



Pop Ceballos

Jenelle Wiggins

Nehalem Valley People those who came Pop (Sam) Ceballos

by Jenelle Wiggins

Pop (Sam) Ceballos has led an unusually interesting life. He was born in Pototan Iloilo, Philippine in 1900 and as a young man was a star athlete winning 4 gold medals in the Philippine Olympics.

Pop came to the USA in 1919 after World War I and went to work at a cannery in Alaska with a friend. "I made \$300 or \$400 in a few months. That was a lot of money. With the American dollar you can be king in the Philippines. My friend was going to Portland, he said it was good there and I went along. I wanted to finish high school so I got a job as a houseboy, earning \$15 a month to pay for my enrollment. I got my diploma from Jefferson High School."

"I was working at the shipyards when I was offered a job as a houseman, mowing lawns, cleaning windows and other odd jobs from a man named Frank. His partner was a man named Meier. One day he said he wanted me to be his chauffeur. And I didn't even know how to drive! But less than a week later, I was sitting behind the wheel of a big Cadillac. We traveled all over the country including Havana, Cuba and Mexico. We had to pay a boy to sleep under the car in Mexico City so nobody would steal the tires. I had a lot of fun at Mr. Frank's expense."

"When the Japanese invaded the Philippines I went to Salem to enlist. My home town was being invaded and I figured since I knew every nook and cranny of that village I'd make a good soldier. But they told me I was too old. The town I was born in was burnt to the ground in 1942. My Father and Mother ran to the mountains to hide. They took nothing but the clothes on their back and they never came back. Some of my other relatives ran to the rice fields and layed down in the water, breathing through reeds. They burnt all the houses, everything."

"I went back to my village 6 years ago. Everything was so different. There was running water, and electricity and all the girls were wearing short skirts!"

I came to Vernonia for the 1st time in 1920 to visit some Philippine friends who were working at the Mill.

That was before they built the Sunset Highway and you had to go from Banks to Timber and through."

In 1948 my wife died leaving me with 3 children to raise. I was working then and my girl was going to attend St. Mary's and my boys would have attended a boys school. But I didn't want my children to be separated so we moved to Vernonia where we could be a family, and I went to work at the Mill. I liked it that way."

"I left for work at 8 a.m. and the kids left for school. I worked behind the resaw. My kids came home at 3 p.m. and I got home around 4 p.m. We lived out behind the Grade School with about 50 other Philippine families. The sewer lagoon is where our house used to be. Oh boy."

"There were about 100 colored families living behind the Chevy garage and some other nationalities too. There were some Japanese families before I came here. Everybody worked at the Mill. The Mill build some houses and we rented them. Most houses rented for \$5.00. I paid \$8.00 because our house was a little bigger. There was no electricity, or plumbing."

"I went to the head boss and said that I wanted electricity for my family. He said 'No! We can't afford that.' So I went to the city and they said 'No! We can't do that.' It turned out that Mr. Greenman, the owner of the O.A. Mill was also the best friend of Mr. Frank. I went to Mr. Greenman and told him I needed electricity and hot water for my children. I said that I would pay for it. Well, our house was the first to get electricity and water, and eventually the others got hooked up at their own expense. I went right out and bought an electric washer and a stove. Up until then my daughter Reta heated the dishwater on the woodstove."

Pop Ceballos is somewhat of a celebrity, having been written up in the Vernonia Eagle, the Journal and the Oregonian. He got his citizenship at 73 years of age in order to make a trip back to his homeland. Relatives here worried that without it Pop might have trouble returning to the States. Pop presently lives with son

Jamboree Committee meetings

Two meetings of the 1979 Jamboree Committee have already been held, and officers for 1979 have been elected. They are: Chairman - Jerry Keenon; Vice Chairman in charge of Fund Raising activities - Marv Meyers; Vice Chairman in charge of Non-Fund Raising activities - Sharon Linstad; Secretary - Cris Krieger; and Treasurer - Mary Cota.

Many projects are under way. Among them are: the Art Show, the Bowling Tournament, the Trap Shoot, the Teen Dance, the Parade, the Logging Show, the Queen's Court and the Queen's Coronation.

The band for the Teen Dance has been contacted, and because they are an excellent group which will appeal to adults as well as teenagers, it was decided to change the name to the "Jamboree Dance" and invite adults as well as teens. It will be held in the V.H.S. gym on Friday night of the Jamboree.

"Saw Music Sam", who plays a musical saw and made his first appearance in last year's Jamboree has been contacted and will be back again this year.

Holding an "Old Time Fiddlers" Contest during Jamboree was suggested. Chairman Jerry Keenon offered to check into it.

The wood is being gathered for the 1979 Jamboree buttons. They will go on sale April 1st.

Our Jamboree is a huge project, and there are several positions which still need to be filled. The main ones are that of Publicity Chairman and Program Chairman. Anyone with interests in these (or any other) areas should contact Mrs. Cris Krieger, Jamboree Secretary. Input is needed from as many sectors of our community as possible to make this year's Jamboree the best ever!

Sam and family on Bridge Street.

Pop is young for his 79 years. He claims to be the oldest living berry picker in addition to being an avid fisherman. During the fishing season Pop rises at 5 am every morning, gets in his car and heads for the Columbia River. "I haven't caught a fish yet," Pop laments. "But I'm going again tomorrow. This keeps me broke."

"From 1953 to 1960 you could throw your line in the river and always get a fish. That was the time, not now. From December to March I have only seen two fish caught. This is the worst year for salmon fishing. If there's a fish to be caught in Rainier, I'll be the first to catch it. I used to have to give fish away because I caught more than we could eat or fit in the freezer."

Pop puts a cow bell on the tip of his rod and when a fish gets on the line that bell rings like crazy. "My bell hasn't rung since December," Pop sighs. "I go everyday, Nothing."

"In the summer we fish ocean perch. They average 3 pounds and if you smoke them they taste better than salmon. Ben Fowler and I catch those perch by the bucketful."

Pop shares the cooking

Preparation for Jamboree Court

Last Friday the Junior and Senior girls at V.H.S. heard a presentation on the 1979 Jamboree Queen's Court. Former Jamboree Queen, Cris Krieger and former Princess Kathy Osgood told of their experiences on the Court. The rules for the 1979 Court were explained, and all the girls were encouraged to try out. Because the Jamboree buttons which the Princesses sell are the main fund raiser for the Jamboree, the Jamboree Committee has decided to give a \$250.00 college scholarship to the Princess who sells the most buttons this year.

In order to boost button sales, all applicants to the Court will be given the month of April to sell buttons. At the end of the month, the four girls who have sold the most buttons will be declared the 1979 Jamboree Princesses. Runners-up will receive thank-you gifts from the Jamboree Committee.

The advisors for the 1979 Court are Mrs. Ann Holce and Mrs. Gayle Martin. Any girl or parent who wishes additional information should call Ann at 429-2205 or Gayle at 429-8371. When you see a girl selling buttons next month, please consider buying one. Not only do they finance our Jamboree, your button will help that girl become a 1979 Jamboree Princess!

Historical Society

Twenty-five members of the Columbia County Historical Society enjoyed slides shown by Clatskanie's chief historian, Melvina Barr, at the old Mayger Grade School. The theme was "Old Clatskanie before the Castle and Churches."

Next historical meeting will be March 28 at Warren Grange with the usual potluck at noon, followed by a program.

responsibilities with his daughter-in-law Roxanne. A family favorite is Pop's Philippine specialty, Chicken Adobo.

Chicken Adobo

(Beef or pork make a nice variation)
1 chicken $\frac{1}{4}$ C vinegar
1/8 C soy sauce dash of tobasco
1 onion chopped
2 cloves of garlic pressed
2 slices of ginger root

Cut the meat into pieces and place in a large saucepan and cover with water. Add the vinegar, soy sauce, tobasco, chopped onion, garlic and ginger. Bring to a boil and then simmer until meat is almost done. At last add any vegetables you have and cook them until just tender. Serve Adobo on a bed of rice. Delicious!

PCC Painting class

Portland Community College Extension Service will offer a class in Oil Painting Tuesday 27, at 7 p.m. room 4 at the High School. Tony Hyde will be the instructor.

All levels are advised to bring recent work if they have any, and whatever painting materials they have on hand. A supply list will be available for those students who need to purchase materials.

ROACH'S Restaurant

Weekend Special

From 5 pm Friday & Saturday, March 23 & 24

Gary's Special
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\$6⁹⁵

hours monday - thursday • 6am-8pm
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