

## **The Case of the Island Maiden-Gone-Mod Reporter**

Mr. Smith: Will you please state your name and place of residence.

**Miss Santos: My name is Mariana Santos. I live on Saipan in the Mariana Islands.**

Mr. Smith: What is your occupation, Miss Santos?

**Miss Santos: I have been working now for almost a year and a half as a court reporter for the High Court Chief Justice in the Micronesian Trust Territory.**

Mr. Smith: How did you happen to choose court reporting as a profession?

**Miss Santos: It all started when I was chosen from a group of applicants for a scholarship in a court reporting. I entered Bryan College in Los Angeles in the fall in 1970. After attaining a speed of 200 words per minute and successfully completing my studies in medical and legal terminology, English grammar, vocabulary, and court procedure, I returned to my native Saipan in the Mariana Islands to begin work. It was very exciting for me since I was the first person selected by my government for training the court reporting field.**

Mr. Smith: How long have you been reporting, and what are your particular duties?

**Miss Santos: I have been employed now for almost a year and a half as a court reporter under the immediate supervision of the High Court Chief Justice in Saipan. Most of the proceedings involve translation from a local island language into English. This poses an obvious challenge to me since not all interpreters are fluent in English. I do much of my own transcribing and may perform secretarial chores for the Chief Justice. My work involves a great deal of travel—thousands of miles sometimes—to the remote areas of the islands. I especially love this opportunity to travel and the variety in my duties.**

Mr. Smith: What are your plans for the future, Miss Santos?

**Miss Santos: Well, I must say, with a salary of approximately \$12,000 per year, which is considered quite high in the Micronesian economy, plus the fact that I really love my challenging career and playing as a major part in an evolving judicial system. I plan to stay in Micronesia and court reporting a long time.**

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