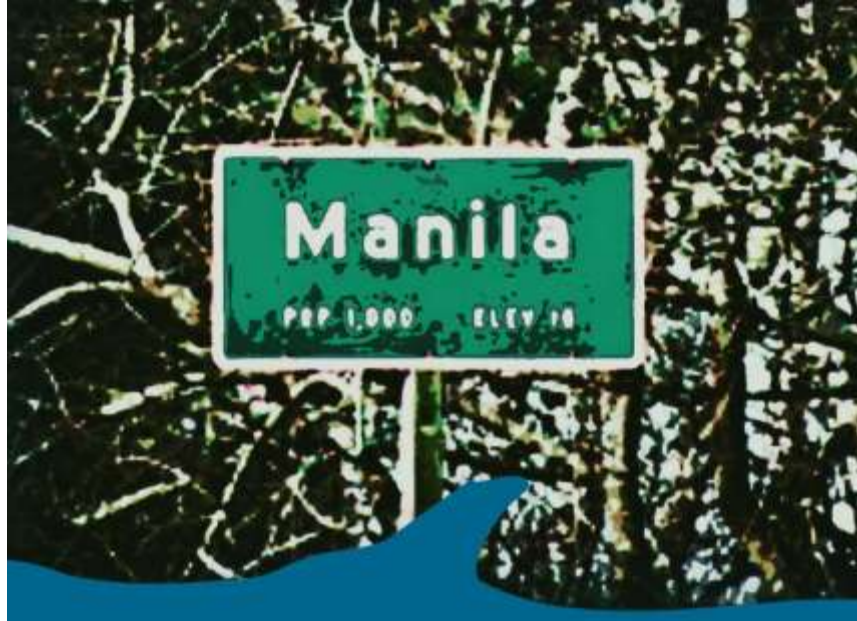


another pSecret pSociety pshort pstory



The Other Manila by Mike Bozart (Agent 33) | July 2017

The Other Manila

by Mike Bozart

© 2017 Mike Bozart

On a delightfully mild – weather-almanac-indicated-typical 61° (Fahrenheit; 16° Celsius) – ovation-overlapped overcast June afternoon, a Friday in 2017, Monique (Agent 32) and I (Agent 33) found ourselves on an RTS (Redwood Transit System) bus, headed to Eureka from ACV (the Eureka-Arcata airport) via California State Route 255. As we started to curve around the northwestern corner of Prussian blue Arcata Bay, I remembered that the little community of Manila lay just ahead. With Monique being a Filipina, I knew that she would be interested in adding this only-13-feet-above-mean-sea-level (four meters) bayside township to our nebulous North Coast itinerary.

“Want to get off in the other Manila, asawa?” [wife in Tagalog and Cebuano] I asked her. *Get off?*

“Sure, 33. Maybe we can find out how the little hamlet got off scot-free with that big-city name.” 33? *Scot-free? She knows that I’m recording. / Bana [husband in Cebuano] is already in audio-record mode. I can sense it.*

At about a quarter to five, we disembarked on a desolate Peninsula Drive and walked up to the Manila Community Center. However, it was closed. *Darn! / Oh, no.*

“We’re out of luck, 32.”

“Where do we go now, Parkaar?” [my ailing alias]

“Not sure, Monique.”

“When is the next bus, Lieutenant Lugnuts? [sic] Or, is there a next bus, 33?” *Gosh, are we going to be stranded here overnight? There’s no Uber or Lyft here. Where would we sleep? / Lieutenant Lugnuts? Ha! I’ve got a bad feeling about this. Could we possibly walk to Eureka? With her platforms, way too far. [3.8 miles (6.1 km) away] Don’t even think they allow pedestrians on the bridges. [They don’t.]*

“Well, let me pee first,” I said as I walked towards the free-standing restroom building. “Then maybe my brain can figure something out.” *Oh, boy.*

“I’ve got to go, too,” Monique disclosed. “I think I’m beginning to leak.”

Fortunately, the urination station’s doors weren’t locked. We relieved our bladders. Once back outside, we saw an RTS bus pulling up to the bus stop. It was a northbound bus that

was headed to Arcata. *Drats! That one is going the wrong direction. / Darn it! That bus came FROM Eureka. Now, when is the next bus TO Eureka? Hopefully soon.*

An older Asian man of slight build and an Asian boy of eight or nine years were the only passengers who stepped off the bus. They started walking towards us. *Maybe he knows.*

“Hello sir,” I said as the gap between us shrank to ten feet (three meters). “Would you happen to know when the next southbound bus arrives?”

“There are no more southbound buses stopping here today,” the venerable, still in good shape, gray-haired, brown-skinned, orange-ball-capped man said. *Oh, crap! That’s just great. / Why didn’t my bana research this first. Probably too busy daydreaming.*

“I see,” I said with an overt groan. *At least it’s not raining.*

“There is another northbound bus at 5:55,” he continued. “You can take that one to the Arcata Transit Center. Then you could get on a southbound bus that goes down [US] 101. Where exactly do you need to go?”

“Downtown Eureka,” Monique chimed. *He kind of looks like a pinoy. [male Filipino] / She certainly looks like a pinay. [female Filipino]*

“Filipina?” he asked Monique.

“Yes,” Monique answered. “I’m from Siquijor.”

“Ah, that small Central Visayan island province.”

“Yep. Where are you from?” Monique then asked.

“Luzon – Antipolo,” he replied.

“Very nice views of Manila from there,” my wife said.

“And, a little cooler,” I added.

“Yes, it is,” the late-60-ish Filipino American agreed.

“So, where are you guys headed?” I asked him.

“Up to the sand dunes behind the playground,” he divulged. “My grandson just got a new kite that he wants to fly. I think there’s more wind out there.” *Ah, so that’s what’s in the young lad’s hand.*

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

