

The Whirlwind of Hagonoy, on August 12, 1933. Hagonoy is an important town situated close to the northern shore of Manila Bay. The ground to the S and SE of the town is swampy. The sultry weather of the afternoon of Saturday August 12th, 1933, culminated in a heavy and sharp thunderstorm that was central to the SSE of Hagonoy at 3^h 40^m p.m. Heading for Hagonoy, the storm passed very close to the barrios of San Elena, San Pascual and San Nicolas, destroying nipa houses and uprooting banana palms. At 4^h 10^m Hagonoy proper was struck by the storm attended by gusty blasts of cold wind, abundant fall of large drops of rain, and a thick greyish mass of clouds. All witnesses agree to the following facts. First, the wind was very gusty. Second, the wind seemed to be scooping the ground and blowing upwards with great force, unroofing buildings and throwing sheets of corrugated iron to considerable distance. Third, the body of the storm was easily deflected by objects, like massive houses, mango trees, that lay on its path. Many people expressed surprise at the erratic path followed by the storm, similar to the course of a meandering rivulet, and at the quasi selective power of the whirlwind, damaging some houses and sparing others nearby. Fourth, no hail and no waterspout was associated with the storm. Fifth, houses of strong materials, like the church, the schools and municipal building, and roofs properly constructed, nailed and braced suffered no damage whatever.

The storm lasted about half an hour. According to the municipal authorities, 40 nipa houses were destroyed and 100 small houses were damaged in Hagonoy proper and its barrios of Iba-Abulallas, Santa Elena, San Nicolas, San Pascual, Santa Monica, San Isidro,