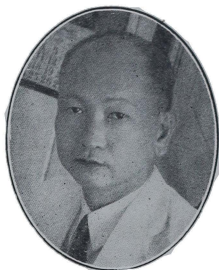


When They Were Young—

FLORENTINO CAYCO, Educator

The harder the battle is
The more glorious will be the victory.



GLORIOUS indeed was the victory won by Florentino Cayco when he overcame the handicaps of poverty and ill health and rose to occupy a place among the foremost of Filipino educators. At the early age of 42 he has already closed a brilliant record of public service, in the various stages of which, he always proved himself capable and far-sighted. From a humble and unknown barrio teacher, he made his way to the position of Assistant Superintendent of City Schools, in which he wielded extensive powers and made himself felt as a tremendous force in the improvement of both system and method of instruction in the public schools of the City of Manila.

Mr. H. A. Bordner, Superintendent of City Schools, and Mr. Cayco's superior, in all sincerity, made the statement that he would be willing to work as Mr. Cayco's subordinate. What finer tribute could a superior pay a man in a lower position?

And yet this highly successful man had to struggle in his youth as few have struggled. Through the efforts and sacrifices of his mother, the boy Florentino was able to finish the elementary course in the public schools of his hometown Malabon. As a school child, although sickly, he enjoyed his boyhood to the full, and would have had a chance to complete his schooling had that capable and wise mother been allowed to live longer. But her life was cut short and her death marked Florentino's withdrawal from school.

As an elementary school pupil, Florentino already had a definite ambition. Adept in figures and arithmetic problems, he dreamed of becoming an engineer, a

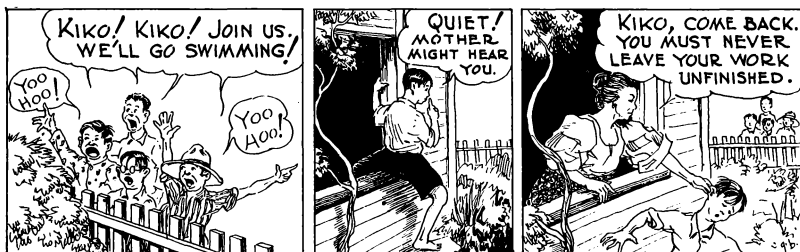
builder of bridges and houses. He might have built the longest bridge and the highest sky-scraper in the Philippines had he realized his first ambition. But he had to give up this dream and to take up teaching to enable him to support the family left behind by his deceased mother. It was at the tender age of sixteen that he started his career as a teacher. He was then a first year student in the Manila High School, at the same time working as a garden boy at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Singalong. The once care-free and jovial youth assumed the responsibility of supporting a family and discharged it with faithfulness and efficiency. When he began teaching he found himself in such straitened circumstances that he could not afford to buy a suit, for a "maestro" had to be decently and properly clothed even at that early time of twenty-peso salaries.

He worked as an ordinary classroom teacher for two years during which period he received successive promotions in salary at five pesos each time. At the end of his second year in the service, he took and passed the junior teacher examination, which raised his salary to ₱480 a year. His joy at this first success knew no bounds. He has never been so happy over any other promotion as he was when he qualified himself in this examination. It marked the beginning of his steady rise in the field of education. He was appointed principal

(Please turn to page 153)

KIKO'S ADVENTURES -- Caught in the Act

by gilma baldovina



THE ORDER OF THE

WHEN THEY WERE

THE STUPID BOY

(Continued from page 146)

"They" answered the assistant.

"They what! Come on, talk!"

"They tried to take off my pants."

The director could not help but laugh. He continued,

"But why?"

"I tried to take back the tin can they stole from your table. They jumped upon me—all seven of them—and tried to undress me.

"Oh! I see."

The director stopped for a while and began to think. He then whispered something to the ear of his assistant. His face brightened. They went to their tent and began to laugh. They were careful though not to wake up the campers. They finally fell asleep with smile still on their faces. The order of the Short Pants were left outside wondering why, after all, the two were laughing so merrily.

Very early the next morning the bugle was sounded. The boys got up and fixed their beds. They then lined up for the morning assembly. As usual the director was at his post ready to begin the morning warm-up. Much to the surprise of all, seven leaders were missing. Finally they came out of their tents.

(Continued from page 145)

and then supervising teacher and qualified in the "senior teacher examination." One time he was offered the superintendent's position in Zambales. He declined the offer to accept the pensionado ship to the United States to pursue courses in education.

While a teacher, he took the high school course by correspondence, but could not cover the laboratory subjects. He finished the five-year course leading to the master of Arts degree in the Columbia University in three years taking at the same time a few high school subjects.

A man of high principles and a lofty sense of duty, he always sets a high standard of work for his subordinates, who have to keep pace with him always, such is the tremendous influence of his personality. At all times firm, upright, and fearless, Florentino Cayco has won the respect of his colleagues, the admiration of his subordinates, and the esteem of everybody who knows him.

What a sight! One was trying to hide his swollen lips. Another had his hands in his pockets. The others were trying to cough off something which seemed to be stuck in their throats.

It turned out that the cake they feasted on was full of big red ants

(Continued from page 143)

"Oh, I know, Aunt Rosa. I know now. A big, fat animal. It is like . . . like you, is it not, Aunt Rosa?" Pepe asked earnestly.

"Go back and tell Aunt Maria to take the two of you for a walk, stupid!" And with that she left a surprised Pepe standing beside Baby's carriage. But suddenly Pepe's eyes grew round and big, for he could see a horse running very very fast without anybody on its back. And before he could think another little thought the horse was almost on Baby's carriage. So he gave Baby's carriage a big, big push, and then everything became black.

When he opened his eyes, he was on his Mother's bed with Aunt Rosa, Aunt Maria, Mother, and many others around him. And all he could hear were the words "my darling", "my brave pet", "my dear", and many other beautiful names by which he had never been called before. He was waiting for "stupid boy", but it never came, so he gave them a sweet, sweet smile and closed his big, round eyes.

—a reason why it was left on the table unguarded.

The Order of the Short Pants did not meet anymore.