

# September 1, 1959 CITY OF BAGUIO - GOLDEN JUBILEE

## BAGUIO

If there is a city in the Philippines that can rival any secluded vacation spot in the United States, or anywhere else in the world, it is Baguio. Baguio with its cool, crisp and dry climate, decidedly one of the best in the world, and its scenic wonders surrounded on all sides with pine-wooded mountains, its broad paved streets, homes built according to American architectural design, became at the turn of the last century one of the most progressive and cleanest cities in the world.

The beauty of Baguio today is the realization of the dream of the great architect, Daniel H. Burnham, who gave his services free to the Philippine Government. Unselfish men came to Baguio to embellish it with art and beauty. Through the help of W. Cameron Forbes, then Governor General of the Philippines, D. H. Burnham came in 1904 to build this Highland Paradise. Doctor H. E. Stafford, an oldtimer in the mountain capital, went to Baguio to open a sanitarium on February 3, 1902, before the Kennon Road was well under way. It was not until January 20, 1905, that Colonel Kennon drove the first wagon into Baguio through the road which he constructed. Regular road service was opened on March 27, 1905. By Act No. 1963, of the Philippine Commission, effective September 1, 1909, Baguio became a Chartered City.

Baguio was known as Bagyiw to the Inibaloi Igorots who have resided in Baguio and Trinidad valley for centuries, because when they first came to settle in this place, they found plenty of green mass they call bagyiw on the edges of Burnham Park which was wallowing place for carabaos.

The early Spaniards and Christian Filipinos spelled Bagyiw Bagio in their reports causing imaginative lowlanders to believe that the place must have been named after the tropical hurricane. Bagyo is the vernacular for storm or typhoon.

Baguio yesterday was a hill station with few business houses and government cottages. Baguio yesterday was where the Americans and Filipinos joined hands to make a mountain retreat, health resort near the clouds, at least 5,000 feet above sea level; Baguio yesterday was where Filipinos and Americans fought side by side to drive the last Japanese rammants from their deep, impregnable mountain hideout.

Today, despite the destruction wrought by the war, it is a beautiful prosperous city with veins of gold running in its backyard. Clustered around Baguio are the rich mines that produces millions in gold annually.

Today, operated like a corporation with the mayor as manager, Baguio is a self-supporting city with its own electric light plants, water system and telephone system and reaps revenues from many of its projects. It has never experienced any acute unemployment problem or school crisis.

Today, the city of Baguio is the most beautiful mountain capital in the world, with more permanent structures than ever, and virtually all the old historic landmarks restored to their prewar beauty.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the City of Baguio, the Bureau of Posts today, September 1, 1959, is issuing two denomination stamps, 6c and 25c.

