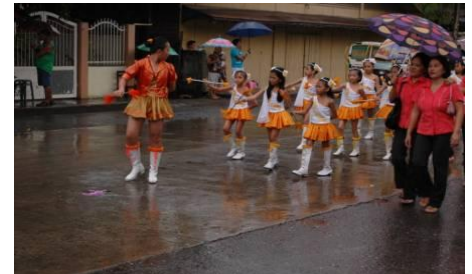


WET & WILD (AND DRY) PARADES
A short pictorial with commentary of the July 23 & 24 Tanjay Events

In much anticipation, the opening parade was heralded by sirens and motorized escorts mid afternoon on Thursday, July 23. Thursday and Friday were specially declared as Tanjay holidays due to the fiesta activities. As our house is located on the main road, we are afforded a front row view for any parade. But just as we dashed out of the gate upon hearing the sirens, another loud noise filled the air: heavy, torrential rain. It was so intense, that soon, another noise came from within our house: the maids were shouting that the kitchen was flooding, for the first time ever. Seems like the rain gutter above the garage was clogged and overflowing. So, I climbed on the roof and fixed that, got just as wet as the parade goes, and missed snapping pictures of at least the first 20 minutes of a wet and wild parade. Luckily, the rain abated in about half an hour (much in contrast to the still talked-about flood last February when it rained for 24 hours and wrecked havoc especially on Amlan, prompting the rumor of divine punishment due to a trapped mermaid). I heard that the mayor and most of the city entourage at the head of the parade were completely drenched. The parade lurched on for the next hour or so, with gaps in the sequence, as various contingents regrouped after seeking shelter.

The first photo below shows the street right after the heavy rain started. The next 7 photos were taken after the rain stopped and I got back on the scene. They show the wet participants. Next photo shows the marching band of Silliman as the first dry ones; apparently they took shelter somewhere. The girl up front with the xylophone is our grandniece.



The next day, it was Sinulog Parade. Marching bands from various towns who acceded to the invitation (each receiving P50K for their expenses) came to show their wares, and vie for the first prize. Unlike previous Sinulogs where some Tanjay Barangays fielded their bands, this time, Tanjay had only one band, and was not to be included in the contest.



It started at about 10:30 am and was a relatively short parade with only 8 groups. The weather was sunny and warm. Photo above shows the first band on main road after a turn from a side street 2 blocks back, trapping some vehicles momentarily, such as bus in center photo where a passenger is taking pictures. Right photo shows a real lechon.

The Sinulog is characterized by rhythmic beat, with loud drums and innovative instruments trundled around on wheels. On the top of next page are 3 such photos. Woe be the neighbors who happen to be near a band doing their practice.



Sound drums made from water drums.



Pipes with cannon-like sounds.



Water drums & glass bottle xylophone.



But the costumes and pageantry were even more eye-catching. Seems like the most elaborate were from the Tanjay contingent, shown on 3 photos immediately above. Rightmost shows a walking seamster (seamstress?) doing repair.



The crowd-control measures were well executed. Left photo shows the start of the Tanjay contingent with pretty guards both left and right holding yellow rope to ward off onlookers from going too close.

The crowds loved the antics of the City of Canlaon's contingent, which starred an obviously gay acrobat performing on a bamboo pole. See right photos.



Then we got more of the same when the Bindoy group sashayed along; so many pretty girls, but it was obvious that not all were girls. See upper and center photos. Apropos that Bindoy rhymes with Biniboy?

To me, what took the cake was the Amlan theme: a mermaid caught in a fish trap.

