



MANY PATTAYAN'S PREFERRED PLAYGROUND

A very good website about Angeles City in the Philippines is www.harrythehorse.com Here is one of Harry's latest postings.

July has arrived and that means the official start of the rainy season which will be with us until the end of October. The rains are welcome as it will cool things off a bit but at times there can be so much rain that things get a bit gloomy. I figured that we needed a poster boy to represent those depressing days of too much rain so I dug up this photo of Carl, who is a regular customer of the Hang-out. Carl has been around Angeles City for a long time and his claim to fame is that he "appropriated" a thermometer from the old Clark Hospital when the base was here. You can always meet Carl and a bunch of other interesting folk whenever you visit the Hang-out on Perimeter Road right next to Honey-Kos

and Thi-Hi. Rain or shine this is the place to meet, and if you don't feel too good, well, see Carl, he loves to use that old thermometer, eh, it's an oral one not the other!

The elections are over and I am not sure we will know who the new Mayor is before this column goes to print. Whatever the result I do not expect any major changes within the entertainment area but then we will have to wait and see which way the wind will be blowing.

I have to address something that is to be taken very seriously. Guys, when you visit Angeles City and walk around the entertainment area that extends from Friendship to Fields Ave, please, please, do not stop and talk to any Filipino that approaches you and says that he knows you from your hotel or just wants to inform you of a new Club that has

opened. They will always be inviting you to go somewhere in a tricycle that conveniently pulls up at his signal. This Filipino will be decently dressed and can speak fluent English but if you get in that tricycle you will be taken to a house in the Marisol Subdivision which is located just over the Abacan bridge and then you will find yourself in a card game in which you will be hustled for a lot of money. There are many stories that I could relate but believe me, these guys are slick and they use fear tactics to get money out of you. I have written about this before and it was a big objective of the ACTA Tourist Police to get rid of these crooks on Fields Ave. We did have success in getting them out of the area but they moved along Perimeter Road and also in the Diamond area but the Tourist Police kept after them. Regretfully, since the Tourist Police were assimilated

into the PNP as Police Aides and their numbers reduced we are now witnessing an upsurge in this activity and it does not appear that the police are doing much to go after these "crocodiles". The police know who they are, they have photographs of them and they know where the houses are that they use for their scam. The Tourist Police also have a file of photographs on their computer and victims have identified the culprits. They work on fear and in the past they have never physically harmed anyone but, last month one victim who tried to get away from the house he was taken to had a gun pulled on him as he tried to get out of the locked gate. They are getting more brazen and more dangerous and the perception is that some police may be protecting them because otherwise, it would be very easy to put them out of

business. Some victims who were willing to go to the police found that the police response was very lukewarm with little or no investigation. These recent incidents have been reported to the City Director and ACTA have appealed to him for some aggressive actions in cleaning up this threat to tourists and residents alike. There should be a zero tolerance towards these cowards who prey on innocent tourists and paint a negative picture of Angeles City. Most hotels have warning notices posted about this scam but one victim relayed to me that he had been warned about this scam by a friend the day before. Despite this warning, he was hung over a bit the next morning and went out on an errand for his wife and fell for the scam because his brain was still a bit fizzled in the morning and he just forgot the warning until it was too late. This subject will be taken up with the new Mayor and the City Director as soon as all this

election hype dies down and business returns to normal. Meanwhile, Guys, be careful, be alert and do not fall for this scam and do not carry more money with you than you need for one particular day. These Filipino guys that "know you" are evil scumbags so just keep on walking away and do not converse with them at all. By the way, the tricycles they use usually never have a license plate attached.

If you are victimized report directly to the PNP Tourist Police Aide office at 151 Fields Ave or call 625-9999 BEFORE going to a police station. If you are dropped at your hotel in order for you to get more cash for money you supposedly owe, once inside the hotel notify the management and call the Tourist Police hotline. Angeles City is a great safe place to visit as long as you are forewarned of some of the pitfalls that could cause you a lot of trouble.



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