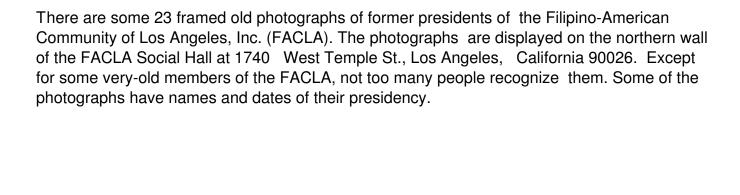
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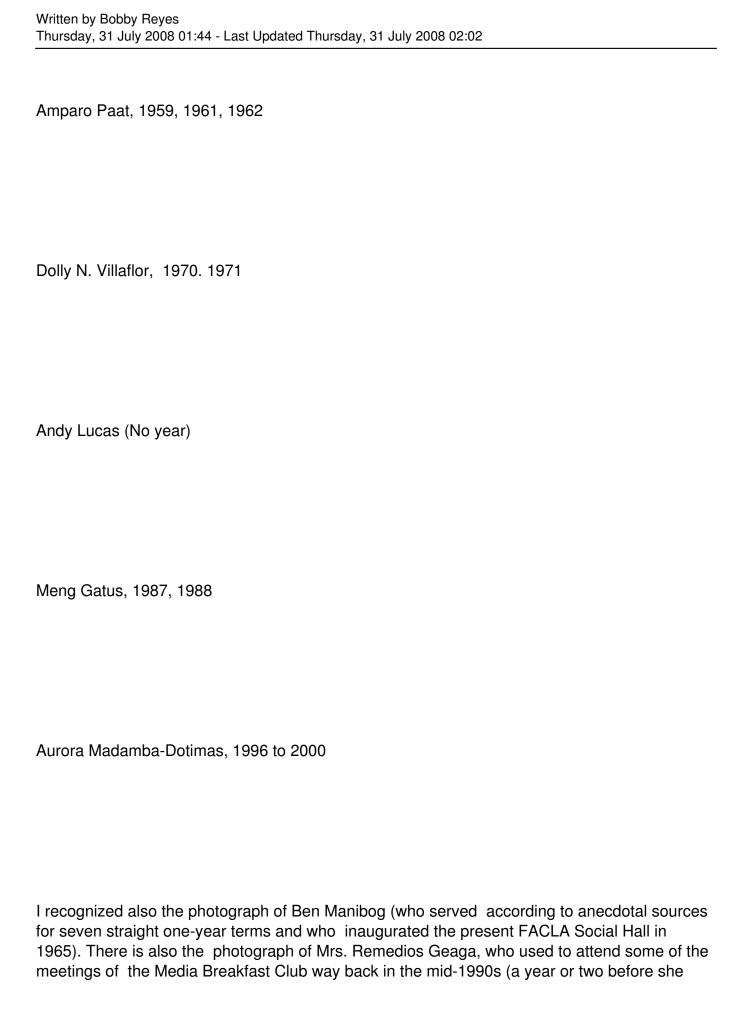


From what I gathered, here are the only names of the FACLA presidents that appear in some of the photographs:

Esteban Dizon, 1947, 1954, 1955, 1957

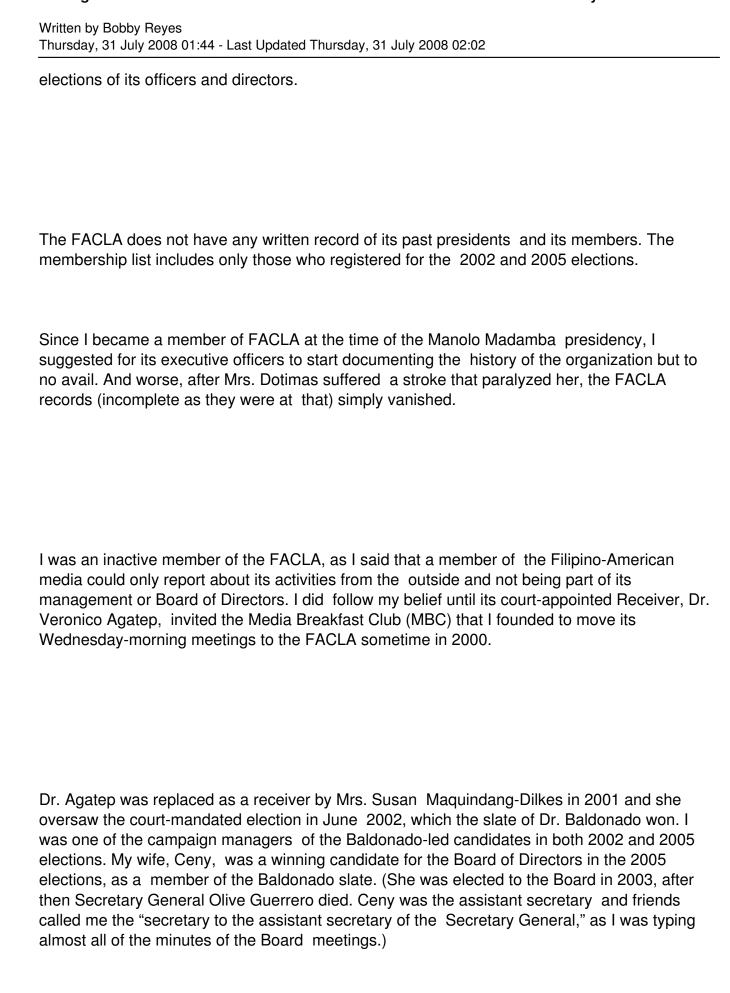
Greg Baculanta, 1953, 1963

Fred Sanches, 1956



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The FACLA was officially registered with the State of California on April 26, 1945. And from thereon, it was essentially run by Ilocano Americans, with controversies marking many of the



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The 2002 elections marked the introduction of a parliamentary-style government for the FACLA. The members elected a 15-person board and the directors would then elect from among themselves the executive officers. Both the 2002 and 2005 elections were non-controversial and there was not even one election protest that arose from both contests.

In January of this year, my wife, Ceny, decided to resign from the Board of the FACLA because of conflict with her work schedule. The Board elected me to take her place on Feb. 7, 2008. The Board then elected me as the new Secretary General on Feb. 21, 2008.

I accepted both positions, as I thought that my project to come up with a book detailing the history of the FACLA could be facilitated if I was in the inner circle of leadership and not viewing it from the outside. I wanted also to implement the plans and programs that my friends and I conceptualized for the FACLA. In short, for about 10 months, we have the window of opportunity to lay down the vision and direction for the new FACLA directors who will be elected in the coming Nov. 16, 2008, election.

In my search for FACLA records and copies of documents, I asked friends and even the children of the past presidents to help. But not much help is coming for reasons that I do not understand. Certainly, coming up with a book about the FACLA will tell also the history of the Filipinos in Los Angeles from the 1940s.

I was able to secure a copy, as found in the Filipino-American Library, of the FACLA Roster

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used for the 1974 (1-9-7-4) Election and the Life Members. Both lists were dated Dec. 2, 1973. The materials were donated by FACLA member, Marie Melgaso, to the Filipino-American Library, as coursed through Ms. Susan Maquindang-Dilkes.

I found also more materials, including copies of news articles circa 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979 and 1980, that highlight the election protests, including the court cases filed at the Los Angeles Superior Court about the said FACLA elections of 1976 and 1977. Also part of the record was a copy of a formal letter from the Office of then Secretary of State March Fong Eu dated Feb. 2, 1993, that ordered the return of the FACLA property by the group of Ms. Leony Lee Cummings to the FACLA.

The quest to turn the oral history of the FACLA into a documented book (or even an e-book) is slowly taking off. It is becoming a reality. I intend to ask the help of fellow writers like Rene Villaroman, Mar de Vera, Romy Borje, Max Alvarez, Larry Pelayo and others to help in annotating the materials and the old clippings that I have gathered so far. I will ask also my fellow charter members of the Philippine History group of Los Angeles to help. Perhaps by December 30, 2008, the work may be presented – at least online in a brand-new FACLA website or even in a FACLA section in the www.mabuhayradio.com.

(To be continued . . .)

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