



Rey, Jovits (with Mother's Day bouquet) Lizzie, Joshua, Ching, Vic.

LIFE IS A ROUND OF GOLF

by Vic David

Since 1998 when the health condition of my wife, Ching, deteriorated from bad to worse, leaving her bedridden, our children and their respective wives in the States decided that every year they would visit their Mom back home staying about 2 weeks.

Nineteen ninety-nine was the most memorable when all our 6 children, 3 of whom have been in the States, were reunited after almost a decade of separation. To commemorate the event, our U.S.-based children hosted a grand party inviting all the P.I.-based Laico families, my only sister's family, our close neighbors and CFM members of Sun Valley. A Mass for the sick celebrated by our parish priest, Fr. Bernard McEachern, highlighted the affair.

This year, 2001, Rey and Jovits were the first to visit us from May 3 to 14. It was definitely a fun-filled and memorable vacation. Our first outing was a whole day enjoyment of most of the amenities of Canyon Woods Resort, the newest 5-star resort in Tagaytay. After touring the 2 modern clubhouses and taking a hearty native lunch, adults and children went to their desires--swimming, jacuzzi, billiards, pingpong, table hockey, movie, and toyland. Everybody so enjoyed the games that we were the only ones left in the game rooms staying up to past 9 in the evening. Rey and Jovits wanted to stay for another day but unfortunately the furnished houses were fully booked. Since it was the peak of summer, they selected Baguio as the ideal place to spend 3 days of their vacation. As in Canyon Woods, the couple invited Toto and Luz and their 4 children, Sarah and her daughter, Nicole, and me. This time Paul and Joy and their 2 children decided not to go.

We arrived in Baguio in the early morning, and immediately checked into a 3-bedroom cottage at Camp John Hay. We had a hearty lunch at Barrio Fiesta restaurant. Then proceeded to Burnham Park spending the time boating, riding bicycles and tri-cycles. We spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying horse-riding at Wright Park. Our dinner was in an American restaurant at Camp John Hay, Lone Star, which proved to be the most expensive in town. For me, Thursday was the best day of my visit to

Baguio. Early in the morning, our driver brought me to Baguio Golf & Country Club to play golf through the kind generosity of Edwin Villanueva. The golf course is first class, comparable to those in the States, reminding me of courses I played in Walnut Creek, Concord and Pittsburg. It is a short course, though, with a par of 61 but with very difficult fairways--very narrow openings and steep up and down terrain. In spite of the fact that I was a total stranger to the course and a high handicapper at that (26 - my PNGC handicap), I had a creditable score of 89 or a net score of 63, just 2 shots over par. Rey's entourage arrived by noon but we played bowling, billiard and pingpong in the game room of the Club for about 3 hours. Then we had an appetizing lunch at a first class Chinese restaurant downtown on Session road. Later, we bought quite a lot of cheap CDs and VCDs while others proceeded to go shopping in the public market. At night, we had a very sumptuous dinner at a native restaurant near Burnham Park. Friday, I woke up very early to play golf again at Camp John Hay golf course. But Mother Nature was against me. A depression started to hit Baguio so the golf course was no longer enjoyable to play. I just toured the newly built Ifugao designed clubhouse and invited our entourage to do the same. Then we spent the rest of the morning playing billiards and mini golf at the game area of the camp. After lunch, we proceeded to return home.

Everybody had just so much of everything that we were so exhausted and lost the appetite for more fun. Toto's daughter even caught flu. I believe all enjoyed gloriously our many adventures. I, for one, consider it as a very heart-warming, beautiful and memorable experience.

Gina and her boy friend, Phil Paras, were the second to come. They stayed with us from August 25 to September 8. A day after their arrival, I invited them together with Paul and Sarah and their families to a 2-day stay at the 5-star Canyon Woods Resort at Tagaytay. On the way to the resort, we stopped and dined at the most popular restaurant in Tagaytay, Josephine, well-known for its mouth-watering native cuisine. Tourists have been attracted to this place not only for its food but also for its breathtaking view of the world renowned Taal volcano within a lake. Phil, who hosted the lunch, ordered too many viands so we had to bring home a number of leftovers. Upon arrival in Canyon Woods, I managed to arrange for a first class 2-bedroom duplex with 4 levels. Most of us enjoyed the heated indoor swimming pool and jacuzzi. After taking our *merienda-sena*, Paul's family left for home leaving only Gina, Phil, Sarah and myself for another day of enjoyment. In the main clubhouse, we enjoyed with gusto the table hockey, billiard and pingpong games. But the top event of the day was our organic lunch deliciously prepared by Sonia's Garden. The bill was a little stiff but the set recipes of appetizer, fresh home-grown salad, and Italian pasta with 6 or 7 side dressings to give us the option to select any mixture that suits our individual taste induced us to eat to the full. For dessert, we were served sweetened fried sweet potato slices, fried saba and other native sweets. To help us digest, we were served Japanese tea mixed with aromatic leaves. On September 7, the eve of Phil's departure, I brought

(continued on page 14)