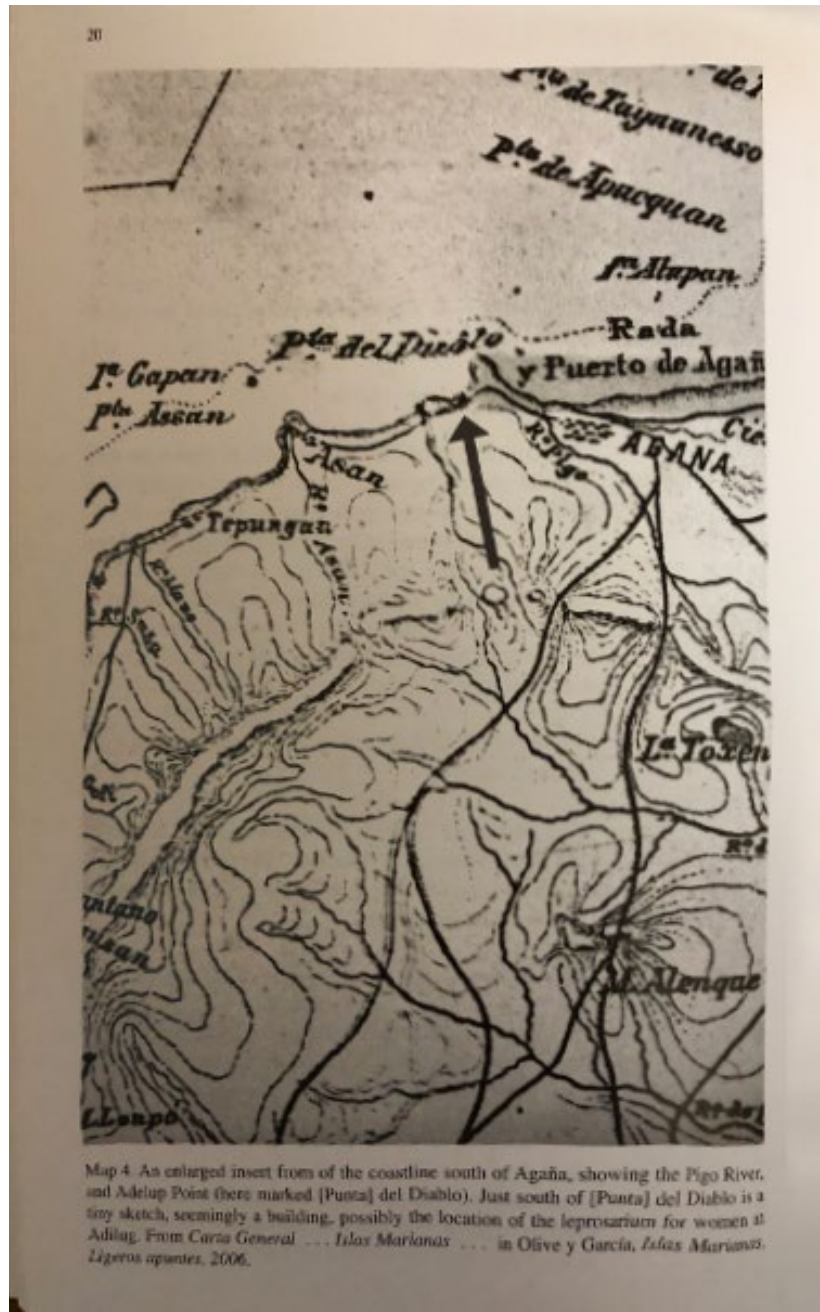


### Assan Village Boundaries

2020 08 31 MapCarta.com 6.21.28 PM

This map shows Assan village boundaries.

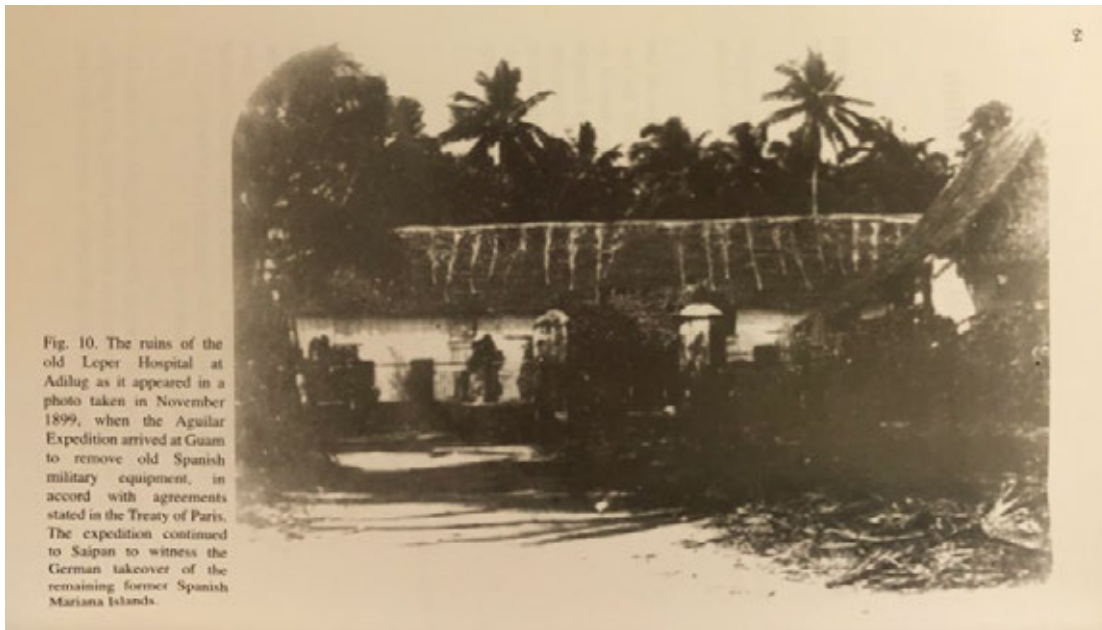
Rapid Ethnographic Assessment for the Assan and Agat Unit Management Plan  
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### Hospital for Leprosy Patients

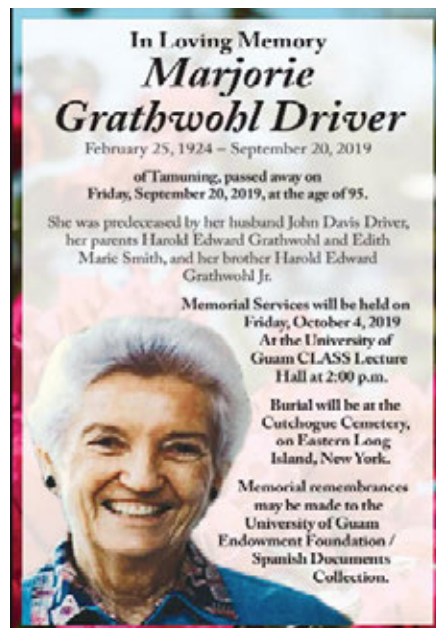
The arrow in the image points to the approximate location of the former hospital for Guam residents suffering from leprosy in Anigua. The image is taken from Pg. 20 of Driver's *Lepers in the Mariana Islands During the Spanish Administration (1668-1949)*.

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Hospital in Adilug

Pg. 64 of Driver's Lepers in the Mariana Islands during the Spanish Administration 1668-1898.



Marjorie Driver's Funeral and Memorial Announcement

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### Mabini's Monument at Assan Park

(Daderot, 2021)

A memorial to Apolinario Mabini was erected by the beach near where he spent two years on Guam as a political prisoner. It was built in 1961 by the Philippine-American Council and the Philippine Consulate General. The area became the War in the Pacific National Historic Park at Assan Beach Unit in 1978.

In January 1901, Mabini and 51 others sailed to Guam from Manila on the *Rosecrans*; 31 were Filipino prisoners of War. U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt pardoned all the deportees and sent them back to the Philippines, except for Mabini and General Artemio Ricarte, for refusing to take an oath of allegiance—a precondition to releasing them. During his two years in Guam, the prison where Mabini lived is believed to be along the beach near the monument's location.

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**Apolinario Mabini y Maranan (July 23, 1864-May 13, 1903)**

(The Philippine Diary Project, n.d.)

Apolinario Mabini y Maranan was born in Talaga, Tanauan, Batangas, Philippines. He earned a law degree at the University of Santo Thomas in 1894. A year later, Mabini contracted Polio in 1895 and became a paralytic before the Philippine Revolution. For his role as political advisor to Filipino revolutionary, politician, and military leader Emilio Aguinaldo, Mabini was known as “the brains of the Philippine Insurrection.” He was part of the unrest between the Americans and Filipinos and was captured by United States forces at Cyuapo, Nueva Ecija, on December 10, 1899. He was confined at Fort Santiago from December 11, 1899, through September 23, 1900. For the next year, Mabini wrote for local newspapers to support himself, but his scathing article in the *El Liberal* entitled “El Simil de Alejandro,” angered the Americans who immediately arrested him, again, but this time exiled him to Guam by Brig. General Arthur C. MacArthur, Jr. for refusing to swear his allegiance to the United States. Gen McArthur deemed Mabini’s deportation “absolutely essential.” The United States President Roosevelt justified Mabini’s banishment from the Philippines until such time that he swears his allegiance to the United States. Mabini’s exile on Guam provided him time to write his memoir. In failing health and contemplating death on U.S. soil, Mabini finally agreed to sign allegiance to the United States, guaranteeing his return to Manila on board the U.S.U.S. transport *Thomas* in Manila, on February 26, 1903. Before the Collector of Customs, Mabini took the oath of allegiance to the United States, refused an offer for a high position in the government by the Americans, and renewed his efforts on promoting independence for the Philippines. After only a month after his return, a ship from Hong Kong carrying cholera arrived in Manila. Mabini contracted the disease after consuming large amounts of unpasteurized carabao milk, on the second wave of the epidemic. Mabini died at his brother’s house in Nagtahan, Manila, on May 13, 1903. (Subselfie.com, 2020) (Dumindin, 2020) (The Philippine Diary Project, n.d.)

**Rapid Ethnographic Assessment for the Assan and Agat Unit Management Plan  
War in the Pacific National Historic Park**

9/2/2020

MacArthur deported leaders of Revolution to Guam January 7, 1901

## Today in Philippine History, January 7, 1901 MacArthur ordered the deportation of leaders of the Revolution to Guam

*(Posted under January Events)*

**On January 7, 1901, Major General Arthur MacArthur Jr.** ordered the deportation to the island of Guam a number of politicians and leaders of the Revolution led by Filipino hero Apolinario Mabini.

Mabini, the "*Brains of the Revolution*" who served as chief adviser of General Emilio Aguinaldo, was exiled for aiding and supporting the guerrilla war against the Americans and the cause of the Philippine Independence.

He wrote the True Decalogue when Filipino-American war broke out which inspired the Filipinos to fight and die for freedom.

Mabini and 31 others sailed for Guam on January 16 among them were Pablo Ocampo, Julian Gerona, General Artemio Ricarte, Maximino Hizon, Pio del Pilar and Mariano Llanera.



*(General Arthur MacArthur, Jr.)*

<https://kahimyang.com/kauswagan/articles/860/today-in-philippine-history-january-7-1901-macarthur-ordered-the-deportation-of-leaders-of-the-revolution-to-guam>

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**Rapid Ethnographic Assessment for the Assan and Agat Unit Management Plan  
War in the Pacific National Historic Park**

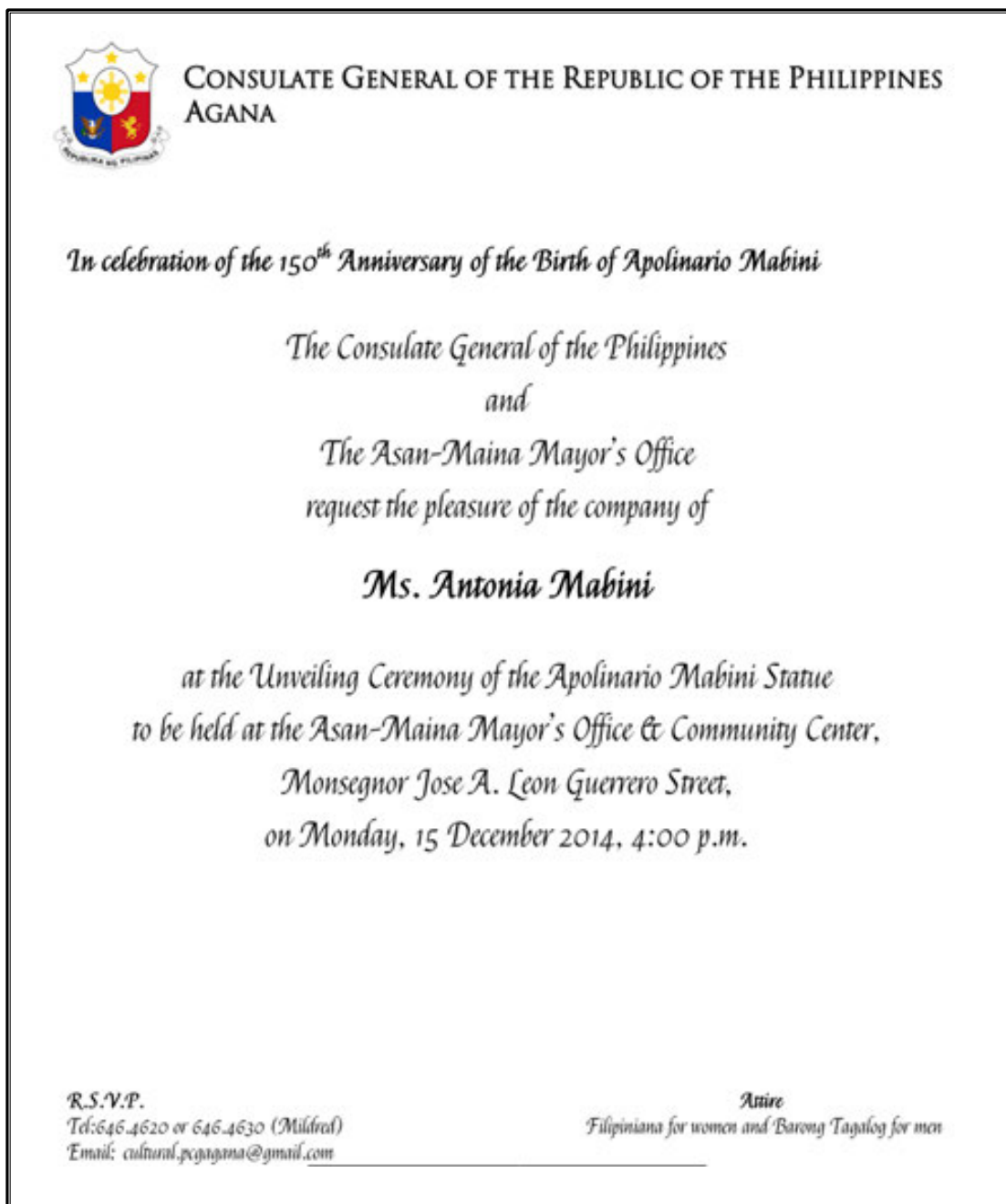


**Apolinario Mabini Residence Relocated**  
(Manarang, 2012)

Apolinario Mabini's house was moved from its original location at Nagtahan, Pandacan, Manila to the main campus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila, following Proclamation No. 1992 issued by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2010. It was at Nagtahan, Pandacan, Manila that Apolinario Mabini died of cholera on May 3, 1903.

The original location of the house was at Nagtahan, Pandacan, Manila, and owned by Cecilio del Rosario and Maxima Castaneda-del Rosario. (Cayabyab, 2015)

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## Antonia Mabini's Invitation

Antonia Mabini and other Filipino residents on Guam assisted financially with the relocation and Mabini's statue in Assan. The copy of the invitation was provided courtesy of Mrs. Mabini's daughter Sam Mabini Young, PhD. (S.M. Young, personal communication, September 9, 2020.)



### Rapid Ethnographic Assessment for the Assan and Agat Unit Management Plan War in the Pacific National Historic Park

Newsletters  
by ancestry

https://www.newspapers.com/intent/?i14767468

Pacific Daily News (Agaña Heights, Guam) · Tue, Apr 7, 2016 · Page A8

Printed on Aug 26, 2020

LOCAL

## Mabini statue to be unveiled in Asan

**By Mabini Cruz**  
mabini@pacificnews.com

A statue that commemorates the role of the village of Asan will be unveiled with the opening of a planned playground and basketball court in the village.

The statue will be placed where the children and teenagers can see and enjoy being outdoors. The statue is a gift from the Assan community.

According to the village, the statue is a representation of the spirit of the village. The statue is a gift from the Assan community.

The statue is a gift from the Assan community. The statue is a gift from the Assan community.

Some displeased

The statue was erected near the playground. Some residents are displeased with the location of the statue. They believe the statue should be placed in a more prominent location.

**Planning a resident of village** in the village of Asan. The statue is a gift from the Assan community. The statue is a gift from the Assan community.

Some displeased

The statue was erected near the playground. Some residents are displeased with the location of the statue. They believe the statue should be placed in a more prominent location.

## Bill would help people with disabilities

### Registry would let them receive better care in times of emergency

**By Steven Rappaport**  
rappaport@pacificnews.com

The state is moving forward with a bill that would create a registry for people with disabilities. The registry would allow emergency responders to quickly locate and identify people with disabilities in times of crisis.

The bill would create a registry for people with disabilities. The registry would allow emergency responders to quickly locate and identify people with disabilities in times of crisis.

The bill would create a registry for people with disabilities. The registry would allow emergency responders to quickly locate and identify people with disabilities in times of crisis.

And the bill, if made law, would allow the department to share this information with emergency response agencies.

**Specialty training**

According to the bill, emergency responders should be trained to address the needs of those with disabilities. The bill would require that emergency responders receive specialty training to address the needs of those with disabilities.

**Parents can sign up kids**

Parents of legal guardians of children under the age of 18 can sign up their children for the registry. The bill would allow parents to sign up their children for the registry.

**When the bill goes into effect**

When the bill goes into effect, the registry will be open to all residents of the state. The bill would allow all residents to sign up for the registry.

**Pacific Daily News**

AGANA HEIGHTS, GUAM

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A few Assan residents objected to the relocation of Mabini's statue in Assan.

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War in the Pacific National Historic Park

Newspapers  
by ancestry

https://www.newspapers.com/image/214783514

Pacific Daily News (Agana Heights, Guam) · Tue, Dec 16, 2014 · Page A2

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**LOCAL**

# Philippine mayor supports statue

By Jerick Sablan  
Pacific Daily News  
jsablan@guampdn.com

The mayor of the townships of Philippine Agat-Mabini, Mabini said he's glad that the statue soon to be erected in Agat.

Mayor Antonio Habibi, of Tanauan City, Batangas in the Philippines, said yesterday during a signing ceremony between his city and the village of Assan. Mabini is a national hero, and the people of Tanauan have a deep respect for him.

"It's a privilege and an honor to be associated with him in this Tanauan City, the city where I, that I represent as a national hero, wrapped like a compass," he said during the ceremony held yesterday at the Assan Mabini community center.

The concrete monument of Mabini was to be unveiled yesterday near the Assan Mabini community center, but it was postponed due to protest from some Assan residents. Some of the protesters have said they weren't satisfied of the project and don't feel Mabini has a strong connection to their village.

The statue of Mabini remains hidden under a white cover near the community center, and Habibi said it contained him of the same material used to wrap bodies back home after warzone dies.

He said he's hopeful things will settle down as the statue can be unveiled and would be happy to visit Guam again for another ceremony.

Although the statue's unveiling was postponed, the village of Assan Mabini and Tanauan City still proceeded with its signing of the "Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation" yesterday.

The Twinning Agreement seeks to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two local governments through meaningful exchanges in the areas of culture, education and sports as well as economic development and tourism for the mutual benefit of both sides, a release from the Philippine central government office stated.

"Meanwhile, the central government in Guam has stated that although the unveiling has been postponed, the intention for the statue remains the same."

"We stand by our intention for the project, which is for the Mabini statue to be the symbol of the friendship and cooperation that we seek to establish between the village of Assan and the city of Tanauan." Council President Maricelinda Berto said in a statement.

**Should all legislation have a public hearing?**

Yes 63.37%  
No 36.63%

Total Votes: 260  
As of 7 p.m., Dec. 15

**Motorcyclist and toddler still at GMH**

By Cameron Micaela  
Pacific Daily News  
cmicaela@guampdn.com

Two people taken to the hospital Sunday in separate incidents were still at Guam Memorial Hospital as of yesterday afternoon.

A 23-month-old child involved in a "rear driving" was in "critical-but-graded" condition while a 33-year-old man involved in a motorcycle crash was listed in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit, according to Anne Perez, GMH spokeswoman.

Earlier afternoon, the Guam Fire Department responded to fire near the Fish Eye Marine Park, according to fire officials.

A child, who they identified as a 3-year-old, originally was taken to Naval Hospital, Agaña. Perez said the child was 23 months old.

**Motorcycle crash**

Earlier in the day, a motorcycle operator was thrown from his bike after crashing into a tree while the man was driving down Route 4 in Uyeguan.

He wasn't wearing a helmet at the time, according to police.

Fire officials said the 68-year-old man was involved shortly after 7 p.m. Sunday and the man was taken to Guam Memorial Hospital.

Hospital staff identified the man as a woman.

"He was in critical condition as of Sunday night, where he sustained such as an x-ray of a fracture."

**CLEARING THE RECORD**

We carry about accuracy if your report that to clear the record, call the Pacific Daily News at 479-5419.

**BILLS**

Senators briefly discussed bills, now in, one of, one of, one of, and 200-20 before sending them to the floor for voting.

■ SB 201 would appropriate funds from the General Fund to the Office of Veterans Affairs to implement the Guam Veterans Program.

■ SB 204 would set up a certain...

Tuesday, December 16, 2014, was a record-breaking day for the Legislature as it passed 20 bills. The bills were: SB 201, SB 202, SB 203, SB 204, SB 205, SB 206, SB 207, SB 208, SB 209, SB 210, SB 211, SB 212, SB 213, SB 214, SB 215, SB 216, SB 217, SB 218, SB 219, SB 220, SB 221, SB 222, SB 223, SB 224, SB 225, SB 226, SB 227, SB 228, SB 229, SB 230, SB 231, SB 232, SB 233, SB 234, SB 235, SB 236, SB 237, SB 238, SB 239, SB 240, SB 241, SB 242, SB 243, SB 244, SB 245, SB 246, SB 247, SB 248, SB 249, SB 250, SB 251, SB 252, SB 253, SB 254, SB 255, SB 256, SB 257, SB 258, SB 259, SB 260, SB 261, SB 262, SB 263, SB 264, SB 265, SB 266, SB 267, SB 268, SB 269, SB 270, SB 271, SB 272, SB 273, SB 274, SB 275, SB 276, SB 277, SB 278, SB 279, SB 280, SB 281, SB 282, SB 283, SB 284, SB 285, SB 286, SB 287, SB 288, SB 289, SB 290, SB 291, SB 292, SB 293, SB 294, SB 295, SB 296, SB 297, SB 298, SB 299, SB 300, SB 301, SB 302, SB 303, SB 304, SB 305, SB 306, SB 307, SB 308, SB 309, SB 310, SB 311, SB 312, SB 313, SB 314, SB 315, SB 316, SB 317, SB 318, SB 319, SB 320, SB 321, SB 322, SB 323, 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A few others support the relocation of Mabini's statue in Assan village.

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CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
AGANA

PRR-MRDB-044-2015  
PRESS RELEASE  
18 May 2015

### STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL ON THE MABINI STATUE IN ASAN

18 May 2015, AGANA, GUAM –The Philippine Consulate General in Agana joins the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in gratitude for the absence of any casualties brought about by Typhoon Dolphin, one of the strongest storms to have passed through this area in recent years.

Even as Typhoon Dolphin spared the island of any casualties, it did wreak some damage to property and infrastructure, including, regrettably, the newly installed statue of Apolinario Mabini in Asan. The Mabini Statue, which was supposed to be unveiled soon, was destroyed when the nearby tree crashed into it at the height of the storm.



The newly installed statue of Apolinario Mabini in Asan-Maina was completely destroyed when a nearby tree crashed into it at the height of Typhoon Dolphin (photo from office of Mayor Blas).

The Mabini Statue is only one of the projects being pursued with the village of Asan-Maina under the Friendship and Cooperation Agreement it has with Tanauan City, Batangas. The Philippine Consulate General will discuss with the donor institution a possible replacement for the damaged statue and will continue to work with Mayor Joana Margaret C. Blas on other projects to benefit the residents of her village, including the children's playground that is expected to be completed by next month. **END#**

Suite 601-602, ITC Building, 590 Marine Corps Drive, P.O. Box 9880, Tamuning 96931 Guam  
Tel: +1(671) 646 4620 or 4630 • Fax: +1(671) 649 1868 • Email: pcgagana@gmail.com  
www.aganapcg.dfa.gov.ph

## Typhoon Dolphin Settles Dispute

The press release is provided by Sam Mabini Young, PhD.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>107</sup> Sam Mabini Young provided the press release. (S. Mabini Young, personal communication, September 9, 2020.)

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### **Apolinario Mabini Statue Pedestal**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

The pedestal built for Apolinario Mabini's statue behind the Assan Mayor's office as it appears today.

“Regarding the placement of a donated statue (produced by the First Asian Institute of Technology & Humanities, a college in Tanauan, Batangas, Philippines), my mother and I were of a number of donors to help fund the statue's pedestal. I was surprised when the Philippine Consul General explained the proposed site of the new statue was to be at the Assan Mayor's Office property. I cautioned the Consul General of the need for village community buy-in of this installation. I was assured they had the residents' support. An unveiling scheduled for December 2014 was postponed until July 2015, amidst protests from village residents. A soft opening was held instead that December, attended by Mayor Halili from Tanauan, Batangas. A lone protester was present. The statue was damaged by a fallen tree during Typhoon Dolphin (May 15, 2015), prior to the scheduled unveiling.” (S. Mabini Young, PhD, personal communication, September 3, 2020.)

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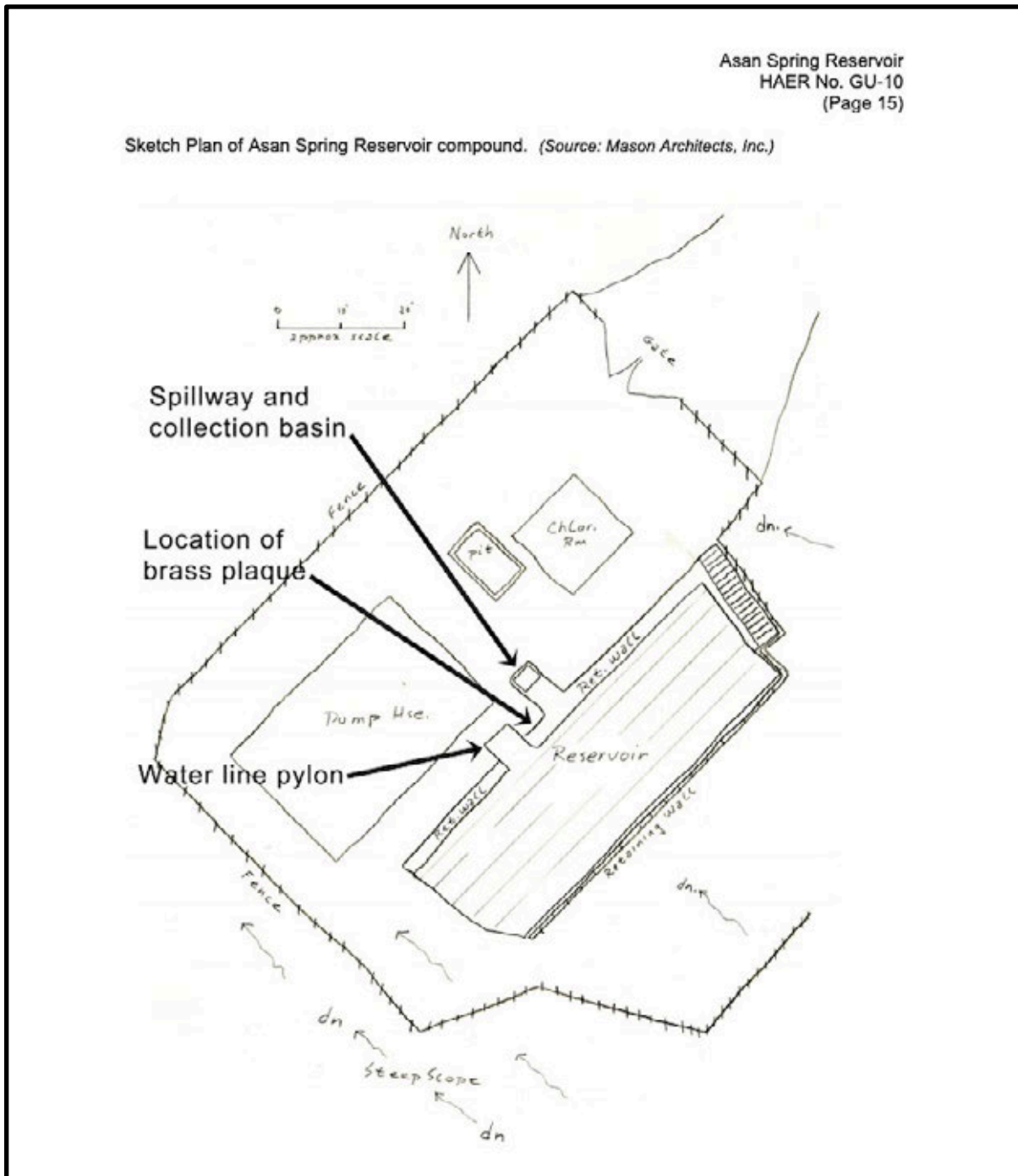
## **Assan Spring Reservoir**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

Lieutenant (GR) R. L. Stover, US Navy Public Works Officer, U.S. Naval Station, Guam, designed the Assan Spring Reservoir. It was constructed in February 1916 to impound the flow from Assan Spring by the U.S. Navy. It is owned by the Guam Water Authority.

The Assan Spring Reservoir was a significant component of the water system of Hagåtña and surrounding areas and served as a dependable source of water until bacterial contamination forced its closure in 2003. (Dee Ruzicka Mason Architects, 2016)

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### Assan Spring Reservoir Layout

A sketch of the structures built at the Assan Spring Reservoir. (Dee Ruzicka Mason Architects, 2016)

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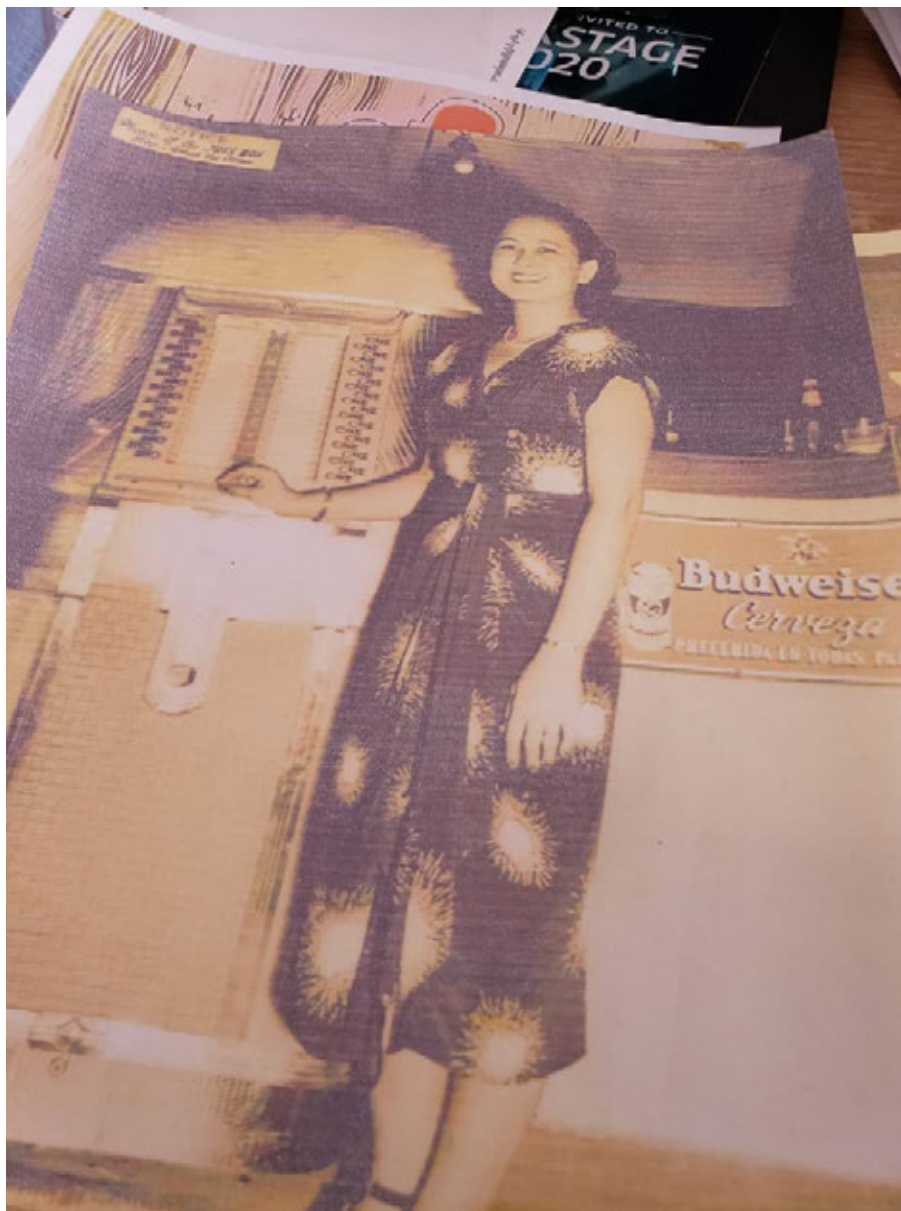
**Jose “Joe” Taitano & Florence “Flo” Grace Sakakibara Gutierrez**

Contributed photo by Harry Dean Gutierrez

Florence started Joe & Flo’s Bar in Assan to cater to the military at the U.S. Marine Camp Assan. Her patrons were Military officers and servicemen. Their son Harry Dean said that his mother ran Joe & Flo’s. “She started the business.<sup>108</sup> It was a bar in the 50s. My dad was a police officer and retired from GPD. Dad went down there a lot, but Mom ran it. My parents always live in Agana Heights.

<sup>108</sup> Joe and Flo’s goes back to 1948 in a Quonset hut tented from the Quitugua family in Assan. They purchased it in 1960. They rebuilt a concrete building in 1965, and Harry built over the existing restaurant in 1976 to what it looks like today. Building over the existing building ensured that Joe & Flo’s was open for business during construction. (H. D. Gutierrez, personal communication, January 4, 2020.)

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**Florence "Flo" Grace Sakakibara Gutierrez**

Photo courtesy of Harry Dean Gutierrez

Flo poses next to the juke box at Joe & Flo's, rented from Guam Music.



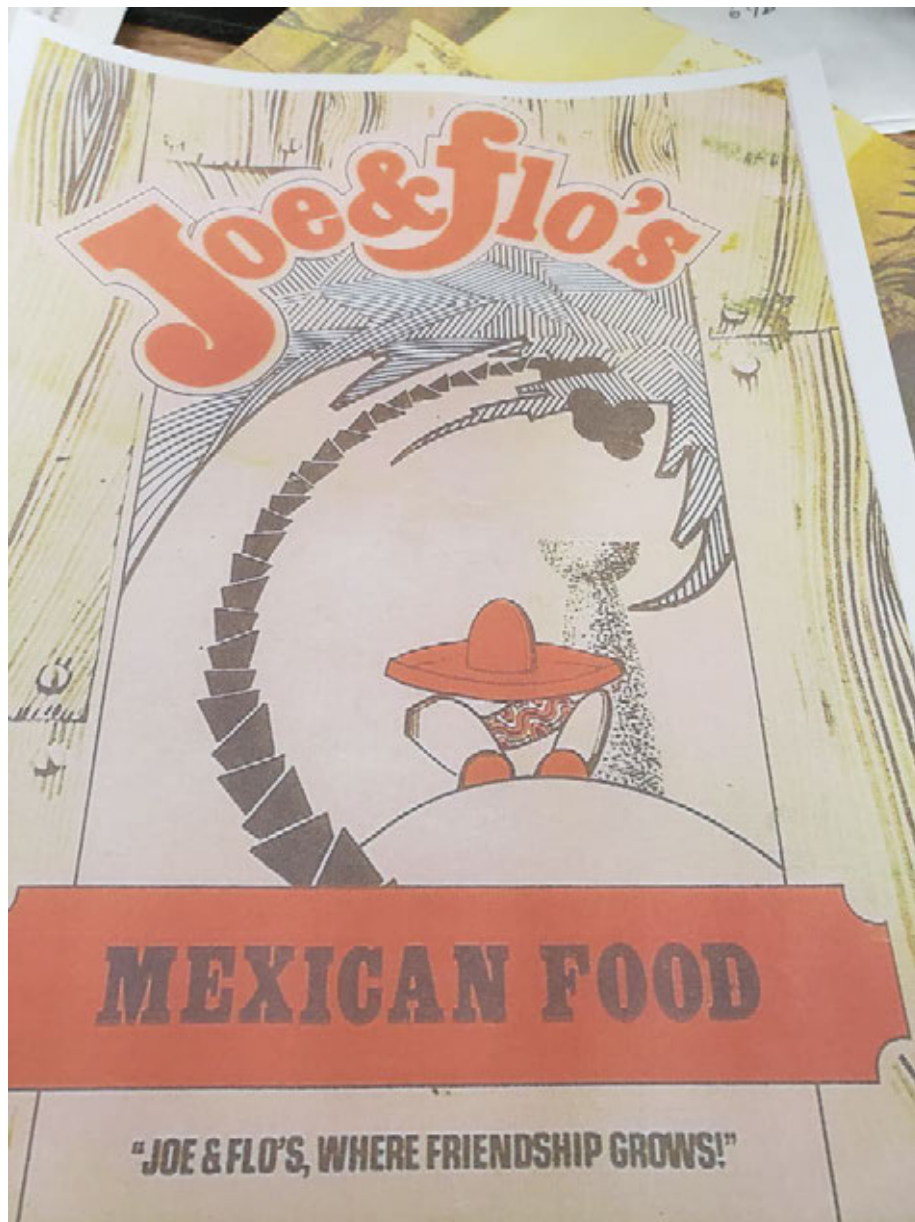
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Florence "Flo" Grace Sakakibara Gutierrez

Photo courtesy of Harry Dean Gutierrez

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### **Joe & Flo's Menu**

Photo courtesy of Harry Dean Gutierrez

Joe & Flo's started serving Mexican food in 1966. Flo's customers were 80% military because of the proximity to Camp Assan and Naval Hospital. Locals did not go to bars at that time. (H. D. Gutierrez, personal communication, September 2, 2020.)

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## **Joe & Flo's Restaurant and Bar**

Photo Courtesy of Harry Dean Gutierrez

“In 1948 Joe & Flo's was a Quonset hut, rebuilt after Karen as concrete with tin roofing. I rebuild it in early 1970 to what it is now. I just build over small build and just remove the tin roof.”

Harry said that his grandfather was a businessman, probably where his mother got her entrepreneurial spirit,” said Harry Dean Gutierrez of his mother.

Harry built the concrete structure above for his mother after Super Typhoon Karen destroyed the Quonset hut where she operated her business.

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**Former Joe & Flo's Restaurant**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

The existing structure was built over the 1962 concrete structure to enlarge the popular restaurant and bar which attracted customers who loved to dance when the bar started to book local bands and groups.



**Relocated Entrance and Parking**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

The parking for Joe & Flo's restaurant and the bar was at the front, facing the ocean. The road was raised during the reconstruction of Marine Corps Drive, and parking was relocated to the east and south side of the building. Harley Davidson occupied the building before the Calvary Chapel, its current tenant.

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### Shelton's Assan Property

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

In the photo taken in 2020, Senator Amanda Shelton's reelection sign was placed on the property the former Shelton's Music, Inc.

According to Austin James Shelton, III, PhD, the Shelton's only grandson, his grandparents Austin James and Amanda Pangelinan Guzman Shelton (1906-1982) purchased the Assan property from the Sumagasay family soon after World War II. (A.J. Shelton, II, Ph.D., personal communication, September 3, 2020.)

The store was located in the building painted blue, and a shop and garage were located on the building on the side which the Shelton's later converted into a residence.

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**Austin James Shelton  
Owner of Shelton's Music Inc.**

Shelton family photos courtesy of Senator Amanda Shelton

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### Shelton Family

Austin James poses with his wife Amanda Pangelinan Guzman, and their only child, Austin James “Sonny” Shelton, II. Sonny was elected in 1986 by the people of Guam to serve in the Guam Legislature.

Amanda became one of Guam’s first nurses. She was distinguished by Guampedia distinguished in their publication, *Women in Guam History*. (Guam Legislature Media, 2019)

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**Austin James "Sonny" Shelton**  
 BIRTH 30 Jun 1949  
 Death 7 Sep 2008 (aged 59)  
 BURIAL Pigo Catholic Cemetery  
 Hagtña (Agaña), Guam  
 PLOT Queen of Peace 17 3  
 MEMORIAL ID 127397907 · [View Source](#)

**Austin J. Shelton, "Sonny"** (June 30, 1949-September 7, 2008), former Senator, Government Official, and Businessman, was graciously called to celebrate his new life with our Lord on Sunday, September 7, 2008 at the age of 59 years.

Mass and rosary were held at Nino Perdido y Sagrada Familia Church in Asan on Friday at 6:00 p.m., Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Final rosary was recited on the day of the funeral. State Memorial Service was held on Monday, September 15, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. at I Liheslaturan Guahan. Immediately following, last respects were paid at Nino Perdido y Sagrada Familia Church, Asan beginning at 9:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial commenced at 1:00 p.m.

Interment was conducted at Pigo Catholic Cemetery.

Rewritten from information published in the Pacific Daily News (Hagåtña, Guam) from Sept. 12 to Oct. 12, 2008.

(Goniwiecha, 2014)



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## Assan Memorial Beach

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

The road sign indicates that the Assan Memorial Beach is coming up on Marine Corps Drive's right side. This site is referred to by many names in different reports. Sometimes it is called Landing Invasion Beach, Civilian Landing Monument, Landing Beach Monument, or Blue Beach 9th U.S. Marine Landing Monument. Its many names are historic.

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Government of Guam, sign above indicates that the beach park is on the National Register of Historic Places.

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**Blue Beach 9th U.S. Marine Landing Monument**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy



**War in the Pacific National Historic Park (US National Parks Service)**

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

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## Camp Assan

Department of Defense Photo (USN)2777

Original Caption: Camp Assan awaits the arrival of its first refugees under Operation New Life. South Vietnamese and evacuees of other nationalities started arriving in Guam at 1820 on 24 April. (Quinlan & Dunham , 1990)

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## Outside Theater

Department of Defense Photo (USN)2777

Using the same photo on the preceding page, the yellow arrow in the picture above points to Camp Assan's outdoor theater's location when the Seabees occupied the camp. James Terlaje was able to watch movies at the outdoor theater because his father served a tour of duty at Vietnam and retired from the US Army. He said that viewers laid blankets out on the hillside to watch movies. (J.D.T. Terlaje, personal communication, September 14, 2020.)

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### **Camp Assan when used as a Vietnamese Refugee Camp**

Image from Leo Leamy (Leamy)

Assan Annex Guam Repatriates Camp. The refugees held at the camp protested the delayed nature of their stay at Camp Assan and inability to leave the area while they were on Guam. James Terlaje describes the evening that the refugees burned down a building in protest, on page 13 through 15 of his interview.

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Camp Assan when used as a Vietnamese Refugee Camp

Images from Leo Leamy (Leamy)

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Camp Assan when as a Vietnamese Refugee Camp  
Images from Leo Leamy (Leamy)







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Newspapers.com by ancestry

https://www.newspapers.com/image/609326902

Pacific Daily News (Agana Heights, Guam) Mon, May 26, 1975 - Page 7

Downloaded on Sep 1, 2020

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, Monday, May 26, 1975-Page 7

## Future Poses Big Question Marks

As outlined from page 6, the future of the Pacific National Historic Park poses a big question mark. The park, particularly in the Assan and Agat units, is a vast area of land that is being considered for development. The park is a large area of land that is being considered for development. The park is a large area of land that is being considered for development.



At the news hall, Tony talks with members of his people.

## Ford Signs Aid Bill

(Continued from page 6) President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$4.1 billion aid bill for the Pacific Islands on Monday. The bill provides for the construction and improvement of roads, bridges, and other infrastructure in the islands. It also provides for the construction of schools, health centers, and other social services. The bill is expected to be passed by Congress in the next few weeks.



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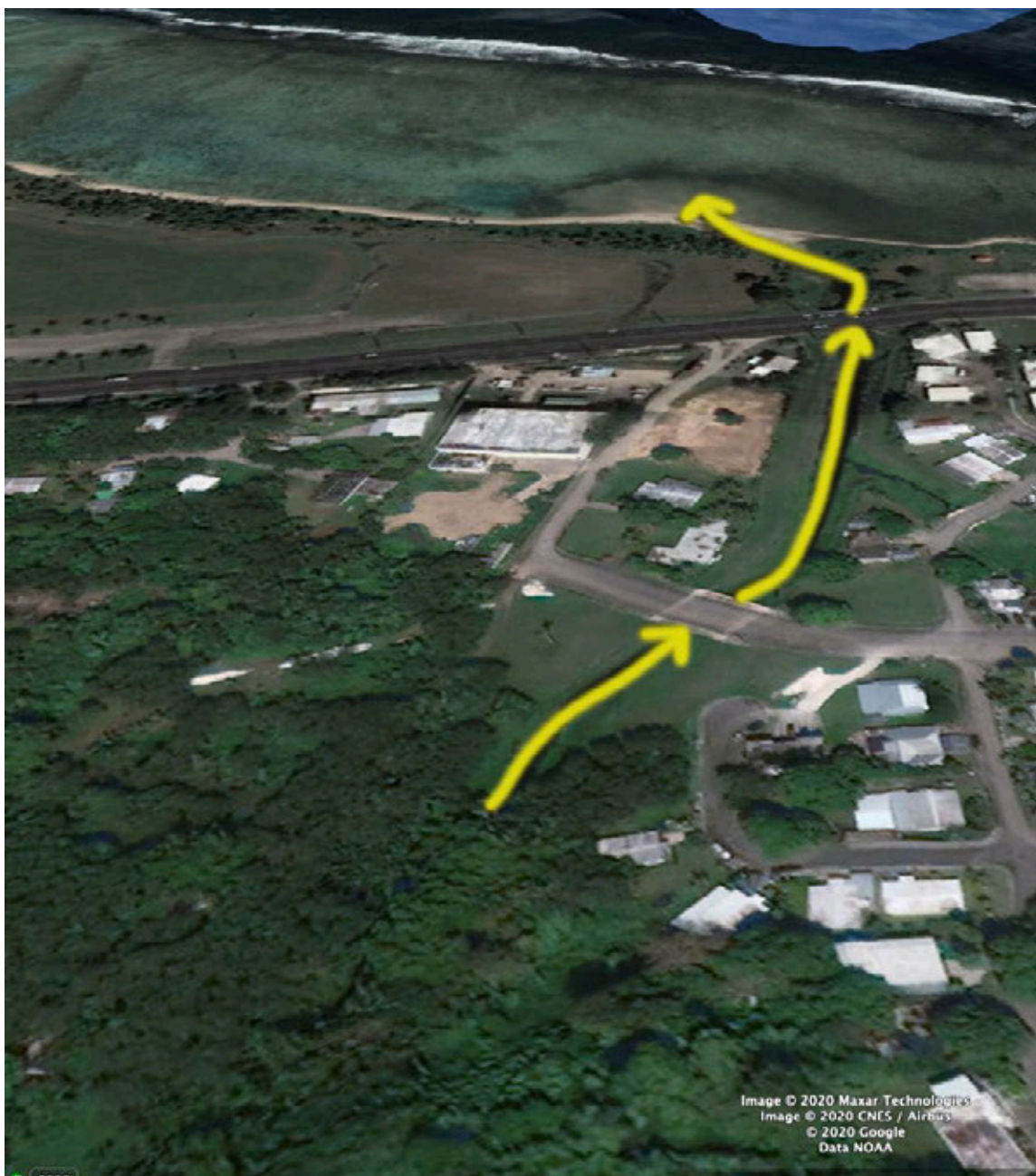
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Tony Runs Assan... continued PDN Pg. 3

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### Assan River Path

Google Earth Image

The yellow arrows on the Google Earth image above shows the path that the Assan River has carved through the village as it pours out to Assan Bay.

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hill.



**Assan River**

Photos by Rlene Santos Steffy

Top: Standing on the bridge on Joaquin Leon Guerrero Jesus Street in Kalåkkak, Assan, you can see the water flowing down the river from the Oceanview Drive and Nimitz Hill area.

Bottom: The Assan River flows under the bridge on Joaquin Leon Guerrero Jesus Street in Kalåkkak and continues its flow out to the north to Assan Bay. The bridge seen at the end of the river is at Marine Corps Drive.

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### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Plaque

Photo by Rlene Santos Steffy

This plaque is placed along Marine Corps Drive in Assan, commemorating U. S. Army Corps of Engineers completion of the Assan River Flood Control Project in 1985.<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> (F. Maria Terlaje and J. David Tenorio Terlaje, personal communications, September 8, 2020.)

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**Assan Patriots of World War II Monument**

Photos by Rlene Santos Steffy

This monument memorializes the residents of Assan and Piti, who were massacred at Apotguan on December 10, 1941, by the Japanese Imperial Soldiers after their landing. They were perhaps the first civilian casualties of World War II. Vicente Sablan and his mother Nicolasa Santos Sablan from Piti were massacred along with the others at Apotguan, but their names are not listed on the plaque.<sup>110</sup> The memorial, which was dedicated on Liberation Day, July 21, 1950, is located on the front lawn of Assan's Niño Perdido Y Sagrada Familia Church.

<sup>110</sup> A. Sablan Palomo, from interview for inclusion in the upcoming documentary, *Historic Context: Guam Massacre Sites*.

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### Wedding Day 1997

James David Tenorio & Ninamaria Pereira Terlaje were married on February 15, 1997, at Assan's Niño Perdido y Sagrada Familia Catholic Church.

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*Remembering Dad...*  
He lived his life being a blessing to others. In his last days, he gave us a tremendous gift that we will cherish. After being in a coma for two days, Dad awoke and said "goodbye" to all who were there, leaving peacefully with a smile on his face. We were blessed to witness Dad's final breath as he entered into the loving arms of our Heavenly Father. He was beautiful in life and beautiful in death. He passed away on July 7, 2004 at the age of 55, in El Paso Texas.

**EDWARD PANGELINAN PEREIRA**

Son of the late Ignacio Cruz and Genoveva Garrido Pangelinan Pereira, is survived by his wife: **Janet Santos Delgado Pereira** residing in El Paso Texas.  
His sons and daughter in-law: Edward Delgado Pereira residing in Las Vegas, Nevada and Robert and Linda Quichocho, residing in Boston, Massachusetts. His daughter, son in-law and grandchildren: James and Ninamaria Terlaje, Jade Lauren Pereira Terlaje, Luke Edward Pereira Terlaje, residing in Asan, Guam.

Also by his Uncles and Aunts: Jesus and Dolly Pereira; Peter and Eleanor Pereira. Godparents: Dolores White and Jesus Dela Rosa Santos.

Edward is additionally survived by his brothers and their spouses: Emmanuel and YAsela Pereira, Francisco and Frances Pereira, Jose and Agnes Pereira. His sisters and their spouses: Andrea and Jose Campos, Carmen and Antonio Baza, Henedina and Antonio Roberto, Antonia and Frank (dec) Mesa, Priscilla and Jose Cruz, and Rosita Kim. Sisters in-law and their spouses: Jovita Delgado and Chito Mejorada, Loling Delgado and Peter Blaz, Rosita Delgado Weedin, Chlang Santos Delgado, Annie Delgado and Benjamin Duenas, Julie Delgado and Rick Pangelinan.

Viewing will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2004 beginning at 8:00 am followed by memorial funeral service at 12:00 pm at New Covenant Life Church, 134 Tun Vicente Leon Guerrero Street, Tamuning. Cremation will take place the same day. Dad will be laid to rest at sea on Wednesday, July 28, 2004, at 2pm departing from Hagatna Boat Basin.

ADA's Mortuary/Crematorium




**Edward Pangelinan Pereira (1949-2004)**

(Pacific Daily News, 2004)

Edward is Ninamaria's father.



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## Janet Delgado Pereira

Familian "Didgao/Sogue"

Blessed, generous, lavish, tender, trendsetter, heartwarming, cheerful, listener. These are just some of the qualities of our Mother and Guela, Janet Delgado Pereira, a beautiful being, born on December 16, 1951 and called home by her Heavenly Father at the age of 58 years on June 15, 2010.

Together with her late husband **Edward Pangelinan Pereira** (Familian Beba), Janet joins her parents, James Cruz and Maria Borja Santos Delgado; Grandparents, Jose Mendiola and Maria Fejeran Cruz Delgado; Brother, Tomas Santos Delgado; Mother and Father In-Law, Ignacio Cruz and Genoveva Garrido Pangelinan Pereira; Brothers-in-Law, Ricardo C. Pangelinan, Francisco Pangelinan Pereira, and Francisco Mesa

Mom leaves behind her children, **Edward Delgado Pereira** and Chi Tra, residing in Charlotte, North Carolina; **Robert B.** and wife Linda Ouichocho, and their son, Zachariah Joseph residing in Honolulu, Hawaii; Her daughter, **Ninamaria P.** married to James Terlaje and their children, Jade Lauren Pereira Terlaje, Luke Edward Pereira Terlaje and Seth Philip Pereira Terlaje, residing in Asan, Guam.

Mom is also survived by her sisters, Jovita D. and Chito Mejorada (Arizona); Lolita "Loling" D. and Peter Blaz; Rosita "Sid" D. Weedin; Cecilia "Chilang" Delgado; Annie D. and Ben Duenas (Las Vegas, NV); and Julie "Jill" D. Pangelinan.

Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Andrea P. and Jose Campos; Henedina and Antonio Roberto; Carmen P. and Antonio Baza; Frances Towner Pereira (Bremerton, Wa); Emmanuel and Y'asela Artero Pereira; Antonia P. Mesa; Priscilla P. and Jose Cruz; Rosita P. Kim; and Jose and Agnes San Nicolas Pereira (Bremerton, Wa).

Janet will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, Godchildren, and many friends and fellow employees of Chamorro Studies at Agueda Johnston Middle School as well as friends of the Guam Sunshine Lion's Club, District 204, where she was recently inducted as the Membership Director.

Viewing will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010 beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by a memorial funeral service at 12:00 p.m. at New Covenant Life Church, 134 Iun Vicente Leon Guerrero Street, Tamuning, Guam. Private Cremation to follow. Janet will be laid to rest at sea with her late husband.

*Our Lady of Peace Memorial Garden / Memorial Chapel / Crematorium*

## Janet Delgado Pereira (1951-2010)

(Pacific Daily News, 2010)

Janet is Ninamaria's mother.

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Christmas 2019

Seth Edward and his sister Jade Lauren pose with their parents, Ninamaria and James, and their brother Luke for a family Christmas photo at the Niño Perdido y Sagrada Familia Catholic Church, Assan, Guam.

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### Terlaje Matriarch

James David Terlaje and his daughter Jade Lauren, his wife Ninamaria wearing a pinafore, and sons Luke and Seth, pose with his mother, Cynthia Tenorio Terlaje, at her Assan residence.

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## Rlene"Live" Productions

### Oral History Collection Waiver

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In order to preserve and make available the life history, language and culture of the people of Micronesia, for present and future generations, I, James T. Telega hereby give and grant to Rlene Santos Steffy, voluntarily, my oral history testimony on this day, 12.9.2014. The tape or tapes and video recordings, and any accompanying transcripts are the result of one or more recorded voluntary interviews with me.

Any reader should bear in mind that he/she is reading a transcript of my spoken, not my written word, and that the tapes, not the transcripts is the primary document. Therefore, I waive all rights to the collective copyrights to the information provided in the interview and all publications resulting from the use of the information provided by me in the recordings, and all photographs taken of me during the interview by Rlene Santos Steffy.

It is understood that Rlene Santos Steffy will have the discretion to allow qualified scholars and others to listen to the tape or tapes and read available transcripts of my interview for use in connection with their research for educational purposes only. Rlene Santos Steffy also has the discretion to remove segments of my interview on tape or in the transcription of the recordings that we agreed are not to be publicly released before allowing others to listen to my interview. I give to Rlene Santos Steffy this sensitive information in the interest of helping her to understand the background of the issues discussed.

I hereby grant to Rlene Santos Steffy ownership of the physical property of my recorded interviews on this day, and the right to use the property that is the product of my participation (for example, my interview, performance, photographs, and written materials) as stated above. By giving permission, I

understand that I do not give up any copyright or performance rights that I may hold.

I also grant to Rlene Santos Steffy my absolute and irrevocable consent for any photograph(s) provided by me or taken of me in the course of my participation in the oral history collection effort to be used, published, and copied by Steffy and her assignees in any medium. I agree that Steffy may use my name, video or photographic image or likeness, statements, performance, and voice reproduction, or other sound effects without further approval on my part.

In consideration of any commercially published works that includes my testimony, Rlene Santos Steffy will provide me with a (1) copy of her published work where my testimony is used and where applicable, make reference to my contribution of personal photographs for the addition to her collection that my also be used in any of her published works.

I release Rlene Santos Steffy, and her assignees and designees, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of such recordings, documents, and artifacts, including but not limited to, any claims for defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

JAMES D. TERLAJE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12/9/2019

month/day/year

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(State \_ ZIP): \_\_\_\_\_

**Rapid Ethnographic Assessment for the Assan and Agat Unit Management Plan  
War in the Pacific National Historic Park**