

How Places Where Named

(Old Legends)

How Cebu Got Its Name

There is a story that Cebu was named Cebu due to a Chinese vendor residing in Cebu before the Spaniards came.

It was said that the Chinese used to shout "Se-bu" meaning the fat of the cow. It so happened that the Chinese shouted "se-bu" where the Spanish fleet came to anchor. The Spaniards not knowing the name of the place, thought that what they heard was the name. When the King of Spain asked what new place in the Philippines they have discovered, they answered "Cebu" changing the spelling of the original word, because they just spelled it according to what they heard not knowing what the real spelling was. From that time on until now the place is called Cebu.

Maria Cabaritan

The Origin of Sampaloc Lake

In the place where Sampaloc Lake now lies, there was once a prosperous barrio with several hundred people. In that barrio was a childless couple whose names were Bruno and Jacoba. Now, this couple had a Sampaloc tree whose fruits were famous for sweetness. Bruno being so selfish, would not give any of the fruits away without any payment.

Bruno and Jacoba were very unhappy because God had not given them a child. They really wanted a child, so they went to Ubando to pray there. In Bruno's anguish, his tongue slipped, and he promised

to give away his sampaloc fruits if only he could have a child.

It seemed that God heard their prayer so that within a few months Jacoba felt some change in her. In a few more months, she gave birth to a beautiful girl. They were wild with joy and loved the child so much that they would not even let a gust of wind touch her delicate features.

Years passed and famine swept their barrio. The only tree bearing fruits was Bruno's sampaloc tree. His selfishness came back and he began selling his fruits at exorbitant prices. An old man asked him for a fruit one day. He was so angry that he killed the old man. Immediately water rushed and flooded the barrio. Thus Sampaloc Lake began.

Isabel V. Chipongu

How Masantol Got Its Name

During the Spanish regime, Masantol, was entirely covered with many trees. This place was densely populated. There was only a couple living in this lonely place.

One day, a Spaniard happened to meet the old woman. The old woman tried to run as fast as she could, thinking that the Spaniard would do her harm. Later on, she found out that the Spaniard wanted only to know the name of that place. She cried "Masantol, Masantol!" pointing to the big santol trees surrounding their house.

Hence, since that time, that place was called Masantol meaning "many santol fruits."

Estela H. Isip

Scout Hermoso Saves Drowning Boy

Hero Belongs to Tribe 14

The timely "Good Turn" rendered by Scout Luciano Hermoso last February 17 is worth relating.

At about three o'clock in the afternoon of Feb. 17, Scout Hermoso planned to go swimming in the river near his school. He was with other Scouts and several classmates. Before they bathed, they noticed an eleven-year-old boy going back and forth on the bank with his sprinkler, fetching some water for his garden. At once Scout Hermoso sensed the danger. He was right, for soon there was a splash. This lad, Jose C. Nicolas, Jr., had fallen into the river. There was a commotion. Before anyone could shout for help, however, the hero appeared. Scout Hermoso, attracted by the noise, rushed and plunged into the stream without taking off his clothes. He snatched the boy and dragged him safely toward the bank. Little Jose was extremely pale and cold. The other Scouts had to rub him to restore his color and body temperature.

A sure death would have been met by this boy were it not for the timely arrival of the Hero Scout. The water was deep, and the boy did not know how to swim.

Upon hearing the story, the father of the boy wrote a letter of gratitude thanking the Scout for his preparedness. He also thanked the organization for its teachings about service to the community.

Scout Luciano Hermoso belongs to Tribe 14. Leaders and sponsors are now working to recommend him for the Life Saving Award, which he deserves.