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Grand Master's Page



MASONIC EDUCATION

In my visit to various Masonic Lodges all over the country, I am particularly gratified by the enthusiasm discernible among our Brother Masons. Not only are they ready and willing to perform their avowed roles within the framework of the Fraternity, but that they are anxious to serve the community to which they belong.

I noted with satisfaction the thirst, among our Brethren, for more knowledge of Masonry. This is an area in the life of our Fraternity that must be filled. It is an encouraging sign and challenge that we ought to meet, if we are to bear the responsibilities properly belonging to us.

It is then necessary that we educate and re-educate ourselves on the doctrines of Free Masonry. Our growing responsibilities require us to go deeper in the Fraternity.

With the continuing assessment of our objectives, we should be able to enhance further the responsiveness of our organization. This will be our rallying point in the fulfillment of our commitments and moral duties to both humanity and the community in which we live.


JOLLY R. BUGARIN
Grand Master



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IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW



Everyone has at some time in his life heard the story of the three operative Masons in the Middle Ages who were cutting stones. When asked what he was doing, the first replied, "Struggling hard to feed my wife and children." When asked the same question, the second replied, "Breaking my back, cutting these stones!" But the third, when asked replied, "Helping in my small, humble way to build this beautiful temple that will stand long after I am gone as a monument to all of us who gave it beauty and existence."

This little story sets forth explicitly a most fundamental concept in the motivation of Masons in discharging their Masonic obligations. Too many Brethren speak of the sacrifices Masonry requires of them, too few mention the golden opportunities it gives Masons to practice their sacred obligations.

If any man approaches our altar and assumes our obligations of his own free will and accord, it is because he welcomes the opportunities Masonry will offer him to give freely of his time and material means. Should anyone approach our altar with the thought of assuming the burden of helping others when he can't even take care of himself, or with the view that he will be entitled to a share of his Brethren's time and material means without giving at least an equal or greater measure of his own, his conscience would serve him best, if he would not complete his vow.

Masonry gives each of us the opportunity to serve our Brethren and our fellow men cheerfully, without restraint, or hint of how much we ourselves may suffer or lose in giving that service. To consider the act a sacrifice, is to render it not as a priceless gift of Brotherly Love but rather as a begrudged concession only given because it had to be given, or because acceptance in the eyes of others required it. Unless we give of our time and material means freely, and without thought of what it demands of us, we have not given Masonically.

Each Brother must determine for himself, what he can best do and give to Masonry, that will not be a sacrifice to him, but the golden opportunity he was searching for when he first knelt before our altar.

R.E.W.



BENITO MANEZE SR.

“There are three kinds of Masons: one who just wants to become a member because Masonry has a name, another are Masons who when they passed the Oriental Chair just fade away, and the last group are Masons who stick it out through thick and thin. The last group take Masonry seriously and make it their business to live up to the tenets they have learned from the Craft.”

Thus says WB Benito Maneze, Sr., who, at the ripe old age of 80 years still attends Lodge and committee meetings of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

“Mang Ben,” as his close associates and some Brethren call him, was born in Guagua, Pampanga on March 21, 1899, when our country was in a period of uncertainty. Twenty-two years later the tall and debonair gentleman from Pampanga married Martha Herman and, as there was no family planning then, this couple had 17 children; 10 boys and 7 girls. Three of his sons later became members of the Loyalty Chapter, Order of DeMolay. A daughter became a member of Perla Assembly No. 1, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, while two of the daughters became members of Sampaguita Chapter No. 3, OES. Later a son, his junior, became a member of the Craft, who with his wife Carmen Virtucio became Past Patron and Past Matron of Sampaguita Chapter No. 3, OES, testifying to the fact that Mang Ben does not believe in keeping Masonry to himself.

“I didn’t know much about Masonry. When I was employed at Manila Installment Company, headed by the late James W. Stevenson, I was attracted by the format of the old *Cabletow* that I sort of admired its cover without opening the magazine. One day WB James W. Stevenson saw me holding a copy. He asked me if I knew about Masonry, to which I had to confess that I had little knowledge about it, but would like to become a member. My boss became my sponsor in Perla del Oriente Lodge No. 1034, Scottish Constitution, in 1930 when Michael N. Stamelos was the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.” Mang Ben stuck with Perla Lodge and ultimately became its Right Worshipful Master in 1940. After the Sec-

ond World War, he became its secretary and continued to serve the Lodge in that capacity until he retired in 1977.

A self-made man, Mang Ben is a product of the "University of Hard Knocks." A graduate of the public school system, from Grade I to high school, his expertise in accounting was learned through self-study by enrolling with the International Correspondence School. He did a stint with the government service working with the Bureau of Lands for two years and the Bureau of Audits for seven years. In 1926, he left the government service to join a furniture manufacturing concern as Assistant Cashier, later becoming its Assistant Manager. He was elected member of the Board of Directors and became Treasurer of the same firm, a position which he held until the outbreak of World War II.

After Liberation, Mang Ben became Chief Clerk in the Civilian Personnel Section of the US Army Depot No. I in Tondo, Manila. He later transferred to L. M. Hausman and Griffin Industrial Engineering Corporation as an Accountant serving as such until his retirement in 1977.

In 1935 Mang Ben was exalted to the Royal Arch degree in Keystone Chapter No. 354, S. C., and was elevated to First Principal "Z" of the Chapter and Noah and Chief of the Council in 1939. He later became the Recorder of the Council.

"I learned much about Masonry through the Royal Arch degree. It was an experience for me to get new insights of the many areas that I didn't understand in the first,

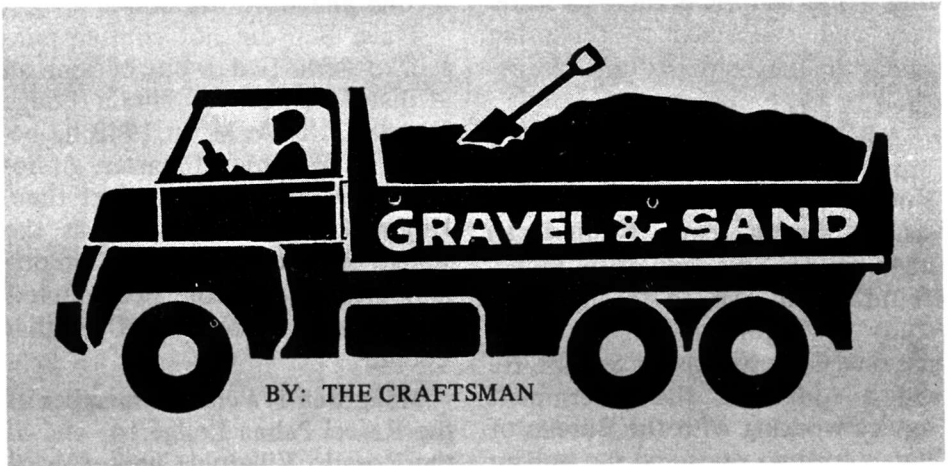
second and third degrees."

Mang Ben did not confine himself to Perla Lodge but became an affiliate member of Hiram Lodge No. 88, F. & A. M. In 1948 he became its Worshipful Master, an honor he values most. At that time, Hiram Lodge was known as the Lodge of Past Masters since no one may affiliate with the Lodge unless he was a Past Master of another Lodge.

Mang Ben is a charter member of the Rafael Palma Lodge 147 and of the Rosario Villaruel Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star. He later affiliated with Sampaguita Chapter No. 3, O. E. S. which elected him Worthy Patron in 1972. He is a member of Noli-Me-Tangere Lodge No. 148 besides being an honorary member of Araw Lodge No. 18 and Mencius Lodge No. 93. When an edict was issued by the Grand Lodge restricting dual membership of members with other Blue Lodges in the same district under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, Mang Ben had to demit from Hiram Lodge. The Hiram Lodge Brethren, of course, did not forget the services of Mang Ben and later made him an honorary member.

"I recall that before the Second World War, our Brethren came to Lodge meetings in formal attire. This type of tradition was only broken during the time when the American servicemen were around. Life was hard in Manila so it was not uncommon for Brethren to attend Lodge meetings in short sleeves. I remember very well that in spite of the fact that we didn't

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CONSTITUTION OF EAST GATE LODGE NO. 232 AND INSTALLATION OF ITS OFFICERS

September 21st is Thanksgiving day in the Philippines. To the Brethren of Borongan, Eastern Samar, it was a day of preparation for an eventful meeting, the first of its kind in the history of that locality. Never in the annals of that sleepy town was there a celebration that involved practically all the important people in the community. Days before the Constitution of East Gate Lodge No. 232 and the Installation of its officers in the municipality of Borongan Eastern Samar, the town people were astir with expectations, waiting to witness the birth of the first Masonic Lodge in that province.

Brother Domingo Chua and VW Alejandrino A. Eusebio went to Borongan on September 18, 1979 to coordinate the activities of the members of the new Lodge and to see that there were no loose ends in the preparations that would mar the success of the affair.

Later on, on September 21st, at four o'clock in the morning WBs Oscar L. Fung, Antonio D. Baquilod, Marcelo C. Cheung, Leandro F. Cruz and Samuel P. Fernandez met at the Domestic airport and boarded their flight to Tacloban City. In Tacloban City, they were met by VW Santiago L. Chua who insisted that they break bread with

him before they continued on their long, tedious trip to Borongan.

As the Brethren prepared to cross into Samar, a sight to behold presented itself to the traveller's view — the San Juanico Bridge. This long, serpentine bridge that connects Leyte and Samar is as a dream fulfilled, the Warays having long been separated by a tortuous body of water. Today, people from either side of the bridge commute daily merging their diverse worlds into a single community.

Around noontime, the Brethren stopped at Buray for lunch and prepared for a dusty ride that will finally usher them to their final destination.

While the road was narrow and bumpy, it was a pleasure to view the untouched beauty of the rustic scene before them. Aside from crossing a number of small bridges, there were instances when they felt that heaven was touching the earth. They finally reached Borongan, a town perched on a mountain slope carved by nature facing the blue sea. Borongan was an isolated community where Spanish galleons of yore dared travel to get the precious commodities grown in that town. Borongan in the native dialect means "fog" and like any other place in our country, this capital town of Eastern Samar is a victim of modern technology.

The Brethren from Manila were billeted in the respective houses of the Borongan Brethren. After having supped with the delegation everyone went with VW Alejandrino A. Eusebio to help in arranging the hall and to practice their respective parts while Bro. Domingo Chua remained in the house of Bro. Sabate

to act as the chef of the group. If the trip was exciting, the night was doubly so being blessed with the chirping of the crickets and by the myriad lights of the fireflies. Our Brethren chatted for hours on end by candle light.

RW Simeon Rene Lacson, *Senior Grand Warden*, VW Esteban Munar-riz, PGM, *Grand Secretary*, VW Rosendo C. Herrera, *Junior Grand Deacon* and VW Eliseo A. Arandia, Jr., *Junior Grand Lecturer* for District No. 1, together with delegations from Makabugwas Lodge No. 47, Tacloban Lodge No. 221, Ormoc Lodge 234, Northern Samar Lodge No. 211 and Mt. Huraw Lodge No. 198 arrived for the festivities in the early afternoon of September 22, 1979.

The next day Mira, a daughter of Bro. Celestino Sabate showed the group around the place. They were brought to the church and to the plaza before buckling down to work. By four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, the Federation of Association of Barangay Councils Hall where the rites were to be conducted was filled to capacity. Governor Justo A. Reago; Atty. Luis A. Capito, Municipal Mayor; Assemblyman Victor A. Amasa; Lt. Col. Sabas C. Imbong, Provincial Commander and Msgr. Sincero Lucero, DD., Bishop of the Diocese of Borongan having arrived a little earlier.

Only the sound of silence may be heard as the officers of the Grand Lodge marched into the Hall. Everyone's attention was on the ceremonies, not wanting to miss a single piece of the action of the participants or a word that was being said.

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MENCIUS LODGE NO. 93, F. & A. M.

BY: WB CHARLES ONG CHANG

Insignificance has always found itself at the root of all greatness. On this Mencius Golden Year, the 50th anniversary of our Brotherhood. Mencius Lodge No. 93, F. & A. M., finds itself with strengthened foundations on the course of true greatness.

On January 15, 1924, MW Frederic H. Stevens, then Grand Master granted a dispensation to 37 Brethren of Chinese descent authorizing the formation of Mencius Lodge U. D. At the Twelfth Annual Grand Lodge Communications eight days later the charter was approved and on June 28, 1924, Mencius Lodge No. 93 was constituted at the Masonic Temple on the Escolta. Senior Grand Warden Francisco A. Delgado, representing the incumbent Grand Master, MW Wenceslao Trinidad, lead the ceremonies which was attended by more than 400 guests headed by MW Teodoro M. Kalaw, Masonic scholar, statesman and historian. The officers were installed by MW Rafael Palma who was assisted by MW Michael Goldenberg. They were: Luis Lim Billian of Isla Luzon de Lodge No. 57

— *Master*; Yu Chun Tek of Biak-na-Bato Lodge No. 7 — *Senior Warden*; O Hway Peck of Isla de Luzon Lodge No. 57 — *Junior Warden*; Gonzalo C. Go Quiolay of Nilad Lodge No. 12 — *Treasurer*; Marciano Ong of Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 80 — *Secretary*; Say Koc Chuan of Minerva Lodge No. 41 — *Chaplain*; Manuel Govantes of Noli-Me-Tangere Lodge No. 42 — *Senior Deacon*; Leandro Fua Quiocji of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 — *Junior Deacon*; Chan Lin Cuon of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16 — *Marshal*; Chua Chin Sian — *Senior Steward*; Lim Su An of Nilad Lodge No. 12 — *Junior Steward*; Tien Sing of Noli-Me-Tangere Lodge No. 42 — *Organist*; Gaw Punso of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 — *Tyler*. The other jubilant charter members were: O Chu Cun, Ty Han Eng, Lim Teck Suan, Trinidad J. Te Quimjua, Gregorio Chua Velasco, Juan Chua Velasco, Uy Yoc Fay and Tan Han Huy all of *Isla de Luzon Lodge No. 57*; Agapito Yulak and Yu Hiang, from *Biak-Na-Bato Lodge No. 7*; Lao Uh Cuan, Chun Ban Bee, and Carlos Lim Kalaw, all members of

Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27; Tomas L. Dy Congtua, Simon A. Chuan Bona and Sio Yao Nang all of Nilad Lodge No. 12; Lim Chay Seng and Uy Sing, Sinukuan Lodge No. 16; Dy Bun Pin, Noli-Me-Tangere Lodge No. 42; Cu Uy Gan and Uy Guan, Araw Lodge No. 18, Tanto A. Hoseng, Dalisay Lodge No. 14; Na Tim, Dapitan Lodge No. 21; Lee Ah Hui, Walana Lodge No. 13.

The members pursued their labors within and without the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The late MW Michael Goldenberg, who was an honorary member of Mencius Lodge No. 93 from 1928 up to his demise in 1963, stated on several occasions that the Lodge was a catalytic agent in the formation of Lodges in China and, ultimately, the Grand Lodge of China. Many of the members visited the Lodges in China, before World War II, giving these sister Lodges the necessary incentives.

Thirty years after he had granted the dispensation, the late MW Frederick H. Stevens, was happy to state that Mencius Lodge No. 93 greatly furthered the cause of Masonry beyond his dreams.

He particularly mentioned WB Tieng Sing, one of the charter members, who by his Masonic work is well known throughout the eastern part of the United States. He also recounted that this venerable Brother with WB Joe Woon Lum of Shanghai and a group of Masons of Chinese ancestry from New York, formed a third-degree team and using the ritual of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines conferred the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in the different Lodges in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, etc.

He further said that it was a splendid sight to see these Brethren, faultlessly attired in evening suits, march into a Lodge and before large crowds confer the degree in faultless English.

Even the late MW Wenceslao Trinidad, the Grand Master who signed the charter was correct in his prognostication that Mencius Lodge No. 93 would be instrumental in spreading the tenets and teachings of the Craft in the neighboring country of China.

Before the Masonic Lodges ceased their labors during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during WW II, the members of the Mencius Lodge No. 93 had the foresight to hide in a warehouse their Masonic paraphernalia, furnitures and fixtures. These came in handy, immediately after the liberation, at the resumption of Masonic labors at the temporary quarters of the Lodge at 138 Gunao, Quiapo, Manila. Amidst the gloom and confusion of post-war rehabilitation, candle lights guided the footsteps of new initiates from the Armed Forces of the United States seeking light in Masonry. From Gunao street the Lodge was transferred to the Plaridel Masonic Temple on 520 San Marcelino which had been rebuilt after being desecrated and completely destroyed by the Japanese Imperial Army.

It was on March 17, 1954, during a Special Meeting of Mencius Lodge No. 93, that MW Mauro Baradi presented to Bro. Clarence Edger Merwin, Jr., Captain, AUS, Master designate, the dispensation for the institution of a new Lodge in Seoul, Korea to be named Na Nungok

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KALIDOSCOPE

ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1979, EAST GATE LODGE NO. 232, F. & A. M. IN BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR WAS CONSTITUTED AND ITS OFFICERS INSTALLED. RW SIMEON RENE LACSON, SENIOR GRAND WARDEN, ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER GRAND OFFICERS AND MEMBER OF THE GRAND LODGE WENT TO BORONGAN TO CONSTITUTE THE LODGE.







RW SIMEON RENE LACSON POURS OIL DURING CONSTITUTION RITES AND MW ESTEBAN MUNARRIZ READS THE CONSTITUTION OF EAST GATE LODGE NO. 232.



RW SIMEON RENE LACSON WELCOME MSGR. SINCERO LUCERO (LEFT) AND LT. COL. SABAS IMBONG (RIGHT).



VW ALEJANDRINO A. EUSEBIO INSTALLING THE OFFICERS OF EAST GATE LODGE NO. 232



MSGR. SINCERO LUCERO DELIVERED A VERY ERUDITE SPEECH ON LEADERSHIP.



RW LACSON GAVE THE CLOSING REMARKS.



THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHOIR RENDERED THE MUSICAL NUMBERS FOR THE OCCASION.

GRAVEL & SAND...From page 7

After the constitution ceremonies, Governor Reago, Mayor Capito, Assemblyman Amasa, Lt. Col. Imbong, and Msgr. Lucero were escorted to the seats in the east.

The officers of East Gate Lodge No. 232 were then installed in due and public form with VW Alejandro A. Eusebio acting as the Installing Officer. He was assisted by WB Antonio D. Baquilod as Master of Ceremonies. Installed were: Emmanuel R. Daguman, *Master*; Humberto A. Montes, *Senior Warden*; Almario A. Montes, *Junior Warden*; Jose J. Almanzar, *Treasurer*; and Napoleon B. Adena, *Secretary*.

Lorenzo LaoHoo, *Chaplain*; Domingo T. Chua (Co Seng), *Marshall*; Busi Dy, *Senior Deacon*; Antonio D. Baquilod, P.M., *Junior Deacon*; Celestino B. Sabate, *Auditor*; Pastor T. Tabale, *Almoner*; Abraham Nazareno, *Senior Steward*; Elpidio Aserios, *Junior Steward* and Jesse A. Casas, *Tyler*.

In his inaugural address, WB Emmanuel R. Daguman spoke on the Masonic Fraternity.

Msgr. Sincero Lucero, DD., Catholic Bishop of Eastern Samar delivered a very erudite speech on leadership. He was introduced by VW Santiago L. Chua.

RW Simeon Rene Lacson, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines gave the closing remarks. He observed that this was the only occasion where sitting in the East were the Assemblymen, the Provincial Governor, the Municipal Mayor, the Provincial Commander, the Catholic Bishop of

Eastern Samar, and the dignitaries of Borongan. The ceremony was capped by a fellowship dinner with the rest of the Brethren from other Lodges rendering musical numbers as their contribution to enliven the occasion.

The musical numbers were rendered by members of the local Christian Youth Fellowship Choir and the wives and daughters of the Brethren.

Most of the Brethren, after returning to their billets continued the celebration with an "all night spiritual."

At 8:00 o'clock the next morning RW Simeon Rene Lacson, MW Esteban Munarriz, VW Eliseo Arandia, VW Alejandro A. Eusebio, VW Rosendo Herrera and WB Samuel P. Fernandez, accompanied by other visiting Brethren and their ladies left for Tacloban, Catbalogan, Catarman and Ormoc City.

WBs Antonio D. Baquilod, Marcelo C. Cheung and Leandro F. Cruz, Bros. Celestino Sabate, Jose J. Almanzar and Oscar L. Fung left Borongan at 2:00 A.M., Monday for Allen, Northern Samar.

In Allen, the group rested at the house of Bro. and Mrs. Edelberto Velasco. Mrs. Velasco served lunch for the group prior to their embarking on the ferry to cross the San Bernardino Strait, a one hour-fifteen minute boat ride to Matnog, Sorsogon.

From Matnog, they rode the air-conditioned bus to Daet, Camarines Norte to rest and get some sleep. The next morning the group went to the market to shop around for *pasalubongs*. They left Daet at 10:00 o'clock and arrived at Manila at 5:00 in the afternoon.

CALINOG LODGE NO. 226 CONSTITUTED

MW Jolly R. Bugarin, RW Simeon Rene Lacson, VW Franklin Littaua, VW Hermogenes P. Oliveros, and MW Esteban Munarriz, PGM, together with VW Alejandrino A. Eusebio and VW Eliseo Arandia, Jr., as well as Bro. Generoso Halican and other Brethren from Manila, went to Calinog, Iloilo to constitute the Calinog Lodge and install its officers.

Calinog Lodge No. 226 was founded by a group of Masons under the late WB Serafin Gustilo with the help of WB Valerio Rovira.

The party was met at the airport by WB Lirio A. Gustilo, Master of Calinog, Lodge No. 226, Bro. Miguel Abaya, Colonel, PC, AFP, provincial commander and Senior Steward of the Lodge, VW. Panfilo Enojas and other Brethren from Iloilo Masonic Lodge No. 11.

The party was preceded by an escort of Philippine Constabularies under the command of Capt. Roberto Camilang, Company Commander of P.C. 322, to Calinog.

The school band of Calinog Agricultural College met the party at the town proper, where flowers and garlands were given to the Grand Lodge Officers.

The Grand Lodge Officers and party together with Brethren from different Lodges of Iloilo paraded through the town, to the residence of WB. Lirio Gustilo where they were served lunch.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the ceremonies for the Constitution of the Lodge was begun after which

a program was presented and refreshments served. Later the officers were installed with Bro. Eliseo Arandia acting as Master of Ceremonies. VW. Franklin Littaua gave an inspirational talk and the Grand Master gave a short talk and the closing remarks. The Roman Catholic priest of Calinog, Iloilo, Monsigneur W. Enojo gave the invocation. The Hon. Mayor of Calinog Iloilo Atty. Jose Celo also give a short talk.

After the installation there was a dinner and dance which lasted until eleven o'clock in the evening.

Later the party went to the rest house of Ambassador Benedicto where the Grand Master rested for the night while some of the Brethren went for a swim at the pool.

The next morning the Brethren had breakfast at the residence of WB. Lirio Gustilo and then motored to Iloilo with Capt. Camilang in the lead car.

VW Valerio Rovira with a delegation from the Lanao Lodges also attended the constitution ceremonies with the Master of Tigbauan Lodge, WB. Pastor Torres.

WB Tony Ko and VW Maravilla of Lantawan Lodge No. 201, Negros Occidental and a delegation also attended the affair. Other attendees were Bro. Federico Gallani, PM., Grand Lodge Inspector and WB P. Enojas, Grand Lodge Deputy, District No. 14.

Officers of Calinog Lodge No. 226 are: WB. Lirio A. Gustilo, **Worshipful Master**; Bro. Rogelio G. Achuela, **Senior Warden**; Bro. Cezar Regalado, **Junior Warden**; Bro. Godofredo Padernilla, **Treasurer**; Bro. Clemente Espejo, **Secretary**; Bro. Crispin Drillon, Jr., **Chaplain**; Bro. Cecilio Lim, Jr., **Marshall**; Bro. Gil-

veto Funtecho, **Senior Deacon**, Bro. Rafael Chiva, **Junior Deacon**; Bro. Miguel Abaya, **Senior Steward**; Bro. Edgardo Catilo, **Junior Steward**; Bro. Salvador Pasaporte, **Organist**; Bro. Nacienceno Rico, **Orator**; Bro. Dominador Sustento, **PM.**, Tyler; Bro. Conrado Nobleza, **PM**, **Almoner**; Bro. Alberto Ferrer, **Sr.**, **Auditor**.

– LIRIO GUSTILLO

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF BICOL LODGES

The 28th Annual Convention of Masonic District No. 13 was held at the Ago Medical and Educational Center, Legaspi City on October 5-6, 1979. Mayon Lodge No. 61, hosted the affair.

The Lodges comprising the District are Mayon Lodge No. 61, Isarog Lodge No. 33, Bulusan Lodge No. 38 and Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107.

Theme of the convention was: "Making Masonry Stronger in Masonic District 13."

MW Jolly R. Bugarin, Grand Master; MW Esteban Munarriz, PGM, Grand Secretary; RW Simeon Rene Lacson, Senior Grand Warden; VW Marcelino P. Dysangco, VW Hermogenes P. Oliveros, VW Rosendo C. Herrera, Junior Grand Deacon, WB Hilario G. Esguerra and this writer went to Legaspi to attend the convention.

Members of the Grand Master's party were introduced by VW Ernesto del Mundo, Grand Lodge Deputy for District No. 13.

MW Jolly R. Bugarin delivered the keynote address. After his ad-

dress, the Grand Master held a no-holds-barred dialogue with the convention delegates in order to know the problems of the District and help solve them and also informed the Brethren on the activities of the Grand Lodge, particularly the progress of the Temple Fund Campaign.

After the dialogue, the representatives of each Lodge were called upon to read the position papers on the different facets of the convention theme. Bulusan Lodge No. 38 was assigned the topic: "Upgrading the quality of membership in the Lodge"; Isarog Lodge No. 33 was assigned the topic: "Masonic education of members"; "Lodge finances" was assigned to Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 and "Attendance and participation in Lodge affairs" was assigned to Mayon Lodge No. 61.

A fraternal banquet was held at the Trident Hall of Hotel La Trinidad at 7:30 P.M. of the first day of the convention.

The program for the evening was opened with the singing of the National Anthem led by Sister Perla Intia of the Magayon Court, Order of the Amaranth and the welcome address was given by WB Romulo Intia. VW Simeon Rene Lacson, Senior Grand Warden was the guest speaker for the evening. He was introduced by WB Francisco Yap. The closing remarks were given by MW Jolly R. Bugarin, Grand Master.

The plenary session was continued on the second day of the convention at the Amec Theater.

Resolutions relative to the theme of the convention and those relating to the solutions to the problems for the District were presented, dis-

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MANEZE SR. ... From page 5

have any air conditioned rooms, pre-war time, we sweated it out inside the Lodge room wearing our coat and tie. Our Brethren took Masonry seriously. Maybe it was because we were not very many at that time."

I look at Mang Ben as he tried to reflect on the past. I wanted to interrupt him but then I let him go on if only to probe into the past and learn how our Brethren conducted themselves in Lodge meetings.

"After the war, Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034, S.C., had difficulty rehabilitating itself but one thing I noticed was that in spite of our limitations we came to Lodge in proper attire, a discipline that has been strongly followed up to the present time.

I almost said "Amen" to his statement. For indeed, anybody visiting Lodge Perla Del Oriente will be impressed by the comportment of the Brethren sitting in Lodge.

Mang Ben became a Master of the Royal Secret in the Philippine Bodies, A. & ASR in June 1940. He was active in the exemplification of the degrees until he became one of the organizers and charter members of the Luzon Bodies. In the Luzon

Bodies, he busied himself with its various activities and became its first "music man" providing beautiful background music to degrees exemplified in full ceremonial form. He was the secretary of the Luzon Bodies before he was crowned active member of the Supreme Council.

"My Brethren in the Luzon Bodies wanted me to continue serving as the secretary but Illustrious Stevens had other plans for me."

Mang Ben has served as Assistant Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council for many years, and many times designated "Acting" when the need arose. He has also chaired many important Committees of the Council and is at present its Grand Treasurer General.

Though burdened by the weight of age, Mang Ben still travels from his Grace Park residence to the Supreme Council to attend committee meetings. There is no week that he is not seen in the Scottish Rite Temple, for while he has retired from his job and from other Masonic duties, he has not retired from Masonry. Mang Ben would rather belong to the third group of Masons making it his business to live up to the tenets of the Craft.

— SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ



cussed and approved.

Capping the convention activities was the awarding of certificates to the Lodges with the most number of ladies attending with the delegates, the most number of delegates and the awarding of the Ma-

yon Lodge No. 61 Trophy to Bulusan Lodge No. 38 for the "highest percentage of members in attendance during the District Convention." If a Lodge wins the trophy for three consecutive years, they may keep it permanently.



BULAKLAK NG URAY

Ni Elpidio Adalia

Ang aking nilakhan ay mga dawagan,
Sa aking paligid ay mga damuhan;
Bahay ng gagamba ay naglalawitan,
At halos gapusin ang aking katawan.

Hindi ako pansin ng mga dalaga,
At paminsan-minsa'y niyayapakan pa;
Aking kasiyahang umaaray sila,
Kagyat na matinik, manipis na paa.

Ako'y naiingit sa ibang bulaklak,
Mga sampagita't sari-saring rosas;
Lalo na kung yao'y ginagawang hiyas,
Palamuting may bango sa dibdib ng dilag.

Sa gitna ng lumbay ako'y inaaliw,
Lahat ay may buhay at kamatayan din;
Kung sila'y maganda, laging ginigiliw,
Kukupas ang lahat, pagsapit ng dilim.





RW SIMEON RENE LACSON, SENIOR GRAND WARDEN AWARDING THE MAYON LODGE NO. 61 TROPHY TO BULUSAN LODGE NO. 38 "FOR HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE" DURING THE 28TH DISTRICT CONVENTION IN LEGASPI CITY.



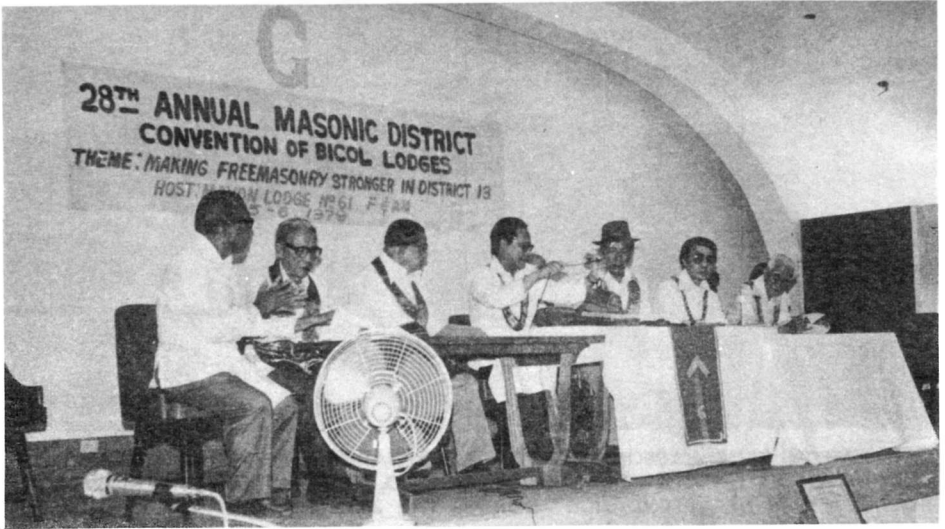
MENCIUS ... From page 9

Handa Lodge, U. D. Unique and memorable was the occasion for the presentation of the dispensation was done by a Filipino Grand Master, in a Lodge whose membership was largely of Chinese nationals and an American recipient, who would guide and govern the new Lodge during the first year of Masonic activities in a foreign but friendly soil.

Mencius Lodge No. 93 is witness to many fruitful years and on this Mencius Golden Year the members continue to perform their Masonic work in their quest for true greatness. For Mencius Lodge was named after that immortal Chinese philosopher, Mencius, who said, "We are all human beings. Those who attend to their greater selves become great, and those who attend to their smaller selves become small men."

The Past Masters of Mencius Lodge No. 93 are:

Luis Lim Billian – 1924-1926; O Hway Pek – 1927; Tieng Sing – 1928; Victoriano Tanlayco – 1929; Agapito Yulak – 1930; James V. Limpe – 1931; Chan Lin Cuon – 1932-1934; Say Koc Chuan – 1935-1937; Chua Chin Sian – 1938-1939; Gaw Punso – 1940-1945; Tan Chin Teck – 1946; Matias Wetack – 1947; James V. Limpe – 1948-1950; Edward K. Cheng – 1951; Benjamin Lao Teodoro – 1952; Richard Khoo – 1953; Antonio C. S. Ching – 1954; William Ning – 1955-1956; William Pay – 1957-1959; Benjamin C. Gotamco – 1960-1961; Angeles Lim Guat – 1962; Federico J. Chuseuy – 1963; Eugene K. Lim – 1964-1965; Te Liong Bio – 1966; James V. Limpe – 1967; Francisco T. Chua – 1968; John L. S. Ong – 1969; Ting Su Tiok – 1970; Henry Ang-Hessing – 1971; William T. Chua – 1972; Charles O. Cheng – 1973.



MW JOLLY R. BUGARIN LED THE PANEL OF GRAND OFFICERS IN A NO-HOLDS BARRED DIALOGUE WITH THE BRETHREN OF BICOL LODGE DURING THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF MASONIC DISTRICT NO. 13 IN LEGASPI CITY ON OCTOBER 5-6, 1979.

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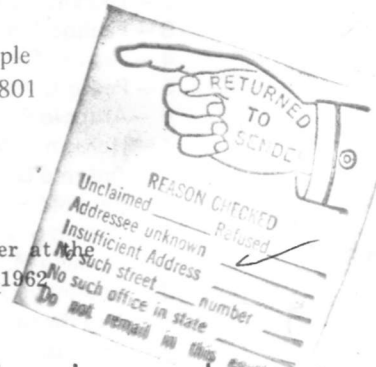
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