

Manuel Taitano Charfauros

Chamorro Teacher and Leader



Daily Pacific Advertiser (Hagatna, Guam) 22 April 1987.

The U.S. Census Bureau continually strives to ensure an accurate count of the people of the United States. For this reason, it has always embraced the hiring of a diverse workforce that is representative of the local communities. In the middle of the 19th century, the United States expanded west into areas formerly governed by Spain and Mexico. Since many of the citizens and local officials only spoke Spanish, the Census Office quickly realized that it needed to employ workers fluent in the language. The establishment of a permanent Census Bureau in 1903 and increased immigration from Cuba and Central and South America expanded the need for Spanish-speaking employees, both in the field and at headquarters.

Manuel Taitano Charfauros was born on February 24, 1897, in Guam. A resident of Merizo, Manuel excelled at school—by the age of 23, he was one of 50 teachers in the 13 schools on Guam. Guam’s teachers served as an important go-between for the people of Guam and the United States Department of the Navy, which employed the teachers and governed the island. Around 1919, Manuel married Joaquina Lujan. Together, they raised ten children.

Historic census records are maintained and released by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau. Visit <http://www.archives.gov> for more information about publicly available records like the one shown here.

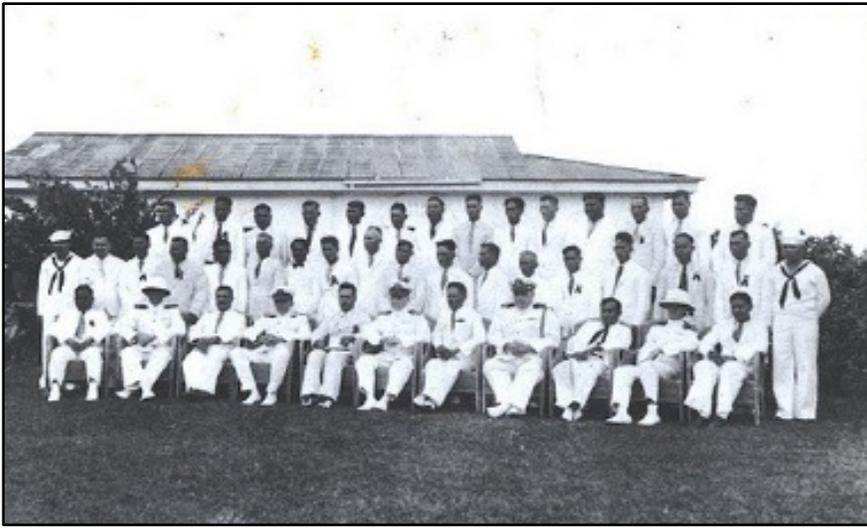
Charfauros family's 1940 Census.



Merlyn G. Cook School in Merizo where Manuel served as principal for several years.

From Wikimedia Commons (accessed 27 July 2017).

Guam first fell under U.S. jurisdiction in 1898, following the Spanish-American War. Between 1710 and 1897, the Spanish conducted approximately 20 censuses of Guam. The second naval governor of Guam, Commander Seaton Schroeder, conducted a census in 1901. However, the results were merely aggregate population numbers divided by gender and race. In 1920, the Census Bureau administered the first official U.S. census on Guam and, in search of enumerators that were both competent and connected to the people, Census Bureau leadership chose local teachers for all five positions.



1941 Congress of Guam, which included Manuel.
from Guampedia.com (accessed 27 July 2017).

In 1930, with Guam now part of the regular decennial enumeration, teachers once again answered the call. This time Manuel, now a veteran educator, joined the enumerators' ranks. The 1930 census expanded on the previous enumeration by adding a census of agriculture in addition to population.

In 1931, Manuel became principal at the Merizo school—a job he would have intermittently for decades. In 1934, the people of Merizo elected

Manuel as their representative to the Commissioners (later Congress) of Guam.

Manuel again served as enumerator in 1940, for the 16th decennial census. In 1941, the people of Merizo again elected Manuel to represent them in the Congress of Guam. This only lasted a short time, since, as a possession of the United States, Guam was a prime Japanese target. On December 8, 1941, just two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the forces of Imperial Japan invaded and captured Guam.

The Japanese military rule over the people of Guam was cruel and oppressive as the Japanese viewed the Guamanian population as loyal to the Americans. In 1944, as the United States was systematically rolling back all Japanese gains, they knew that Guam would be a high priority. On July 15, 1944, Japanese troops marched Manuel and his oldest son, Arthur, a U.S. Navy steward's mate, as well as 28 others, to a cave under the guise of participating in a work detail. As the group of 30 rested in the cave, the soldiers threw in grenades, and following the blasts used anyone still moving for bayonet practice. Manuel barely survived with substantial wounds, while his son perished.



Three boy scouts from Manuel's troop rendezvous with the USS Indianapolis during the U.S. retaking of Guam, 1944.

From Guampedia.com (accessed 27 July 2017).



President Truman signing the Guam Organic Act of 1950.
From Guampedia.com (accessed 27 July 2017).

Following the war, Manuel continued his service to Guam by serving in the Institute of Ethnic Affairs—a group that advocated for Guam self-governance as opposed to the rule of an American naval governor. The group realized their goals with the passing of the Guam Organic Act of 1950, which provided for elections and self-governance of the island, while still remaining a U.S. territory. Following his successful teaching career, Manuel was elected to the Guam Educator's Hall of Fame. He and Joaquina eventually moved to San Mateo, CA, where he passed away on April 14, 1987, survived by nine children, 23 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

The U.S. Census Bureau is grateful for Manuel's contributions to our mission, Guam, and the United States.