



JUAN MALIMANGA

CHAMORRO LANGUAGE PIONEER

Clotilde Gould created "Juan Malimanga," launched Chamorro studies

By Amritha Alladi

Pacific Daily News
aalladi@guampdn.com

For her mother's 60th birthday party, Sandy Gould Yow arranged an elaborate dinner at Top O' the Mar, including a live musical performance and a roast by her dear friend, Tony Lamorena.

But by the end of the night, Clotilde Gould was the one providing the entertainment.

"She ended up taking the microphone and told this hysterical joke in Chamorro," remembers Yow of that May night in 1990. "Everyone was tearing up."

Gould, a beloved Chamorro storyteller and pioneer of the island's Chamorro studies programs, had a "riotous" sense of humor that was uncharacteristic of her contemporaries.

"In that way, she was very edgy. ... For a woman who was born in 1930, she did a lot of things that were out of the box," Yow said.

Trailblazer

Gould grew up in pre-war Hagåtña with her six brothers and sisters. World War II caused a break in her high school education, but she graduated from George Washington Senior High School in her early 20s with a scholarship to Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Illinois. The 1950s were a time when scholarships for women were very rare, according to Yow.

"She was always very independent," Yow said.

College was the first time Gould stepped foot off the island. In the dormitories, she would keep her roommates engaged with ghost stories, but her knack for conjuring tall-tales started much earlier than that.

Gould would rile the neighborhood kids, whom she baby-sat, with her imagination, a skill she picked up from her grandmother, her most influential role model, according to Yow.

"She would get all the kids absolutely crazy," Yow said.

Gould returned to the island after college in 1954 to teach at Agana Jr. High School. In 1972, she joined the Department of Education to become the first administrator for its Chamorro Studies Division, according to Pacific Daily News files. Yow said DOE wanted to incorporate a Chamorro curriculum into the public elemen-



Pacific Daily News file photo

'Very independent': Clotilde Gould looks over some Chamorro language instructional material in this PDN file photo from July 1978. Gould served as the administrator of Chamorro Studies and Special Projects in the Guam Department of Education.

tary school system, for which Gould was asked to create the curriculum and train the teachers, thanks to her Chamorro proficiency.

Juan Malimanga

Gould was approached by then-PDN Managing Editor John Simpson in 1981 to translate Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" comic strip into Chamorro; however Gould decided Chamorro humor deserved a cartoon of its own. Hence Juan Malimanga, based off of Spanish-era Chamorro prankster Juan Mala, was conceived.

"(The) humor was not to just be funny, it was also meant to make you think," UOG President Robert Underwood remembers.

"With the comic strip, she was able to voice out her opinion on what was happening in Guam in a very funny way," agrees Roger G. Faustino, the original artist for the Juan Malimanga comic strip.

Gould had asked Faustino, then a graphic artist for Department of Education's Chamorro Studies Division, to join in on the project.

"I was assigned the task of creating the Juan Malimanga characters, and since the task was totally different from what I was doing every day, ... I found it a big challenge to my creative ability as an artist," Faustino said.

He had received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, where he worked as an illustrator for sev-



COMING TOMORROW
JUAN MALIMANGA GOES TO UOG

eral years.

"One of my challenges in conceptualizing the images was how to visualize each of the Juan Malimanga characters based on how it was described to me, and draw the characters in cartoon," Faustino said.

According to University of Guam associate arts professor Ric Castro, some of the characters exhibit Faustino-like traits.

"I always thought the characters looked like him. I don't know if Clotilde meant that to be," Castro said. "A lot of artists do that: there's a little

piece of them in terms of the features."

Life after Juan

Despite the challenges in meeting deadlines, creating fresh scenes and maintaining reader interest, Faustino said the Malimanga project gave him complete satisfaction in his career. He said he was always tied to the phrase, "He's the one doing the drawings of Juan Malimanga."

Gould, too, was widely recognized for her contributions.

She retired from DOE in 1989, and was inducted into the Guam Educators Hall of Fame in 1992.

Additionally, the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency granted her the title "master storyteller."

But among all of her accomplishments, Yow said her mother got the most joy from her contribution to developing Chamorro studies programs on the island.

"Her legacy was being a true Chamorro who cares so much about the revival of Chamorro culture," Faustino said.

At 66, her only wish was to live to see her grandchildren, Yow said. Before her death in 2002, Gould was finally able to with the birth of Silas and Bella Yow, now 14 and 9 years old, respectively.

"I have lived such a full life," Yow remembers her mother saying. "I have absolutely no regrets."