

MABINI'S CAPTURE

By: Rogelio M. Bautista
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Many of us know that Apolinario Mabini was captured by the Americans, imprisoned in Manila and later exiled in Guam. But only a few know where and how he was captured.

Mabini did not relish the idea of surrender to a foreign power. He eluded the Americans with the help of the two brothers, who carried him on their backs alternately, or on a "duyan," a rattan swing. They crossed rivers and thick forests in their flight from the Americans.

In Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, the hero stayed with a friendly Novo Ecijano. He remained incognito but somehow the news spread that the "Dakilang Lumpo" was in town.

There was a man, a pharmacist, who had a drug store near Mabini's hideout. He knew of the Hero's presence in town. He also knew the Americans wanted to get their hands on Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's adviser and secretary of foreign affairs.

The pharmacist informed the Americans stationed in town of Mabini's whereabouts. American troops promptly surrounded the house where Mabini was staying on that fateful morning of December 10, 1900.

The Americans found the "Sublime Paralytic" hiding in the ceiling. The citizens of Cuyapo watched helplessly as Mabini was carried away on a "duyan" guarded by tall, pale-faced soldiers riding big horses.

Civic-minded citizens of Cuyapo would like to call the attention of the Philippine Historical Association to the Philippine Historical Association to the deplorable condition of the house where Mabini was captured. I am sure the Filipino people would not like to lose an important reminder of their glorious past.

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