

May 26, 1966
PHILIPPINE GIRL-SCOUTS - SILVER JUBILEE

**SILVER JUBILEE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE
 PHILIPPINE STAMPS
 (1940 - 1965)**

Although the Silver Jubilee of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines fell on May 26, 1965, today the Bureau of Posts issues a commemorative set of stamps in honor of the organization which has steadily progressed since May 26, 1940, both nationally and internationally.

The stamps are designed by chief philatelic artist, Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. and the Thomas de la Rue, Ltd. of London, England printed them by heliogravure process with the following particulars:

Kind of issue:	Commemorative
Denomination and Quantities:	3-centavos ---- 5,000,000 6-centavos ---- 10,000,000 20-centavos ---- 5,000,000
Size:	25,7 x 41,1 mm perforation to perforation, horizontally composed
Stamps in a Sheet:	50
Color:	4 colors

Synonymously remembered with the Girl Scouts movement is Mrs. Josefa Llanes Escoda, its founder and first national volunteer executive.

The local Girl Scouts movement was first introduced in the Philippines through American Army and Navy families who organized Girl Scout troops in the bases. Not long after, the idea of Girl Scouting spread and one of the most active woman leaders of that time was Mrs. Josefa Llanes Escoda.

Mrs Escoda was sent to the United States for Girl Scout training, to Europe to observe Guiding (British terminology for Girl Scouting) and to England where she visited the seat of the World Bureau.

On her return she lost no time in putting her Girl Scout training to work. Despite all odds, difficulties and public indifference, her efforts and those of other pioneer members brought about the approval of Commonwealth Act 542 chartering the Girl Scout of the Philippines as a national organization.

Within a year's time the membership of the organization rose to 3,000 and the first National Rally was held at the Manila Grand Opera House in 1941. But with the advent of World War II, the steady progress of the Movement was checked. Some Girl Scout members led by Mrs. Escoda joined the underground work distributing clothes, food and medicine among Filipino soldiers in prison camps and hospitals. For this work, Mrs Escoda was imprisoned and subsequently executed with her husband in an undetermined place.

With the liberation, some charter members took up where they left off and in 1945, reorganization meeting was held. At this meeting, Miss Helena Z. Benitez became national executive.

In October 1946, at Evian, France, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines was added as a tenderfoot member of the World association of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

On May 15, 1947 the first national Girl Scout convention was held in Welfareville.



In 1951, the first National Encampment was held in Talisay Cebu. This was followed in 1952 by the acquisition of a four-hectare national campsite and training center located at San Bartolome, Novaliches. In the same year, Mrs. Pilar H. Lim was elected alternate member of the World Committee at the 14th World Conference and Mariquita S. Castelo, first professional national executive trained in England under the exchange personnel scheme of the World Committee.

Through the years, the growth of the Girl Scout Movement has been tremendous, not only in membership but in all phases of its program. It is now established in all parts of the country with its five regional offices and local headquarters bolstering further the movement to reach more and more girls.

May 26, 1966 marks the culmination of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, definitely and successfully a vital organization for youth.

With the issuance of this stamps, the Bureau of Posts, in a small measure, not only underscores the significance of the contribution of the Girl Scout Movement during its first twenty-five years in the training of our youth for worthy citizenship, but also furthers this vital work and objectives of the Movement for the years ahead.

