

BELOW: Elizagas in 1969. Pepee and Cristina with the first TV.  
 LEFT: Elizagas in 2000. Grandkids Phoebe, Karim, and Sidney vie for attention in front of Grandma Nini's really big TV.



## Our First Days in America

by Nini Elizaga

We were thrilled to have a brand new apartment with shag carpeting yet, in the latest color --avocado green! Of course the appliances matched the carpet--avocado green. And luxury of luxuries--there was a dishwasher.

But we walked in the February cold--the immigrant couple and their four children--to the 88 cent store for the basic necessities, until we bought THE CAR.

Dan had called the Dodge dealership who sent a man over to pick him up from the apartment. He came home with a brand new Dodge Coronet--our first major purchase in the US of A. We went everywhere in it, especially to Fred Meyer where we could buy everything we needed. When the TV weatherman said that it might snow, we dutifully put on chains over the tires. But it didn't snow, and there we were clanking up and down the hills of Portland. People turned to see who was making so much noise.

Our next major purchase was a 21" TV set. We were Americanized on *Sesame Street*, *Mr. Rogers*, *I Love Lucy*, *Carol Burnett* and *Galloping Gourmet*.

Thirty years later, the immigrant couple have a 63" TV set and 10 grandchildren watching *Sesame Street*. And they put on snow tires when it threatens to snow in Morton, Washington.

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## Bagong Dating (Newly Arrived)

by Nonon Flores

During our first year here in the Windy City--Chicago is called that because of the cold due to the wind--we would take the subway to get to downtown. A lot of bums and homeless people would also be among the passengers. Once I saw a bum-looking guy staring at us, and being quite fearful, I looked the other direction. Then just before the train stopped and he prepared to get off, he came over to us and gave Teresa and Alfie, who were just toddlers at the time, a quarter each. My first thought was that I must have looked like a poor bag lady with two little kids, (*siguro naawa sa amin*) so that he felt sorry for us and gave us those quarters. But now in retrospect I see an inspiring lesson to be learned. That poor homeless person had such a big heart, instead of asking us for money, he had the heart to give, thinking that we had less (if that was the impression we gave him). As Mother Teresa says, the poor have so much love in their heart.

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### LOLO JIM'S PROVERBS:

*Walang init, walang ulan, magaling sa tao, masama sa halaman.* (No heat, no rain, is good for people but bad for crops.)

Very good, very good, not like *bumbay kulubut* (a wrinkled Indian).

*Magaling na magaling, kahit hindi buluk ang ilalim.* (Very good, very good, because the core isn't rotten.)