

SAFETY SECTION

Celebrating New Year's Eve

By J. C. P.



WHY, JUAN, what happened to you?" All his classmates asked at the same time when they met on the first day of school in January.

"What happened to your eyelashes? Were they burned?" Curious Jose insisted in asking.

"And where are your eyebrows?" Pablo asked with a mischievous twinkle in the eye.

To all these queries, Juan answered with an angry side glance and walked away. But the group of naughty boys followed him repeating their unanswered questions.

"I know, I know. I will tell you what happened to Juan," shouted Andres running toward the crowd.

The boys gathered around Andres.

"It happened on New Year's Eve. The boys in Juan's place made bamboo cannons. Juan bragged that he could make one with the most thunderous report."

"Yes, yes, go on. Did he make one?" Pablo interrupted laughing.

"Yes, he did," Andres continued. "Everybody marveled at his invention. The boys stood around him as he fired his cannon. 'I will show you how to produce the most deafening explosion,' he announced, and he prepared to demonstrate the operation."

"How thrilling!" Jose screamed.

"Keep still," another shouted.

"Go on, go on with the story," everybody cried in unison.

"Well," Andres cleared his throat as he picked up the thread of his story. "He poured more petroleum into the bamboo. A heavy smoke gathered in-

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INTERESTING PLACES

BIAC-NA-BATO

By FORTUNATO R. ASUNCION *

BIAC-NA-BATO is historically famous because it was the place where Pedro A. Paterno, with Filipino insurgents who defied the might of the American soldiers in the early days of their occupation, brought about a very significant treaty. This place is as beautiful as it is famous—in fact it is fast attracting the attention of numerous travelers and sight seers.

Biac-na-bato can be reached either from Sibul or from San Miguel,—both places are in Bulacan

From a distance nothing beautiful will attract attention. A vast expanse of green things can be seen all around, the historic mountain idly silhouetted against the blue sky offers no special attraction. Towering Chinese bamboo plants gracefully swaying to the accompaniment of the gentle breeze line the sides of a trail leading to the wanders of the place. A huge anvil bearing historical inscription stands at the entrance of the trail which leads to a rivulet below. A natural shed of large flat stones provides an ideal spot from which to view the wonderful panorama at the bottom. All around the flat stones are names and dates, perhaps inscribed by those who had visited the place. On the right side of the rivulet is a cave filled with clear, cool water. The water is so clear that the white pebbles beneath are distinctly visible. People come to the place only to bathe in this water, if for no other purpose, the people say. Opposite this cave is a trail penetrating a thick woods. Wild monkeys inhabit this place. Many can be seen hopping from one branch to another. This ascending trail terminates in a small enclosure barely one and a half meters in circumference. From this place a wonderful whitish wall will greet your eyes. The whitish wall is so tall that it towers way up into the clouds. Below this towering wall of white rock is a cavern inhabited by millions of bats. The cavern yields a fortune in the form of guano, the bat's manure.

Summing up the wonders of this place, one can form a lovely picture of Biac-na-bato, linked with its history.

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