

October 1, 1959 CITY OF BACOLOD

BACOLOD CITY

Bacolod, in the Island of Negros, is one of the biggest su-gar-producing cities of the Philippines. Its mainstay is sugar. Directly or indirectly, majority of the city's population depends on this industry.

Bacolod got its name from the place where it was originally founded - a stone-hill. In the Filipino dialect a stone-hill is called "Bakolod".

It was in this area that the pioneers of Bacolod, the brave Christian Filipinos, won a costly victory over the roving band of trouble-makers known as "Moros" of "Filipino Mohammedans" in 1787. Nothing but ruins and debris were left of the original settlement. But, undaunted, these Christian Filipinos through the initiative of the first Gobernadorcillo, Bernardo de los Santos, started reconstruction. They moved the settlement towards the costal plains in order to promote trade, agriculture and commerce with neighboring communities. Later they transferred Bacolod to its present site a stone-hill area somewhere between what is now known as District of Granada and the Bacolod-Murcia Milling Company Site.

Forty-one years later, the Island of Negros was divided into two, Oriental and Occidental Negros. Bacolod became the capital of Negros Occidental, by order of Governor General Claveria, acting through the Governor of the Island of Negros, Manuel Valdevieso Morquecho, in 1849.

The Americans played a major part in educating the natives who were known as Visayans. The Visayans were still fighting against the Spaniards when the Americans came in 1901, under Commander-in-Chief Smith. A general improvement in education and construction of buildings took place.

In 1936, the joint efforts of Assemblymen Pedro C. Hernandez and Enrique Magalona of Negros Occidental and Assemblymen Jose C. Zulueta of Iloilo resulted in the passage of Commonwealth Act. No. 326, creating the City of Bacolod. Thus was born the City of Bacolod in consonance with the policy of the late President Manuel L. Quezon to create cities out of progressive towns.

All the improvements that Bacolod City had undergone, however, were ravaged when the second World War broke out and the city was invaded and occupied by the Japanese on May 21, 1942. Once again the Americans came on March 29, 1945 and in the Battle of Bago Bridge, Theodore Vinther sacrificed his life to serve Bacolod City and other towns. In the public plaza today stands a monument in his honor.

Liberation brought back the tremendous progress of Bacolod City which has since then advanced culturally, economically and socially.

Today, October 1, 1959 the Bureau of Posts pays tribute to the progressive City of Bacolod with special stamps issued in its honor. The stamps were designed by Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., philatelic designer of the Bureau of Posts. They depict the Official Seal of the City of Bacolod and consist of two denominations .. 6 and 10 centavos.

