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Official Organ of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines

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OCTOBER 1978



BRO. LEOPOLDO M. ABELLERA

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Grand Master's Page



THE MASONIC YOUTH FOUNDATION

One of the principal points which I aired in my inaugural speech was an appeal to organize more Demolay chapters in our Masonic Districts. However, it has been felt that our labors should not be restricted to the revitalization of the Demolays. Thus, the Grand Lodge is in the process of organizing the MASONIC YOUTH FOUNDATION of the Philippines, which is an endeavor embracing all other youth groups and wider areas of youth activities.

While we are engaged in activities to advance our private interests, to promote our ideals, to draw adherence to our Craft or endorse and support laudable projects of other entities we should reserve a portion of our time for our youth. Our responsibility to the young ones should not be forgotten nor our duty to them neglected.

The giving of adequate assistance to the younger men may mean that we have to expend time, effort and resources. For this we do not expect worldly rewards but merely the joy and satisfaction of the feeling that we shall have equipped them with proper credentials which will prepare them physically, mentally and spiritually for their roles as tomorrow's leaders, well-versed in many endeavors, the compleat men.

The Foundation will be anchored on specifics (details of aims, purposes, policies and programs to be released at a later date) to preclude doubts on the effectiveness of the undertaking with the hope that our young people will weave their destinies around its founding principles.

So, while the Foundation is still on the launching stage, I urge the brethren to prepare themselves for the tasks that lie ahead.


DESIDERIO DALISAY
Grand Master

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LET'S REVIEW OUR PER CAPITA TAX

Our April 1976, Editorial entitled *Figures Don't Lie* set forth for our brethren Central Bank statistics going back over the years to 1949, showing how this data changed when the Central Bank adopted different years as standard for their statistics. We showed 1955 = 100. But at the very time we were preparing that Editorial, the Central Bank was in the process of establishing the year 1972 as their standard. Now, therefore, is essential we bring you up to date with Central Bank statistics and their effect upon the Per Capita Tax of the Grand Lodge.

Period	Consumer Price Index (1955=100)	Purchasing Power of the Peso (1955=100)	Consumer Price Index (1965=100)	Purchasing Power of the Peso (1965=100)	Consumer Price Index (1972=100)	Purchasing Power of the Peso (1972=100)
1949	101.6	.9843	72.4	1.3812	42.9	2.3310
1950	104.7	.9551	74.6	1.3405	44.2	2.2624
1951	113.4	.8818	80.8	1.2376	47.9	2.0877
1952	106.1	.9425	75.6	1.3228	44.8	2.2321
1953	102.5	.9756	73.0	1.3699	43.2	2.3148
1954	101.0	.9901	71.9	1.3908	42.6	2.3474
1955	100.0	1.000	71.2	1.4045	42.2	2.3697
1956			73.1	1.3680	43.4	2.3041
1957			74.4	1.3441	44.1	2.2676
1958			76.9	1.3004	45.6	2.1930
1959			76.2	1.3123	45.1	2.2173
1960			79.4	1.2594	47.2	2.1186
1961			80.6	1.2407	47.8	2.0921
1962			85.3	1.1723	50.5	1.9802
1963			90.1	1.1099	53.4	1.8727
1964			97.5	1.0256	57.8	1.7301
1965			100.0	1.0000	59.2	1.6892
1966			105.1	.9488	62.4	1.6026
1967			112.0	.8929	66.4	1.5060
1968			114.6	.8726	68.0	1.4706
1969			116.9	.8554	69.3	1.4430
1970			133.7	.7479	79.0	1.2658
1971			153.2	.6527	90.0	1.1001
1972			168.9	.5921	100.0	1.0000
1973			187.5	.5333	116.5	.8772
1974			251.9	.3989	156.3	.6570
1975			272.0	.3676	166.9	.6075
1976					182.3	.5721
1977					200.4	.5302
1978 (August)					216.4	.4861

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LEOPOLDO M. ABELLERA

BY: SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ

Saturday, September 23, morning. Four BOT employees were standing at the gate of the Board of Transportation Building with their boss upstairs, alone, doing a lonely job of probing into a pile of papers and signing documents which is his daily routine as Acting Chairman of the Board of Transportation.

It was cruel to disturb Associate Justice Leopoldo M. Abellera, seeing him so engrossed in his work, but I had to break in on that absorbed silence if I wanted to finish the task at hand. Bro. Abellera had to sign a few more papers before he could respond to my questions.

I had asked him if he had a curriculum vitae and he politely apologized that his secretary was not around to help him locate it. So we proceeded to have a free-wheeling dialogue, starting with his parents and his educational background.



ABELLERA

Bro. Abellera was born in Manila on January 22, 1916. His father, the late Reverend Juan A. Abellera, was the first pastor of the United Church of Manila and one of the pioneering protestant ministers in the Philippines. His mother, Elena Manongdo, was chosen by the National Federation of Women's Clubs as the Outstanding Mother of the Year in 1959.



"MASONRY IS A VERY DESIRABLE AVENUE FOR SERVICE AND THOSE WHO ARE IN IT NOW HAVE BEEN AVAILING THEMSELVES OF THIS OPPORTUNITY."

"I am very proud to be the son of the late Rev. Juan A. Abellera, the first pastor of the United Church. My mother ran a dormitory. Through the church and the dormitory, which were adjacent to each other, we made a lot of friends. This was at the corner of Lepanto and Azcarraga (now Claro M. Recto) Streets. I am always happy to meet people, who, after hearing my family name, invariably ask me, "How are you related to the late Juan Abellera." They knew him very well and I have always found it a great source of pride and happiness whenever the people who would come to know of my relationship with him, narrate how their lives were greatly affected by his pastoral work."

And indeed the late, famous father of our brother was the favorite of many students and followers of the faith at that time. No less than the late Sovereign Grand Commander Camilo Osias wrote a biography of the great man but unfortunately it did not get into print. "Well, when Senator Osias was still alive, he prepared a biography of my father as a minister of protestantism and we had the draft in our possession for a long time. We kept it in draft form because my father, out of inborn humility, asked us not to have it published during his lifetime. So we held on to that draft during all the time that he was still alive. He died in 1940 but the war broke out in 1941 and somehow, the manuscript



"I THOUGHT BEFORE I COULD SOLVE MY PROBLEMS BY WORKING HARD. NOW I LEARNED TO LIVE WITH MY PROBLEMS."

was mislaid and was eventually lost."

Bro. Abellera made Davao City his permanent residence in 1940. He married Violeta de Guia of Candon, Ilocos Sur, who bore him six children.

He finished high school at the Union High School of Manila in 1933; took up law at the University of the Philippines and graduated, together with Pres. Marcos and the present Deputy Grand Master, Jolly R. Bugarin, in 1939. At the premier university, he was a member of the two-man UP Debating Team that defeated debating teams from the University of Melbourne, in 1938. He was also a medalist in the Annual Oratorical Contest of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

He started his government service as a provincial secretary of the then Davao province and was city councilor of Davao City from 1946 to 1947. From April 1966 to Feb. 1, 1976, he was government corporate counsel for the Department of Justice. On Feb. 2, 1976, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals and detailed as Acting Chairman of the Board of Transportation. He is still serving in these last two positions.

Aside from his government jobs, he is presently president and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rizal Memorial Colleges in Davao City; president, RMC Broadcast Co., Inc., and president, Executive Broadcast Services, Makati, Rizal. Bro. Abellera is also a special lecturer of law at the University of



"PERHAPS IT WOULD BE A GREAT IDEA TO ESTABLISH A MASONIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT RMC FOR INDIGENT STUDENTS, THROUGH MY MOTHER LODGE, OF COURSE."

the Philippines Law Center. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Philippines Association of Colleges and Universities and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Davao Chapter.

In Davao City, Bro. Abellera is popularly known as an educator. Rizal Memorial Colleges, the institution he founded has a total enrollment of 11,000 which is quite big considering that now Davao City has several colleges and universities.

"Before the war, there was no college at all in Davao City. High school graduates from Davao either had to stop schooling or go to Manila or to Cebu to continue

their studies. And those who stopped, of course, were those coming from the middle income or low income families. Even as early as the Japanese occupation I already saw what a waste of human resources there was in Davao because of the inability of the middle income and low income people to continue their studies. And, they constituted the greater number. The higher income people were fewer in number. After the liberation, Atty. Guillermo Torres went into organizing the Mindanao Colleges. I taught there for a while but I was fascinated by the need of two colleges in Davao. One or two

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HISTORY OF

DALISAY LODGE NO. 14, F. & A.M.

By: WB Mateo D. Cipriano

WB Mateo Dumahil Cipriano, author of this article which was written in June, 1945, died on October 22, 1974. He was initiated, passed and raised in Silanganan Lodge No. 19 in Paisg, Rizal. He is Past Master of Dalisay Lodge No. 14, and a life member. He also served as Assistant Grand Secretary for three years in 1967-69. As a member of the Philippine Bodies, he was its secretary in 1960-62 and a 33^o Inspector General Honorary, of the Supreme Council of A. & A.S.R. -Ed.

A handful of patriots - Rizal, Del Pilar, Luna, Lopez-Jaena, Ponce - were working untiringly near the parliament, in the universities and at the press of the old metropolis for the introduction of reforms in the government and the granting to the Filipino people freedom of thought, freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. Like the sublime preachings of the Man of Nazareth, the teachings of those great patriots were received with fervor and enthusiasm in the country where the same were slowly but surely being crystalized into reality.

Dalisay Lodge was a product of those teachings.

Organization

Dalisay Lodge came into being in the valley of Santa Cruz, Manila, on the 31st day of May, 1892, as a "triangulo" - Triangulo No. 8 - (now equivalent to a Lodge U.D.) founded by Bro. Sixto Celis y Reyes in collaboration with Bros. Venancio Reyes, Alejandro Reyes, Justo Guido and Miguel Heras. Later on Bros. Felipe Barretto, Pedro Villanueva, Lucas Ricafort, Ceferino de Leon and Ramon Zaragoza joined the Triangulo. After Balagtas Lodge No. 149, the first offspring of Mother Lodge Nilad No. 144, had been constituted in Sampaloc, the members of the "triangulo" started to work for the

conversion of Triangulo No. 8 into a regular Lodge. Their efforts had not been in vain as the Grand Orient of Spain issued the necessary authorization and Dalisay was constituted as a Lodge in September 13, 1892, bearing the number 177 under the Mastership of the untiring Bro. Sixto Celis y Reyes and Bro. Venancio Reyes as orator. Subsequently, affiliations to the Lodge by Bros. Severino Reyes, the dramatist, Manuel de la Fuente, Dr. Agaton Cecilio, Isidro R. Morales, Isidro Francisco and others were approved.

Meeting Places

To avoid detection by the government, the meetings were held in different places. Sometimes in the house of Bro. Luis Villanueva or Bro. Manuel de la Fuente and even on bancas in the middle of Pasig River, at Nagtahan, Pandacan.

1894-1895 Officers

For the Masonic Legislature of 1894-1895, the following brethren were elected: Manuel de la Fuente - Worshipful Master; Martiniano Zamora - Senior Warden; Antonio Cuevas - Junior Warden; Felipe Barretto - Secretary; Gregorio Mariano Cansipit - Treasurer.

The election took place at the house of Bro. Manuel de la Fuente, on Gunao Street, Quai-po, where once an Assembly of Master Masons was held which was presided over by the President of the Grand Regional Council, III. Ambrosio Flores and in which Bro. Apolinario Mabini acted as orator.

Binhi Lodge

Shortly before the Cry of Balintawak in 1896, Binhi Lodge was

organized under the Mastership of Wor. Bro. Justo Guido. Co-organizers were Bros. Alejandro Reyes, Manuel L. Heras, Felipe Barretto and others from Dalisay Lodge. Due to the outbreak of the Revolution, Binhi Lodge was not formally constituted and all its organizers rejoined Dalisay Lodge.

Excellent Reputation

Dalisay Lodge, in those days, enjoyed a (high) prestige in the Masonic community. The Grand Orient of Spain requested, in one of its circulars to all the Lodges under its jurisdiction, to take Dalisay Lodge as a model and to emulate her activities. That recognition was due to the assiduity and determination of its members in the performance of the work of propagating the Masonic tenets. The members of the Lodge were convinced that the political emancipation of the country and the well-being of its people depended on a large measure on the faithful compliance to the Masonic teachings. The labors of the Lodge were temporarily suspended in 1895 as a result of the arrests of many Masons who were being persecuted by the government and the church. In that year, the jails in Manila were literally filled with Masons.

Resumption of Activities

For four years, the Masonic Lodges remained closed. But, when late in 1899 Modestia Lodge resumed her activities, many members of Dalisay Lodge affiliated with her until October 28, 1903, when Dalisay was reconstituted.

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KALEIDOSCOPE

MASONIC DISTRICT NO. 29 HELD ITS 7TH ANNUAL CONVENTION ON OCTOBER 7, 1978 IN TARLAC, TARLAC WITH ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96 HOSTING THE AFFAIR.



MW DESIDERIO DALISAY, SR, GRAND MASTER ACCOMPANIED BY MW ESTEBAN MUNARRIZ, PGM, GRAND SECRETARY AND RW SIMEON RENE LACSON WERE RECEIVED WITH GRAND HONORS.



HON. MERCEDES C. TEODORO, GUEST SPEAKER DURING THE CONVENTION IN TARLAC LISTENS INTENTLY TO MW ESTEBAN MUNARRIZ DURING THE FRATERNAL LUNCHEON.



THE LADIES OF THE DELEGATES OF VICTORY LODGE NO. 196 POSE FOR A SOUVENIR PICTURE.

Sixto Celis, the Indefatigable

Upon its reconstitution, the brethren of Dalisay Lodge placed the untiring Bro. Sixto Celis y Reyes, again, on the Oriental Chair; Bro. Moises Celis y Robles in the West and Bro. Alejandro Reyes in the South. The stated meetings, then, were held on Raon Street, Sta. Cruz. When a petition for a new charter was sent to the Grand Orient of Spain, the latter believed it unnecessary to issue a new one because the Grand Orient had never considered Dalisay Lodge dissolved but only temporarily closed due to the revolution.

In this second phase of the life of Dalisay Lodge, she used to be honored by visits from prominent American brethren, among whom was Gen. Randall.

Change of Meeting Place

With the granting of liberties to the Filipino people since the beginning of the American regime, Dalisay Lodge worked with more fervor and zeal in disseminating the Masonic ideals. The stated meetings were first held on Raon Street, then at the house of Bro. Isidro R. Morales on Plaza Miranda, Quiapo and the special meetings at the temple on Ilaya Street, Tondo, where Sinukuan Lodge No. 272 was then working.

Later on, the members of Dalisay Lodge conceived the idea of having their own temple and they leased a house on O'Donnell Street, Sta. Cruz. With voluntary contributions and other donations by the members, it had been possible for the Lodge to acquire the necessary

equipment, furnitures, paraphernalia and other ornaments for the new temple. In this temple, the body of the late Bro. Claro Ong y Alvarez was laid in state for one week during which time the members held vigil on rotation until the day of interment at the North Cemetery. (It should be stated here that subsequent to the reconstitution of Dalisay Lodge, Araw Lodge No. 304 was formed by Bro. Narciso Vergara, Eugenio Ocampo and Estanislao Vergara, all of Dalisay.)

Sometime in 1918, Worshipful Mother Lodge Nilad No. 144 occupied her new temple on Lepanto Street, Sampaloc. Upon her invitation, Dalisay Lodge moved to the temple on Lepanto leaving her equipment, furnitures, paraphernalia and other Lodge ornaments deposited in the *entresuelo* (ground floor) of her old temple on O'Donnell Street. Later, all these items were found rotting in storage for lack of attention and were packed up and again moved to the second and third floors of the new building of Bro. Roque Bautista on Echague, Quiapo. But, with the demise of Bro. Bautista and the subsequent sale of the property to a third party, Dalisay purchased a house located at the corner of Mangahan (now Pedro Guevara) and Forbes Streets, Sta. Cruz and used it as her temple. Here the body of the late Bro. Toribio Z. Cordero, Past Master of Dalisay Lodge, who died on July 30, 1924, was laid in state and funeral ceremonies held.

Distinctive Characteristics of Dalisay Lodge Members

Concerning the frequent change

of address of Dalisay Lodge, a small detail should be pointed out, which reflected favorably upon her membership, as a whole.

It was the custom of the members to congregate outside the Lodge hall after each meeting to exchange amenities and also discuss topics of the day. In one of those conversations, a brother lamented the not too edifying spectacle of moving the Lodge from one place to another because she did not have a temple of her own. The lamentation was taken to heart by two members, Bros. Roque Bautista and Flaviano Cabansag, each of whom secretly started to construct houses with the intention of offering said houses to the Lodge to be used as a temple without compensation. The house of Bro. Bautista was constructed on Echague Street, Sta. Cruz and that of Bro. Cabansag's on Antonio Rivera, Tondo, Inasmuch as the construction of the two houses were completed at almost the same time, the two brethren formally offered their respective houses to the Lodge at the same stated meeting. The Lodge was taken by surprise and did not know what to do. The members took no action on the offers, to avoid resentment on the parts of Bros. Bautista and Cabansag, until a solution could be found. During those times, close relations existed between Dalisay and Solidaridad Lodge and because Solidaridad Lodge was also looking for a house, a proposition made to the effect that Bro. Bautista's house be (given) to Dalisay and that of Bro. Cabansag's be (given) to Solidaridad Lodge. The proposal was accepted by Bros. Bautista and Cabansag.

Dalisay Lodge passed through periods of financial difficulties. In 1915 its membership, already very small, was further reduced to nine, namely: Felipe Barretto, Gregorio Mariano Cansipit, Romualdo Gramonte, Isidro R. Morales, Mariano Guerrero, Santiago Gatchalian, Roque Bautista, Bernabe Santos and Inigo Ed. Regalado.

Since the monthly dues at the time was only P2.00, it was materially impossible for the Lodge to survive on a total monthly collection of P18.00 because of expenditures for rental, electricity, office of the Secretary, assistance to widows and orphans of deceased brethren and sundries. To remedy the situation, the nine members agreed to pay at least P5.00 each as monthly dues. (There were members like, Bros. Felipe Barretto and Isidro R. Morales, who delivered to the Secretary P100.00 each). In addition, the regular contributions for charity that used to be deposited by every member in a sack that was passed around, was placed on a plate, instead, so that everybody could see the amount deposited. Nobody deposited less than P5.00 although the stated meetings of Dalisay Lodge were held once a week.

To the Plaridel Masonic Temple

The old German Club on San Marcelino, Street, Ermita, purchased by the Grand Lodge, was converted into the Plaridel Masonic Temple. Many Lodges, both Ameri-

can and Filipino, transferred to this temple. Dalisay Lodge also moved to it after selling her own temple at the corner of P. Guevara and Forbes Streets but remained working in said place up to December 1941, when, after holding its stated meeting and election of officers, it suspended its labors (and activities) on account of World War II.

Past Masters

Since the reconstitution of Dalisay Lodge in 1903 under the Grand Orient of Spain until February 14, 1917, when the fusion of Filipino and American Lodges took place, the following were, successively, the Worshippful Masters: Sixto Celis y Reyes, Felipe Barretto, Ceferino de Leon, Carlos Pombo, Gregorio Mariano Cansipit, Santiago Gatchalian and Romualdo Gramonte. And from the fusion to this writing, the following occupied the Oriental Chair: Inigo Ed. Regalado, Isidro R. Morales, Dr. Cipriano Lara, Dr. Toribio Z. Cordero, Esteban Munarriz, Mateo D. Cipriano, Martin Lontok, Bonifacio Ibarrola, Emiliano Enriquez, Dr. Pablo Anzures, Hermogenes Alonso and Arsenio Tenmatay.

Harmony and Fellowship

Harmony and fellowship have always existed in Dalisay Lodge,

since its constitution. Unlike many other societies where frequent disagreements and rivalries take place, there has always been an atmosphere of peace, concord and true fellowship in Dalisay Lodge.

The strong ties of brotherhood were shown during the Japanese occupation. In the midst of the moral anxieties and uncertainties every Filipino was then living in, members of the Lodge were seen going from house to house of their fellow members who were in real distress, to console and encourage and to take away from their minds the ugliness on the horizon. In the meanwhile, some other brethren contributed generously for the relief of the needy.

Faith in the Future

As a result of the second global war which destroyed and caused to be reduced to ashes almost all real and personal properties, most of the members of Dalisay Lodge suddenly found themselves, financially speaking, down. Their sad situation did not, however, discourage them at all. With the help of the Great Architect of the Universe and with the pure love which they are so enthusiastically putting to practice, in and out of the Lodge, each felt strong and vigorous enough to face the future with a smile and with confidence.



**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ATTENDED
A LODGE MEETING?**

years after the establishment of the Mindanao Colleges, I and a group decided to organize the Rizal Memorial Colleges.”

“Incidentally perhaps it would be a great idea to establish a Masonic scholarship program at RMC for indigent students. through my mother Lodge of course.”

Bro. Abellera became a Mason during the incumbency of the late MW Camilo Osias who saw to it that the light of Masonry was shared to at least the son of his very close friend and pastor, Rev. Abellera. “Bro. Osias talked to me and encouraged me in becoming a member of the Craft.”

Bro. Abellera believes that Masonry is an organization where one can have a venue to translate his virtues to reality. “Masonry is a very desirable avenue for service and those who are in it now have been availing themselves of these opportunities. I have met a lot of Masons here in Manila and I have found them to be very kind in assisting me with some of my problems. They are aware of the many problems of the Board of Transportation and they have been very willingly, communicating with me, advising me how I can do this, how I can do that. Now, going back to Masonry as an avenue where service is concerned, I feel that reaching out to non-members should have a stronger impetus while we start with members, who are relegated to the backdrop after they have become members. Every member should feel that he must make himself an agency to invite one or two others so that the joy

of being a Mason may be extended and shared with others.”

On a formula for Lodge attendance, Bro. Abellera has this to say: “The active ones should go out of their way to remind those who have been missing these meetings just how much they have been missed. They should be encouraged to attend the meetings. Sometimes when we are just left alone to attend to our other businesses, missing meetings become a habit. I would like to be encouraged and even pushed into actually attending these meetings.”

Bro. Abellera is a tireless worker. He comes to his office sometimes ahead of his workers and is the last to leave. Even on Saturdays when they are not supposed to hold office as other government offices, he is there working till late at night.

“I thought before that I could solve my problems by working hard. Now I have learned to live with my problems.”

Noticing that it was almost 12 o'clock noon, I managed to ask the Associate Justice if he were willing to be an affiliate member of any blue lodge here in Manila. “I will appreciate it very much if I will be given an application form, now that I could hardly attend the lodge meetings in Davao and since most of the time I am here in Manila. I even want to be a member of the Scottish Rite Masons, if given the chance.”

With that note I ended my interview feeling privileged that I was not only interviewing an Associate Justice, an educator but a brother whose cup of tea is facing squarely the multifarious unending problems of the Board of Transportation.

Referring again to our Editorial of April 1976, we showed with the statistics available at that time with Base of 1965=100, that the increase from 1973 through 1975 was 45% and that because the Per Capita Tax in 1973 was ₱10.00, it should have been increased by ₱4.50 to a new amount of ₱14.50.

Now, we would like to update our computations, using the new Base of 1972=100 and find out just exactly what must be done to our Per Capita Tax at our next Annual Communication, if our Grand Lodge is to be able to continue its economic existence.

Since the Grand Lodge set at ₱10.00 the Per Capita Tax in 1974, we must take the Consumer Price Index for the preceeding year 1973 on the 1972 Base which was 116.4. The latest Consumer Price Index is for August 1978, which was 216.4. But the Consumer Price Index is continually going up! So, by next April, we must estimate the 216.4 of August 1978 will be approximately 222.0 for April 1979. Therefore, using 1973 CPI = 116.4 and our estimated April 1979 = 222.0, we use the equation:

$$\frac{222.0 - 116.4}{116.4} = 90.7\%$$

Consequently, if Grand Lodge is to maintain its economic operation at 1974 level, the Per Capita Tax should be ₱10.00 + .907 x ₱10.00 = ₱19.07. Rounding off, the Per Capita Tax must be increased to ₱19.00 at our next Annual Communication, if we expect our Grand Lodge to continue its operation, as it has been in past years.

Now, is the time to discuss this in your Lodges and in the District Conventions, so that when our next Annual Communication arrives, everyone will know and understand what must be done.

R.E.W.

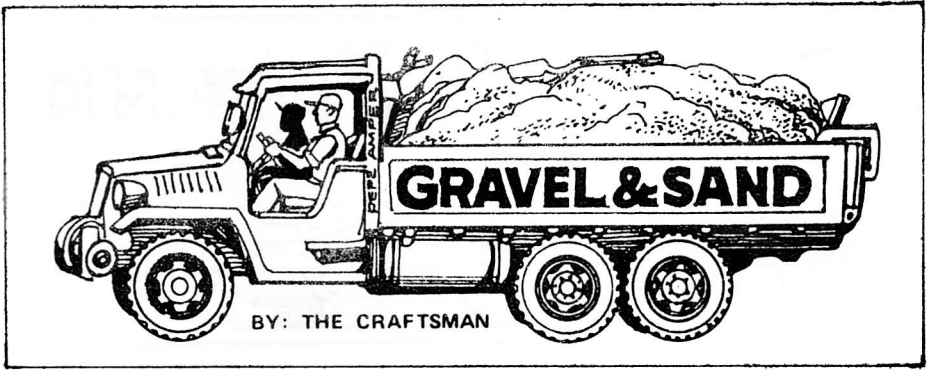


WHO'S AFRAID

A disgruntled school teacher handed in her resignation with the following comment:

“In our public schools today, the teachers are afraid of the principals, the principals are afraid of the superintendents, the superintendents are afraid of the board, and the board members are afraid of the parents, the parents are afraid of the children and the children are afraid of nobody.”

—MASONIC LIGHT



REGIONAL CONVENTION

The regional convention of Lodges under Masonic District No. 2, 3, and 23 was held September 30, 1978 in Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya. Magat Lodge No. 68 hosted the affair.

The Lodges in the region are: District No. - 2 Mabini Lodge No. 39, Aparri, Cagayan; Gonzaga Lodge No. 66, Tuguegarao, Cagayan; Rio Chico Lodge No. 182, Tabuk, Kalinga - Apayao; Itawes Lodge No. 215, Piat, Cagayan; District No. 3 - Magat Lodge No. 68, Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya, Salinas Lodge No. 163, Bambang, Nueva Viscaya; Nueva Viscaya Lodge No. 144, Solano, Nueva Viscaya; Saramay Lodge No. 193, Cabarroguis, Quirino; Villaverde, Lodge No. 206 Villaverde, Nueva Viscaya; Ifugao Lodge No. 218, Lagawe, Ifugao.

District No. 23 - Isabela Lodge No. 60, Ilagan, Isabela; Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 123, Santiago, Isabela, Maharlika Lodge No. 180, Cagayan, Isabela; and Mallig Plains Lodge No. 191, Roxas, Isabela.

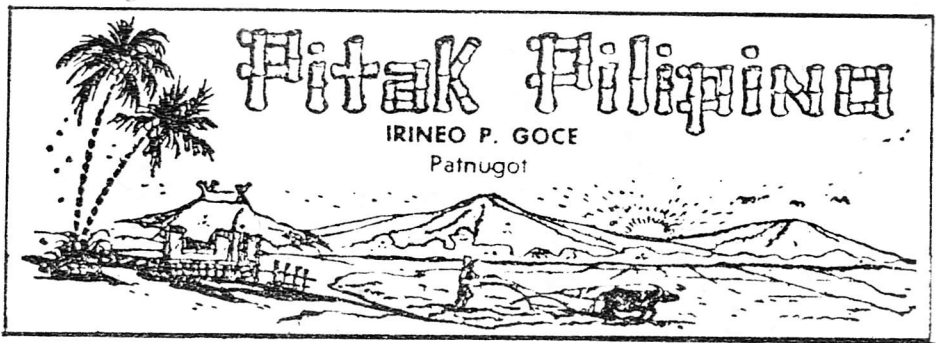
VW Hermogenes P. Oliveros, Senior Grand Lecturer delivered a lecture on Masonic symbolism. MW Desiderio Dalisay, Sr., Grand Master, accompanied by VW Domingo F. M. Domingo, Executive Assistant to the Grand Master; VW Hermogenes P. Oliveros, Senior Grand Lecturer; VW Eliseo A. Arandia, Jr. Junior Grand Lecturer for District No. 1 in two cars motored to Bayombong to attend the convention.

At the convention hall, the Grand Master and his party were received with Grand Honors. The invocation was given by Reverend Father Enrique Paz Lagasca after the Flag Ceremony. VW Salvador Aquino, Deputy for District No. 3 and chairman of the convention delivered the opening remarks.

Luncheon was served at the residence of WB Victor de la Cruz, Master of Magat Lodge No. 68.

After lunch, an open forum was held where the Grand Officers answered questions propounded by the brethren.

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Ang tulang ito ay iniwan ng yumaong Marangal na Kapatid Dominador C. Vicente, may ilang linggo bago siya lumisan sa katawang lupa nuong 16 ng Setyembre 1976; at ang pakiusap niya ay maipalathala sa **Cabletow**. Bilang paggunita sa alaala ni WB Vicente at sa dahilang ang tulang ito ay may angking katangian at alindog ng diwa ay minarapat naming bigyang puwang upang matunghayan din ng karamihan sa ating mga kapatid. Ang may akda umano ay isang pulis sa Calumpit, Bulacan, at hindi siya kasapi sa ating Kapatiran.

LUPANG PANGAKO

ni: MAX PAGDANGANAN

Kami'y taga-bukid . . .
ang aming daigdig ay Kamay ng Diyos:
maayang bukirin ng pagsuyong lubos;
tigib ng biyaya at puno ng lugod,
na sa bawa't saglit ay nagkaloob —
ang kasaganaa'y dito nakatampok,
ang karalita'y dito kinukupkop!

Sa pagtatag-ulan . . .
ito ang tanawing may halina't ganda:
nitong kababaang lundo ng pagsinta;
kaming magbubukid ay nagkakaisa,
walang kahirapang hindi nababata —
habang nagtatanim ay pawang masaya,
ang "Tubig ng Buhay" ang nagpapasigla!

Matapos matamnan . . .
itong kabukira'y kusang nagbibihis
ng luntiing kulay sa dilig ng Langit;
ang dantay ng Araw sa buong paligid,
ang nag-aarugang Matang nakatitig —
ngiti ng pag-asa'y dito sumisilip,
na Pangakong tapat ng Lupang Pag-ibig!

Hindi maglalaon . . .
kung himihip na ang Hanging Amihan,
nagkukulay ginto itong kabukiran;
kusang umiindak ang tanim na palay,
na nagpapakita ng bungang kay-yaman —
ang awit ng ibong dito'y dumadalaw,
ay badya ng tuwang hindi mapigilan!

At kung mahinog na . . .
ang butil ng palay sa dampi ng hangin,
ay anong kay galak ng bawa't damdamin;
ang kaginhawahan ngayo'y nakahain,
na mapupupol na saan man sumuling —
kay bait ng Ama sa mga dalangin,
kay timyas ng Kanyang saganang paggiliw!

Kami'y magbubukid . . .
ang aming daigdig ay Bukas na Palad
ng kadakilaang wala nang katulad;
ito na ang dakong siyang matatawag,
na binubukalan ng "pulot at gatas" —
dito kinakadlo ang aming pangarap,
ang kaligayahang pang-alis ng hirap!



WB Eugenio S. Labitoria, the convention floor leader, presented several resolutions for consideration by the brethren in the convention. MW Desiderio Dalisay delivered the keynote address.

The Grand Masters party was scheduled to attend the convention of Masonic District No. 6 in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, however they were delayed by four and one half hours enroute to Muñoz due to landslides cause by heavy rains thereby missing the opportunity to attend the convention.

**HAVE
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(Sgd.) **RAYMOND E. WILMARTH**
Editor

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