



Living in and leaving UP

BY ANNA E. REGIDOR

Eduardo Santos and his family were one of the first UP employees to settle in Area 17, about three houses away from Purok Aguinaldo near Moresby Street (now C. P. Garcia Avenue).



Santos. Photo from Santos



Pook Aguineldo at present.
Photo by Jerald DJ. Caranza, UPDIO

“I grew up here sa UP at dito ako nag-aral sa UP ng elementary, high school, at college pero ‘di ako nakatapos. My father used to be the head of the Supply and Property Management Office o SPMO at ang mother ko, housewife,” Santos said.

Some of the prominent personalities they called neighbors were former associate justices, Jose Campos and Ruben Torres, who held positions in both the Ramos and the Arroyo administrations.

Some of his fondest childhood memories were playing at the back of Purok Aguineldo, camping out at night, and fishing near what is now the Natural Sciences Research Institute building.

“Iyon ang kagandahan noon kasi marami talagang puno sa lugar na iyon, wala pang mga structure doon. Kaunti pa lang ang mga tao at ang madalas pumunta roon ay iyong mga nagpapastol ng mga kalabaw na mga taga-Krus na Ligas,” he said.

Santos added that the area where the College of Science complex now sits used to be a golf course with some self-built houses.

“Green na green iyang lahat nang paikot na iyan at mga punong mangga. Ang mga bahay diyan sa Velasquez Street ay sa side lang, kung nasaan ang engineering complex ngayon. Siguro limang bahay lang at ang last house diyan ay iyong Sunrise Cottage,” he said.

He remembers that during summertime, students of the then UP Preparatory School (now UP Integrated School) would compete for privilege cards to access the UP swimming pool.

“Kung gusto mong mag-swimming tuwing hapon at kung hindi ka pa marunong lumangoy, magsabi ka lang kay Mang Levi. Siya ang nagturo sa aking lumangoy. Nasubukan namin iyong skin diving at scuba diving dito sa UP,” he said.

Santos was around 11 or 12 years old during the Diliman Commune, and he clearly remembers some of the incidents that transpired.

“Na-experience ko iyon. Nakita kong nagkaroon ng barricades at iyong mga pulis ayaw papasukin



*Santos and family.
Photo from Santos,
digitally restored
by Jerald DJ. Caranza, UPDIO*



*UP Diliman Commune.
Photo from the ENKWENTRO:
Sa(la)ysay ng Diliman Commune
website ([https://engkwentro.
upd.edu.ph](https://engkwentro.upd.edu.ph))*

iyong mga tao. Nakita ko rin iyong kotse ni [Prop. Inocente] Campos at sinunog ng mga nagprotesta,” he said.

After graduating from the Philippine School of Business Administration, Santos began serving the University in 1974 as part of the Campus Landscaping Office, now the Campus Maintenance Office, where he continued to serve until his retirement in August 2021.

Santos noticed that in the recent years, there have been many changes in UPD, unlike before when he was in his youth.

“Mami-miss mo ngayon iyong mga gusto mong puntahan, iyong ang nilalakaran mo ay ilalim ng puno. Bihira mo nang makita iyan ngayon,” he said.

Santos noted that another challenge that employees like him face is when it is time to separate from the University. While he does have a retirement place in Laguna, Santos said it is difficult to leave as they have been in UPD for a long time and it holds so many good memories.

Despite the uncertainties in the past years, what Santos appreciates most about growing up in UPD is the sense of community they fostered.

“Natutuwa ako dahil karamihan sa mga kababata at kaibigan ko tulad ni Chancellor Nemenzo ay mga successful professional. Masaya ako rito,” Santos ended.