



The CABLETOW

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

MARCH – APRIL 1985



PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE
THE GRAND MASTER'S
SEAT OF POWER



Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

OFFICERS

Grand Master	Reynato S. Puno
Deputy Grand Master	Pedro W. Guerzon
Senior Grand Warden	Reynold S. Fajardo
Junior Grand Warden	Teodorico V. Baldonado
Grand Treasurer	Jose L. Araneta, PGM
Grand Secretary	Manuel M. Crudo, Sr., PGM

BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

President	Raymond E. Wilmarth, PGM
Member	Damaso C. Tria, PGM
Member	Jolly R. Bugarin, PGM
Member	Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM
Member	Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM
Secretary	Pedro W. Guerzon, DGM

Asst. Grand Treasurer	Simeon Rene Lacson, PGM
Asst. Grand Secretary	Domingo F. M. Domingo
Grand Orator	Noli Sagadraca
Grand Chaplain	Benito Reyes, Jr.
Grand Marshal	Jose Guerrero
Grand Standard Bearer	Juanito Fernandez
Grand Sword Bearer	Carlos de Castro
Grand Bible Bearer	Victoriano S. Go
Senior Grand Lecturer	Eduardo P. Gonzales, Jr.
Junior Grand Lecturer	Juan C. Nabong, Jr.
Junior Grand Lecturer	Danilo Angeles
Senior Grand Deacon	Victorino Ramos
Junior Grand Deacon	Jimmy K. Tamano
Senior Grand Steward	Pablo Chu
Junior Grand Steward	Modesto Gonzales
Grand Pursuivant	Jaime Arcebucho
Grand Organist	Alberto Reyes
Grand Tyler	Marcelino Dysangco



The CABLETOW

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

MARCH -- APRIL 1985

REPORT OF THE GRAND MASTER April 26, 1985

PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE

**By MW REYNATO S. PUNO
Grand Master**

PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE

Report of the Grand Master
April 1985

To the Most Worshipful Sirs,
Right Worshipful and
Very Worshipful Sirs,
Worshipful Sirs and
Brethren:

In a few days time I will be stepping down the Grand Oriental Chair. I shall finish my 365 days of reign as Grand Master. To be exact on April 27, a very important date, the birthday of my beloved mother.

Allow me therefore to express in behalf of my family our eternal gratitude to all of you for entrusting to me the reins of leadership of the Craft. It is a trust I shall value in my life for it was full and fulfilling. I hardly know of any organization that bestows complete confidence on its leader like our Craft. Thousands of unbroken years must have evolved this tradition. I hope it does not undergo any mutation for it is a distinguishing feature of masonry. Any mutation will start our mutilation. Let us not court that danger.

All trustees have to make an accounting. To me this is a pleasure. It gives me the opportunity to share with you the pains and paens of the Grandmastership. I wish to caption this report — Promise and Performance.

I. Quantum leap of *lodges constituted*

This year we have a quantum leap in the number of blue lodges constituted. We constituted nine (9) blue lodges. This is short of phenomenal, considering the difficulties of the time. Indeed, a lot of organizations have folded up due to the economic crunch. We have not only survived, we are succeeding.

Our new lodges are located in Luzon and Mindanao. In Calamba, Laguna, we now have Jose P. Rizal Memorial Lodge No. 270. The constitution of a blue lodge in the birth place of our national hero and foremost mason is heartening. What was once an embarrassing vacuum has now been filled up. In Cavite City, we also constituted La Naval Lodge No. 269. La Naval is a highly interesting lodge. As its name connotes, this lodge is the handiwork of brethren in the navy. Its first set of officers are all navy men. They were all in their immaculate white uniform when they were installed. Incidentally, this is our 12th lodge in the province of Cavite. There seems to be no hedge in the growth of masonry in Cavite. How I hope we have more Cavites. Then we constituted Meridian Lodge No. 268 in Balanga, Bataan. The lodge is so named because the founding brethren conceived it at that point

of time. The enthusiasm of the Meridian brethren is infectious. They have already constructed a beautiful temple, the best in Bataan. Their temple rests on a sprawling area right along the highway. I understand, the brethren will put up next a swimming pool with a basketball court to boot. Truly, they gone a long, long way. Right on brethren!

We also constituted Manuel L. Quezon Memorial Lodge No. 262 in Baler, Aurora. It is the first masonic lodge in Baler. I was happy about the efforts of the brethren, especially WB Rodolfo Beltran, its first Worshipful Master. To reach Baler is a triumph of body and spirit together. You have to negotiate treacherous mountain roads. Literally, rough and rugged road. But all difficulties of visiting the brethren of Baler are bound to vanish the moment you reach them. They simply overwhelm you. With their warmth, their care, their concern. And the wonder of it all in this new lodge is that even newly raised members deliver lectures. They perform flawlessly. I will always treasure my honorary membership in this lodge.

But this is not all for Nueva Ecija. We constituted two more blue lodges in District No. 6: Mt. Amurong Lodge No. 264 and Zaragosa Lodge No. 263.

There are now thirteen (13) blue lodges in this district. In number of lodges, District No. 6 is now top. The potential of the district is il-

limitable. I understand two more lodges are coming up. It is the district to watch. I wish the brethren will fulfill our rising expectations. We are all excited.

Masonry in Mindanao will never be outdone. The splendor of the Craft in the South is something to savor. I have always advised brethren who want to behold the beauty of our brotherhood to go South. Nobody has come back unimpressed. Thanks to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, we were able to constitute three lodges in Mindanao — two in Cotabato, one Ozamiz City. These are the Shariff Kabunsuan Lodge No. 266, the Midsayap Lodge No. 267 and the Don Lorenzo Tan Memorial Lodge No. 265. Our temples in Mindanao symbolize the universality of masonry. Thru masonry we link up with our Muslim brethren in Mindanao.

We were blessed with UDs this year. They are: Manuel L. Quezon Memorial (Bukidnon) Lodge, Quezon, Bukidnon and Marcelo H. del Pilar Lodge, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Aside from granting dispensations to form the above new lodges, we have also extended a dispensation to reactivate Palawan Lodge No. 99 at the request of master masons now residing in the progressive town of Puerto Princesa.

II. Appointments of *Grand Lodge Representatives*

Masonry is a world-wide brother-

hood of men. Partly, this universality is attained thru the operation of Grand Lodges. Each Grand Lodge enjoys sovereignty within its jurisdiction. Grand Lodges accord amity and comity to each other. Thus a Grand Lodge is accorded the privilege of appointing representatives to other Grand Lodges. In a way, these representatives are the ambassadors.

This year I had the privilege to strengthen our relationships with other Grand Lodges by appointing the following representatives:

VW Eduardo P. Gonzalez. Jr.
 VW John L. Choa
 VW Pablo S. Chu
 VW Jimmy K. Tamano
 WB Julian T. Seeping
 WB Oscar L. Fung
 WB Amor Banda
 WB Juliano N. Chiu

These brethren have been hyper active in the fraternity. I am confident they will be able to represent the interest of the Craft in their assigned countries.

I also accepted the appointment of the following representatives to our Grand Lodge:

T.B. Langton from the United Grand Lodge of England
 Sydney Hill from the Grand Lodge of Ireland
 William M. Edwards from the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia
 Alberto Polidori from the Grand Orient of Italy

Miguel A. Canales from the Grand Lodge of Panama
 Alexander Coyas from the Grand Lodge of Greece
 Charles M. Johnston from the Grand Lodge of Washington

III. *Visiting Dignitaries*

It was our pleasure to receive several masonic dignitaries. The Right Honorable and Most Worshipful Lord Cornwallis, Pro-Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England breezed thru last February 17. He was accompanied by

- West Virginia
- England
- Puerto Rico
- Indiana
- Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil)
- Prince Edward Island
- Mexico
- Belgium

his charming wife, Lady Cornwallis. It was unfortunate I could not meet them personally. I was on the road to Isabela on that date visiting the brethren. Anyway, our Grand Lodge officers and Past Grand Masters welcomed them. At hand, among others, were RW Reynold S. Fajardo, VW John L. Choa, VW Domingo F.M. Domingo, MW Rosendo C. Herrera and MW Damaso C. Tria. The visitors could only spare a few hours as they were just transiting. The brethren brought then to Nayong Pilipino where they saw a miniature of the Philippines. They then had a quick dinner. I

understand the conversation was warm and most informative.

The Shriners again travelled in our desert. On Oct. 20, 1984, the nobles of Afifi came to hold a ceremonial. They were led by the Deputy Imperial Potentate III. Walter Kesselburgh & Nita. Others in the group were III. Potentate of Afifi III Harold Mckinster & Rita, High Priest Dick Matheson, Treasurer John Blair and Recorder Clayton McKean. The Grand Lodge gave them a welcome party at the Army & Navy Club. I also attended and spoke a few words in their Grand Ball held at Manila Hotel. Some 75 brethren were converted by Afifi. A good catch!

The second group of Shriners to come were the nobles of Aloha Temple. They flew to Cebu to conduct their ceremonials. I was privileged to be the speaker during their Grand Ball. The affair was a huge success. Some eighty brethren signed up. Aloha is the baby among the Shrine Temples here. But it is growing by leaps and bounds. The credit for Aloha's mighty leap goes to VW Vic Go, VW Pabling Ko, VW Jess Limkimso, WB Alejo Tiu, WB Cesar Cinco, WB Felix Vicuna, Jr., etc. Aloha can become the biggest in 3 years time. I hope it does not lose steam.

Last to come around were the dignitaries from the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. No less than The Honorable Don Wright, the Grand Master came. On tow with him were Lady

Ann and his mother Helen. Also in the company were the Honorable David J. Morgan, Past Grand Master, and his son Sterling. International Master Councilor Steven H. Borrer was also with them. They all came to grant the charter of our own Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. They also installed WB Mac Ramos, Sr. as its first Grand Master. It was a big show, a 3-day extravaganza.

The DeMolay dignitaries paid their courtesy call on the officers of the Grand Lodge in the morning of March 12. We tendered them a dinner at Hyatt Regency Hotel. The food was sumptuous, the fellowship excellent. Some PGMs graced the occasion, MW Mandac, MW Araneta, MW Crudo, MW Lacson and MW Herrera. I am happy the Order of DeMolay was chartered in my term. These boys enjoy a special place in our heart. We gave them the push they need. Now they are on their own. Best of luck, boys!

IV. *Visitations*

One of the more physically punishing part of the job of a Grand Master is visiting our forty two (42) masonic districts. Area wise, they say that the Philippine masonic jurisdiction is the biggest in the world. It includes Okinawa, Guam, Korea, Ryukyu Is., and Japan. But cavorting around the Philippines itself is already a king-sized headache. The country is archipelagic. This means you have to criss-cross

seas and climb mountains. And when you consider the danger of travelling, the task becomes intimidating.

Right after the day of my election, I met the new DDGMs and lecturers. I discussed with them our program of activities for the year. I was clear out in defining my expectations. All promised to play team game. The meeting was a lengthy one. Suggestions were plenty. Discussion was exhilarating. And one of the points we all agreed upon was to intensify district visitations. The administration of MW Rosendo Herrera earned high marks in visitations. Everybody endorsed the practice. These visits perk up their activities and strengthen the relationship of the blue lodges and the Grand Lodge.

There could be no disagreement on the desirability of visitations. So I consented to be a highly visible Grand Master. I agreed to visit all districts, during their conventions to bring the Grand Lodge to the grass roots.

But there was the problem of impossibility. We have 42 districts. If each district would hold a separate convention, my term would expire with me doing nothing except visiting districts. And visitation is but a part of a Grand Master's multifarious job. He has to be in the Grand Lodge most of the time. He cannot be an absentee leader. He must be physically present to administer its numerous needs, meet the brethren, especially those with

problems, direct the execution of his program. In short, call the shots for the Craft. Considering the conflicting demands on my time as Grand Master, the DDGMs gave me a blanket authority to set my own dates of visitation. They also consented to hold multi-district conventions, on a case to case basis, especially when the brethren so desire.

That solved the problem. I asked VW Ed Gonzalez to make our calendar of visitation and other activities. We published the year long schedule in the first issue of *The Cabletow* during our term. Let me say, I was able to follow the schedule to its last letter. I only missed my visit to the province of Isabela on August 25, 1984. I had no choice. A fortuitous event frustrated my visit — death struck our family. But I was able to make up for this failure. I went to Isabela on February 16, 1985 to install Bro. Pablo M. Adduru of Isabela Lodge No. 60. The occasion turned out be nothing convention. The lights of the blue lodges attended the affair. The officers of other masonically affiliated bodies were also present. We had a great fellowship after the installation. DDGM Peping Anes was boundless in energy.

The visitations did not include districts outside the country. Not that I did not have time for them. I felt however that the expenses of the visit may be too burdensome for the Grand Lodge at this point of time. The economic situation of

the country was in disarray. I was fearful of its fall-out effects on the Craft. Also, our new temple must have a roof at all cost and I was not sure I could raise the necessary million pesos. And so I had to make the painful decision to skip foreign travel. I explained this decision to our DDGMs. I hope they understood.

The dollar and cent problem also prevented me from honoring the invitation of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172 in New York, N.Y., to be present in its constitution. This lodge is the Filipino pride in the United States. It was organized by Pilipinos in the city of New York led by WB Manuel O. Obligation, a Past Master of Iloilo Acacia Lodge No. 11. They named the lodge after our national hero, brother Jose Rizal. One of its purposes is to cement the masonic ties of Filipino masons in the United States. And also to serve as liaison between our Grand Lodge and sojourning brethren. Its constitution was a break-through for Philippine masonry. The occasion was historic. As I could not make it, I officially designated MW Rosendo Herrera, PGM, to represent the Grand Lodge in the ceremonies. He was joined by MW William Quasha, PGM, Grand Master Mac Ramos, Sr. of the Order of DeMolay, and WB Fernando Carayo of Araw Lodge No. 18. That was a high powered delegation. MW Calvin G. Bond, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, sent me a letter of appreciation for the

outstanding job our representatives, especially MW Herrera. His speech merited a standing ovation from the American brethren.

By and large, I am gratified by my district visitations. I could not have gained a better knowledge of the Craft if I just became an arm chair Grand Master. You cannot appreciate the problems of the Craft inside an air-conditioned office. You have to be out in the vales and the valleys, meeting the brethren in flesh and on foot, giving them your ears, leaving with them your heart, sharing their joys and frustrations, exchanging expectation with them, dialoguing with them about everything. I left all district conventions with new insights about the fraternity. It is almost unbelievable. But I found the Craft growing stronger despite the crisis crippling the country. Attendance in conventions was up. The spirit of brotherhood soared high and is still soaring. There was intensity in debates and discussions. They were extremely cerebral. And the fellowships were fantastic. Almost always, they extended to the wee hours of the morning. You can feel the brethren do not wish the encounter to end. And so did we.

V. *Masonic Education*

Masonic education is the centerpiece of our program. The beauty of masonry lies in its lessons. These lessons are hidden in allegories and symbols. They have to be dis-

covered, slowly, scrupulously. Only upon the progressive perception can one appreciate the distinctness of the fraternity. And above all, it is only by practising out of the lodge those great moral virtues taught in it "can we really deserve the honor of being called masons."

Let us face it. The elder members of the Craft decry that some of our new comers are not the best materials from the quarry. The observation hurts for truth hurts. We have opened our tyled doors to some who are not worthy and duly prepared. But we cannot just fold our hands and despair. We have to arrest the backsliding.

I may belong to the old-fashioned school. But I embrace the belief that the ills of the Craft can be cured by a good dose of masonic education. I have never wavered in that belief. So we intensified masonic education this year. We had three targets: (a) the active members of blue lodges (b) the inactive members who seldom attend are on top of the masonic education program of our district lecturers. They were left free to devise their own. They did and some of them were simply outstanding. Likewise, some blue lodges designed their own program to suit their peculiar needs. They were all encouraged. We helped them in their trimmings.

To reach our active members, the strategy was simple. We sent a set of excellent masonic literature to the lodge secretary. The set was

chosen from the various literature regularly sent to the Grand Lodge. Each piece of literature was to be read and discussed in every stated meeting. Somehow this would alleviate the problem of dearth of masonic literature, especially in the provinces. We were exuberant about the response of the lodges. Some reproduced the various articles and mailed them to all their members. Others used them to start their libraries. A great many requested for more literature.

For the inactive members, we have to use a more sophisticated strategy. They were the more crucial sector of the Craft. Roughly, they constitute 80% of our membership. We reckon that if we fail to reach this bigger bulk our efforts can never succeed. I therefore asked our Grand Lecturers, VW Gonzalez, VW Nabong and VW Angeles to develop a correspondence course that will reach all our 16,000 members. They responded by crafting a six-set course. Each course was to be inserted in *The Cabletow*. This way they could reach all the brethren, even those who have been inactive. *The Cabletow* was to be the bridge to reestablish touch with these "invisible" brethren. Right after the first course, many responded. Yet our objective was only to arouse their dormant interest. That was more than achieved. We have hit the jackpot.

For the lights of the lodges, the problem was not disinterest. The problem was how to develop dif-

ferent modules to meet their needs. Again, I have to use the talents of our Grand Lecturers. And once more, they delivered. They prepared the different modules. Armed with these modules, we launched our Mobile Masonic School in the third quarter of our term. The key word is mobile. I asked our Grand Lecturers to travel and to lecture to our lights using their modules. I accompanied them when I was free. As a rule, the lectures had to be extended in view of the length of the open forum. The quest for knowledge was vigorous, the questions were unending. They covered everything about the Craft. To me, this is the most reliable indicium of the thirst for masonic knowledge on the part of brethren. I say No Grand Master will go wrong if he stresses masonic education.

It should be fairly obvious that masonic education cannot be a one deal affair. As one writer pointed out, the sea of masonic knowledge knows no shore. The search for masonic knowledge has an alpha but not an omega. There is nobody, simply nobody who can master the various facets of masonry with a credible degree of infallibility. Everybody must engage in continuing study, step by step, until he finds the Lost Word.

For this reason, we created the Center for Continuing Masonic Education in the Grand Lodge. There must be a permanent entity that will continuously carry on this all important task of dispersing

masonic knowledge to our brethren. This is a task that should be insulated from the vagaries of politics. By means of Edict No. 86, we did establish the Center for Continuing Masonic Education. It has a division for history, a division for masonic jurisprudence, a division for rites and ritual, a division for research and publication, lodge management and as its nerve center, a library and museum. As conceived, the Center just about covers every aspect of masonry. Let us make it work. I call for its support.

Let me put a few words about our Library and Museum. Its birth is one of the most inspiring stories in my term. The brethren realized that all talk about masonic education is plain buncombe without a library. And the Grand Lodge did not have a library. There was nobody taking care of our proceedings, our records, our relics. A lot of these has been lost due to inattention. A lot has been eaten up by termites, others destroyed by the fury of the elements. All because we did not have a depository. Reading materials coming from abroad were plenty but they were not being collected and compiled. They were being appropriated by just about anybody. Yet all the years we have been asking our brethren to read when there was nothing to read, to research where there was no decent writing corner in the Grand Lodge. The situation was just anomalous. The call for masonic education has a hollow

tone. Perhaps this is the reason why the brethren never picked up the challenge.

But putting up a library is no joke. The Grand Lodge has zero money for it. I told the brethren led by WB Rene Damian that if we are to build it the cost has to come from voluntary contribution. I told them we could use half of the canteen for the purpose. Let the canteen serve the food for our body, and the library the food for our spirit. In no time, they submitted the architectural plan and as soon as I approved it, the materials and the money started coming in. For a fact, the drive was started by a donation of a piece of plywood. Then there was no stopping to it.

Then came the problem of the shelves with books. WB Damian and company rummaged thru our bodegas, fought armies of anays and cockroaches to retrieve our old books and proceedings. I asked the Grand Secretary to write to all the Grand Lodges and solicit copies of their Proceedings and other materials. Almost all of them responded. I have also written our blue lodges to send in their history so they can be preserved in our Museum. They are yet to be completed but the result is gratifying enough.

Then came the problem of where to get the tables and the chairs. Again our brethren had a bright idea — repair our chairs and tables piled up and rotting at the back of the Grand Lodge. There were several and they were narra pieces of

furniture. Some can already be classified as antiques. So they were all repaired, varnished and they turned out to be good as new.

Next was the problem of installing glass panels with locks on our book shelves. The problem had a ₱20,000.00 tag. But it was of utmost necessity. Without the panels, our books stand in danger of being lost. Brethren will hesitate to donate their valuable collections. Our library build up will be at a stand still.

There was only one hope. I remembered Bro. Joaquin Cunanan of Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5. I knew him to be a real apostle of masonic education. Even during the time of MW Rene Lacson he gave ₱20,000 to the Grand Lodge to spur masonic research. And so I wrote to him for assistance. I was not disappointed. He immediately sent a check ₱20,000 to cover the cost of the glass panels. Then he delivered some 1,000 volumes of book for the library. This is a rare collection, books purchased from all over the world, books not available in our country. To top it all, he gave another ₱25,000 with instructions that its interest be used to pay the services of a Grand Lodge librarian. I know of no brother with such an incandescent interest for masonic education. With the contributions of Bro. Cunanan, we were able to complete our library and museum. Now it is the busiest spot in the Grand Lodge. Morning, noon and night, brethren

visit the Library where they browse, read and research. I hope this is the beginning of our intellectual renaissance.

Indeed, the timing of the reconstruction of our Library and Museum is providential. On August 26, 1984, the remains of the Father of Philippine Masonry was transferred from the North Cemetery to Kumpang, San Nicolas, Bulacan. The process required that the tomb of del Pilar be opened. The opening was witnessed by some dignitaries led by the officers of the Bulacan Historical Commission. By stroke of fate, however, Bro. Placido Coronel of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 was present. It was then that he saw a white piece of cloth on top of the casket just about to be thrown away by the caretaker. He recognized it to be an apron, it turned out to be the apron of del Pilar. Forthwith, he retrieved it, including the acacia leaves on top of the casket. These are invaluable relics. They are now on display in our library and Museum. They all make us proud. Incidentally, we inaugurated our Library and Museum on Nov. 30, 1984, a day dedicated to our national heroes.

VI. *Temple Building*

First the continuation of the new temple. Of all aspects of our program, this was the most challenging. Almost all started pessimistic. They doubted whether we could raise additional money. They had reasons

for their cloudy view. We have very few sources of funds. First, the ₱200.00 temple assessment. Our payment record is below par. Until now, only 20% have paid their assessment. That ₱200.00 is supposed to have been paid by all of us during the grandmastership of MW Jolly Bugarin. That was in year 1979 when the peso has not been devaluated. Now even if we all pay that ₱200.00 assessment, we still cannot build our temple. The estimate is that the cost of the temple has already jumped from its original ₱3M to ₱15M. And the cost is still escalating. Yet, from all indications, we can no longer rely on this ₱200.00 assessment. It has dried up. Second, are the voluntary contributions from our more affluent members. Again, it was doubtful if this source could still be tapped. MW Rudyardo Bunda tapped it to the tune of ₱723,919. So did MW Rosendo Herrera who was able to raise ₱806,900. But even our more affluent members could already feel the economic pinch. Hence, I entertained serious doubt whether we could solicit voluntary contributions from them even if I come hat in hand. Third, is the source provided by benefit shows where we have to sell tickets to the public. Again, the economic crunch counsels against sponsoring benefit shows. There is no market for it. Worse, the last time we did it proved to be a debacle. The brethren still remember the sad experience and it may not be appro-

priate to make a repeat.

Thus, the options were very nil. Yet, we could not afford to stop the construction of the new temple. We have reached the stage of putting up its roof. It was a must, no ifs and buts. The temple has been exposed to the elements for the last five years. Our engineers were fearful that its further exposure would be irreversibly destructive. But the cost of constructing the roof was estimated to be a cool million pesos. We had a giant problem. I asked the cabinet to do a lot of pencil pushing. I wanted to attain two objectives: one, to raise ₱1M and two, to spare the greater number of the Craft from the burden. The problem was a tough nut to crack.

Ultimately, was agreed on a simple game plan. We figured that we have 42 districts. If we can get at least two brothers from each district to lend the Grand Lodge ₱10,000.00 each, payable within five years, at 7% interest, the problem will be solved. We did not want donations, we were to ask for soft loans. We were to look for only two kind souls per district — for we did not want to bother the greater majority of the brethren. We were confident with the scheme. We consulted the DDGMs and when they shared our optimism, it was go for the project. D-Day was Dec. 31, 1984.

Just when the loans were trickling in, the big break came. The brethren from Okinawa Lodge No.

118 thru WB Bill Bozel sent word that they were willing to advance their 15 year dues and assessments. The sum was computed at \$50,000. They waived any interest payment. I convened the corporate board of the Grand Lodge Elective Officers. They agreed to the proposal. We consummated the formal contract with Olinawa Lodge No. 118 led by its WB Lee L. Taylor. With that stroke of the pen, we solved the big problem of having a roof over our new temple. We should have it by May.

All in all, we were able to produce ₱1,343,412.00 for the new temple. The breakdown is as follows:

Assessment/Interest	—	₱348,412
Loans from local lodges & Members	—	45,000
Advances payment of dues from Okinawa Lodge No. 118	—	950,000

I have been saying that the completion of the roof will be a key move in the construction of our temple. After the roof, that temple will have a new look, a new personality. It can be partially used for our fellowship. I bet there will be new enthusiasm to finish it.

But that is not all that we did. We made a major renovation of our present temple. Actually, I felt we had no alternative but to do it. The temple was in a sorry state. Its roof was leaking. Its gutters were rot-

ting. A lot of its window panes were broken. It was being feasted by termites. Some of its plywood ceiling was starting to collapse. Its painting was peeling off. Its tiles were aged and damaged. The canteen was dark and dirty. The CRs were stinking. There were no chairs to sit down. Plaridel Temple was no temple at all. It was a structure of shame.

No doubt, the temple needed a major face lifting. Otherwise, it would soon be ready for its requiem. Again, the problem was funds. Our money was nil. It appears that the funds for the maintenance of the present temple were used for the new temple. And for this year, our budget to maintain the present temple was only a measly ₱20,000. Yet, each one of us pays ₱5.00 for the preservation of our old temple. Thus, there ought to be no reason at all for neglecting the beautification of our existing temple. All said and done, lack of budget did not deter us from renovating our temple. It cannot.

Our first target was the dormitory. I asked WB Johnny Mendoza to do everything to improve it. The dormitory serves our sojourning provincial brethren. It must be at least decent, habitable. It is a token of our gratitude for all the hospitality we get when we travel in provincial jurisdiction.

My initial inspection of the dormitory was a shocking experience. The screen wires crawled with cobwebs. They have not been cleaned

for years. They were also shot through with holes. The brethren were exposed to mosquito bites. Water was irregular, a precious commodity. Lighting was poor. The paint has peeled off. The place was dirty. To borrow McEnroe's favorite expression, it is the pit.

WB Johnny lost no time improving the dormitory. The water tank was repaired. The wire screens were changed. Lockers were provided with locks and hangers. The place was cleaned and then the whole dormitory was repainted. I have yet to hear any complaint now regarding our dorm difficulties. Great work by WB Mendoza.

Then came our Library and Museum and our canteen. I need not reiterate the tale of how we were able to rebuild our Library from nothing. From the Library, we shifted to our canteen. The brethren did not like the gloomy look and atmosphere of the canteen. Too spooky, it makes you choke, they say. We gathered a few brethren to donate paint to brighten up our canteen. In due time, we had the necessary number of gallons and that was enough to give our eating place a spic and span look. But there is yet a lot to do to improve the canteen. I hope the improvement keeps going.

The next challenge was the changing of the tiles on our first floor. Those red tiles were about fifty years old. Some of them were already ravaged by time. It was impossible to keep them clean espe-

cially during the rainy days. The best tile is of course marble. It is the most durable, and magnificent. We asked for its cost. It was high, almost disappointing. But the project came to be known by the great Evangelista family of Tarlac. They are in the marble business. Without much ado, VW Virgilio Evangelista, DDGM for District No. 29, had his working crew all over the Grand Lodge wrecking our old red tiles. Then they were changing them to real marble. Inside three weeks, they got the job done. The bill reached ₱66,250. That was a real bargain. Indeed, it was for the Evangelista family itself poured in ₱6,250 to the kitty. Two districts donated very substantial sums. They are District 1-A led by VW John Choa which gave ₱20,000.00 and District No. 24, Pangasinan, which sent ₱35,000. The brethren who gave ₱200 each are too may to be specifically mentioned. Our selling pitch was ₱200.00 per brother for that was the cost of a marble tile. They paid.

The coup d' grace is the complete repainting of the Grand Lodge. From its facade to the dormitory, from the first to the second floor. Some 100 gallons were consumed in the process. Once more the brethren were just too generous in answering our call for paint and more paint. We tried to restore the former beauty of our facade. The effort cannot be total because our frontage has been occupied by commercial tenants. At least, however,

we were able to restore the seal of the Grand Lodge and about three fourths of its frontage . Its sight now inspires.

Last but not the least is the projected asphaltting of our backyard. I gave the job to VW Vic Ramos and WB Pete Hernal. It is an important job. The rainy days are coming. Unless we are able to do the asphaltting, we cannot prevent the dirt from splashing our temple. Moreover, we need our backyard for other purposes-parking, fellowship parties, etc. I expect the job to be finished before our Annual Communication.

I am therefore proud of our temple construction program. We will have the roof of the new temple this year. And as bonus to the brethren, we renovated Plaridel Temple. They say it now looks like a 5-star hotel. We cannot disagree.

VII. *Charity Drives*

Various catastrophe struck the country this year. One of the most destructive was the fury of typhoon Nitang which pummelled the country in September 1984. She was devastating. Hardest hit were the brethren from Surigao City. Their homes were unroofed. Our lodge temple was reduced to rubbles. The WM, WB Leo Pantejo wired for assistance. It was an S.O.S.

The first thing I did was to look for appropriate money in the Grand Lodge. There was none. I was down-trodden but not disappointed. Im-

mediately, I sent telegrams to all our blue lodges and DDGMs to help our stricken brethren in Surigao. The down pouring of aid was unbelievable. Help came from all over our jurisdiction, including our brethren from Guam and Okinawa. I flew to Butuan City together with VW Eduardo Gonzalez and WB Felix Vicuna, Jr. of Cebu Lodge No. 128. The next day, the brethren from Butuan escorted us to Surigao City to bring brotherly love to the brethren. We went to the site of our temple and found not even one post existing. We hastily gathered in the house of WB Leo Pantejo where I expressed the sentiment of the Grand Lodge. The words I spoke have escaped my memory but I remember the tears flowing from the eyes of our brethren. Almost all of us cried, joyful that we have a Craft that cares. By our count, the Grand Lodge was able to send ₱75,000.00 to the brethren in Surigao City. WB Pantejo however told me that even after the drive, help still came flowing in. The joke is that after the drive, Mt. Diwata Lodge No. 236 became the richest in its district. What a brotherhood!

Next to fall victim to a disaster were some brethren from Dipolog Lodge No. 162. Their houses, were razed to the ground by fire. Again, we received a wire for assistance. Readily, we sent ₱5,000.00. The brethren were most thankful. To quote the letter of WB Julio P. Cube, secretary of the lodge, "we know that somewhere, somehow

there is always someone who will fly to the relief of a fallen brother."

VIII. *Special Projects*

We initiated some special projects this year.

First was the organization of the Grand Guild of Past Masters. Year in and year out, I hear exhortations that we should honor our past masters. I agree wholeheartedly. But I was far from happy with the way we honor them. Usually we set a night for them. Throw a fellowship for them. Give them certificates of appreciation. Then we forget all about them the rest of the year.

I do not think this is the way to show our appreciation to this select group. They belong to a distinct breed of masons. They have given their best shots for the fraternity. Nobody, just nobody can beat their individual and collective contribution to the Craft. It is an understatement to make that without them we shall not have this fraternity that we so love. Yet if there is any one group we tend to overlook it is the past masters, their widows and orphans. Seldom do we utilize their talent in lodge activities. Seldom do we exert efforts to find out how their talent in lodge activities. Seldom do we pay them a visit when they fail to attend meetings. Seldom do we exert effort to find out how their widows and orphans are faring. The net result borders tragedy — past masters tend to vanish from our lodges. I say this is

nothing than tragedy for we are losing the most loyal, the most knowledgeable, the most dependable among the brethren. I always use these superlatives to describe our past masters. They are just that — super. I know of no lodge that relied on the services of its past masters that did not succeed. My steadfast thesis is that no lodge will fail if it fastens to its past masters.

And so I thought that nobody can take care of the past masters except themselves. But to be able to take care of their collective selves they should be organized. And I organized them from the national, to the district, and ultimately down to the blue lodge level. I solicited the assistance of MW Rosendo Herrera in this task. I named him President of the Grand Guild. I felt he was the best brother for the job. Not only he has proven to be an organizational genius but more important I know that our elder masons, their widows and orphans are dearest to his heart. I was 101% correct in my choice. To date, the Grand Guild under the leadership of MW Herrera has gone a long way. They will unveil their program during the Annual Communication. I am sure everybody will appreciate what they have done.

Second, I created a Special Committee to choose the appropriate background music to our various rites and rituals. The Committee was chaired by VW Alberto Reyes with Bro. Magdangal de Leon, VW Juan Nabong and WB Julio Cabali

as members. There can be no gain saying the fact our rites and rituals will be more impressive if accompanied by appropriate music. I used the word appropriate advisedly. There have been attempts to provide background music to some of our rites and rituals. They are hardly appropriate however. Instead of accentuating the messages in our rites and rituals, they buried them. To avoid this pitfall, I formed this Special Committee. They submitted their choices. They are outstanding choices. I am sure the brethren will share the same view. If approved in the Annual Communication, we shall henceforth have better rites and rituals.

Third, is the composition of an official hymn for the Grand Lodge. The brethren from Laguna however claim that Sierra Madre Lodge No. 181 has already submitted such a hymn and approved by the Grand Communication. I have waited for the Sierra Madre brethren to give us the melody of the hymn. Up to this date, they have done so. I do not doubt however their claim. And so we suspended all movements toward this end. Instead, I asked WB Jesus Elbinias of Hiram Lodge No. 88 and Bro. Magdangal de Leon of Araw Lodge No. 18 to compose, a march for the Grand Lodge. WB Elbinias is one of our noted masonic writers. He was also the one who composed the hymn of the Trial Judges Association of the Philippines. On the other hand, Bro. de Leon is one of the better known all

around artists in the Philippines today. He was once a member of the famous UP Madrigal Singers. He plays the guitar, the flute, and other instruments with equal expertise. He is the son of national artist, Prof. Felipe de Leon. Well, the duo did not fail in their assigned task. I ask you to study the melody of the March and I am sure it will lift your spirit.

Fourth, I created another Special Committee to reexamine the Pilipino translation of our ritual. The Committee is composed of VW Ruben Azarcon with VW Danilo Angeles, WB Cesar Francisco, WB Pantas V. Macapagal and WB Oscar Azarcon as members. We already have a

OVERALL CHAIRMAN

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AID

Chairman
Member
Member
Member

- WB Raymundo N. Beltran
- WB Leven S. Puno
- WB Manuel S. Crudo, Jr.
- VW Benjamin Malig

SUB-COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL AID

Chairman
Member
Member
Member

- Bro. Manuel Rivera
- WB Honorio L. Carreon
- Bro. Romeo R. Lumbera
- Bro. Ishmael Sanchez, Jr.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Chairman
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member

- RW Reynold S. Fajardo
- WB Manuel Supnet
- WB Agustin Mateo
- WB Antonio Dumlaog
- Bro. Ed B. Libid
- WB Emmanuel Cleto
- WB Raul Victoriano
- WB Jose Percival L. Adiong

Pilipino translation of our ritual. Notable of these is that done by Bro. Julian Balmaceda of Pintong Bato Lodge No. 51. The idea is not to supplant this excellent translation. However, we all recognize that language grows. And so I have directed the Committee simply to reexamine this translation. The objective is to make the translation more understandable especially to our non-tagalog brethren. The job is a difficult one. Nonetheless, the committee was able to finish our 1° and 2° ritual.

Fifth, I created another Special Committee on Special Assistance. The Committee was composed of the following:

- WB Eliseo A. Arandia, Jr.

The aim of the Committee is to extend or at least facilitate assistance to brethren with problems, any kind of problem. It proved to be a very busy committee. The number of brethren they were able to help is legion. I take off my hats to all of them. That is selflessness in action.

Sixth, is the printing of our Masonic Law Book. We have revised our Law Book in the last two years. The revision is extensive. That was hard work. I should know as I was Chairman of the Committee that did the revision. But if the revision is difficult, putting it into final print is harder. Copy after copy has to be proofread. Not once but several times. The provisions have to be titled. The book has to have an exhaustive table of content. The thankless job was assigned to a Committee of One — VW Ramon Gonzalez, our District Lecturer for District No. 1-A. VW Monching fit the job like a letter T. After all, he was not an outstanding court stenographer for nothing. And his mastery of the English language is marvelous. Any way, if the Law Book has come out, give the credit to VW Ramon Gonzales. He did it all.

Seventh, is *The Cabletow*. I could not end my term without expressing my appreciation to its editor, WB Abelardo P. Mojica, WM of Jacobo Zobel Lodge No. 202. When I asked WB Bel to take the job, I had only one order — no reprints. I want original articles. He

delivered the goods, no sweat for him. More than that, he made the format of the Cabletow more attractive. The special issue featuring the centennial of MW Teodoro Kalaw, Sr. was simply classic. Better hold on to your copy — that will turn out to be a collector's item. Yet, all know that WB Bel suffered a serious attack last year that almost proved fatal. But WB Bel came back from the grave with a vengeance. He became WM of Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202, re-elected for a second term as President of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines and elected President of the Kiwanis Club of Manila. And of course, with more exciting issues of the Cabletow. Take a vow WB Bel!

IX. Reforms thru *EDICTS*

By all reckoning, I should easily stand out as the Grand Master who has issued the most number of edicts in a year's time. If I did so it is not because I have a lawmaker's blood in my system. Rather, I feel I was coerced by circumstances.

It hurts saying it but we have to recapture the good and glorious days of masonry in the Philippines. Talk with our elders and more knowledgeable brethren and they always wail why masons have lost the center stage of the country. They bewail the comparative quality of some of our members, their icy interest in the Craft, their poor

grasp of the real meaning of masonry, their lack of masonic etiquette and discipline, etc. We cannot blame them. The facts are in their favor.

As far back as 1980, I have been deeply bothered by these different areas of concern. That year, I was suggested by the PGMs as JGW. I obliged them and ran on a platform promising various reforms. I won and I never forgot those promises when I assumed the Grand Oriental Chair. I was thus certain of what to do and I spelled out my program in black and white right during my installation. I promised the brethren a package of reform measures. I remember their applause. I was glad they agreed. I knew it would be a tough task. Reforms are always resisted. And reformers should be ready to be misunderstood, to be maligned, to be dismissed. I was ready for all that.

No Grand Master worth his salt can avoid the responsibility of instituting reforms within the Craft when necessary. That is his inescapable duty. The hierarchical set up and the history of the Craft demand this duty. For ours is a distinct organization. In between communications our Constitution vests all powers to the Grand Master — executive, judicial and legislative. There is no power withheld from the Grand Master. And he wields all these powers all the days of the year except the three days when the brethren are assembled in Annual Communication. The basis for

this extraordinary grant of power lies in the historic position of the Grand Master. Mackay explains its philosophy in the following wise:

The office of Grand Master is one of such antiquity as to be coeval with the very origin of the Institution, whether we look at that origin in a traditional or in a historical point of view. There never has been a time in which the Order has not been governed by a chief presiding officer under this name.

From this fact we derive the important principle that the office of Grand Master is independent of the Grand Lodge, and that all his prerogatives and duties, so far as they are connected generally with the Craft, are inherent in the office, and not derived from, nor amenable to, any modern Constitution.

Thus, if there is any one brother who can lead and should lead the Craft it is the Grand Master. Indeed the brethren expect him to play that role. That is the reason why they gave him all powers, without any reservation, without any qualification. He has the vote of complete confidence of the brethren. If there is any deterioration in the Craft therefore, the greater part of the blame should go to the Grand Master. He has no excuse to allow the deterioration. He has all the

powers to arrest it. He ought to exercise those powers without flinching.

During my term, I chose to institute reforms thru the extensive use of the lawmaking powers of the Grand Master — thru edicts. I thought this would be the most effective way. There were many gaps in our Constitution, rules and regulations. These were openings which led to the erosion of some of our tenets and traditions. These voids could only be filled up by legislations, by edicts of the Grand Master. Somehow we have defaulted in filling up this hiatus during our last Annual Communications. Examine the number of legislation enacted during these sessions. They are few and far between. I am not sure of the real reason for this default. But one plausible reason is that our meeting hall during our Annual Communication can no longer accommodate us. Our air-conditioner does not cool the hall anymore. The heat is terrible. It becomes unbearable when the hall gets filled up with smoke. The result is that just a little half of the brethren really attend our sessions. Discussions of proposed legislations are nil. The gavel is usually banged even before debates could start. This scenario has occurred for several years. When I became Grand Master, the areas crying for remedial legislation have multiplied. I have to act on them. There was no way of running away from them. Hence, the seven edits in my term. Let me

explain their rationale.

(1) Edict No. 81 directed against chronic absenteeism in our lodges. It has been a perennial problem. We have tried various strategies to lick it. Masonic education, visitation, personal appeal, etc. None has worked magic. On the average only about 20% of our brethren is in the active list.

Absenteeism is a serious problem. Unless we are able to alleviate it, it is futile to talk about other plans for the fraternity. We cannot break bread with "invisible" brethren. We cannot practice the five points of fellowship with brethren whose shadow we do not even see. We cannot do business in empty lodges. Membership in the Craft means more than updating dues and assessments. The Craft does not need our money, it needs us. More precious than our purse is our presence. For this reason, we are all obligated to attend our stated and special meetings.

Thus, this edict required every brother to attend at least three (3) stated meetings every year. Any "unjustified failure" to comply would warrant the W/M of his lodge to summon him. But the process should not be adversary in character. The summoning power should be used to find out if the brother concerned has any problem which prevents him from attending his lodge meetings. The thrust is to help him, to bring back to the fold of the lodge. Only in case of stubborn refusal to attend *without any*

justifiable ground should the WM exercise his power to penalize. But there is a safeguard against any whimsical exercise of power. The decision can be appealed to the Grand Master. Be it noted that if the decision is not to penalize, the decision is not appealable to the Grand Master. The spirit of the edict is not to interfere with the discretion of the WM when he decides not to penalize. It is recognized that the matter is best decided by the blue lodges themselves.

(2) Edict No. 82 is directed against the anomaly of a brother suing another in our judicial or quasi judicial agencies of government without exhausting the means of settlement within the Craft. The edict requires the party concerned to give the Grand Lodge a reasonable opportunity to settle the dispute as masonic brothers before resorting to legal processes. This is an accord with our tenet that in dealing with an erring brother we should ". . . . whisper good counsel in his ear, gently admonish him of his error and in the most friendly manner endeavor to bring about reform."

The Craft is an extended family. We don't call ourselves brothers for nothing. We should try therefore to patch up our disputes as members of one family, using our tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth. The New Civil Code requires this of members of a family. So does the Rules of Court. And new members

of a barangay are required to do the same. We cannot do less. If we want to behave as brothers.

(3) Edict No. 83 is directed against the misuse of the black cube. There are instances when the black cube has been abused to exhibit personal spite or prejudice against an petitioner. This erodes the sanctity of the ballot. I felt that there is an imperious need to stress our responsibility whenever we ballot a candidate. Thus as recommended by District No. 37 we recast our charge to be delivered to the brethren before they ballot. The new charge is a classic. Listen to its message. But more than listening, live up to it. You cannot go wrong.

(4) Edict No. 84 is directed to promote the interest and welfare of our Past Masters, their widows and orphans. It established for them a Grand Guild headed by MW Herrera. It is a token of appreciation to their immense contribution to the progress of masonry in this jurisdiction. Only a real organization can take care of their permanent interest. An organization of their own, run by them. Now they have it.

(5) Edict No. 85 is directed to the need of impressing more solemnity to our closing rites during installations and district conventions. The observation is that the closing is often time done in a quick and hurried way because of the lateness of the hour. The edict allows the DDGM to close in short or ample form during such occasions.

(6) Edict No. 86 is directed to

answer the need to intensify the dispersal of masonic knowledge to the brethren and to give some permanence to our masonic education program. The edict created the Center for Continuing Masonic Education. It specified five areas of concern: history, law and jurisprudence, symbols and rituals, research and publication, lodge management, library and museum. I hope it is for keeps. Our concern for masonic education cannot be *ningas kugon*. No way.

(7) Edict No. 87 is directed on the need for electoral reforms. This is one problem which can never be understated. I perceive the problem to be the greatest threat to our harmony. I ought to know. I have participated in five elections of the Grand Lodge. Every year was a disappointment. Indeed the practices get worse. I honestly believe that if we do not direct our attention to these malpractices we shall soon disintegrate. This was the experience of other organizations. We should learn from their lesson.

I realize the risk of instituting electoral reforms. Some reminded me that nobody has dared touch the problem even with a ten foot pole. Some warned me I will only be cursed and calumniated. I knew it could be most frustrating. But I could not just close my eyes to the problem, bury my head in the sand, ostrich like. I consider the problem like a time bomb. It has been ticking away for some time. It will soon explode on our faces if we do not

detonate it. We can not detonate it if we don't even half try. I decided to give it a full try.

I know the magnitude of the challenge. To meet the challenge, I considered it crucial (a) to project the problem to the consciousness of the brethren; (b) to hold consultations with the blue lodges on approaches to the problem; (c) to impanel an elite which will give final shape to these various approaches.

I felt there was need to slam home this problem to the mind of the brethren. I am confident that the greater majority of the brethren want reforms. But they are the silent majority. And they have been silent for too long a time. I want them now to break their silence. If they will, decency will soon be back in our elections.

I felt also that the blue lodges should serve as the fountain head of solutions. Our best elements are still in the blue lodges. We have more than 220 of them. If they could give suggestions, we shall be overflowing with wisdom.

I felt also that there was need for a small elite of masons who will distill the essence of these proposals coming from the blue lodges and shape them to an edict. A select few with far ranging knowledge of the Craft. A small group whose integrity and independence of mind are beyond reproach. But above all, brethren who firmly believe in electoral reform.

I proceeded to implement the

game plan. I issued Circular No. 1 ordering all blue lodges to devote at least one stated meeting to discuss how our electoral processes can be reformed. It also directed all district conventions to include as an item in their agenda proposed reforms in our electoral processes.

I also fired off Circular No. 2 creating a Special Committee on Electoral Reforms whose objective is "to conduct an independent study of how we can improve our electoral processes and collate and evaluate the various recommendations of our blue lodges and district conventions." It was composed of very distinguished brethren. WB Jesus Guerrero, PM, Past District Lecturer, Judge RTC of Pasig, Rizal, as chairman; VW Noli Sagadraca, GL Orator, PM, Associate Commissioner of the COM-ELEC as vice-chairman; and as members, WB Cesar Francisco, PM, RTC Judge of Pasay, Metro Manila; WB Vicente Ongtenco, PM, PDDGM; WB Mabini Hernandez, PM, PDDGM; WB Agerico Amagna, PM; WB Percival Adiong, PM, PDDGM. On top of the heap was MW Jolly Bugarin, PGM, as Consultant.

The die was cast. I accepted all invitations of blue lodges to speak about electoral reforms. I found the atmosphere feverish. I spoke with evangelical fervor. I attended all district conventions, sometimes defying safety and security, just to pound on the problem. The conversations caught fire whenever the agenda for electoral reforms was

discussed. The brethren have awakened. They were responding and responding with impressive intensity.

The proposals from the blue lodges soon came cascading followed by the suggestions from the district conventions. The Special Committee on Electoral reforms found itself neck deep with ideas, ideas and ideas. They have to work overtime. Days ran to weeks, then to months. The debates seemed endless but always illuminating, intuitive.

Finally, the product was passed on to me mid-November. I studied the proposed edict for about a month, letter by letter, syllable by syllable, word by word. Except for minor modifications, the proposed edict was ready for signing. Let me state its outstanding features:

First, it has upgraded the quality of would be nominees to the position of JGW. Heretofore, any member of the Grand Lodge could aspire for the position. Not any more. The Committee set minimum qualifications for aspirants. The qualifications will insure their maturity (40 years of age); their knowledge, know-how and experience, (10 years in good standing as MM); above all, their moral character (no conviction for un-masonic conduct, or if any offense involving moral turpitude and no commission of any morally reprehensible act). The imposition of these qualifications will result in better materials for JGW. It ought

to be. We are not only choosing a JGW but actually electing a future Grand Master. The Craft deserves nothing less than the best of the crop.

Second, it has opened new avenues for aspirants to the position of JGW. Before, one has to be suggested by the PGMs. It is not too easy to catch the attention of our PGMs. They are few and not too easy to reach. To democratize the process, blue lodges were given the power to also nominate candidates for JGW and the other elective positions in the Grand Lodge. Hopefully, this will bring to the fore the best materials especially from the provinces. The provincial brethren cannot now be heard to complain they are not in equal footing with the Metro Manila brethren.

Thirdly, it has frontally confronted the problem of proxy voting. Per se, there is nothing evil with proxy voting. But our experience with proxy voting is a sad one. It has been abused. Too often, the votes of a lodge are entrusted to only one brother. The power to cast that number of votes has its temptations. Many have succumbed to it to the detriment of the Craft. The side effects are equally disquieting. Attendance in Annual Communications becomes low. There is less knowledge of masonic affairs. Resultantly, the gap between the Grand Lodge and blue lodges gets greater. With the edict prohibiting proxy voting, it is hoped that all these evils will vanish

away. Remember the Cabletow experience. What actually killed the *Cabletow* was proxy voting. Our members lost interest in attending its annual stockholders' meeting. They surrendered their privilege by giving away their proxies. The *Cabletow* fell into the hands of just one group, the one that year in and year out gathered the most number of proxies. Then the roof fell in. *Cabletow* got into a mess. It proved to be beyond salvation. We abolished it. But let us not forget that what poisoned the *Cabletow* to its death was proxy voting.

Fourthly, it denies the aspirants for the JGW the chance to engage in prohibited activities. The names of the aspirants — the 4 nominated by the blue lodges and the 3 by the PGMs — will be revealed to the delegates not later than three hours before election time. It is impossible to resort to malpractices within that span of time. Our mistake before is that we publicize the names of candidates as early as January. That gives the candidates four months to campaign. We know what transpires during that period.

Fifthly, it abolished the sometimes bitter contentions among PMs as to who should cast the vote for the PMs. This has resulted in schisms in some lodges. Now it is settled that the immediate PM shall cast the vote. There will no more jostling, no more jockeying.

Sixth, it introduced the quasi knockout system in the election of Grand Lodge officers. If there is a

second ballot, only those who obtained the first, second and third highest number of votes shall be voted upon. If there is a third ballot, only the two candidates who shall have obtained the highest number of votes shall be voted upon, until one wins the required majority. The system will shorten our election. The weak candidates are immediately written off.

Seventh, it creates a strong and independent election committee (ELECOM). In addition, the ELECOM is a permanent, continuing entity. Examine its powers and you will note that it has the real capacity to police our election. The last power is all encompassing – to decide all questions affecting the returns and election of all Grand Lodge officers. It can suspend the installation of any candidate whose election appears prima facie to have been procured thru any violation of these rules and regulations. In other words, the ELECOM has no reason not to succeed in its task. If it fails it is only because it did not use its powers in full. Our ELECOM is thus a totally different entity from the old COMELEC we use to form every Annual Communication. The old COMELEC was toothless. Its only job was to count the results. The job was mechanical. It was no wonder it failed to supervise our elections. That is now just a sad footnote in our history.

There was therefore no reason for me to withhold my signature on the edict. To me the effort of all

the brethren towards this direction is a milestone. We have taken the first step in a journey of a thousand miles. I am aware that other brethren may have other ideas, more radical ones. I know that within this year the edict will not completely eradicate the problem. That is an impossible dream considering the complexion and complexity of the problem. But this is just a beginning which when pursued with honesty and sincerity will bring that lost ideal – a masonic election. I call on the brethren to subordinate personal interest in the pursuit of this goal. I call on all to give the edict a fair chance to work. It offers a hope when there was none before. Let us not erase that ray of hope. Brother, fear not, let us take the first step.

Fraternally,

REYNATO S. PUNO
Grand Master

OUTSTANDING MASONIC PERSONALITIES AND A LODGE TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT GRAND LODGE 69TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



VW J.L. CHOA

VW JOE LIM, III

WB F. VICUNA

WB R. DAMIAN

Four outstanding Masons will be honored in appropriate ceremonies during the 69th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines set for April 25-27, 1985.

To be awarded the coveted Grand Master's Cup for their individual exemplary performances are VW John L. Choa, District Deputy Grand Master, District No. 1-A, as Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master; VW Jose Lim, III, District Grand Lecturer, District No. 18, as Most Outstanding District Grand Lecturer; WB Felix J. Vicuna, M.D., as Most Outstanding Worshipful Master; and WB Rene Damian, Most Outstanding Master Mason.

Unanimously acclaimed as the jurisdiction's Most Outstanding Lodge is Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 in Angeles City, Pampanga.

VW JOHN L. CHOA District Deputy Grand Master District 1-A

For the past two decades, Lawyer-Businessman John L. Choa, has involved himself in practically all phases of civic and community activities in varying degrees and for which he has been aptly rewarded for his selfless dedication.

Since 1981, VW John has been District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 1-A and has served in all the important committees of the Grand Lodge.

A member of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, he served as Venerable Master of Manila Bodies, A & A.S.R. (1979)

and is now a member of its board of trustees.

Recently appointed Deputy Grand Guild Master of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines, he is also a member, Royal Order of Scotland, Provincial Grand Marshall of the same order; Life Member, Bamboo Shrine Oasis, Member, Order of the Eastern Star; Member, Nile Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. Seattle, Washington, and an active member, Supreme Council, International Order of DeMolay.

Founder, organizer and charter president of the Square and Compass Toastmaster's Club, he also served as District Governor, Y's Men International, and was in 1979 the president of the Manila Downtown Y's Men Club.

In addition to his being Senior Partner of Montilla, Choa, Albeza, & Associates Law Office, he is founder and president, Stanley Printing Company; founder and president, Stanley Plastic Company; founder and president, Intercontinental Resources & Investment Corporation; and founder and president, Printers Merchandising Corporation.

VW Choa's other humanitarian activities include his membership in the Board of Trustee of Children's Garden Philippines, Inc. (an orphanage); Vice President and Legal Adviser, Hope Christian High School Alumni Association; Director, Alpha Fellowship of Youth Gospel Center; Legal Adviser, Quezon City Evangelical Church; and a

past president of the Professional Associates.

VW JOSE A. LIM III
District Grand Lecturer
District No. 18

A consistent and continuing Masonic Education Program is the only way to "direct the depth of the Masons' knowledge of the Fraternity in the District level of strengths, weaknesses, deficiencies and excesses."

Taking the cue from the Grand Lodge theme "More Light from Masonry, More Light from Masons," VW Lim structured a plan of action which included his attendance in stated meetings, observation of proceedings and how projects were handled, as well as how much Masons knew of activities regularly obtaining in a masonic year.

VW Lim conceptualized a Masonic Leadership Institute which embodied the following:

1. Short monthly sessions on "Basics," participated in by members in stated meetings;
2. Quarterly seminars of officers and potential leaders on subjects relating to significant masonic events to the place within the next three months. New circulars, memoranda and edicts from the Grand Lodge were explained; and
3. An annual planning session after elections designed to assist officers in the orderly government of their lodges, as well as in the pre-

paration and coordination of their individual plans and programs for the entire year.

District No. 18's DDGM is a businessman by calling. He served as Master of Sarangani Lodge No. 50.

WB FELIX J. VICUNA, M.D.
 Worshipful Master
 Cebu Lodge No. 128

When WB Felix J. Vicuna, M.D. assumed leadership of Cebu Lodge No. 128, he set out three major goals.

They are (1) to strengthen and improve the quality of membership of the Lodge; (2) to undertake community service projects; and (3) to engage in miscellaneous activities in response to specific needs.

In implementing his 3-Point program of activities, his common appeal was: "let us stop being wheelchair Masons! Let us become Masons by reaching out into the world, bringing out the good and true in Masonry for the happiness of others."

I. To strengthen and improve the quality of membership of the Lodge.

- A. Infusion of new members who were judged by their enthusiasm, sincerity and personal qualities to be potential good Masons:
 - Initiation of Entered Apprentice Masons — 6
 - Passing of Fellowcraft — 4
 - Raising of Master Masons— 5

- Dual Membership — 2
- B. Masonic Education

1. W.B. Florentino Almacen was designated to research on and write a history of Freemasonry in Cebu.

2. A Lodge of Instruction was conducted for the members by Grand Lecturer WB Pablo Ko, Jr.

3. The T. Kalaw Centennial was celebrated with W.B. Pedro Dimaya as guest speaker on "Nationalism".

- C. Regular caucuses (sometimes serving as fellowships-socials) were held to discuss problems & projects and to introduce prospective members to the brethren.

II. To undertake community service projects.

- A. Cebu Lodge 128 donated the amount of ₱2,000.00 and solicited ₱1,000.00 from the Order of Eastern Star and ₱500.00 personal donations from the members for the financially distressed Asilo de la Milagrosa, an agency caring for orphans & unwanted children, providing them a home and school.

- B. Donated sports equipments for the disabled worth approximately ₱1,000.00 through Goodwill Industries and the Cebu Hope Center for the Blind (rehabilitation agencies for the handicapped).

- C. Patronized the services of blind musicians from the

Cebu Hope Center to augment their income.

- D. Allocated scholarships for ten (10) indigent but deserving students at the Sudlon Agricultural School.
- E. Financed the medical care of indigent patients in the charity wards of various hospitals in Cebu City with professional services rendered free by physician-masons of Cebu Lodge 128.
- F. *Surgical Missions* for the Underprivileged:

A *Medical Team* was organized, composed of Masons and non-Masons, to provide free surgical services for indigent patients in the Visayas-Mindanao area. The trips were financed jointly by Cebu Lodge 128 and the host lodge in the locality visited. The team usually performed 30-45 operations in each locality consisting of harelips, cataracts, pterygium, glaucoma, goiters, hernias, hydrocoele, clubfoot. Quantitated in terms of the minimum cost of these surgical operations in these areas, each mission would have performed ₱60,000.00-₱135,000.00 worth of surgical services.

Non-physician brothers usually accompany the medical team providing a venue for inter-lodge fellowships.

III. Miscellaneous Activities in

Response to Specific Needs

- A. Aid to the distressed brethren of Surigao (Mt. Diwata Lodge) who suffered the aftermath of typhoon Nitang. Donations of ₱5,000.00 was personally presented by the worshipful master in the company of Grandmaster Puno in Surigao City.
- B. Financial aid & professional services to Bro. Patricio Valflo during his hospitalization.
- C. Organized a *Living Blood Bank* for Cebu Lodge 128 — a master list of the blood types of brethren willing to donate blood to brothers and patients in need.

A Doctor of Medicine by profession, he was born in Tondo on June 13, 1940, is married to the former Nelda D. Villanueva, also a doctor, with whom he has two children, Dominic, 6, and Maria Victoria, 4.

Raised as a Master Mason on April 22, 1977, he became Worshipful Master in 1984. He belongs to the Cebu Bodies, A. & A.S.R. as a 32° KCCH; and Venerable Master (1982-1985). In 1982 he became a Charter Member and Medical Officer of the Shriners. He is Junior Executive Officer, Supreme Council, Region VII, Order of the DeMolay (1984-present); and Worthy Patron (1985), Maria Clara Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star.

Graduating from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Santo

Tomas in 1964, he was awarded a specialty certification by the Philippine Board of Orthopedics in 1974. He served as Consultant in Orthopedic Surgery in various hospitals. He is presently Chairman, Department of Surgery, Cebu Doctors' Hospital, Consultant in Orthopedic Surgery, Southern Islands Hospital, and Member of the Board of Trustees, Cebu Community Hospital.

His professional affiliation include: President, Cebu Medical Society (1985-1986); President, Philippine College of Surgeons (1985).

WB RENE C. DAMIAN
Past Master, Noli Me Tangere
Lodge No. 148

WB Damian is perhaps the only volunteer worker at the Grand

Lodge.

As Project Officer of the Grand Lodge reconstruction and renovation project, he is chiefly responsible for supervising the beautification program of the Plaridel Masonic Temple, acting as "Action Man" for WB Johnny M. Mendoza, the inimitable Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master.

Only those who have seen the decrepit condition of the Temple before the crash face-lifting program was launched can appreciate the herculean effort of WB Damian.

Retiring from the U.S. Navy as Management Analyst, First Class in 1979 after serving for 20 years, this workaholic comes to the Plaridel Masonic Temple as early as six o'clock in the morning and knocks off as late as nine o'clock in the evening. His services: *gratis et amore.*

THE CABLETOW is published bi-monthly for and in the interest of the members of the subordinate lodges of this jurisdiction. Send all correspondences to the Editor. Office of Publication: Plaridel Temple, 1440 San Marcelino, 2801. Telephone: 597-185.

ABELARDO P. MOJICA
 Editor

B.J. TORRES
 Administrative Assistant
 to the Editor

RICHARD G. MOJICA
 In-Charge-Circulation



Civic Action. Distributing T-shirts and rubber sandals in the depressed barrio at the foothills of Mt. Arayat.

The Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 in Angeles City, Pampanga has been adjudged as the Most Outstanding Lodge in the entire Philippine jurisdiction.

Constituted on June 1, 1929 or 55 years ago, this predominantly American lodge was named after Brother (General) Leonard Wood, the famous army surgeon who became Governor General of the Philippines, and was a very proud and well-known Mason.

The first Worshipful Master of the Lodge was 1st Lt. Doyle O. Hickey, who rose to prominence in World War II and at the time of his retirement held the rank of Lieutenant General.

At the beginning, with a predominantly American membership, Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 prides itself with having a "mixed population" totalling 418. In 1984 it was voted Outstanding Lodge of Masonic District No. 7.

Strongly recommended by VW James R. Ruckman, DDGM, District No. 7, for the Grand Master's Cup as the most outstanding lodge in the jurisdiction for Masonic Year 1984-1985, Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105 had meritoriously performed last year.

Civic Action

January 15, 1984: Distributed hundreds of T-shirts and rubber

sandals to the barrio residents, especially children, at a depressed foothill barrio of Mt. Arayat, Pampanga. Candies and balloons were also given away.

Valentine's Party

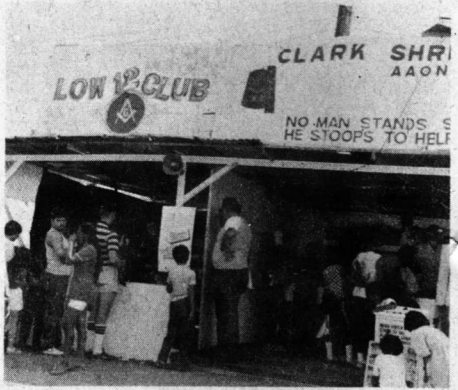
In lieu of its stated meeting, a Valentine's Party was held, attended also by the brethren and their ladies from Malolos Lodge No. 46 and Pampanga Lodge No. 48.



Valentine Party. It might as well be called Ladies Night . . . the brethren with their loved ones.

Happening on the Green (HOG)

April 5-8: The Lodge participated at Clark Air Base's Happening on the Green, a yearly activity or festival at Clark Air Base for the benefit and recreation of Clark Air Base servicemen and their dependents. Local businessmen were invited by the Base authorities to display and sell their wares at a 20-hectare ground. Also invited were civic and social organizations in the locality. The Lodge realized an income of US\$400 in operating booths during the festival.



Happening on the Green. From booths like this one the brethren and their ladies served, netting \$400.



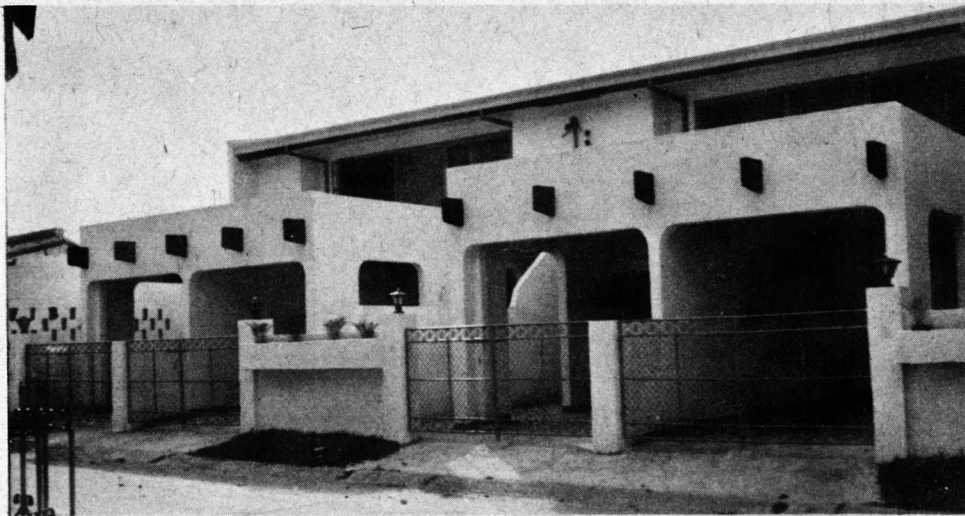
Agoo field trip. Brethren playing with their kids.

Field trip to Agoo

As a respite from the daily monotonous grind of activity, the brethren and their ladies hied to Agoo, some 80 miles away, and spent overnight at the beach house of WB Antolin Naguiat. There, they had the opportunity to relax and enjoy the company and fellowship of their families.

Apartment Building

A four-door apartment building was constructed by the Lodge to

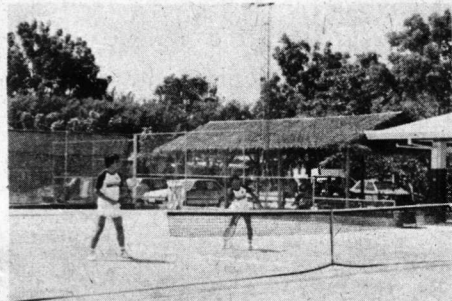


Apartment Building. To ensure wise expenditure of funds, a four-door apartment building was put up as a source of income.

protect its funds from the devastating effects of inflation and devaluation that the country is presently experiencing, and to provide for additional revenues to finance its projects.

₱40,000 for PMG

In support of the recently organized Past Masters Guild, the Lodge wrote out a check for ₱40,000 as its contribution of the brethren and to start the ball rolling.



Sports Program. A Doubles Tennis Tournament, WB Henson makes return volley on a passing shot.



₱40,000 for Grand Guld. WB Henson presents check for ₱40,000 to VW Antonio Manio, DGL, District No. 7, as Leonard Wood's contribution to the Grand Guld of Past Masters.

Sports Program

On August 13, 1984 the Lodge launched the first Doubles Tennis Tournament as part of its program to enhance and promote the physical fitness of the brethren.

Medical and Dental Mission

With Bro. Antonio J. Guzman, M.D., as overall chairman, the Lodge embarked on a medical and dental mission on November 25,



Medical/Dental Mission. The depressed barrios of Magalang and Arayat, Pampanga were beneficiaries of the Lodge's goodwill.

1984 at two far flung barrios of Magalang and Arayat, Pampanga. The team included 18 doctors and 6 dentists. The team accounted for some 299 medical patients and 69 dental patients.

Christmas Party

Everyone participated at the Lodge Christmas party held at the residence of Bro. Eleazar H. Edralin at Villa Teresa, Angeles City on December 23, 1984. Even the past masters, the Rainbow Girls and De-Molay boys rendered surprise numbers.



Christmas Party. Bro. Fred Carrender directs "Simon Says" game during Christmas party.



Monthly dinner. WB Rudolph "Tiny" Littleton about to take a bite of sumptuous table fare during one of the Lodge's monthly pot luck dinner.

Monthly Potluck Dinner

Every third Tuesday of each month is a "first degree night," during which a pot luck dinner is held at the Lodge. The wives of the brethren would each prepare a dish and bring to the Lodge, while the Lodge would provide the main dish, which is prepared by the Junior Warden, who is given a budget of about ₱1,000 each month for the purpose.

LODGE NEWSLETTER

The Lodge publishes a newsletter every year to inform the brethren, especially those residing abroad, about the events that are happening in the Lodge. About 70% of the members are either in the United States or are stationed in another U.S. Base in some foreign country.

A MASONIC ELECTION IS A MOST SACRED SACROSANCT PROCESS

Statement of MW Reynato S. Puno as a candidate for Junior Warden

Lawyers are known or notorious for their propensity to speak. Not only have they been denounced for talking too much but worse for their white lies. That is why when one lawyer died, his epitaph read: Here lies a lawyer; he lieth still. Another lawyer's epitaph read: Here lies Mr. A. Edmunton, a good man and a lawyer. The epitaph, it is said, led a boy to ask why they buried two men in one tomb — a good man and a lawyer. Those stories are of course, apocryphal.

Well, brethren, levity aside, let me first of all express my thanks to all the Past MW Grand Masters for their nomination. Such a magnanimous expression of trust is to me enough compensation for all the personal difficulties that one has to go through in this election. A nomination, an endorsement that comes from brethren who have held the stewardship of our beloved fraternity for so long a time and in so fruitful a manner is honor enough,

irrespective of the results of the election.

My dear brethren, to be very candid, I feel a certain disquietude standing before you as a candidate. I am far from being a dye in the wool politician. In fact, I am no politician at all. This election has not and will not make me a politician. Consequently, I beg your indulgence if I do not act as a politician and if I do not talk as a politician. In line with this principle, I will not speak about myself. After all, our bio-data are spread out in the Cabletow. Nor will I talk about the other candidates. I have nothing but praises for all of them. They are real masons and genuine gentlemen. Regardless of the result of this election, I assure them my highest esteem.

At this point, I would rather articulate some thoughts on the nature of a masonic election. It is only by having a clear understanding of the nature of a masonic election that

... an exercise where prudence has to be the rule on the part of the aspirants ...

we can be guided accordingly when we cast our precious ballot, tomorrow.

To my mind, a masonic election is not a contest where the parties assume a real adversary stance against each other. It is not a machiavelian struggle where the parties are free to employ every means to justify the end. Nor is it an occasion for mindless merry making, or a cause for charivari, or an excuse to wine, dine and womanize.

I submit that, a masonic election is a most sacred, sacrosanct process. This is an exercise where the parties are not unknown to each other, but on the contrary, where the parties are brethren bound by an obligation taken before the Holy Bible. This is an exercise to choose the brethren who can most competently lead our fraternity in spreading out our tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth. It is therefore an exercise where prudence has to be the rule on the part of aspirants and where wisdom has to be displayed by the voting brethren.

Consequently, it is my view that more than anything else a masonic election is a test of character, a test of whether one is really a mason not only in creed but also in deed. For in this kind of an election, as it is in other elections, one is continuously bedevilled and beguiled by

many temptations, temptations directly opposed to masonic tenets.

- There is the temptation to unduly propagandize oneself bigger than life itself and yet we have been taught the values of humility;
- There is the temptation to spend one's wealth to assure one's victory but masonry teaches us the social value of material wealth;
- There is the temptation to speak ill of one's opponents even when the grievances are more imaginary than real and yet masonry frowns upon the evil tongue; and
- There is the temptation to use dirty tricks to assure victory even when masonry teaches temperance, and forbids all acts that break brotherly love.

In the same vein however, that a masonic election tests the strength of character of candidates, it similarly provides the brethren an opportunity to firm up the foundations of the Craft. A masonic election gives them an opportunity to choose who best can serve and best agree. And more important, it gives them a chance to repudiate brethren who, in their sometimes unbounded desire to win may take unnecessary liberty with our tenets.

At this point of time, I should think that the brethren should come out loud and clear against

. . . let us preserve the interest of the fraternity, let us protect the future of our enduring tenets.

practices that are verbotem to our dogmas. In this election, the personality of the winners should not be the material consideration. After all, personalities lack permanence, they are mere passing shadows in a world of change. Rather, we should see to it that we completely vindicate in this election our rule against electioneering that for if we default in this all important fight, we will see the sad spectre of our Grand Lodge falling into the hands of those whose only power is the purchasing power. God forbids that possibility for when that time descends upon us that sacred letter G will no longer mean what we know it to mean but may be misinterpreted to be the initial for Gold. On my part, I have to the best of my ability conformed with our rules on election, the do's and dont's. And in doing so, I am willing to pay the price, however exorbitant it may be, for over and above my passing interest is the permanent interest of the fraternity.

Let me close my brethren with

the story of a wise man named Paederatos from Sparta. The story goes that an election was held in Sparta and ten men were supposed to be elected to the Council of Elders. Paederatos was the best of the several candidates. When the election was finished, Paederatos did not win the election. The day after, Paederatos was walking the street of Sparta and one of his sympathizers asked him the question — Are you not sorry or mad that you lost the election? The answer of Paederatos was a classic in politics. He said: No, I am neither sad or mad. For I am glad that in Sparta the people have found at least 10 better men than I am.

My brethren, as we prepare ourselves for tomorrow's ritual of election, let us think of the spirit of Paederatos, let us think not of the stake of the candidates. Above everything else, let us preserve the interest of the fraternity, let us protect the future of our enduring tenets. Let us shield them from any and all assault.

STIR A RENAISSANCE IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

“... Masonry in our country will never recover its lost glory unless its votaries soak themselves in its timeless thoughts and teachings.”

Brethren:

I wish to be abbreviated in my closing remarks tonight. We have just come from Cavite where we attended a district convention. In a span of a few hours I have delivered three speeches. This is my fourth today. Lest even I get tired of hearing myself I will try my best to do away with the usual adventitious statements.

I just wish to let you all know how happy I am that we have rebuild the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. We used to have an excellent library that housed a fine collection of masonic materials. Unfortunately, the confabulation of the tempest of time and the neglect of man swept it away into oblivion. I have always nurtured the thesis that masonry in our country will

never recover its lost glory unless its votaries soak themselves in its timeless thoughts and teachings. Many if not most of our heroes scaled the heights of glory because they absorbed themselves in masonic ideas and fought for the triumph of these ideas for the benefit of the country. Jose Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar, Apolinario Mabini, Teodoro Kalaw are shining examples of that rare breed of masons. Bound by this belief, I purposely adopted the theme “More Light in Masonry, More Light from Masons” throughout our jurisdiction this year. As I keep on hammering from district to district, the central thrust of our efforts is to stir a renaissance in masonic knowledge among the brethren. But a renaissance will be but a chimera if we do not even

“... hope that henceforth there will be no backsliding in the march and search for meaningful masonic education.”

have a decent depository of masonic books and materials. Indeed, I could not think of a more cruel joke than constraining the brethren to engage in masonic scholastic endeavors when we don't even read the basic books about the craft. Our yearly lamentations for more masonic education are to me but meaningless charades considering that we do not even have a corner for reading in the Grand Lodge. For all these reasons, the reconstruction of this Library and Museum was high up in my list of priorities as Grandmaster. Tonight, November 30, a day we celebrate in remembrance of our heroes, most of whom are masons, we have done what ought to have been done — we have taken the first step in systematizing our efforts to spread masonic knowledge to our brethren. I can only hope that henceforth there will be no backsliding in this march and search for more meaningful masonic education.

If I am happy because of the realization of a dream has been reduced to reality. The reconstruction of our Library and Museum is a beautiful story worth telling about. It is a saga of how a good idea can engender the wholehearted support of many brethren after ap-

preciating the unrelenting labor of love of a few who worked so hard for its realization. The idea of a Center for Continuing Masonic Education with a Library and a Museum as its heart was germinated during the many of my informal discussions with my think tank — brothers Johnny Nabong, Ed Gonzales, Vic Ramos, Jimmy Arcebucho, Mody Gonzales, Charlie de Castro, Johnny Mendoza to name a few. But an idea however valid is useless unless it can be induced to reality. The choice of who will give shape to the sound was a crucial one. After scanning the list of available brethren, we picked on WB Rene Damian as our leadman to do the job. We could not have chosen a better man than WB Rene. Hardly had he received his commission when he already started with the project. Let me tell you very frankly there were days and nights when I agonized over the project. Much as I have babied the project for so long a time, yet it pained to know there was no appropriation in our budget to finance it. Little did I know that WB Rene is one brother whose dictionary does not contain the word discouragement. Before I knew it, he had the blue print of the area finished and together with

“I hate to see the day when this Center will again die a natural death due to neglect . . .”

WB Oscar Fung and WB Johnny Mendoza they were collaring just about any brother on sight to donate plywood, paint, and all the needed materials. For endless days, they scavenged our bodegas retrieving old masonic books and materials, fighting in the process armies of anays, cockroaches and rats; they braved the muck and mud of our backyard, retrieving dilapidated chairs and tables and patiently repairing them. Soon their back breaking efforts started to be appreciated by the brethren who saw and shared their vision of a library and museum. Many started to pitch in and after a time, the project just about became everybody's baby. The brethren do not only want a good library and museum. They want our existing temple to be beautiful. WB Rene and company gave them their wish. He brought in flowers, plants and trees to improve our garden. He re-decorated our halls and hallways. He repainted the McFie room and also the canteen. He spruced up the place terrorizing our janitors in the process. How he intends to retile the whole temple and at the rate the pledges of support are coming

in, I have no doubt he will get what he wants. In sincere appreciation for the super efforts of WB Rene may I ask all of you to give him a standing ovation. And even at this early stage may I announce that WB Rene Damian will get the Most Outstanding Mason Award for masonic year 1984-85 come our April Communication. May I assure WB Rene that this time the cost of the plaque will not be raised by voluntary contribution.

I said I was happy when this Library and Museum came into being and that I was happier by the way the brethren built it thru their love and sacrifices. Let me end by saying I'll be happiest if this Center whose heart is the Library and Museum will continue to be patronized by the Craft. I hate to see the day when this Center will again die a natural death due to the neglect of those with myopic vision of the futuristic needs of the Craft. Let me therefore minimize the happening of that event. As fitting climax of this occasion let me sign this Edict No. 86 creating the Center for Continuing Masonic Education.

Thank you for attending the opening of our Library.

**DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND
MASTERS 1984-1985**

- 1-A — John L. Choa
- 1-B — Benjamin B. Malig
- 1-C — Plutarco Bawagan
- 2 — Leandro B. Resurreccion
- 3 — Perfecto B. Martinez Jr.
- 4 — Eduardo Alcantara
- 5 — Ishmael Sanchez, Sr.
- 6 — Ruben O. Azarcon
- 7 — James R. Ruckman
- 8 — Antonio D. Salvador
- 9 — Fernando V. Pascua, Jr.
- 10 — Levy M. Narvaez
- 11 — Andrew Nocon
- 12 — Wiros C. Tejada, Sr.
- 13 — Santiago Ferrer, Jr.
- 14 — Selmo O. Bernas
- 15 — Salvador Santiago
- 16 — Jesus Limkimso
- 17 — Eutropio Magdale
- 18 — Benjamin S. Geli
- 19 — Carlos C. Aguilar
- 20 — Fred G. Dumlaog
- 21 — Kenneth M. Crabtree
- 22 — James B. King
- 23 — Jose R. Anes
- 24 — Mariano Garantoza
- 25 — Moises F. Dalisay, Sr.
- 26 — Hector P. Narajos
- 27 — Antonio Ko
- 28 — Carlos G. Aguba
- 29 — Virgilio G. Evangelista
- 30 — George F. Krause
- 31 — Antonio I. Codina
- 32 — Claudio C. Guerrero
- 33 — Gregorio O. Calit
- 34 — Russell B. Atkins
- 35 — Jose S. Sarria
- 36 — Fulgencio A. Mella
- 37 — Gauvain J. Benzonan
- 38 — Jose M. Lagahit
- 39 — Busi T. Dy
- 40 — Philip A. Gerenia

**DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS
1984-1985**

- 1-A — Ramon G. Gonzales, Sr.
- 1-B — Serafin Z. Valenzuela
- 1-C — Benjamin G. Brown
- 2 — Bienvenido V. de Guzman
- 3 — Geminiano M. Alvarado
- 4 — Dennis T. Rivas
- 5 — Gaudencio M. David
- 6 — Deogracias Rivera
- 7 — Antonio R. Manio
- 8 — Luperio F. Villanueva
- 9 — Maximiano M. Tuazon, Jr.
- 10 — Mariano M. Baldemoro
- 11 — Rosauo M. Magcalas
- 12 — Guillermo V. Rabuel
- 13 — Tomas A. Reyes
- 14 — Raymundo M. Magat
- 15 — Fedelindo G. Fernandez
- 16 — Pablo C. Ko
- 17 — Gregorio Iyoy
- 18 — Jose Lim III
- 19 — Mahmud Bagis
- 20 — Leonilo T. Alger
- 21 — Elson R. Ross
- 22 —
- 23 — Magtanggol A. Nuevo
- 24 — Aurelio Lee
- 25 — Angelito G. Flores
- 26 — Ali Bagundang
- 27 — Enrique Maravilla
- 28 — Modesto A. Tatlonghari
- 29 — Crispiniano G. Lamorena
- 30 — Anthony S. Vasconcellos
- 31 — Paulino T. Lim
- 32 — Llewellyn M. Mangilet
- 33 — Rodolfo E. Papa
- 34 — Mariano A. Cantos
- 35 — Saturnino O. Alfonso
- 36 — Ireneo B. Escandor
- 37 — Maximiano S. Panlague
- 38 — Romulo O. Villanueva
- 39 — Emmanuel R. Daguman
- 40 — Floresto Florendo

TO POSTMASTER: If undelivered, please return to

The CABLETOW

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Plaridel Masonic Temple
1440 San Marcelino, Manila D-2801

Re-entered as second class mail matter at the
Manila Post Office on June 16, 1962

IMPORTANT! Readers are requested to send address changes and corrections to us to insure prompt delivery of the THE CABLETOW.