

# LADIES FROM THE BARRACKS:

## Breakfast at Luneta

by Josie L. Olympia, UPCM '67

For a whole year, we lived in the "Barracks:" nine bunk beds, eighteen female interns, sharing a room (with a few rats) on top of the Outpatient Infirmary. We were a happy bunch; serious in our studies, but "happy go lucky."



It was May 1967, academic studies were over. We were just waiting for the Graduation ceremony. I don't remember if we even planned this outing (we may have, perhaps just a day or so because we had food) but we decided we were going to have some fun, and do something extraordinary: Have Breakfast at Luneta.

I think Norms Camesa, our "Commander," orchestrated this. Whoever was in our room, not on duty, and willing to go, piled up in Norms' VW beetle. The rest got a taxi, and headed out to Luneta just as the sun was coming up. The spread was laid, we ate heartily and watched people go by. We even sang "*Luneta, pugad ng mga bakla at taong walang kuarta. Ayan na ang pulis, ayan na ang pulis, Etc., etc.!*"



According to Nancy's recollection, a policeman did come around and asked where the group was from. We replied "PGH!" And the policeman concluded, "Ahhh! You are nurses!" We just giggled and laughed it off. People must have looked at us funny, but we were having the time of our life. So what if they thought we were crazy?

I had forgotten that we took pictures, but Sister Vicky (aka Modesty Blaise) obviously did, because she had them and sent them to Art. The pictures brought back fond memories of internship, women bonding together, celebrating long years of studies. We all looked young and happy!



Nancy Ramirez, Nicki Nicdao, Joh Olympica, Baby Carlos, Ethel Jongco,  
Vicky Segura, Lyds Ong, Rosie Reyes, Emmie Canlas, Norms Camesa

Missing:

Lil Lim, Glo Castro, Didi Enrile, Lulu Pineda, Velia Capati, Be Lazaro,  
Connie Somera, Cita Lara



50 Years Later, Malarayat 2017