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Multiracial Ancestors

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Medrano

The family name Medrano is from the Basque Country, which today overlaps Spain and France. The meaning of the surname is unclear and mysterious. One source claims

that it means "place of ferns" in that "edi" is fern and "ano" is abundance. Another source claims that it means "narrow plain."

Whatever is its meaning, one generally agrees that it is a Basque name. And Basque, or Euskara, was believed to be an isolated language, unrelated to the Indo-European languages around it. Recently, in linguistic research, including those of Merritt Ruhlen, Basque would be grouped in the still controversial Dene-Caucasian language family, which would include language families or languages previously thought to be isolates. An arguable list, these linguistic entities are Basque, Caucasian, Burushaski, Sino-Tibetan, Yeniseian, and Na-Dene (an Amerindian stock).

The Indo-European language family is a gigantic family with over 3 billion speakers and encompasses several subfamilies,

including Italic, Germanic, Indo-Iranian, Celtic, Baltic, Slavic, Greek, et cetera. The Kurgan Hypothesis places the original language Proto-Indo-European, PIE, in the Pontic steppe in what is now southern Russia, near the Black Sea, in the year -4000. The speakers of PIE spread around likely on horseback throughout Europe and Asia.

The Uralic language family is a different group that includes Finnish, Estonian, Hungarian, and more. The vicinity of the Ural mountains, in western Russia, is assumed to be the original home or *Urheimat*, Proto-Uralic being spoken there around -7000/-2000.

It is unknown whether my Filipino ancestors inherited the name Medrano from Spanish settlers or they adopted it according to the

Clavería edict in the Philippines. The majority of native Filipinos adopted Hispanic names by decree of Governor General Narciso Clavería in 1849. Administrators created *El Catálogo Alfabético de Apellidos* or "The Book of Surnames" to systematically distribute the names. They did so in order that maintaining tax records could be easier since Filipinos initially did not have surnames and many of the earlier converts of Roman Catholicism adopted names of saints and, in turn, duplication of the same surnames were numerous then. This history is about a lineage of Medranos from the Philippines.

Incidentally, there is an old legendary Circus Medrano (or Cirque Medrano, or Circo Medrano, etc.) in Europe. Along with caravans of wagons, the circus has been circulating the continent.

Hybrids

In traditional anthropology, I and my siblings would be a multiracial mixture of Mongoloid, Caucasoid, and Australoid subspecies. Mongoloid is from Han Chinese. Caucasoid is from Spanish, Greek, Jew, and Portuguese. These ethnic groups are mainly of the Mediterranean variant of the Caucasoid subspecies, but one cannot discount the probability of the Nordic variant playing a rôle because some people in Europe moved from town to town, country to country.

We are also partly Malay—the Filipino Native. Malays are considered Southern Mongoloids. A long time ago, the Southern Mongoloids expanded into South-East Asia. They partly replaced and partly assimilated the native Australoids. My ancestors

travelled very far and wide through the aeons.

Because the Philippines is so close to Indochina, I may have had ancestors from places like Thailand, or even Vietnam. Such traces may be very ancient. In analyzing genealogy, it is important to find relations of neighbouring countries to a home country.

I may have also Mexican genes, inclusive of those of Amerindians of Mexico, because one regularly shipped across the Pacific centuries ago under the Spanish Empire. The Filipino (Tagalog) words *tatay* (father) and *nanay* (mother) are derived from Aztec (Nahuatl), a Mexican native language: *tatl* and *nantl* there.

I suspect that I may have Japanese ancestry, also. As early as the 1100's, records indicate

that some Japanese have been emigrating to the Philippines. A Japanese person who either has emigrated from Japan or who is a descendant of a person who emigrated from Japan is called a *nikkeijin* (日系人).

Most Chinese in the Philippines speak Hokkien, which is a variant of Min Nan Chinese. Hokkien is spoken in southern Fújiàn, Táiwān, and South-East Asia.

Hokkien was a likely ancestral language for my family, although as in Europe, some people in China moved about from town to town, province to province. So generationally, they might have changed from one Chinese toplect to another.

Island South-East Asia (ISEA), where the Philippines is located, is a convergence zone for many peoples during many centuries: Han Chinese, Indochinese, East Indians,

Japanese, Austronesians (Malays), and later Arabs, Portuguese, and Spanish. So, there are varying probabilities of ancestry from all these ethnic groups. Sometimes, in genealogical research, one must work with just probabilities.

The Jewish part of us remains a mystery. If our Jewish ancestors were Sephardic Jews, then they probably came from the Iberian Peninsula, but if they were Ashkenazi Jews, then they probably came from Eastern Europe. Our Jewish strain were most recently traceable from Greece and there was probably mixing betwixt Jews and native Greeks. According to Max I. Dimont's book *Jews, God, and History*, the first Jews came from the city of Ur in Babylonia about the year -2000. By the Greco-Roman times, scholars translated the Old Testament into Greek. They called it the *Septuagint*, derived

from Latin *Interpretatio septuaginta virorum* (Greek, *hē metáphrasis tōn hebdomēkonta*), the "translation of the seventy interpreters." Many Greeks, as well as some people from other ethnic groups all over Europe, converted to Judaism. And so, these Greeks and others were at least some of the ancestors of the Jews who spread into other parts of Europe.

Some of my ancestors in Greece probably hailed from elsewhere in Europe. Perhaps, they were, from Spain, Sephardic Jews whose ancestry could be traced from Greece and so they came back to Greece. Perhaps, they were Ashkenazi Jews from the Ottoman Empire or Prussia or the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or from somewhere there around Central or Eastern Europe. There might have been Slavic family influences from these areas. Also, possible influences from Germanic

tribes have not been discounted.

Sephardic Jews spoke a variant of Spanish called Ladino written in Hebrew letters, whilst Ashkenazi Jews spoke a variant of German called Yiddish also written in Hebrew letters. The revival of the Hebrew language as a spoken mother language started in the late 1800's. A Jew named Dr. L.L. Zamenhof publicized his invented language Esperanto in the year 1887.

The Genographic Project's researcher Spencer Wells has done genetic studies that show that male populations of Lebanon, Palestinian territories, Syria, Malta, Spain, and other areas colonized by ancient Phoenicians, as well as those of the Ashkenazim and other Jewish populations in Europe and elsewhere, including modern Israel, share a common m89 chromosome Y type. This m89

chromosome first emanated more than 40 000 years ago. It has been evidently a lineage marker of 90 to 95 percent of all non-Africans who migrated out of Africa and colonized the fertile lands of the Middle East and beyond.

Thousands of years ago, the original religions of the Semites were polytheistic, together with pantheons of many gods. Probably, like elsewhere on Earth at that time, they were forms of Animism. Proto-Judaism was such and consisted of Henotheism, the belief in a chief god of the tribe or family and in other gods who were not chief to them, but chief of other peoples.

Historians might argue whether my ancestors from Greece were really Greek or Jewish. If such would be contentious, then one should note that Italy was, around the year -0550,

before the height of the Roman Empire, a Greek colony. The Etruscans who were there already long before, the Phoenicians who also settled, and the Greek colonists together combined to create the Italic people.

Conjoined with these assimilated tribes were the original Italic peoples, including the Oscans, the Umbrians, and the dominating Latins, as well as the Celts in the north. Italy and Greece shared family lineages throughout the centuries. Italian history was really complicated, like the rest of Europe's.

Spain, colonized by Italic people, in ancient times was part of the Roman Empire, then a vast pagan realm of many gods. The Basques and other tribes were, perhaps since the last Ice Age, already established in Spain, when those Romans came. Centuries later, the whole empire converted to Roman Catholicism, then referred to as Nicene

Christianity, in the year 0380 by the Edict of Thessalonica. Much later, Spain became a land of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Roman Catholicism. Under Islamic rule from the 8th century to the 15th century, there was religious tolerance about the Jews and Roman Catholics. So who knows? We may also have had Arab ancestors from the distant past. It was very likely. In later years of the history, after Spain reverted to Roman Catholicism, during colonization, in the vast Ibero-America and the Philippines, there were many Crypto-Jews. These people were Jews who practiced Judaism in secret. According to Claudia Roden's *The Food of Spain*, recent genetic investigations have revealed that at least 20 percent of Spaniards today have Jewish ancestry.

Our Semitic ancestors, Arabs or Jews, whatever they might have been, could be

traceable to faraway places like Ancient Egypt or Babylonia. Because of the fact that the Medrano family owned a circus, would Gypsies also play a rôle in the genealogy? Gypsies came from India into most parts of Europe many centuries ago. Gypsies often worked in the circus and perhaps the family hired some. Currently, without documentation, such would only be speculation.

Genetics and anthropology are complex subjects. It is probably just easier to say, using traditional anthropological terminology, that we are Caucasoid and Mongoloid with some Australoid admixture. A little bit of Negroid from many generations or many centuries ago may be also likely. It was probable that these Negroids, desert people, came from North Africa. Or, if from more recent generations, they probably came

from parts of the Hispanic Empire as Cuba, ultimately perhaps from jungle-filled West Africa. Ambiguous labels that may apply to my family are Eurasian, mestizo, or mulatto.

Ultimately, I have come to accept that I have ancestry from all 4 major human subspecies, the Caucasoid, the Mongoloid, the Negroid, and the Australoid. So, a concocted racial term for me may be "Holoid" from the Greek *holos*, "whole."

The categorization of subspecies into those 4 is controversial even today because some researchers believe that there may be more than 4 human subspecies, sometimes called "races." For example, it is polemic whether to include Amerindians ("Native Indians") into the Mongoloid category. Peter Brown, a researcher, claims that the origin of the Mongoloid phenotype remains unknown, and

could, highly controversially, even lie in the New World. If that not impossible theory were true, it would reverse the commonly accepted Asia-to-Americas Mongoloid migration flow into Americas-to-Asia. Uneven bidirectional flow is not discounted, of course. Moreover, T. Tirado believes that, as many experts claim, East Asians and Amerindians descended from a common Proto-Mongoloid race as late as 12 000 years ago.

Dr. Akazawa Takeru opines that there are Neo-Mongoloids and Paleo-Mongoloids. The more cold-adapted Neo-Mongoloids include Chinese, Buryats, Eskimos, and Chukchi. The more warm-adapted Paleo-Mongoloids include Burmese, Filipinos, Polynesians, Jōmon, and Amerindians. The Jōmon were people in Japan in ancient times (the years -14000/ -00300). The Yayoi who came after

them were Neo-Mongoloids (the years -0300/+0300). I opine that Japanese now are really a combination of Neo-Mongoloids and Paleo-Mongoloids with a slight admixture of Caucasoid. The Ainu are said to descend from the Jōmon, but there is speculation of whether they are are more Caucasoid with Australoid admixture. Some Japanese know that Nagasaki and some other places were peppered with numerous Portuguese-Japanese mestizos. (The Portuguese are Caucasoids.)

There is a theory, and there is even some evidence, that Proto-Australoids arrived in the Americas, across the then existing Bering land bridge around the year -52 000, before the Mongoloids arrived. These first ancient peoples are called the Pre-Siberian American Aborigines. The Great Coastal Migration of Proto-Australoids began around

South-East Asia, then traversed East Asia and North Asia into the Americas. (Before this migration, they perhaps moved out of Africa around the year -60 000 and traversed the Indian subcontinent as they attained Australia around -50 000.) The racial makeup of the Pre-Columbian Amerindians and Eskimos might have been such that besides their dominant Mongoloid heritage, they might have had already traces of Caucasoid or Australoid genes. Racial purity, even in prehistoric times, might have been already an ambiguous concept.

Researchers often agree that the *Homo sapiens* species is about 200 000 years old. The genus *Homo* itself is about 2.3 to 2.4 million years old, with the ultimate origin of Africa.

Interestingly, Douglas Futuyma believes that Mongoloids diverged 41 000 years ago from a common Caucasoid-Mongoloid group, which diverged from Negroids 110 000 years ago. The divergence of the Australoids from the Caucasoid-Mongoloid group happened around 62 000 to 75 000 years ago.

(The numbers are just estimates. Intermediate human forms existed at divergence.)

Racial purity is gradient mathematics. It is like the temperature on a thermometer or the varying colour of litmus paper to test for alkalinity-acidity.

Southern Mongoloids ("Austronesians") are mostly Mongoloids with Australoid admixture. They are common in Island South-East Asia (ISEA) and the Pacific

Islands. From anthropological findings, the home or *Urheimat* of Proto-Austronesian, PAN, around the year -4000 is supposedly Taiwan, from where islanders switched from cereal agriculture to maritime foraging and spread eventually southwards to the Philippines and to what are now the Malay areas and down to New Zealand, westwards to Madagascar near East Africa, and eastwards to Hawaii, Tahiti, and to the rest of the Pacific. Eventually, PAN diverged into the Austronesian languages such as Tagalog, Indonesian, Hawaiian, Tahitian, Samoan, Maori, and Malagasy.

East Indians are mostly Mediterranean Caucasoids with Australoid admixture. But up farther north in Jammu and Kashmir, in Himachal Pradesh, in Uttarakhand (Uttaranchal), in Orissa, in West Bengal, in Assam, and in other states, some people have

Mongoloid genes. Northern India is full of Indo-European languages such as Hindi and Punjabi, but the south is full of Dravidian languages, seemingly unrelated to Indo-European. Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam (not Malay) are examples of Dravidian. The people in the south are more Australoid, more specifically Veddoid, in appearance, having blackish skin. Due to the lack of research, the grammar, time, and location of the mysterious Proto-Dravidian, the parent of all Dravidian languages, are still unknown. The prevailing dominance in northern India of Indo-European was a result of the Aryan invasion.

Most Mexicans today are hybrids of Amerindians and Mediterranean Caucasoids. In Mexico, amongst the multitudinous Amerindian-Mediterranean mestizos are some "pure" Amerindians. Amerindians

tend to look like some Malay types (Austronesians) in Asia, but look a bit different. Sometimes, they are, in fact, squinty-eyed, but not always. Some Mediterraneans carry traces of Negroid and/or Australoid genes from the long past in the Old World, and these traces were passed on to many Mexicans in the New World. The story of Mexico is similar for other Latin American countries like Peru.

In Brazil, in the year 2008, 48.43% of the population (about 92 million) described themselves as White; 43.80% (about 83 million) as Brown (*pardos*, Multiracial); 6.84% (about 13 million) as Black; 0.58% (about 1.1 million) as Asian; and 0.28% (about 536 thousand) as Amerindian (*indígena*, Indigenous), whilst 0.07% (about 130 thousand) had no racial declaration. Whites (Caucasoids) are mostly

Mediterraneans, but also include immigrant groups like Germans, who are Nordic. In Brazil, my racial category is Brown (Multiracial), or even Asian. It depends on perspective, but Brown is more accurate. In Brazil, many of those with Japanese ancestry have moved on to the Brown category due to mixing and are not counted as Asians. I may be in a similar situation.

In most of the world, blackish hair is more usual and seems to be the original hair colour of humanity. Amongst Caucasoids, lighter hair colours, such as blond, brunette, and red, were recent mutations from well over 10 000 years ago. Very dark brown and jet-black are variations of blackish hair. Interestingly, blackish hair also can be slightly reddish (like mine), soft black, or blue-black. Amongst Europeans, the original Celts and many Southern Europeans have

blackish hair. Also, in Eastern Europe, it is more common. These Europeans may be classified as Mediterranean Caucasoids, as opposed to the lighter-haired Nordic Caucasoids. The Mediterranean-Nordic dichotomy is a gradient.

Amongst Australoids of Australia, blondism occurs in some areas, especially in central Australia. The blond hair often turns brownish black as the Australoid gets older, but many do retain it through adulthood. At times, it looks reddish. I conjecture that this phenomenon of lighter hair colour in Australia must be very ancient.

It is likely that not all my ancestors had blackish hair. As with all people, my genealogy would look really complicated if taken back many, many generations. My

family looks like the convergence of humanity, which diverged into different subspecies many thousands of years back.

When I look at my bearded face and body in the mirror, I tend to think nowadays that I look like a "slanty-eyed mulatto." My mother, Belinda, and my auntie, Tita Nedy, both look like light-skinned mulattas. The ancient trade routes of the Hispanic Empire might be relevant. Maybe it was Cuba? Who knows? (A Negroid is different from an Australoid.) Filipinos are not often aware of their genetic make-up because they do not know their genealogy fully.

Years ago, at a rustic boutique called Penelope's on Commercial Drive in Vancouver, B.C., a Hispanic man said to me obliquely, "¡Eres mulato!" (You are a

mulatto!). But at that time, psychologically, I had a different racial identity.

However, when I turn my head and body at different angles, I feel that I look more Mexican than Cuban. In Spanish, "¡Soy mestizo!" (I am a mestizo!) The fact that I am quadriracial at least, being Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Negroid, and Australoid, makes me into a Kaleidoscope Man. (I am like many Latinos.)

Or, I am like a chameleon.

Maternal Ties

The Spanish Empire and Crown granted land to my great-great-grandfather, the Spaniard Captain Ramón Palacios, as a reward for his

great servitude. It was in the faraway colony of the Philippines, *Las Islas Filipinas*. Ramón, an aristocrat, embarked from Spain to his new home sometime in the 1800's. He resided in the region of Batangas and married a Filipina, María Aguirre. They had a daughter named Concepción 'Concha' Aguirre Palacios. Concha was small in stature and a gentle *señorita*. She married Andrés Talambiras, a wealthy textile merchant and wholesaler of men's clothes. He was from Athens, Greece. Andrés was from a family of five children. His parents, Dimitri Talambiras and Keratsu Stamelos, lived in Greece. It is said that the hometown was Kimi on the island of Évia in Greece.

The other brothers of my great-grandfather Andrés Talambiras relocated themselves in other lands, including Panama, so that I may have relatives in Latin America even to

this day.

Before the birth of his daughter Josefa Palacios Talambiras, Andrés left for New York, USA, never to come back. His wife, Concha, remained in the Philippines. Her domineering older brother, Juan Aguirre Palacios, discouraged her from going. Juan intercepted and never gave the tickets that Andrés had sent for Concha and their two children, Josefa and Ramón. Most of the letters that Andrés had sent Concha never reached her.

Andrés remarried in America, to a Jewish woman. About his religion, hearsay proclaims him of Greek Orthodox faith, but he was really a Jew.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, Josefa grew up under her wealthy mother's protective

umbrella and became accustomed to the quiescent pace of life. Josefa studied fine arts in Holy Ghost College, a Roman Catholic institution.

Josefa married an intelligent and hard-working man, Macario Aguilera Medrano. He was a general practitioner and in his time was one of the top achievers of the medical board examinations. During World War II, he served as a medical officer for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and participated in the Bataan Death March. In later years, he would take up acupuncture and Oriental medicine. His favourite games included betting in sabong or cock-fighting matches and playing mah-jong.

Macario's father, Pedro Medrano, was a landowner, horse-trainer, and an advisor to the barrio (village) people. Macario's mother,

Florencia Aguilera, was a beautiful and complacent woman. Macario, who did not even know the names and origins of his own grandparents, likely had some Chinese ancestors, aside from Filipino ones, judging from his physical appearance.

Josefa and Macario raised four children: Belinda, Bella, Edgardo, and Alberto. Belinda was Miss Luzón of 1958 and was runner-up for Miss Philippines in the same year. She studied Business Administration in the University of the Philippines. She became the first woman bank manager of one of the biggest banks in South-East Asia, the Far East Bank. Upon immigrating to Canada in 1976, she worked for Royal Bank until 1997, when she finally retired.

Paternal Ties

In 1898, Spain lost a war with the United States. The Philippines came under American administration. Insurrections followed. During the Filipino-American War, Captain Mariano Medrano fought under General Malvar. Malvar was the last general to surrender to the Americans. Although the general laid down his arms, the valiant Mariano continued to defy the Americans, but mysteriously he disappeared from the scene. His son, Victorino Medrano, strove to find him for years. Fruitless in his search, he decided to settle down and marry.

On the 2nd of April of 1913, nature blessed the young couple, Victorino Medrano and Margarita Achico, with their first child, a son, named Francisco Aguirre Medrano. Victorino was at the time a busy man,

working as a civil engineer for the Batangas Provincial Government in the Philippines. Margarita was only 15. It was mainly Francisco's maternal grandparents, Fernanda Venturina Achico and Alejandro Aguirre, who raised him. Alejandro's mother, Lim Dy Co, was of Chinese descent. Fernanda's father had a surname, Achico, which was probably also of Chinese origin. This surname, it is said, was originally "Chico," but inheritors later prefixed it with an "A" because a chico was coincidentally a kind of fruit in the Filipino vernacular language.

Francisco grew to be a very active, industrious boy. In school, he excelled both academically and athletically. He cherished the classic proverb, *Mens sana in corpore sano* (a sound mind in a sound body).

Alongside being a great orator, debater, and journalist, he was also a judo master, fencing

master, marksman, amateur boxing champion, exceptional swimmer, tennis player, and even a superb painter and dancer. He also was a master of *arnis de mano*, a Filipino martial art. He graduated as one of the most highly acclaimed students from San Beda College of Manila.

Francisco went on to study law in the University of the Philippines in Manila. There, he fell in love with Lydia Ramos Rillo, who was studying to be a teacher. On the 24th of September of 1934, the lovers eloped and married at the Manila Justice and Peace. The affair was without the consent of the bride's wealthy parents, Salvador Benigno Apacible Rillo and Nazaria Cudiamat Ramos. Incidentally, Tiangco and Inciong are Chinese surnames that appear in Lydia's lineage. One of her ancestors from the 1700's, Pedro Bohai, was

from Portugal. Perhaps, Macau, then a Portuguese colony in China, was really a stepping-stone for Portuguese ancestors, who might even have intermarried with local Chinese.

Salvador was a collector of the Bureau of Government Internal Revenue and a heavy investor of mining stocks. He was well-educated and spoke Spanish, English, and Tagalog with equal fluency. Lydia's mother, Nazaria, was an industrious, strong-willed woman. She was known for being an avid card game player. Salvador's father, Santiago Rillo, was a soldier. During the late 1800's, he fought amongst the revolutionary forces known as the *Kátaástaásang Kágalánggalángang Katipunan (KKK)* against the corrupt Spanish rulers. Chivalry ran in the family. Santiago also was one of the signers of the Malolos Constitution,

promulgated on the 21st of January of 1899. That constitution laid the foundation of President Emilio Aguinaldo's short-lived independent republic betwixt Spanish rulers and the new American invaders.

After marriage, Lydia graduated and because of her extraordinary command of the English language, she soon became the proud head of the English Department of the highly reputed Batangas High School. Meanwhile, the husband Francisco worked as a public servant in Manila. He graduated and earned a law degree in 1941. Ill-fated, he would be unable to take his bar examinations as that same year was the dawning of World War II.

The Japanese forces ransacked and occupied the Islands. They beat the American and Filipino forces at Bataan. Francisco aborted all his plans. To protect his family, he had

them move about in the secluded jungles. Patriotism shot through the veins of Francisco. Gallantly, he formed an underground "guerrilla" movement with himself ranked as colonel. The Japanese declared him a wanted man.

Coincidentally, Francisco's father-in-law, Salvador, also involved himself in another resistance movement in which he also ranked as colonel. Unfortunately, the Japanese captured him. They brutally tortured and beat him with a metal pipe. It resulted in a partial indentation of his skull. He would be held as prisoner in Fort Santiago until American Liberation.

As the war continued, the Japanese appointed a Filipino president, José P. Laurel, Sr., who entrusted Francisco as presidential aide. Tragically, the Japanese

intelligence, the Kempitai, identified Francisco one day through an informant. They arrested him. They pegged him to the ground to roast under the tropical sun amongst other captives. The President reasoned with the Japanese and they fortunately spared Francisco's life.

When the Americans came for the Liberation, fearless Francisco rejoined his brave soldiers to help annihilate the invaders. All this time, his wife and family lost contact with him and thought he was already dead. A long search by Lydia proved it otherwise.

After the hostilities, Francisco's political life persevered. He ran for governor of Batangas. He became Provincial Secretary. In 1946, he helped an old friend, Manuel Roxas, campaign for and win presidency. The new President appointed him General Manager of

the National Development Company.

Francisco organized the Civilian Guards to keep peace and order. Then triumphantly in 1948, he fought against the communist-led peasant uprising of the Hukbalaháp, a guerrilla movement.

In 1949 after the fatal heart attack of President Roxas, an election was in order. Francisco became chief security officer for Former President José P. Laurel, who was campaigning for presidency against the incumbent Elpidio Quirino. Quirino succeeded in winning presidency. This event angered Francisco and he re-mobilized his guerrilla forces for an armed revolution. He stated a manifesto to the government and the Filipino people:

"I appeal to all freedom and liberty loving people to unite and fight for the very things

our forebears fought to be free from Spanish domination and for the sake of the memory of those unknown soldiers who had died in the battlefields of Bataan and Corregidor to conserve our democratic institutions for our posterity."

General Medrano's forces soon pressed from all sides and his family pursued by enemies through swamp and jungle, the situation became critical. After 45 days of fighting, General Medrano, whose followers' spirits had waned and grown weary, accepted amnesty on his own terms. They made truce with the enemy. Thus the frustrated Francisco came to the resplendent Malacañang Palace and met President Quirino personally.

After the truce, the government re-appointed General Medrano as the chief of the

administrative department of the National Development Company. Years later, Francisco would successfully campaign for President García's presidency. He also became Chief of Import Central Commission, General Manager of the Manila Port Service, and Vice President of the International Ports Managers Association. After many years of political service and sacrifice for his country, he would retire peacefully in 1963 to engage in private business which included traditional handicrafts for export. He and Lydia moved to California, USA, in the 1980's. He died on the 21st of February of 1987.

Francisco and Lydia had four children: Virginia, Mila, Frank, and Viveca. Due to the ill health of Frank's mother, his great-grandparents Fernanda Venturina Achico and Alejandro Aguirre nurtured Frank for the first three years whilst in Batangas. Wars

and his father's involvement in risky politics constantly disrupted Frank's education. His mother and his sisters taught him the three R's whilst hiding in the jungles. At a tender age, he led an adventurous life and experienced the tragedies of war. He went to high school in Manila at a Roman Catholic private school, San Beda. Frank's real ambition was to be a pilot, but under his father's guidance, he took up preparatory law. Truly, his real talents lay in music and singing. He gradually neglected his studies as he decided to go to work. Soon enough, the world of business engulfed him, occupying high positions in various companies involved in light steel, textiles, and agriculture. He was an assistant manager of the American-owned California Manufacturing, Inc., and later its marketing arm, California Sales Corporation, which he started up. He also started up Monterrey Farms, Inc., the multi-

billion-peso agribusiness industry later owned by San Miguel Brewery. He was an assistant to the vice-president on finance of Synthetic Textile Manufactures, Inc., and was also the assistant general manager of Filipinas Electro-Industrial Corporation.

Frank married Belinda Medrano on the 7th of September of 1958, in an elaborate ceremony in Saint Augustine Church in Manila. In 1968, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Commerce with Management as a major. With Belinda, he raised three children: Fernando Gerardo Medrano, Viktor Emmanuel Medrano, and Paolo Franco Medrano. The whole family immigrated to Canada and landed there on the 16th of June of 1976. A few years after their arrival, Frank and Belinda converted from the Roman Catholic faith to a Protestant

faith under the guidance of Baptist Filipino expatriates.

In his earlier years in Canada, Frank would involve himself with businesses dealing with imported handicrafts and various foodstuffs. He was U.S. sales manager for an American-owned food manufacturing company based in British Columbia. His territory was the entire West Coast of the United States and Hawaii. In his later years in Canada, preparing for his retirement, Frank would take up computer applications and supervise a laboratory for students who study English as a second language.

Frank and Belinda's son, Fernando, married Lucinda Atwood, of English ancestry, in a secular ceremony in their home on the 4th of May of 1997. In the year 1998, their daughter, Tria Josefa Lucinda Jill Atwood

Medrano, was born. In the year 2000, their daughter, Calla Belinda Lydia May Atwood Medrano, was born.

Genealogical Gratitudes

In the Filipino custom of naming, the format of a full name is generally:

{first name} {middle names if any} {mother's surname} {father's surname}.

For example, the father of Belinda Talambiras Medrano is Macario Aguilera Medrano and her mother is Josefa Palacios Talambiras; Belinda got "Talambiras" from the mother and "Medrano" from the father. (Interestingly, my own full name is actually Victor Emmanuel Medrano Medrano. Nonong is my nickname.)

Due to American influence, generally

Filipinos do not use accents on their names. For example, the name Concepción is written just Concepcion. By using accents, the author tries to be traditional in this article.

"Lolo" means grandfather in Filipino. And "Lola" means grandmother. For example, "Lola Bebe" is Grandma Bebe.

Special thanks go to everyone who supplied documents and other information about the family, especially to my grandmother Lydia Medrano née Rillo and to Vivian Cruz née Talambiras (daughter of Ramón Palacios Talambiras).

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(I used here the ISO 8601 standard for dates and times.

The previous family sections started in a Web-based form in 2002, but I created a paper draft for a genealogical project in high school during the 1980's. Work on it has been on ongoing since then.)