**HISTORY**

**This coastal barangay was a wide plain full of thorny bushes during the Spanish occupation of the Philippines. When the American colonizers came, they found new houses in this area which was called Tabing Ilog by the early settlers.**

**In 1910, when Mindoro Sugar Company was organized, the railway from Central to Caminawit pier passed through this place. A steel bridge for the railroad track was built over Pandurucan River, the body of water which serves as the natural boundary of Tabing Ilog and the town site of Pandurucan, the old name of the poblacion of the municipality of San Jose.**

**When the American led Allied Forces liberated San Jose on December 15, 1944 Tabing Ilog was one of the place where the soldiers built their military base. An airstrip for warplanes, called as McGuire Airstrip was constructed in this place by the American soldiers. Aside from the airstrip, they also constructed a wooden bridge over Pandurucan River and roads which linked San Jose with its barrios.**

**When the Allied Forces left in the middle part of 1945, only a few families which used to work in the military camp were left in Tabing Ilog. Later on, more families from Luzon and the Visayas settled here. When the island of Mindoro divided into two provinces on June 13, 1950 this place was already a sitio. The inhabitants decided to change its name to San Roque, after the name of their patron saint.**

**Right after the creation of the province of Occidental Mindoro, the provincial headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary was place in San Roque. Families of soldiers were assigned here decided to construct their houses around the military camp. The number of inhabitants grew when fishermen and farmers form the Island of Lubang, mainland Luzon and the Visayas came to live here permanently.**

**In 1955, upon the request of parents, an elementary school was opened in the northeastern part of San Roque. The children who used to study in the elementary school of the town proper transferred here. That year, this place became a barrio of San Roque. Elected as its first leader with the title of Teniente del Barrio was Mr. Timoteo Guerrero.**

**After a few years, a secretarian called as San Jose Adventist School was opened in the northeastern part of San Roque, near the elementary school. Graduates of the elementary school and members of the Adventists Church from other municipalities study here.**

**The MacGuire Airstrip which was abandoned by the Allied Forces in 1945 was converted into a commercial airport by the government. Commercial planes regularly fly the San Jose-Manila route, giving additional income to the residents of the barrio and the municipality of San Jose.**

**In 1965, another elementary school was opened by the government in the southwestern part of San Roque. The teachers called it San Roque 2 Elementary School to distinguish it from the first school which was called San Roque 1 Elementary School. That same year, the municipal cemetery which was located at the site where San Jose Gymnasium is located at the present was transferred by then San Jose Mayor Tirso Abeleda to the northwestern end of San Roque.**

**Since the airport is located in San Roque, a concrete road form the center of San Jose to the runway was constructed by the national government. In addition, the road at the center of the barrio and other parts of the place was made concrete by the late Congressman Pedro Mendiola Sr.**

**Through the efforts of the late Congressman Pedro Medalla Sr. the wooden bridge over Pandurucan River was replaced with a concrete one, in 1967. The bridge hastened the economic growth of San Roque.**

**Two businessmen who lived in San Roque, built rice mills and warehouses here. They were Mr. Ricardo Dinglasan and Mr. Felix Bernales. They helped and provided employment to the barriomates, thus both of them were elected as Teniente del Barrio. Mr. Dinglasan succeeded the first leader of San Roque and after his term of office, Mr. Bernales took his place.**

**When the barrio, the smallest political unit, was officially called a "barangay" after the imposition of Martial Law, the title of its leader became Barangay Captain.**

**Aside from the aforementioned three leaders, those who served as Barangay Captain of San Roque were Jose Mangahas, Vincente Guerrero, Edmundo Vergel, Estelito Ballesa, Manolita Tria, Filomeno M. Santos, Emilio Mariano and Ruben T. Insigne. The leader of the barangay at present is Barangay Captain Filomeno M. Santos.**