



The CABLETOW

VOL. 70 NO. 4

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1993

PILIPINAS

P 8



Pasko 93

PEACE

PILIPINAS

P 2

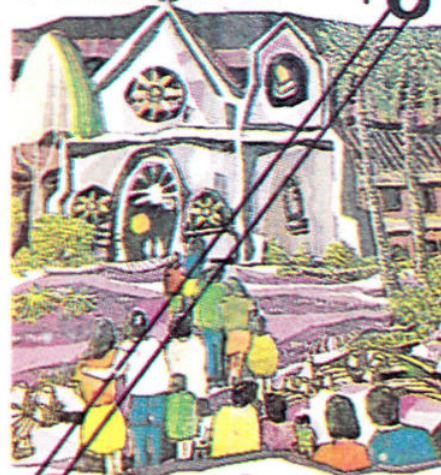


Pasko 03

KAPAYAPAAN

PILIPINAS

P 6



Pasko 03

PEACE

PILIPINAS

P 7



Pasko 03

PEACE

Contents

2	Editorial
3	Christmas Stamps
4	The Message of Christmas
5	That All May Be One in Christ
6	NEWS
30	NEWS PICTORIAL
	FEATURES
35	Historical Notes: Bro. Andres Bonifacio
36	Interesting Notes on Rizal's Life
37	Bro. Rizal's Relevance to Year 2000
40	Brethren Behind the Scene
41	Senior Masons Column: Moments with Them
42	Some Famous Freemasons
44	Reflections of a Mason's Wife
47	Masonic Information: The Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund Datu Bago Lodge No. 197, District 18
48	Reflections from the GM
50	From Personal Service to Profitable Business
53	What is Freemasonry?
55	Is Masonry a Religion?
56	Classroom Masons
58	Masonic Symbolism: The Working Tools of a Fellowcraft
62	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
64	New Year Stamps

The Editorial Board

ABELARDO L. APORTADERA, JR.
Editor in Chief

ENRIQUE L. LOCSIN
Managing Editor

RAUL A. LAMAN
Features Editor

JOEL P. PALACIOS
News Editor

KARL U. MEGERLE
Photo/Layout Editor

RAMON B. PROTACIO
Circulation Manager

REYNOLD S. FAJARDO
REYNATO S. PUNO
Consultants

The CABLETOW is published bi-monthly by the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines with principal office at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino St., Metro Manila, D-2801. Reentered as second class mail matter at the Manila Post Office on June 16, 1962.



Editorial

**A Masonic Christmas
1993, A Masonic
Resolution for 1994**

Every year, we ask ourselves how we should celebrate our Christmas. This year, with all the lahar, floodwaters, and typhoons, our brethren asked how we could share our Christmas with others who are less fortunate.

In the spirit of brotherly love and relief, brethren in districts unscathed by nature's wrath trekked to the Grand Lodge and Masonic Centers to provide relief goods to brothers and non-brothers alike. They shared clothing, food, utensils, and provided financial assistance for distribution to stricken areas.

It is a fact that the best way to spread Christmas cheer is to share what we have with others, especially, those who are less fortunate. This Christmas, we call to mind one of the three principal tenets of Masonry—RELIEF.

We say, "To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to be compassionate to their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have. On this basis, we form our friendships and establish our connections."

If you have not practised RELIEF this year, how about resolving to do so in 1994?

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Contents

2	Editorial
3	Christmas Stamps
4	The Message of Christmas
5	That All May Be One in Christ
6	NEWS
30	NEWS PICTORIAL
	FEATURES
35	Historical Notes: Bro. Andres Bonifacio
36	Interesting Notes on Rizal's Life
37	Bro. Rizal's Relevance to Year 2000
40	Brethren Behind the Scene
41	Senior Masons Column: Moments with Them
42	Some Famous Freemasons
44	Reflections of a Mason's Wife
47	Masonic Information: The Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund Datu Bago Lodge No. 197, District 18
48	Reflections from the GM
50	From Personal Service to Profitable Business
53	What is Freemasonry?
55	Is Masonry a Religion?
56	Classroom Masons
58	Masonic Symbolism: The Working Tools of a Fellowcraft
62	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
64	New Year Stamps

Christmas Stamps

The Christmas season in the Philippines, the longest in the world, is ushered in by the *Misa de Gallo* or *Simbang Gabi* on December 16 and culminates on December 24 with the traditional midnight Christmas Mass. The season lasts up to the first Sunday of January, the Feast Day of the Epiphany, with every household throughout the country always in a festive mood.

This year's Christmas issue depicts Christmas as observed in the Philippines and reflects on some Christmas customs and traditions:


NATIVITY SCENE- The P2.00 denomination features the Holy Child and the Blessed Couple in native costumes with the carabao and nipa hut in the background.

SIMBANG GABI- An old Filipino tradition which dates back to the Spanish times is shown on the P6.00 value depicting a church and a throng of people. The coconut tree is shown at extreme right.

EPIPHANY- Three native carabaos are shown on the P7.00 denomination



laden with fruits, vegetables and bounty from the sea, paying tribute to the birth of the Holy Child.

CAROLING- A favorite Filipino tradition is shown on the P8.00 value which depict carolers with a guitar and the world-famous Filipino *parol* or Christmas lantern. 

The Message of Christmas

Every year, at Christmas, Christian nations pause to celebrate a blessed event—the birth of the Messiah. This event is perceived in various ways. It is a season of mirth and a season for giving and forgiving. Christmas melodies fill the air and every home is spruced up and lit for the occasion. It is a season of anticipation by all for the much-awaited raise, bonus, gifts, and get-togethers. Children look forward to a gift of a new dress, shoes, or money. Amidst the din and gaiety lies the message of Christmas for everyone. The Messiah was born into a world full of troubles and misery, very similar to the world as we know it today, to bring hope to all. Christmas encourages all of us to pause from all the things that we normally preoccupy ourselves with and forget our present troubles and enmities for a brief moment.

More than these, the message of Christmas is charity. Our present-day observance involves the traditional practice of gift-giving, merry-making, and festivities. But we must all look beyond these mundane traditions to see what is beyond. Christmas has its profound meaning in the exemplification of the utmost of virtues called forgiveness to those who have wronged us and for us to seek from others their forgiveness if we may have offended them. This self-cleansing process will unburden and lighten the heart, brighten the world, and promote better



peace and understanding among people of the earth.

“Glory be to God in the highest and on Earth peace and goodwill toward all men?”

Season's greetings to all!

MW RIZAL D. APORTADERA
Grand Master

That All May Be One in Christ...

by WB Alejandro Tolentino de la Cruz
Saigon Lodge No. 188

*Led by the star of Bethlehem,
from distant unknown continents
Came the three Magi, travellers,
into the town of Bethlehem
and joined the shepherds
in adoring the Child Jesus in the manger
while listening to the angelic hymns;
peace on earth to men of goodwill.*

*The infant, Jesus, in swaddling clothes,
with His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary
and His foster father, Joseph,
took refuge as temporary migrants in Egypt.
The prophet in a Holy Book, thereat,
stated of the Virgin Mary,
the most blessed amongst women
and recognized Jesus as Christ the Prophet,
unlike Christ's own, His very own nation to
another
sowing the seeds of hope and peace
until they reached
the centre of the Roman Empire.*

*Let every heart discern, let all want peace,
let us join the prayer of truce with God;
once more from that of Assisi of October
1986
of all spiritual leaders from all continents
of the earth, from men of goodwill,
who could be the descendants of the three
Magi,
the first to witness the birth of the Infant
Jesus.*



*That all may be one in Christ. . .
Let us all be brothers,
as men under the Fatherhood of God.
Let us all discern, let all want peace,
ever repeating the angelic song;
Peace on earth to men of goodwill,
for the Lord Christ said;
Blessed are the peacemakers
for theirs is the Kingdom of God.*

Masons Pay Tribute to Bro. Jose P. Rizal

The increasingly notable public appearances of Pangasinan Lodge No.56, Dagupan City, was capped with the yearend celebration of Rizal Day last December 30, 1993. This year's celebration was jointly sponsored by the Freemasons of Dagupan City (Pangasinan Lodge No.56 and Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No.158) and the City Schools Division, Department of Education, Culture, and Sports. It is of no wonder then that, as usual, the Masons of both Lodges came in full force in formal Masonic outfit, complete with the badge of a Mason—his apron.

This year's Rizal Day may be gleaned more as a Mason's public tribute to a brother and a national hero. WM Mario G. de Guzman and VM Florentino S. Naniong of the Pangasinan Bodies, A. & A.S.R. were called up the stage and made to sit side by side with the city mayor, Bro. Alipio Fernandez, the guest of honor and speaker, WB Silverio Q. Castillo, RTC Judge of Dagupan City and immediate past mas-

ter of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56.


Mayor and Bro. Alipio Fernandez started it all when, in his inspirational message, he acknowledged the presence of his brother Masons. WB Silverio O. Castillo, the guest of honor and speaker, in his well-researched and scholarly message, spoke on the love of God, love of country above self, and many heroic deeds of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, deeds which, Bro. Castillo said, may be traced and nurtured in the Masonic teachings and in numerous masonic contacts of Dr. Jose P. Rizal during his lifetime as a member of the



(L-R) VW Clemente M. Nava, VW Florentino S. Naniong, DDGM, WB Mario G. de Guzman, WB Antonio Chua, Bro. Rafael de Peralta, guest of honor and speaker WB Silverio Q. Castillo, Immediate Past Master of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, City Mayor and Bro. Alipio Fernandez, his wife, and Mrs. Thelma Caronongan of the DECS. At the rostrum is SW Leon L. Palaganas, Jr.



Floral offering for Bro. Jose P. Rizal.

Fraternity. It may be noted that, WB Castillo was introduced by another brother mason—the incumbent Senior Warden of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56—and, at the same time, a DECS supervisor of Dagupan, SW Leon L. Palaganas, Jr. Even during the floral offering, the Freemasons of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 and Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 were prominently mentioned and given special preference. It is indeed noteworthy that the City Government has seen fit to directly involve and let the Freemasons of Dagupan City play an important role in the celebration of Rizal Day. We have responded magnificently to the challenge. 

PATRIOTISM

Patriotism can only be a crime in a tyrannical people, because then it is rapine under a beautiful name, but however perfect humanity may become, patriotism will always be a virtue among the oppressed people because it will at all times mean love of justice, of liberty, of personal dignity.

(El Filibusterismo, page 59)

A. Mabini Chapter Observes Founder's Day

In observance of Founder's Day, the A. Mabini Chapter of the International Order of DeMolay conducted a special film-showing depicting the illustrious life of Bro. Frank Sherman Land, founder of the International Order of DeMolay. This day is one of the Obligatory Days observed by all DeMolay Chapters throughout the world.

This historical event was held on a Sunday closest to the death anniversary of the founder—November 7—just a day before he finally rejoined his Creator. Twenty-two DeMolays, including two of the PMCs, witnessed the slideshow together with Bro. Eduardo G. Escano, Chapter Advisor and three other young men who were around familiarizing themselves to the Order they are considering to enter.

The film was simply entitled, "Hi, Dad" as it gave a brief historical background on his life and how he changed the life of millions of young men through the Order of DeMolay. It also educated the viewers regarding his Masonic life, his admission to Masonry at the young age of 22, his being a 33rd Degree Mason at age 35 and an active Shriner in his active years. He was one of the very few people presidents

have praised and have even been bestowed the title, "Citizen Extraordinary" by his fellow citizens. He laid down his working tools on November 8, 1959 at the age of 69. (1)

LOVE OF COUNTRY

Elias to Ibarra (whose life he saved but who, he learned later, was the son of his deceased father's persecutor), after Ibarra had invited him to go abroad and live with him, leaving the country where he had suffered so much wretchedness: "It is true that I cannot love or be happy in my country, but I can suffer and die in it, and perhaps for it — that is always something. May the misfortunes of my native land be my own misfortunes and, although no noble sentiment unites us although our hearts do not beat to a single name, at least may I weep over our sorrows with them, may the same hard fate oppress all our hearts alike! (Noli Me Tangere, page 472-473)

Digos Mason's Way

by WM Nicolas M. Alcover

In its desire to serve its less-fortunate brothers in the rural areas, Digos Lodge No. 198 exerted its best efforts to fulfill its plan of extending surgical-dental services to the people in Barangay Ruparan, Digos, Davao del Sur. This project, dubbed as "CIVAC" or Civic Action, was spearheaded by Bro. Manny Gonzales, the only surgeon member of Digos Lodge 198, assisted by brother Treasurer, Dondon Suizo, who was a dentist.

Considering the limited strength to perform the gigantic mission, doctor-friends were invited to join the group. Also invited was the junior REACTOR who had undergone trainings on circumcision operation. Early morning of Dec. 19, 1993, the group proceeded to Barangay Ruparan and undertook the CIVAC operation the whole day. Sister Emie Gonzales, who was a physician herself, did some circumcision. There were 54 boys circumcized and 48 dental patients attended to throughout the day. The Lodge also provided medicines to patients free of charge.

District Deputy Grand Master, VW Fely Salvador, upon seeing the crowd of patients, donated some amount to attain the noble objective of the craft. The DDGM was accompanied by DGL



The dental group with DDGM Fely Salvador looking on.


Bob Simon, GLI Bing Denia, and Bro. Mon Sarenas, all from Davao City. The Lodge provided the lunch and snacks for the group.

The Digos Masons felt the true joy of Christmas when they were able to distribute gift packages to various indigents living within the municipality of Digos. Those were the fruits of the carolling to selected residents in the area who had

excess resources and possess benevolent hearts compatible with our vision.


The poorest of the poor, upon receiving the gift package consisting of rice, canned goods, bread, coffee, sugar, and so on, would normally exclaim, "Ay, salamat sa Ginoo." ("Thanks be to God.")

After distributing all the gift items at about 5:00 in the afternoon of Dec. 24, 1993, the three distribution teams who went to different directions from the Lodge, met to celebrate the true happiness of Christmas. At least, something good was achieved for Christmas, in spite of the limited resources of the Lodge.

These are among the ways of showing love to the people, in spirit and in deeds. 


**Our acknowledgment to
VW Leonardo T. Chua
and Brethren of District
1-C for upgrading the
Cabletow computer**

Dalisay Lodge No. 14 Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

fficers and members of Dalisay Lodge No. 14, F. & A.M., under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, celebrated its centennial anniversary on December 4, 1993 at the Corinthian Club House, Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City.

Commencing at 6:00 in the evening, the affair was opened with a welcome address delivered by WB Tommy L. Co, Worshipful Master of the Lodge. Prior to this, an invocation was delivered by Lodge Chaplain, WB Ladislao S. Fajardo, PM.

A sumptuous dinner was served for all the officers, members, and their numerous guests and well-wishers.

All in all, a great and fun time was had by all. 

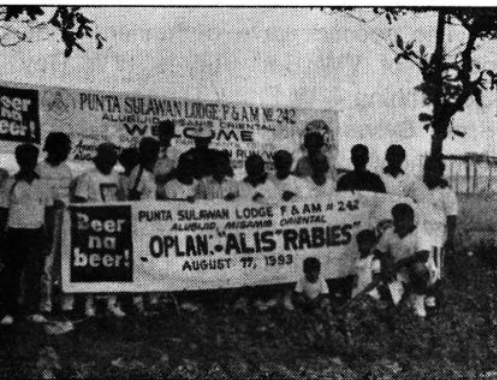
Punta Salawan Lodge No. 242 in Its 13th Year

Punta Sulawan Lodge No. 242 celebrated its 13th Anniversary last August 29, 1993 in Alubijid, Misamis Oriental with a "Fun Run" and physical fitness activities and the launching of Oplan "Alis Rabies," covering four municipalities. The activity was led by WM Romeo Banaynal—incumbent Master of Punta Sulawan—VW Ildefonso Agbuya, DDGM of Masonic District 17, and VW Filomeno Sia with VW Benjamin Go.

CT



Fun run fund-raising project.



Dog vaccination done in four municipalities.



Physical fitness program

District Nos. 14 and 27 Joint Convention

Delayed by three hours, Flight No. PR-135 from Manila finally landed at the Bacolod Airport at 8:15 PM. On board this flight were Grand Master Rizal D. Aportadera, Senior Grand Warden Danilo D. Angeles, Assistant Grand Secretary Roberto Reyes, and Senior Grand Lecturer Benjamin Geli. VW Oscar B. Quisumbing, Jr., District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 27, and VW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Junior Grand Lecturer for Western Visayas, led the brethren in welcoming the Grand Master and members of his party to the City of Smiles.

From the airport, the group proceeded to Aboy's Kamalig, Bacolod's landmark owned and operated by Bro. Nestor Evaristo and his wife, Sister Rodelia, where each one was treated to a sumptuous dinner of *manumbok*, *paksiw na alimosan*, and *Bicol Express* as well as other mouth-watering delicacies that only Aboy's can offer.

Later in the evening, the group was joined in by VW Mario Buenaventura, Grand Pursuivant, WB Jun Arias, and Bro. Melvyn Jurisprudencia, Immediate Past Master and Secretary of Kagitingan Lodge No. 286, respectively. VW Buenaventura, WB Arias, and Bro.

Jurisprudencia were in town to savor the Negrense hospitality and to show their prowess in scoring holes-in-one. WB Arias eventually won the golf tournament, but for unknown reasons, the prize landed at VW Buenaventura's lap.

The following day, the brethren converged at the Capitol Lagoon at 6:00 a.m. for the 7-kilometer run. Headed by Grand Master Aportadera, VW Gil N. Octaviano, Jr., Bro. Jose Alunan, and Bro. Russel Nuñez, the first batch foxtrotted their way up to Sta. Fe Resort in less than one hour.

The second wave of runners composed of VW Bert Reyes, VW Boy Quisumbing, VW Frank Demonteverde, Sister Sylvia Quisumbing, Sister Lorna Demonteverde, and WB Jose Conado completed their agonizing run in almost two hours. A guest runner from Los Angeles joined the brethren.

After a light breakfast, a brief ceremony signalling the opening of the sportsfest at the Sta. Fe Resort was held. VW Octaviano, Jr., a spitting image of the amiable Dr. Juan Flavio, gave an inspirational message to the sports enthusiasts. Except for the golf tournament which was held at the Bacolod Gold and Country Club, all the events were played at the

resort. These included bowling, lawn tennis, table tennis, chess, swimming, billiards, and volleyball.

Day two started with VW Quisumbing and VW Demonteverde welcoming MW Reynold S. Fajardo and MW John L. Choa, Past Grand Masters, at the Bacolod Airport at 5:00 in the morning. Both were surprised to discover that they shared the same flight. MW Fajardo was the Convention's Guest Speaker while MW Choa was the Speaker during the testimonial luncheon tendered in honor of the Senior Masons.

A floral offering was held at the Rizal Monument situated in the Rizal Elementary School. This was followed by the brethren breaking bread at the Inaka Restaurant, a Japanese eatery owned by another brother, VW Freddie dela Paz.

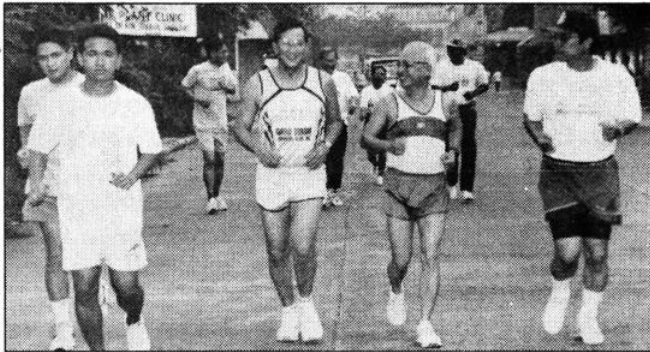
At 9:30 in the morning, the joint District Convention of District Nos. 14 and 27 opened with an appropriate ceremony at the New Apollo Restaurant. Welcome remarks were given by VW Oscar Quisumbing, Jr., District Deputy Grand Master of District 27, and by the Hon. Lorendo K. Dilag, Councilor of Bacolod City, in his capacity as the representative of the City Mayor. Expounding on this year's theme, "Masonry in spirit and in deed," MW Fajardo delivered his message to the brethren and guests.

One of the highlights of the convention was the testimonial luncheon tendered by District Nos. 14 and 27 in honor of the Senior Masons. The honorees were: WB Angel S. Tiangson, Jr., WB Vivencio T. Ibrado, Sr., WB Vicente N. Leonidas, Bro. Cornelio V. Regalado, Bro. Cleto Marcelino C. Uy, Bro. Francisco L. Kalaw, Bro. Choa Chiu, Bro. Romeo A. Intengan, WB Chin Hua C. Uy, WB Jose Y. Tan, and WB Epifanio Liberal, Sr. Also honored were Masons who have continuously maintained their membership in the Fraternity for at least 21 years: VW Jesus J. Aurelio, WB Vivencio T. Ibrado, WB Vicente N. Leonidas, WB Alipio Ykalina II, WB Angel S. Tiangson, Jr., Bro. Romeo A. Intengan, Bro. Cornelio V. Regalado, and Bro. Choa Chiu.

A tribute to the Senior Masons was eloquently delivered by Bro. Rene de Asis, a member of La Naval Lodge No. 269 in Cavite. MW John L. Choa, Past Grand Master and President of the Grand Guild



(L-R) Unidentified DeMolay, Worshipful Inspector Eugene Flores, Jr., WB Abe Tionko, VW Gil N. Octaviano, Jr., MW Rizal D. Aportadera, VW Franklin J. Demonteverde, RW Danilo D. Angeles, VW Bert Reyes, WB Roberto Locsin, Sis. Isabel Caro, VW Wilfredo A. Caro, VW Ben Geli, VW Oscar B. Quisumbing, Jr., DeMolay Ramil Mateos, and another unidentified DeMolay.



At the foreground, left to right: VW Freddie dela Paz, DeMolay Ramil Mateos, MW Rizal Aportadera, VW Gil N. Octaviano, Jr., and VW Oscar B. Quisumbing, Jr. At the background, left to right: VW Roberto Reyes, VW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Sis. Lorna Demonteverde, and WB Jose Conado.

of Past Masters, also delivered his message to the brethren. He was formally introduced to the delegates by WB Jose P. Gomez, a Past Master of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64.

Sessions resumed after lunch. The Masonic education portion was interestingly highly innovative and lively. Instead of the lecture-type format, the brethren witnessed an audio-visual presentation, and later, participated in an open forum conducted by VW Benjamin Geli, Senior Grand Lecturer. The Joint Discon was climaxed by the message of the Grand Master.

The fellowship night and awarding ceremony that followed in the evening was filled with fun and merriment. Prizes were awarded to the winners in the various events as well as to the winners of the ballroom dancing contest. Door prizes were also given away courtesy of San Miguel Brewery and Coca-Cola Bottlers.

Ms. Vivian Cortes, the only child of WB Victorio Cortes, Jr., entertained the delegates at dinnertime. There was dancing and singing. What brought the house down, however, was the special presentation of an evolution of ballroom dances by the IBP Dance Troupe composed of WB Victorio Cortes, Jr., WB Samson P. Mateos, Sister Lorna Demonteverde, and special guest Atty. Sylvia Jurao of the Public

Attorney's Office.

Noticeably absent during the dancing contest were VW Geli and VW Reyes who, we were later informed, backed out at the last minute. Day three, Sunday, was rest and recreation for the Grand Master and his party. MW Aportadera, who was accompanied by RW Danilo Angeles, VW Geli, and VW Reyes, went around the city scouting for *pasalubongs*. While touring the place, they witnessed the Maskara parade.

Finally, it was time to go home. At 8:45 p.m., Flight No. PR-136 took off from Bacolod City for Manila. On board that flight were MW Rizal Aportadera, RW Danilo Angeles, VW Benjamin Geli, and VW Roberto Reyes. Left behind were VW Oscar B. Quisumbing, Jr., VW Franklin J. Demonteverde, WB Roberto Locsin, and WB Enrique Dy. As the plane took off, their thoughts momentarily drifted to another scene in the future. CT

A Lasting Christmas Present for a Barangay

Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 played Santa Claus to the residents of Barangay Pantal, Dagupan City last December 15, 1993 when it formally turned over to the residents, through the Barangay Captain, the newly rehabilitated artesian well, complete with foundation and shade, from whence they can draw safe and free water. This Lodge project was in cooperation with the Dagupan City Water District whose manager, Bro. Ramon C. Reyna, is an active member of said Lodge. To make sure that the water is safe, biological tests were first conducted in the laboratory of the Dagupan City Water District. When the green light was given, WM Mario G. de Guzman lost no time in contacting the barangay captain of Pantal, Mr. Philip Maramba, to discuss the project. Using the tried and tested "Bayanihan Spirit," the barangay captain mobilized his constituents to take care of labor, in order for the residents to have an "investment" on the project. Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 supplied the materials needed (cement, sand and gravel, lumber, GI sheets, and others.), while the Dagupan City Water District took care of the technical aspect. Bro. Baltazar V. Servito, a resident of the barangay, helped in the supervision of the construction as well as in providing snacks for the laborers.

After the formal turnover of the project, the residents of Barangay Pantal were profuse in their expression of thanks to the officers and members of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, headed by WM Mario G. de Guzman. They were very grateful that



(L-R) Barangay Council, WB Jaime L. Nabua, Bro. Ramon C. Reyna, Brgy. Capt. Philip Maramba, and WM Mario G. de Guzman.

they could now fetch safe and free water while those doing their laundry are on another side without wading in mud or murky waters—all under the cover of GI roofing to protect them from the inclemencies of the weather. Before leaving, WM Mario G. de Guzman made clear to the residents that this project is for their own benefit and should any problem arise, they should not hesitate to get in touch with the Masons of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56.



Leadership Training and Masonic Education Seminar a Success

The first-ever Tri-District Leadership Training and Masonic Education Seminar was successfully conducted last November 27, 1993 at Camp Diego Silang, San Fernando, La Union. Delegates from Masonic District Nos. 4, 5, and 24 enthusiastically assembled as early as 7:30 in the morning to listen to lecturers invited for the purpose. VW Leonardo Chua, Junior Grand Lecturer, set the tone of the day when he explained the aims and purposes of the seminar. Lectures on "How to Prepare the Lodge for Meetings," "How to Improve Attendance," as well as answers to questions most often asked by Masons and non-Masons alike were taken up. The lively open forum was ably anchored and moderated by VW Rodolfo Juvenal, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 5.

Officers and members of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 who attended the seminar were led by VW Florentino S. Naniong, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 24, VW Fidel L. Fernandez, District Grand Lecturer, Bro. Jose B. Torio, Jr., Bro. Felino S. Ortiz, VW Camilo C. Calimlim, WB Teodoro E. Coqua, and the Lodge Secretary. Host Lodge—Union

Lodge No. 67—assisted by some officers and members of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 exemplified the opening of a Lodge and Reception of Dignitaries.

At the end of the day, the delegates were one in acclaiming the success of the affair and in expressing their wish that such activities be conducted regularly.

PSALM 133

*Behold, how good and how pleasant
it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity!*

*It is like the precious ointment
upon the heads, that ran down the
beard,
even Aaron's beard;
that went down
to the skirts of his garments;*

*As the dew of Herman,
and as the dew that descended
upon the mountain of Zion;
for there the Lord
commanded the blessings,
even life forevermore.*

Camiguin Happenings


Camiguin Island Lodge No. 296, F & A. M. has finally found a permanent home. The Grand Master officiated in the cornerstone laying ceremony of Camiguin Island Lodge No. 296. The site consisted of a 3,000-square-meter lot donated by Mr. Democrito Conrado, located opposite the Camiguin Airport.

The ceremony was held in the afternoon of November 12, 1993 in the presence of delegates from Masonic District Nos. 17, 31, and 35. He was assisted by VW Ildefonso G. Agbuya, DDGM for Masonic District No. 17 and WM Rexel

Pacuribut of Camiguin Lodge No. 296. Also a witness to the affair was the lone Congressman of Camiguin—Congressman Pedro P. Romualdo—a fellow craft of Camiguin Lodge No. 296.

The Multi-District convention that was held on November 13, 1993 was a resounding success due to the big turnout of delegates and their families from participating districts. The keynote speaker was General and Bro. Clemente P. Mariano, member of Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69 F & A.M. The unexpected bonus speaker was Senator Rodolfo Biazon who delighted the brethren with his speech regarding peace and progress in

Mindanao. Also present was MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, who gave the Masonic education lecture.

The brethren are looking forward to holding the Regional Convention in Camiguin next year and the Lodge through WB Rexel Pacuribut will bid for the hosting of the regional convention this coming February 19, 1993 in Butuan City. 



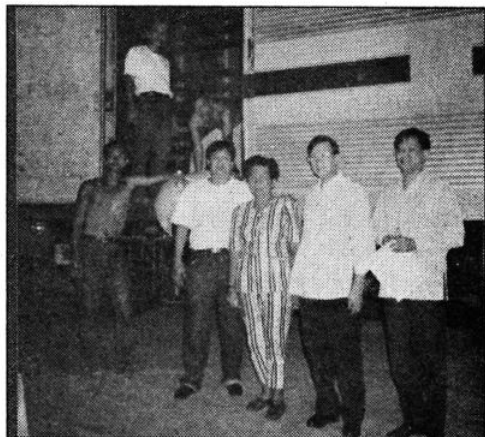
(L-R) VW David Porticos, DDGM (Dist. 35), VW Ildefonso Agbuya, DDGM (Dist. 17), VW Ludovico Sabang, DDGM (Dist. 31), WB Rexel Pacuribot, Master (Camiguin Island Lodge 296).

Masons in Action in Calamities

This is, perhaps, the stormiest Masonic Year ever. A record-breaking number of typhoons visited us this Masonic Year sparing no one in its path and causing untold suffering on many because of the strong winds or torrential rainfall which inundated and flooded the areas affected. Loss of homes and lives were reported while hunger and illness stalked the thousands of helpless victims in the wake of the typhoon.


At the start of this Masonic Year, we encouraged all Masonic Districts to put up a disaster response team known as the "Medics" (Masons for emergency deployment in calamities), not because we anticipate a stormy year, but to instill in every Mason the readiness to act should any calamity occur. We should project our image of concern and service to the hapless victims at the shortest notice.

The challenge for service had been raised several times this year and we were able to respond with dispatch. Notable and commendable were the responses of the Metro Manila brethren of the Masonic Districts 1A, 1B, 1C, 9A, and 9B in their donations of rice, canned goods, coffee, milk and sugar, and medical supplies. The Grand Lodge's share of relief



GM Aportadera with VW Roberto Reyes sending relief goods to typhoon victims in Naga through the van provided by Bro. Resty Marovilla.

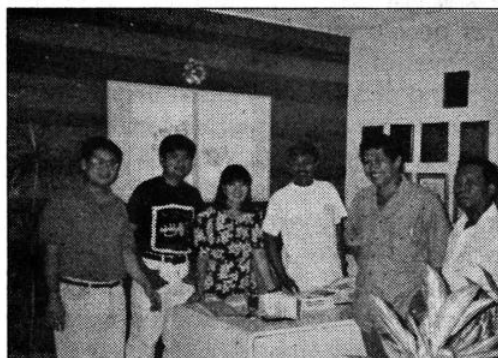
goods were added up and these became a sizeable aid to the flood victims. Masons this year were able to extend relief operations and relief goods to the flood victims in Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, and Bataan last October 8 and 9. This was repeated when the Bicol region was hit by a strong typhoon last December 13, 1993 flooding Naga and the neighboring places. This January, 1994, we responded to the call for assistance by the brethren of Oriental Mindoro.

Spontaneity and willingness to help is the hallmark of our response as Masons of this jurisdiction. 

A Caravan of Remembrance

It was truly a Masonic travel we had on day one—October 29, 1993. The visitation team for widows, orphans and Senior Masons, travelled from East to West of the Pangasinan province where the families of our departed brothers and our Senior Masons are dispersed. The visiting caravan travelled as far West to Bani and Lucap, Alaminos, Pangasinan, then as far East to Pozurrubio, Pangasinan to deliver our letter and candle of remembrance to the family of our departed brothers as well as some goodies to our Senior Masons.

The widows and orphans were very profuse in their expression of gratitude for the kind gesture of the brethren from Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, in remembering their departed brothers. Some could not hold back their tears as they received from Worshipful Master Mario G. de Guzman the candle of remembrance as they read the accompanying letter. Had there been no time constraints, we would have stayed a little longer with them to reminisce the loving memories of our departed brothers, while offering us the usual Masonic hospitality. We had a difficult time explaining our time schedule to avoid giving the impression that we were rejecting their kind gesture of hospitality. It was only at the end of day one, at about 8:00



Sis. Perla Tanedo, wife of our late Bro. Engelberto Tanedo, Sr. and orphaned brother Masons Michael and Engelberto, Jr., with the visitation team.

p.m., when the visiting team decided to call it a day, that everyone realized that they had travelled a total of 285 kilometers spanning East to West.

Day two—October 30, 1993—was reserved for widows, orphans, and Senior Masons in Dagupan City and its environs. The team did the rounds with clockwork precision. Work was accomplished at 1:30 p.m. A feeling of great satisfaction on the part of the visitation team was worth all the time and effort exerted on those Special Days of Remembrance.

Lodge Building Named Masonic Center

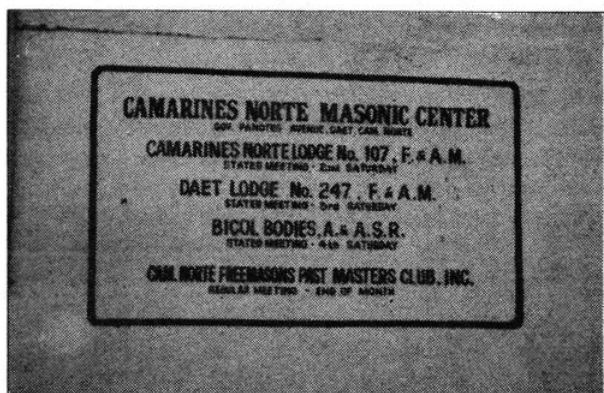
For the first time since its construction in 1964, the Lodge building of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 has been given an official name. It is now known as the Masonic Center.

Why was it named Masonic Center instead of the usual Masonic Temple? The answer to this baffling question is quite simple. This was done in order to do away with the notion among non-Masons that the place is a place of worship. And to think that it was a sojourner who commented that the name is just as equally puzzling. Although there is no dearth of knowledgeable members in the Lodge, yet it took a sojourner, VW Alberto L. Escultura, DDGM to think of an appropriate name.


The Center's name is really relevant since the Masonic Center has now become the heart of Masonic activities of both Lodges, the Bicol Bodies, and the Camarines Norte Freemasons Past Masters Club. Incidentally, it was during the 8th Regular Meeting of the Club that VW Alberto L. Escultura, suggested that the Lodge building be

named Camarines Norte Masonic Center. As in the past, it has become the center for non-formal education training in Cosmetology and in Practical Electricity Classes sponsored by the Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 in cooperation with the DECS Non-Formal Education Division and the National Manpower and Youth Council in the province.

Following the Circular of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, the facade of



Repainted facade of the Camarines Norte Masonic Center where the names of lodges, appendant bodies and a club, including its stated and regular meetings' schedules are indicated.


the Masonic Center was repainted and the names of the Lodges, Bicol Bodies, and the Club, including its Stated Meetings were indicated. 

19 Out-of-school Youths Finish Course

Once again, Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, in cooperation with the DECS Division of Camarines Norte and the NMYC, conducted a non-formal education course in practical electricity to some 43 out-of-school youths and adults. Of this number of enrollees, only 19 graduated as others dropped out due to financial difficulty.

In simple closing ceremonies held at the Camarines Norte Masonic Center on October 17, 1993, Hon. Eduardo S. Freyra, in his welcome address, discussed briefly the theme: "Progress Through Livelihood Skills Development" even as he allayed the fears of some brethren that the next

non-formal education class on tailoring for men and women could not be pushed through for lack of funds. He said that our benefactor, VW Vicente N. Ongtenco signified his willingness to donate more funds upon hearing that the cosmetology and the practical electricity classes were all successfully conducted.

Meanwhile, Trainor Isaias P. Rieza presented the candidates for graduation to Dr. Herminio S. Visitacion, District Supervisor for Daet North District and DECS Non-Formal Education Division Officer-in-Charge who, as the official representative of Division Superintendent Precilla G. Mariano, acknowledged and confirmed the boys and adults as graduated. 



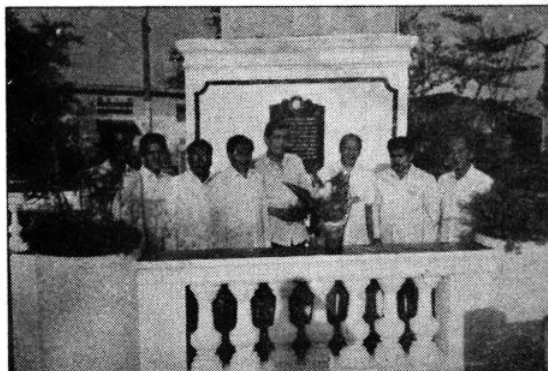
First row (seated) Allan Overa, Kenneth Bacuno, Mike Pacardo, Trainor Isaias P. Rieza, Alvin Carillo, Randy Indias, Emilio Marcos, Jr., Rico Panoga, and Joel Ubana. Second row: Arthur Fajardo, Valentin Auxillio, Adrian Ebona, Mario Arevalo, and Abel Bachain. Third row: Alexander Brofas, Protacio Oliver, Jr., and Juanito Conce as graduates of Practical Electricity Class.

3 and 1 Affair

A

s in the past two years, the 3-and-1 Affair held on December 30, 1993 was a unique yearender masonic activity.

Jointly sponsored by Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, Daet Lodge No. 247, and the District Council, Masonic District No. 13, the yearend activity included (1) a floral offering of fresh flowers at the foot of the First Rizal Monument in the morning followed by a sumptuous breakfast at the residence of WM Constancio H. Mabalot; (2) Paglingap '93 which featured a lecture on the rights of the accused given by Bro. Leo Intia of the Public Attorney's Office



(L-R) WB Godofredo O. Salagoste, Bro. Jose Ma. E. Peteza, Bro. Gaudioso F. Salvador, VW Jose T. Seeping, Jr., VW Santiago Ferrer, Jr., WB Herminio F. Obusan, DDGM, Ernesto C. Tabanao, and WB George E. Rubio, Sr. during the floral offering of fresh flowers at the foot of the First Rizal Monument in downtown Daet.

followed by gift giving to 100 selected, poorest of the poor indigents in the province; and (3) Christmas Party attended by more than a hundred brethren, sisters, children, and grandchildren, including widows and orphans of Masons. **CI**



Shown in photo: Hon. Eduardo S. Freyra (in foreground) while delivering his welcome address to 100 indigents during the Paglingap '93 on December 30 held at the ground floor of the Masonic Center.

RW Ko Attends China ANCOM

RW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of China as a representative of Grand Master Rizal D. Aportadera from October 21 to October 27, 1993.

Brethren who accompanied him in his trip included: RW Domingo Chua, VW Florencio Sy, VW Mariano Sih, VW Bonifacio Tong, VW Vicente Cu, Sr., WB Ricardo Uy, WB Antonio Chiong, Bro. Dalmacio Aviso, Brother Peter Phoa, Bro. Bernard Go, and Bro. Vicente Alcantara.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport on October 21 by RW Austin Teng, the Junior Grand Warden of GLOC. RW Teng treated all of the delegates to lunch at noon. In the evening, VW Joe Lee, the Grand Bible Bearer of GLOC, invited everyone to dinner at his restaurant, Waltzing Matilda. The group had a chance to have an evening of fellowship with several brethren of GLOC, as this place served as the watering hole of the Masons in Taipei.

On October 22, the group spent the whole day shopping and sightseeing. A visit was made to Past Grand Master Ian



(L-R) VW Florencio Sy, VW Mariano Sih, RW Pablo Ko, Jr., MW Rovier Yeh, Grand Master of Grand Lodge of China, VW Vicente Cu, Sr., VW Bonifacio Tong; RW Domingo Chua. Back row (L-R) WB Antonio Chiong, Bro. Dalmacio Aviso, Bro. Bernard Go, Bro. Vicente Alcantara, Bro. Peter Phoa, WB Ricardo Uy.

Lim who was in the hospital, seriously ill with cancer of the pancreas. In the evening, the group attended the welcome dinner party hosted by the GLOC officers during which they met MW Chester Ditto, PGM, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Japan, and RW David Roads, representing the District Grand Lodge of Scotland. MW Chester reiterated their invitation to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to attend their Annual Communication on March 18 and 19 at the Grand Lodge of Japan.

The next day, October 23, the GLOP representatives all arrived at the ANCOM on time at 9:00 a.m., but the event commenced at 10:00. After receiving their Past Grand Masters, the representatives of the GLOJ was received followed by the representatives from the District Grand Lodge of Scotland. Afterwards, the representatives of the GLOP were received. The usual ceremonies followed and the group was requested to address the communication before lunch break.

Ceremonies resumed at 2:30 with the election of the Grand Lodge officers. Installation of officers to their respective stations followed, led by MW Nelson Tong. The communication closed at 4:00 in the afternoon. A dinner party was held in the evening at the Ritz Hotel to honor



(L-R) VW Vicente Cu, Sr., Bro. Dalmacio Aviso, Bro. Vicente Alcantara, Bro. Peter Phoa, VW Bonifacio Tong, RW Peter H.Y. Wong, District Grand Master of Hongkong and the Far East, UGLOE, RW Pablo Ko, Jr., VW Mariano Sih, WB Antonio Chiong, WB Ricardo Uy.

the new officers.

On October 25, the members of the group, except for RW Domingo Chua and VW Florencio Sy left for Hongkong. Once there, they met with Bro. Douglas Kao to finalize their appointment with RW Peter Wong, the District Grand Master for Hongkong and the Far East for the Grand Lodge of England. Unfortunately, RW Wong was out of the country. They only got to see him on the 27th of October when Bro. Douglas Kao fetched them to see him.

Before they left, members of the Philippine delegation invited RW Wong to attend their 78th Annual Communication on April 1994. After the appointment with RW Wong, the group went around for some shopping and sightseeing, happy to have been of service to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

CT

District Council Joins Paglingap '93

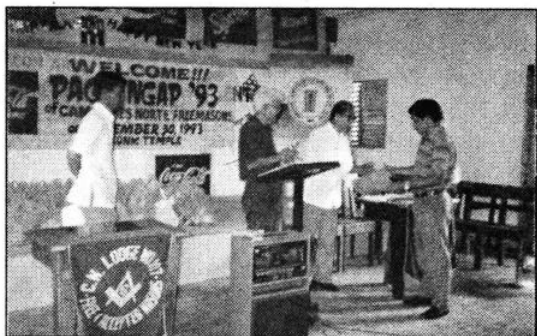
For the first time in recent years, the District Council of Masonic District No. 13 joined in "Paglingap '93," a yearend Masonic activity jointly sponsored by Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 and Daet Lodge No. 247. It also donated a sack of rice and other food items.

VW Ernesto C. Tabanao, DDGM and District Council Chairman, headed a group of brethren in the floral offering of fresh flowers at the foot of the First Rizal Monument ever erected in downtown Daet in the morning of December 30, 1993. A fellowship followed at the residence of Worshipful Master Constancio H. Mabalot as well as the distribution of gift packages in the afternoon to 100 indigents and typhoon victims. This was preceded by a lecture forum on the rights of poor citizens accused of crimes against properties.

Chairman and DDGM Tabanao also joined brethren and sisters during the Christmas party held in the evening where gift packages were likewise distributed to children and grandchildren as well as widows and orphans of Masons. Cash prizes were given away to parlor games winners and packages to couples with the

biggest number of children and grandchildren present. The latter event was easily won by WB Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr. and Sis. Trinidad E. Peteza who took with them a total of 16 children, grandchildren, and in-laws making them the family with the biggest brood in Masonry.

In another development, DDGM Tabanao tapped the District Council Fund



Awarding of diplomas of merit during Paglingap '93.

to restore the tourist spot at the Bahi river, a stone's throw from the CN-CS Highway Boundary where brethren and sisters, including the children from Masonic District No. 13, used to converge for a respite on weekends. Destroyed by typhoons Monang and Naning, VW Tabanao vowed to make it more conducive to commuters who longed for rest and recreation inside the ever-green Bicol National Park. **CT**

PGM Installs WM of Devotion Lodge No. 723

Our very own MW John L. Choa, PGM, was honored by the Grand Lodge of Victoria when he installed to office WB Emmanuel Rapinett as Worshipful Master of Devotion Lodge No. 723 last August 28, 1993. This rare privilege extended to MW Choa was the first in the history of both Grand Lodges. MW J.W. Humphris, the incumbent Grand Master

of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, gave his permission to this historic Masonic inter-course. According to WB Manny Rapinett, the installation ceremony was conducted with utmost solemnity and was very impressive to all the Australian brethren in attendance. MW Choa was accompanied in his visit by RW Danilo D. Angeles, SGW, VW Benny T. Ty, and VW Ernest Cua.



Newly installed WB Manny Rapinett, is flanked by Grand Master Aportadera and members of the Philippine delegation including MW John Choa, PGM, third from right.



Newly installed Master, WB Manny Rapinett, is flanked by our Grand Master, fourth from left, members of the Philippine delegation including MW Bro John Choa, PGM, third from right.


MW Choa presenting a gift to Sis. Derly Rapinett, wife of WB Manny Rapinett.



Masonic Center Visitors


It was with extreme delight that the Grand Master welcomed to Victoria Masonic Center, MW Bro John L. Choa, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, together with a number of his brethren, MW Choa came to Victoria for the specific purpose of installing WB Emmanuel Rapinett as Master of Devotion, Lodge No. 723, on Saturday, 28 August. Following the tour of the Masonic Center by the delegation from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, MW Choa made a number of presentations to this Grand

Lodge which was placed in the Grand Lodge Library.

In September, 45 members of the McCRAE Probus Club and their ladies arrived by coach for a tour of the Masonic Center. Although some members were also part of the Craft, a considerable number were not. Thus, they showed considerable interest during the tour of the nature of Freemasonry and its role in the community. We congratulate the organizer of the visit which also included a brief tour of the Freemason's Hospital. 

Rizal Shrine Club Organized

During the last visit of the Grand Master to New York and California, he was invited to speak in a gathering of Shiners under the Al Malaikah Temple on September 14, 1993. The event was highlighted by the signing of a Certificate of Dispensation to organize Rizal Shrine Club by no less than the Potentate himself of Al Malaikah—Nicholas Thomas. This was made possible because of the desire of many Filipino Shiners to have a club that can fill the void for Shiners whose cultural background traces back to the Philippines. The

affair was enthusiastically attended by Shiners from within California to as far as Jerusalem Temple in New Orleans. Former Grand Secretary Alejandro Eusebio was present in that affair. The birth of Rizal Shrine Club was made possible through the untiring efforts of Noble Edward Hernandez and a Filipino Shiner, Noble Gani Hernandez of Davao Lodge No. 149, F. & A.M. Grand Master Rizal D. Apotadera was conferred Honorary Membership, the second foreign dignitary to be honored in the annals of Al Malaikah Temple. 

Rising Sun Adopts, Maintains Main Gate


Members of the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 151 (Japan) have quietly made another commitment to serve their community. They have "adopted" Camp Zama's Main Gate.

According to Worshipful Master Robert S. Wittwer, the group's creed lends itself to just this sort of community involvement. After countless self-help and improvement projects, the Masons believed they should be doing even more.

"Masonry teaches that each man has a duty not only to himself, but to others," explained WM Wittwer. "Whether that means cleaning up the environment, working on civic projects, or helping children to walk or read or see, the world should be a better place because we have passed through it."

Every day, thousands of people pass through the Main Gate, but as WM Wittwer and his Masonic brothers pass through, they make sure the view is unspoiled.

A quick stop and a diligent eye can take care of the little aesthetic problems. They have also pledged to do the bigger jobs like maintaining the plants and bamboo and rock-filled gardens.

"Whatever it takes to maintain the entrance, we'll do it," said WM Wittwer. "We're just not saying that we adopt it, we're following through. [The Directorate of Engineering and Housing] got it up to standard and then showed us what to do to maintain it. We'll take it from there." 

A MASON'S SUPPLICATION

By VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM

LORD GOD,

You made a MASON in addition to what I am today. As such, I shall follow and obey Your wishes to achieve Your grand design.

I offer and submit myself to You, that You may, in Your wisdom and in Your own good time, make me the "Rose and Thorn" of Thy will.

Show me the light. Let me hear the sound. And make me feel Thy command and I shall, without hesitation, pursue, comply, implement, Thy plans.

With the radiance of the tenets and teachings of FREEMASONRY, allow me to serve my country and my people.

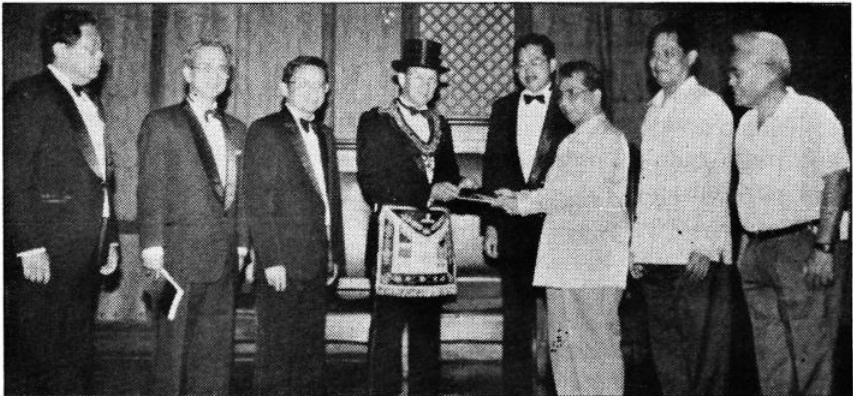
Grant me every opportunity to love and be of service to all your children regardless of color, creed or any other persuasion.

FATHER GOD,

I beseech Your loving kindness. Make me worthy to merit the privilege of being Your son and the honor of a true and humble MASON. Amen.

NEWS PICTORIAL

Reflections on Masonic Values...



Reflections on Masonic Values, a sequel to *My Dear Son*, was written by VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM, and published by VW Johnny M. Mendoza was launched in January 1994 with the presence of MW Rizal Aportadera, Grand Master; MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM; MW Rudyardo Bunda, PGM; RW Pablo Ko; RW Danilo Angles; and VW Roberto S. Reyes, Assistant Grand Secretary.

Floral Offering During XIth SE Mindanao



Floral offering at the monument of Bro. Jose P. Rizal.



Acacia Mutual Society



MW Damaso C. Tria, PGM, President of the Capitol Masonic Corporation, receiving from VW Eduardo M. Espejo, President of Acacia Mutual Aid Society, the PEP Membership Certificate of the Capitol Masonic Corporation—one of the biggest Associate Members of Acacia.



Sis. Josefina P. Enriquez, widow of the late WB Basilio J. Enriquez, Past Master of Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5 who died last May 19, 1993, receives a check from WB Bayani B. Ibarrola, treasurer of Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. Looking on is WB Esteban G. Requierme, Acacia's Administrative Manager.

Time with Senior Masons and Sisters



The Grand Lodge officers with Senior Mason Bro. Petronilo Federizo (fourth from left).



A visit to WB Mariano Matias, Past Master, Gen Llanera Memorial Lodge No. 16F. From left to right: VW Roberto Reyes, RW Pablo Ko, MW Rizal Aportadera, RW Danilo Angeles, VW Jorge Roque, VW Manuel L. Collado. Seated at right is VW Pantas V. Macapagal.



Bro. Catalino A. Jamora, totally blind but still active with his mother Lodge, Mount Apo Lodge No. 45.

Knight of Columbus



GM Aportadera with Knight of Columbus Commander Tirso D. E. Velasco during the floral offering on Quezon Day, October 1993.

Historical Notes


Bro. Andres Bonifacio (1863-1897)

Brother Andres Bonifacio was born into a poor family on November 30, 1863 in Tondo, Manila. His parents, Santiago Bonifacio and Catalina de Castro, died when Andres was only fourteen and his two younger brothers and sisters were left under his care. He supported them by peddling paper fans, canes, tar, and other goods and working as storekeeper and later as a messenger. He supplemented his low education through reading and self-study. Among the books that inspired him to pursue lofty ambitions for his country were the *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* by Bro. Jose Rizal. *The Lives of the Presidents of the United States* and *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo.

In 1892, in a house in Azcarraga (now Claro M. Recto) in Manila, he organized the Katipunan, a secret organization aimed to overthrow Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines. Members signed their names in blood and pledged to fight for our country. Brave men, and later, women joined the association. One of the woman members was Gregoria de Jesus—Bro. Bonifacio's wife known as the "Lakambini ng Katipunan."

The "Kartilla," the bible of the Katipunan, contained its teachings and



the "Ang Kalayaan," its official newspaper, informed the people of its aims and its teachings. However, the Katipunan was discovered by the Spanish authorities on August 19, 1896, an event which was followed by a Reign of Terror. Many members were arrested and executed, forcing Bonifacio and some of his men to gather at Pugad Lawin, tear their cedula, and start an open uprising. That was on August 26, 1896, the beginning of the Philippine Revolution. Bro. Bonifacio, "the Great Plebeian" and "Founder of the Katipunan," died on May 10, 1897 when he was shot while recuperating from a wound in Mount Buntis, Maragondon, Cavite. 

Interesting Notes on Rizal's Life

by VW Raul A. Laman, JGL

1. The complete name of Bro. Rizal's mother is Teodora Alonso Realonda.
2. Realonda is the family name of Teodora's godmother added to her family name Quintos—a custom of Filipinos then.
3. The great grandfather of Bro. Rizal is a pure Chinese.
4. The imprisonment of Bro. Rizal's mother for two-and-a-half years changed the course of his life.
5. The martyrdom of Fathers Gomez, Burgos, and Zamora further enkindled his nationalistic attitude at a very young age.
6. In his second year in medicine, Bro. Rizal joined a secret society called *Compañerismo*.
7. Bro. Rizal's ultimate reason for studying in Europe was to prepare himself for the emancipation of the Philippines from Hispanic rule.
8. "Noli Me Tangere" (*Touch Me Not*) is a Latin phrase taken from words spoken by Jesus Christ to Mary Magdalene when He greeted her after His resurrection.
10. Bro. Rizal had, some romantic affairs with Segunda Katigbak, Leonor Rivera—with whom he was truly in love—Consuelo Ortiga, O-Sei-Kiyosan, Gertrudes Beckett, Nelly Bousteda, and Josephine Bracken whom he allegedly married prior to his execution.
11. Bro. Marcelo H. del Pilar—founder of Philippine Masonry who used the pen names, Plaridel and Piping Dilat, offered Bro. Rizal the Directorship of *La Solidaridad* but the offer was rejected by the latter, although, during the early issues, he regularly contributed articles which dealt mostly with his desire for assimilation of the Philippines with Spain and the iniquities of the Spanish friars.
14. Consuelo Ortiga, with whom Bro. Rizal had a shortlived romance, had prophesied that Bro. Rizal would become immortal. In the same manner, when Bro. Rizal graduated from secondary school and intended to study in Manila, his mother predicted that additional knowledge would cause Bro. Rizal his neck in the fields of Bagumbayan.

Bro. Rizal's Relevance to Year 2000

Three years from today, the whole nation will pay tribute to the 100 years of martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the greatest of heroes of the Philippines and Asia. I refer to a man renowned not only in this nation but also in Southeast Asia because his life and works have been studied, emulated, and revered in these other countries. In the ASEAN countries, he is known as the first Asian to inspire his nation to seek independence from its colonial master. Mahatma Gandhi of India and Dr. Sun Yat Sen of China were also foremost nationalists and prime movers of independence in their respective countries, yet we all know that they came to the limelight long after Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

His sojourn in several European countries; namely, France, Germany, Spain, England, and Austria had created an indelible imprint in the lives of the people in these communities as evidenced by historic markers and monuments erected to immortalize him.

His works and his writings have been read and translated in languages of many nations. They have been acclaimed as literary classics and masterpieces because of their truth and verity. His works have been deemed timeless for they are

as relevant to us today as they were in his time.

* His pioneering work in eye surgery never fails to continuously inspire every Filipino eye doctor because of his skills and excellent results notwithstanding the lack of antibiotics and modern equipment. His contributions in the field of Botany and Zoology earned for him universal recognition as a man of science. His endeavors are now immortalized by the naming of several biological specimens which he had discovered after him.

Even while in exile, he was never content with passive existence. He unceasingly labored to uplift the community and livelihood of the people in Dapitan by providing them with an efficient water system and scientifically improving their agricultural practices.

One can perpetually marvel at the many abilities this man possesses. His linguistic prowess as a master of more than twenty languages is an ability that very few men can match.

Yes, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, a man of his time and generation; a man for the Philippines today and the generations yet to come; is an epitome of values and virtues

for us all to relate and emulate.

The fervor of our adulation and veneration of Dr. Jose P. Rizal must not diminish even throughout these years because of our necessity to have a hero and model to inspire our hearts to strive for a better nation for our children.

I say a better nation because our country today is still subserviently struggling to be free from the bondage of the evils in our society. Almost a century has elapsed since we declared independence from Spain. We have gained our freedom but not after extracting a tremendous toll. So many lives and minds have been extinguished for the privilege of seeing our flag unfurl in a land of peace and prosperity.

This time, however, we are still shackled not by a foreign master, but one of our own doing as a nation. The truth may be a bitter pill. As Rizal had said, we can only serve our country by telling the naked truth, however bitter it may be.

It is very much evident today that graft and corruption has permeated into the very marrow of society from the lowest rank to the highest echelons. Slowly, with the precision of a master marksman as he aims for a target, this affliction drains our nation of its strength, paralyzing its attempts to surge forward as the new emerging tiger of Asia.

Integrated in our system today is a vein of graft, corruption, and bureaucratic red tape causing losses of untold millions of pesos—revenues, which could otherwise

have been used for vital health and infrastructure projects. Our indebtedness to foreign creditors would not have ballooned to billions had those funds been used appropriately. Our natural resources have been rapaciously desecrated by the insatiable needs of a few, depriving our future generations of their birthright.

The rule of law has been bent to suit the needs of the minority. We read of lawmen becoming violators of the law that they had pledged to uphold. Envy, tribal disposition and ethnic differences prevent us from promoting progress and peace. We shall never be able to emancipate ourselves from the *talangka* mentality. Our virtues and values no longer take precedence when decisions are to be reached. In its place, we have installed distorted, adulterated, and cheap substitutes. We are a nation deprived of direction; a wandering vessel drifting aimlessly in an ocean of uncertainty. All these social and political indicators portend of a bleak future for this country unless we can see our way through the chaotic maze we have created.

Rizal provides us with an answer to this dilemma—the dilemma of how we are to evolve into a nation that is totally emancipated from the fetters of foreign debt and dissension. He has written, "If our country is ever to be free, it will not be so by corrupting its sons; by deceiving some and bribing others. No! It will be through education and industry."

Only when we can free ourselves from the shackles that bind and drag us down

can we ever see the dawn of a better day for the Philippines. Commitment and firm resolve from each one of us are the keys to unlock the chains we have created. From the life of our Dr. Jose P. Rizal we can elicit ideals and values for us to live by. We must purge ourselves of our national affliction by practicing honesty and industry not only in public service but also in the private sector. We need to reconstruct an educational system for the youth that is aimed at instilling proper values and virtues. Above all, let us practice and put to use all the values that we preach and endeavor to influence those around us to do likewise. Those in authority should strive to improve their own conduct of behavior and be morally above reproach so that they may impose the same on their subordinates. The law must be enforced on everyone without exception and justice must be provided for all by those who

wield the gavel; neither can it be relegated to a few. We all owe it to our nation to rebuild it from the ashes of an economic slump and the loss of national identity. The path we have chosen is the same path that Rizal, Bonifacio, del Pilar, Mabini and a host of other heroes have chosen. It is a path strewn with rocks and great obstacles. It will not be an easy journey. It may even require from each one of us our lifetime commitment and firm resolve to stay on the path directed to change and renewal. Dr. Jose P. Rizal has always believed in the Filipino's ability to rise above all odds. We know that we must live up to what he expects of us as a nation.....as a people. (C)

(Editor's note: The Grand Master's speech was delivered on the 97th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Bro. Jose P. Rizal in Davao City on December 30, 1993.)

A MASON'S PRAYER

Architect Supreme, bend me to Thy will.

Draw Thy plans on the trestle-board of my heart, and commit to me Thy builder's wisdom.

Shape Thou the structure of my life into a temple of character—a fortress of manhood—a stronghold of justice.

Lead me in the paths of truth, O Grand Master of the Universe, that my thoughts and deeds may bring honor to Thy cause.

Teach me that charity which endureth all things, and temper my passion in Thy holy fire.

Circumscribe and keep me within Thy laws, and when it is appointed for me to judge, let me cleave to the plumbline of Thy divine righteousness.

Grant me fortitude to bear my sufferings by myself, and when my travels are ended take Thou this rough ashlar of mortality unto Thy Kingdom of Eternal Light.

Amen. So mote it be.

Brethren Behind the Scene

by WB Reynaldo C. Ibanes, PM
Oxon Hill Lodge No. 231 A. F. & A. M. Acokeek, Maryland

This article is dedicated to those who have served in the White House and who, for many years, have collectively demonstrated excellence in their professional achievements as a trusted worker, friend, and member of the "White House Family" among the present and past Presidents of the United States of America.

Since the early fifties, Filipinos in the United States Navy have been assigned to the Presidential Support Unit of the White House Military Staff. Together they are involved in a myriad of activities that include, but are not limited to, the operation of the White House Mess and in providing logistical support during both domestic and foreign travels of the US President.

Such men have been screened properly by the U.S. Navy and have been made to go through special security background checks by both the Department of Defense and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for, without their approval, one cannot qualify for the job. I am proud to say that many among this elite group of men came well recommended and were properly vouched for.

One such outstanding Mason is no

other than Brother Eddie Serrano who has consistently served in this capacity for more than forty years of combined military and civilian duties in the White House. After serving in the military as a member of the staff, Bro. Serrano was hired to be the Assistant Logistic Officer of the Presidential Support Unit. Smartly enough, he surrounded himself with men of the Craft to accomplish the tasks assigned.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the names of those who have excelled in their own way and have exemplified tremendous trust and integrity during their service. Among the brethren were: Cesar Catubo, Bayani Nelvis, Cedrico Pascual, Jerry Pasuca, Gerry Geronimo, Willie Nocon, Ramon Fernandez, Rolando de Castro, Eddie Valerio, Danny Ibanez, Armando Roque, Rolando Guzman, Romy Morales, Jimmy Protacio, and Resty Francisco.

Although most of them have retired from military service and are now pursuing other careers, some continue to serve in another level of trust and have joined the U.S. Secret Service. Brothers Antonio Poblete and Angel Paroan, at present, are serving as special officers of the U.S. Secret Service.

Senior Masons Column:

Moments with Them

Our Senior Masons are a fast vanishing breed for there are not many of them left. This Masonic year, we have tried to look for them in the many places and at every opportunity available in our trips to the different provinces.

We are rewarded in our quest to meet them and be given the chance to strengthen our cabletow in spite of their age and state of health. Here are two of them:

WB Patricio Cunanan — the oldest of the group. This year, he will be celebrating his 99th birthday. He is a retired Municipal Judge. A member of Saranggani Lodge No. 50, F. & A.M. A 50-Year Pin Awardee having joined Masonry in January 1919 and a Past Master of Mati-Aurora Lodge No. 190, F. & A.M. He is presently residing in Mati, Davao Oriental.




GM Aportadera greeting the celebrant WB Serafin A. Justo of Araw Lodge together with VW Romeo Musngi, DDGM, VW Pong Lustre, PDDGM.



GM Rizal Aportadera during a visit to Senior Mason Patricio Cunanan, the oldest surviving member at 98 years old.

F. & A.M.

Brethren, there are a few Senior Masons among the many members we have. Kindly inform the Cabletow editor if you know of any and provide their pictures and a write-up of their Masonic history. 

Some Famous Freemasons

MEN OF THE CINEMA

Richard Arlen
Gene Autry
George Bancroft
Leslie Banks
Warner Baxter
Wallace Beery
John Boles
Ernest Borgnine
Frank Borzage
George Brent
Joe E. Brown
Eddie Cantor
Charlie Chase
Andy Clyde
Chester Conklin
Donald Crisp
Cecil B. de Mille
Reginald Denny
Richard Dix
Brian Donlevy
Leon-Erroll
Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.
W.C. Fields
Clark Gable
John Gilbert
D.W. Griffith
Oliver Hardy
Will Hays
Jean Hersholt
Al Jolson
Otto Kruger

Carl Laemmle
Harold Lloyd
Victor McLaglen
Louis B. Mayer
Tom Mix
Audie Murphy
Conrad Nagel
Dick Powell
Roy Rogers
Will Rogers
Charles "Chic" Sale
Richard "Red" Skeleton
Sir C. Aubrey Smith
Lewis Stone
Irving Thalberg
Richard Todd
Henry B. Walthall
Jack M. Warner
William Wyler
Darrel F. Zanuck
Adolph Zukor

EXPLORERS OF LAND, SEA, AIR, AND SPACE

Ronald Amundsen
Sir Richard Burton
Admiral Richard Byrd
Colonel Charles Lindbergh
Robert E. Peary
Captain Robert Falcon Scott
Sir Ernest Shackleton
Colonel Edwin E. Aldrin

L. Gordon Cooper
 Colonel John Glenn
 Virgil I. Grisson
 Edgar D. Mitchell
 Walter M. Schirra
 Thomas P. Stafford

MEN OF LETTERS

Ian Hay Beth
 Sir Walter Besant
 James Boswell
 Robert Burns
 Giacomo Cassanova
 Arthur Conan Doyle
 Edward Fitzgerald
 Mark Twain
 Camille Desmoulins
 Edward Gibbon
 Sir William S. Gilbert
 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
 Oliver Goldsmith
 Sir Henry Rider Haggard
 John Gottfried von Herder
 James Hogg
 Theodore Edward Hook
 Jerome K. Jerome
 Douglas William Jerrold
 Rudyard Kipling
 Mark Lemon
 Getthold E. Lessing
 Edward Bulwer Lytton
 Captain Frederick Marryat
 Louis de Secondat de Montesquieu
 Sir Gil Parker
 Alexander Pope
 Alexander Pushkin
 Friedrich Ruckert
 Abraham Victor Rydberg
 Richard Savage

Sir Walter Scott
 Richard Brinsley Sherriff
 Anthony Trollope
 Voltaire
 Lewis Wallace
 John Whyte-Melville
 Christoph Wieland
 Oscar Wilde
 John Wilson
 Frances Yeates-Brown

STATESMEN

Aga Khan III
 Leopold S. Amery
 Dr. Eduard Benes
 Sveinn Bjornsson
 Simon Bolivar
 William Jennings Bryan
 George Canning
 Earl of Chesterfield
 Lord Randolph Churchill
 Sir Winston Churchill
 Harry Frederick Crookshank
 Thomas Dewey
 John Dieffenbaker
 Paul Doumer
 Felix Faure
 Benjamin Franklin
 Leon Gambetta
 Barry M. Goldwater
 Sam Houston
 Sir Thomas Inskip
 Benito Juarez
 Frank Kellogg
 Alexander Kerensky
 Sir John MacDonald
 Giuseppe Mazzini
 Richard Wellesley

Reflections of a Mason's Wife

Brother Masons of Dalisay Lodge No. 14 and their lovely ladies, friends, and visitors, a pleasant good evening!

A few years back, Brother Alfred Li asked me: "Trining, ano naman and nagustuhan mo kay Reuben?" I answered: "The whole of him."

Come to think of it, if we take our spouse and try to look at him, part by part: his physical features, his mental faculties, his traits, attitudes and habits, his "pocket," and so on and so forth. . . perhaps we would not have married our spouse.

Tonight, I am to talk about myself as a wife of a Mason. But first, let me tell you something we are all very much aware of about Reuben—his always being late. How I wish my mother-in-law were here to testify to what I will say. Nonetheless, my sister-in-law, Delia, and my daughter Tabitha (and I would like to acknowledge their presence) are here to affirm what will be said about Reuben.

During your stated meetings in the past, on a few, if not many occasions, you might have been waiting for Reuben to start your stated meeting; perhaps waiting for a few minutes or half an hour. As a

wife, I have to wait not only for minutes but also for hours. His usual reason is the traffic. This is also the excuse of almost all who were late tonight. But his mother had to wait for three days, with the labor pains of giving birth, before Reuben came out into this wonderful world from the womb of his mother. And with all the waiting is a rejoicing. . . "Here he comes!"

Another thing about Reuben is his humor. Haven't you been missing his jokes lately?

Although his being late makes others and myself uncomfortable at times, this has taught me to be more tolerant, patient, and understanding. My waiting for him now as he visits with our two daughters, two grandsons, and a son-in-law who now reside in New Zealand is strengthening my trust and love for him. I hope, by this time, he shall have finished reading the book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, given by Alfred, so that when he comes back to us he shall have a paradigm shift of arriving before or on time for every appointment. I have observed that arriving on time is not only Reuben's problem but also of many of us.

Allow me to share with you some of my experiences as a wife of a Mason.

First, I was sent to Cauayan, Isabela, to administer the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT). My companion and I had to see the President of the College upon our arrival. We waited for some time because the president and his staff were busy. When I requested the president if I could borrow the *Cabletow* from his bookshelf, he noticed us and inquired how I came to know about the magazine. I told him that my husband receives his copy regularly. Right then and there he ordered his staff to give us food and immediately billet us in the best place in town.

Second, I was at the GSIS office, Tuguegarao, Cagayan. I saw a man waiting and I extended some help. He was so thankful that he invited us to see Aparri. My companion and I wanted to see Aparri and we made an appointment. He instructed us how to go there by taking the bus. Then he left. In our excitement, we told the GSIS executives. They were very apprehensive because the PNB Branch Manager was ambushed in Gataran a week earlier. But, they could not refuse us. So, we (eight of us instead of two) went to Aparri taking the GSIS vehicle.

Upon reaching the place, I requested our guide to telephone the man. After ten minutes, two cars arrived. I rode in the car driven by the man. While passing through a street, I noticed a beautiful Masonic temple. I expressed my appreciation for the building. The man overheard me and asked how I came to know about the building. I told him that I am a Mason's wife. He said, "Kaya pala ang gaan ng

dating ninyo sa akin, sister." We reached their residence and he introduced us to his wife and children. We acted as if we were old, old friends. After a sumptuous early lunch, he took us to Port Irene, to the market, and around the town. We went back to their residence not only to have snacks but to have all the "pabaon" the wife wrapped. All my companions were astonished with the way we were treated. I told them: "That's Masonry in action."

Then, I was at the airport in Zamboanga City after a scheduled recruitment test for GSIS. We bought some goods at the Barter Trade. Our luggage increased. The GSIS Branch Manager was reluctant to have our luggage checked, not because he has to pay for the overweight, but because he wanted for us to postpone our trip back to Manila so we could attend their sportsfest the following day. But I had a scheduled seminar in Quezon City the next day. It was thirty minutes before boarding time. I recalled that three nights earlier, in a restaurant, I overheard that the PAL Manager of Zamboanga City is a Mason. I went to his officer; I did not know him. I showed him my ID—this ID I received on May 29, 1965 from the Supreme Council when Reuben received his 32nd degree in Masonry. He dialed his phone and told me to go immediately so I could board the plane. Our things were taken care of immediately. The GSIS Branch Manager was surprised and jokingly said: "Ipa-duplicate mo iyong ID mo para magamit ko. I have been here for three years but I could not do what you did." Again, my brothers and sisters, that

was Masonry in action. I always carry this ID especially when I travel.

Fourth, I was sent to Cotabato City to administer a recruitment test for the opening of the GSIS Cotabato Branch Office. This was during "coup days." I was told by a *compadre* in the army just to stay within the city limits. While there, we were invited to a place for dinner. I saw a group of men meeting. One of them was General Gutang. I showed him my ID and then he announced to his companions that I am a sister. They (Cotabato City OIC, a Comelec official, and other provincial VIPs) promised to protect me. I felt so safe that I even travelled to Midsayap, Cotabato.

One last experience I will narrate before I close. Reuben left for New Zealand last July 2. A great problem came up! I did not know what to do. After two days, I called up Alfred, but he was out. I requested his loving wife, Edith, for him to return my call. Alfred called up before midnight. After sharing some ideas and plans, Alfred said: "Trining, I know how you feel. Relax. Pray. Go to sleep. If by tomorrow you don't have any solution to your problem, I'll do everything possible to help you. Don't go to your office tomorrow. We will call each other." To hear those words from Alfred was very exhilarating, so comforting, and very soothing indeed! With prayers, and without further disturbing Alfred, the problem was solved the following day.

Alfred, wife (Reuben and the whole family) are so grateful for your gestures. You, Edith, and your children are wonder-

ful friends! May your tribe increase! I publicly acknowledge your goodness tonight.

Why am I so at home with Masons? It's not only because of the square and compass that guide you in your ways, but, most especially, because of the big letter G that you have—GOD. God is with you, in your ways, in your activities for brotherly love, relief and truth.

During this centennial celebration of Dalisay Lodge No. 14, I know you have gone very far indeed. Carry on! Brother Masons and their lovely ladies, I love you all! Merry Christmas to you all!

Goodnight.

(Editor's note: This discourse was delivered during the Centennial Celebration of Dalisay Lodge No. 14 on December 4, 1993 at the Corinthian Clubhouse, Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City. Sis. Trining is the wife of WB Reuben M. Abenojar, PM, the Secretary of Dalisay Lodge No. 14. A former faculty member of the University of the Philippines where she taught for 16 years and earned her bachelor, masteral, and doctoral degrees, she is presently working with the Government Service Insurance System as Corporate Executive Officer I. She has helped a lot of Masons, their widows, and children with their GSIS retirement, pension, medicare, real estate loans, and others. The Grand General Secretary of the Supreme Council, Bro. Alberto C. Reyes, and Bro. Agerico Amagna, while with the Grand Lodge, have been referring brother Masons to Sis. Trining.)

Masonic Information


The Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund of Datu Bago Lodge No. 197, District 18

by WB Armando G. Lim, PM

Some three years ago, a group of Past Masters of Datu Bago Lodge No. 197 of District 18, Davao City, met over lunch to discuss how they could assist the incumbent Master of the Lodge in the implementation of his programs. As a consequence of that meeting, they agreed to convene monthly for lunch on the Friday prior to the regular Lodge meeting which falls every second Monday of the month.

It was in one of these meetings that the Past Masters discussed the establishment of a Trust Fund for the purpose of extending financial assistance to widows and orphans of deceased brethren of the Lodge.

This was, in fact, a brainchild of WB Abelardo Aportadera, Jr., a Past Master of Datu Bago Lodge 197, who broached the idea during one of his visits to Davao a year earlier. Details were discussed and the project was presented to the brethren in a subsequent stated meeting and was forthwith approved.

Since its creation, two families of deceased brethren have been helped by the Fund. 

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

For those interested to submit articles or news items to the CABLETOW, please be guided by the following guidelines for submission:

1. Articles/News Items should be typewritten, double-spaced on standard 8 1/2 X 11 paper, with margins of at least one inch.
2. In the case of articles, the author's name, Masonic status, and complete address should appear beneath the title.
3. Whenever quotations are used, please provide full information on the source, e.g. name of author, name of publication source, publisher's name and address, where it appears, page number, act and scene number, etc.
4. Colored and polaroid snapshots are not acceptable. Only clear black and white photographs may be considered. Please indicate at the back of each photograph the persons that appear therein from left to right.
5. In mentioning names, please see to it that these are correctly spelled.

Reflections from the GM

24 Karat or Goldplated Mason?

There is a saying which goes, "Not all that glitters is gold," and a similar one which states, "Do not judge a book by its cover."

All of these point to the external characteristics and outward manifestations which catch the eye of the beholder and make him believe that what he sees is the truth, the real thing. A karat is a measure of the purity of gold. Pure gold is 24 karats while gold diluted with six parts of alloy is 18-karat. Nowadays, there is great difficulty in distinguishing a true Mason from a mercenary one. A 24-karat Mason is one who is well endowed with the knowledge of Masonry, a God-fearing person, a good husband, father, brother, or citizen of the community. He is a model public servant in honesty and public service. A patriot whose aspiration is for the betterment of his country through industry and education. A philanthropist whose benevolent acts benefit his fellowmen and his community.

Above all, a 24-karat Mason is one who is active and concerned about his Lodge affairs, assertive in the acts of charity and community service, a knowl-



edgeable officer or committee chairman in his Lodge. He is quick to whisper good counsel to his least-informed brethren when they err or stray, but ready and eager to extend his hand of friendship and assistance. His labors are for his good deeds.

He is a diamond among gems. A Mason in spirit and in deed. (CI)

THE AIMS OF MASONRY

- Practice universal charity.
- Provide opportunities for self development.
- Foster moral standards.
- Build friendships.
- Seek excellence in all pursuits.

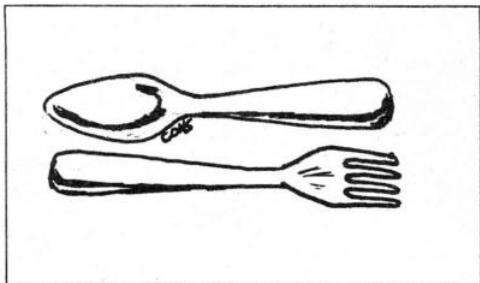
Reflections from the GM

Spoon and Fork Masons


During the installation to office of every Worshipful Master, his attention is called to the use of our working tools. The installing officer says, "The working tools of our Craft will next be given you so that, as the Master workman, you may instruct the craftsmen in the various duties and virtues they have been selected to illustrate."

I have often wondered whether we really put ourselves to task in trying to translate into action in our daily lives the use of the Square, Compasses, Level, and the Plumb. What I frequently observe are "Spoon and Fork Masons."

A spoon and fork Mason is one who sits and waits to partake of what others have prepared. We see a good number of brethren adopt a wait-and-see attitude in many of our Lodge activities. They stay, in many instances, in the sidelines watching and observing their Lodge officers and members do the planning and implementing. If the project proves a success, they are there to drumbeat themselves and eagerly pose in the pictures. In instances where failure of a project results, they are the very first ones to disclaim participation and are the very first to cast the blame on those involved.



Brethren, our working tools are symbolic of how a Mason should conduct himself at all times. These implements serve as the "guard rails" that warn every driver about the hazardous curves and the precipice that could spell injury and death if he goes overboard. Thus, it behooves us Masons not to go beyond the circumspect of our compasses and to be upright in our conduct least we go overboard our moral guard rails.

A true Mason uses all his symbolic tools in elevating his corporeal and mental faculties to the highest level of norm possible. He is a "make it happen" man in every Masonic endeavor of his Lodge, an exemplar of virtues for all to see and emulate. Thus, he is the ideal husband, father, brother, and citizen of his community and country and one who stands tall among his peers—a source of pride for his brothers in the Fraternity. 

From Personal Service to Profitable Business

by Sis. Conchita D. Ramos

In 1946, just after the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation, the job of repairing Masonic paraphernalia saw its humble beginning as an interesting personal preoccupation. This later developed into a highly competitive enterprise.

The need for Masonry to resurface and grow in stature and prominence as a fraternal society was very strong among the Masons. It was not exempt from the pervading national urge to reorganize and restore the country from the devastation and ravages of WW-II to its pre-war prominence.

The modest birth of my personal preoccupation with service to Masonry was faced with the same challenges that confronted the nation in its urge to reorganize. There was a great demand at the time to replenish the lost and battered Masonic paraphernalia. I felt called upon to evolve the humble service preoccupation I started into a well organized venture to meet the growing need for my services. It was an urgent call to organize and build.

The Rebirth of Masonry

The following year, the efforts of Bro. Michael Goldenberg who continued to



serve as Grand Master in the absence of an election during the war, was handsomely rewarded. News that Bro. Goldenberg was meeting with Masons in his residence in Gunao Street in Quiapo spread like wildfire. Masons visited his place to talk about organizing and putting Masonry back to its feet. These urgent matters, however, were initially forgotten as the excitement of seeing familiar faces and renewing fraternal bonds overshadowed everything else that was lined up for discussion.

After all the excitement had been tempered and narrations of wartime pains and exploits had ended, the kindred feeling of oneness and solidarity for belonging to a revered Fraternity and all that it stands for, solemnly prevailed. The life of the Fraternity which was disrupted and stayed dormant during the war began to exhibit a determination not only to survive but to reach its desired heights.

The pathetic scene of malnourished orphans and haggard adults roaming the streets scavenging piles of rubble for food and shelter set the scene for the rebirth of Masonry, which at that time also had its share of loneliness and anxiety. Its home was in ruins.

Reviving Symbolic Materials

The material symbols representing Masonic virtues and aspirations were either lost or destroyed. Like the church that lost its religious images and statues which were razed to the ground, Masonry lost its earthly belongings. This, however, did not quell the fervent desire of Masonry to continue its life in a devastated environment—a desire that remained paramount in its quest for survival. There was no loud battlecry to rally Masons towards their goal, only the personal commitment in their hearts to organize and rebuild the Fraternity. This was like the muted hope of a fighting soldier uncertain of the future. They had to clothe and dress up in attires with material symbols to remind and fortify themselves against the evil that lurked in their midst.

That task of providing God's soldier in the Fraternity with his symbolic clothing was laid on my shoulder. I had to share with the brethren my experience and talent when it called for clothing them from nakedness.

The Fruitful Venture

I knew from the start that I could do it. I had learned from my father-in-law and my husband, both Masons, a great deal about the design and color of aprons as well as the collar and costumes of the different Masonic degrees, and what each stood for. I had to go from store to store all over Manila to procure materials that would, at least, approximate what the Masons had in mind. It was not an easy task. Having the materials and assorted items in hand was only half of the job. The greater part of my responsibility was to assemble these materials into finished products—a job which took quite some time to figure out and master. Orders for Masonic paraphernalia came in succession and in great numbers. I knew I could not fulfill all of them alone.

I decided to hire cutters and sewers and trained them to assist me. The first few weeks were frustrating because only those that I made myself could measure up to the standards demanded. Those made by my helpers and trainees did not pass the requirement. I had to discard them and, consequently, suffer financial loss. This, I believed, was better than losing the prestigious quality of my product. As orders began to pile up, my helpers slowly acquired proficiency in the job.

We were able to fill up orders for collars, aprons, and costumes for the Blue Lodges, Scottish Rite and York Rite. They were products anybody could be proud of. The exquisite materials and fine workmanship pushed the quality of our products to a high level of excellence.

A Lucrative Business

Visiting Masons from Lodges in the United States, Japan, Okinawa, Guam, Taiwan, and even Alaska, who got to know about our products made out orders for their Lodges. It was an inspiration. I knew it would be the beginning of a successful business venture.


Whenever I traveled abroad, I never missed visiting the Masonic stores to see what else I could add to our collection of Masonic items. I bought some jewelry and tools which I believed could be reproduced by our local jewellers.

Upon reaching home, I conferred with these jewellers and broached the possibility and their answer was an assuring yes. Within a month, the first reproduction—a Blue Lodge lapel pin—was presented to me. It was even better than the original with its sharper lines and contour of figures. It showed the amazing craftsmanship of our local jewelers.

Based on our success with the Blue Lodge pin, I was convinced that the same could be done with the other items. From then on, lapel pins, cuff links, necklaces with Masonic pendants, rings and other jewelry were added to our collection of

Masonic items.

Presently, we carry about 70 different items including those for Amaranth, Eastern Star, and DeMolay. What began as a personal commitment has become a profitable business venture. Presently, several competitors have entered the arena, vying for patronage. These include Masons, their families, and some very close friends.

My group of innovators, craftsmen, and creators of quality products within the Morong Cottage Industries may have lost some of its clients, but we can hold our head high for having blazed the trail for other people to follow. Our desire to serve Masonry remains alive. 

MASONRY HAS A PURPOSE

*The bond between Masonic
Brothers is strong because
all good Masons strive to
grow—to become better
men, which is the purpose
of Freemasonry.*

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, and most widely known Fraternity in the world. Throughout its history, its structure and teachings have remained a mystery to many, and myths and misconceptions about the Fraternity have arisen.

Exactly when Freemasonry began is not known for certain, but many historians trace the beginnings of Masonry to the Middle Ages, when stonemasons and other craftsmen traveled throughout Europe. These men were known as free masons because, unlike bondsmen, they were free to move to where their work demanded them to be. These free masons would gather in shelter houses, or Lodges, and eventually organize themselves into masonic guilds—using the secrets of their craft to indentify themselves as masons. The square and the compass—the tools of the masons' trade—became the symbol of their brotherhood.

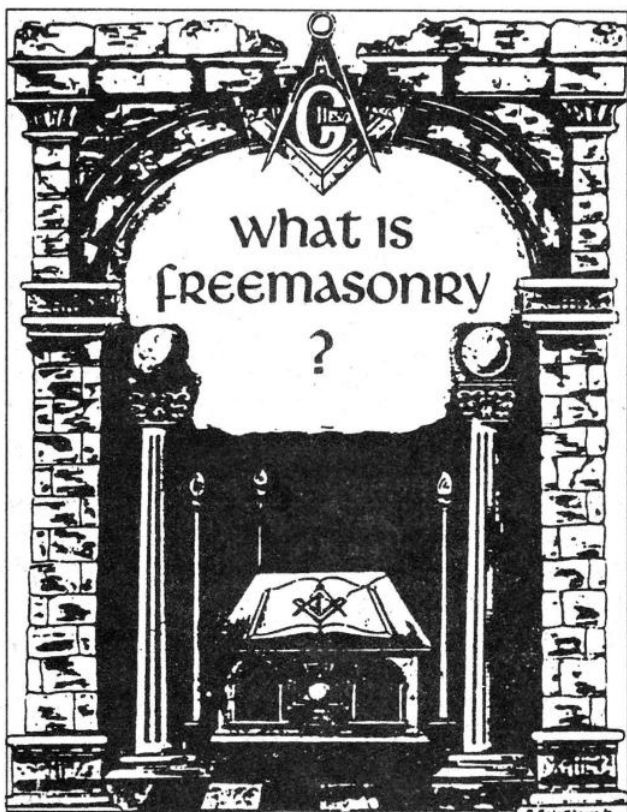
When the need for such builders declined, "Speculative" or "Symbolic" Masonry evolved using the customs and tools of the craft to convey moral truths. The growing organization attracted men of integrity and goodwill, and the masonic guilds began to accept members who

were not masons. The Fraternity finally became known in some jurisdictions as "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," and in other jurisdictions as "Free and Accepted Masons."

Today, Freemasonry is composed of men bound together, not by trade, but by their desire to be fraternal brothers. The tools of those early builders have remained as symbols to help Masons understand and remember the teachings of the Fraternity. Through the improvement and strengthening of the individual's character, Masonry seeks to improve the community and to make good men better through belief in the Brotherhood of Man, the Fatherhood of God, and the immortality of the soul.

The basic organizational unit of Masonry is the Blue Lodge or Craft Lodge. When a man has been accepted for membership, he proceeds through three degrees—Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, which is the highest degree in Freemasonry. It is through these degrees that the teachings of Masonry are first presented.

Lodges organize to form a Grand Lodge which governs Lodges in a specified territory. In most of North America, each state or province is governed by its own Grand Lodge. While the various Grand Lodges are bound together by tradition and custom, each is sovereign and autonomous in its own jurisdiction. There is no central governing body for any group of Grand Lodges or for Masonry as a whole, although some Grand Lodges do gather for



Masonic conferences where they discuss issues of interest to the individual jurisdictions.

The only requirements for Masonic membership are that a man must be of good moral character, profess belief in a Supreme Being, and be at least 21 years of age. (In some Grand Lodge jurisdictions, the age requirement is 18 or 19.) One of the customs of the Fraternity is that a man must join of his own free will. Masonry does not solicit members or conduct membership "drives" to supplement its membership roster. A man desiring to

become a Mason may request a petition from a friend who is a Mason, and he must be recommended to the Lodge by two Masons and pass a ballot of Lodgemembers. Though Masonry does not permit direct or open membership solicitation, most jurisdictions have no objection to an approach being made to a man who is considered a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. The potential candidate should then be made to make his own decision and come of his own free will and accord.

The Fraternity utilizes certain rituals, symbols and signs of recognition that are not made public, but Masonry is not a secret society. Its only secrets are its methods

of recognition and symbolic instruction. It does not hide its existence, and many Masons proudly wear Masonic rings, the clips or lapel pins. Neither is Masonry a religion, although it is religious in character requiring a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being. Masonry accepts men regardless of their religion and encourages them to participate in their respective religious services and to worship according to their faith.

(Source: Series of articles on principal Masonic organizations published by the Imperial Council, A.A.O.N.M.S.)

Is Masonry a Religion?

(As compiled by RW Danilo D. Angeles, SGW)

Masonry is not and has never professed to be a religion. But, it is very religious in character. It is an institution "erected to God" which begins its ceremonies and ends its meetings in prayer and has the Holy Book held sacred to their faith open in every Masonic Altar. It does not pretend to take the place of religion, nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members who belong to many different religious denominations.

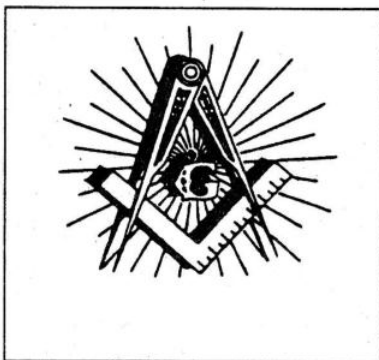
Freemasonry is entirely non-sectarian. All theological discussions inside the Lodge are prohibited. Although it opens its doors to all men regardless of religious conviction with an avowed belief in God and the immortality of the soul as essential requirements, one must clearly understand that FREEMASONRY IS NOT A CHURCH, nor a substitute for the Church and that it makes no claim to save souls, to reform sinners, or to discharge any of the proper functions of a church.


Bro. Robert J. Levenski, Ph.D. of York Lodge No. 410 (Michigan) in his book,

"What is Freemasonry," clarifies the position of the Craft regarding this subject:

"Why is it that Freemasonry, which is not a religion and not a church, can bring to men the fundamental principles of religion which every man needs? What does Freemasonry offer that attracts the man who has no creed as well as the man who has one? It is because Freemasonry is reli-

gious in that it is a plan of life — a trestleboard — whereon are written the laws and edicts of the Grand Architect of the Universe in accordance with which men must live if they are to be happy. It is because, in our Lodges, we teach the Brotherhood of Man based on the Fatherhood of God and advance no



other dogma. Not only do we leave to every brother the choice of his creed, but we draw no swords to compel others to adopt our belief. Nay, we go further than this, for within the tiled precincts of the Lodge, every Mason is taught to revere and respect and be tolerant of that which is sacred to his brother, be he Christian, Mohammedan, or Jew. This is the strength of Masonry's appeal." 

Classroom Masons

by VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM

Whenever I engage in self-contemplation, I come to realize and admit my own shortcomings, my weaknesses, my errors, my failures. After finger-counting my personal fiascos and resolve to avoid them, I find strength from within urging me to push on anew before "the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars are darkened; and before the silver cord, the golden bowl, and the pitcher be broken." Then, my thoughts fly and wander to other areas of interest and concern.

Time and again, I wrestle with the suspicion that Freemasonry in our jurisdiction today is fast sliding into the quagmire of oblivion. It is felt that there are, somewhere, attempts to pattern our conduct and practices after other civic and social organizations whose main thrusts and directions are very much different from ours. Prophets of doom are the more serious Craftsmen who opine that if we do not move immediately and act properly, Freemasonry in our jurisdiction shall be inhabited mostly by "self-oriented, unscrupulous, and ruthless human-leeches" out to suck and drain the vitality of our noble and exalted institution.

Blindness, opportunism, folly, and indifference of some travelers seeking shel-

ter under the highly respected reputation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, have in a way stripped Freemasonry of most of its commitments and the luster of its integrity and honor. It is only the decency, the bullish uprightness and sobriety of the ever-present brethren which makes us remember that we owe our predecessors and other brethren the world over certain inescapable duties to fight and preserve the dignity of Freemasonry.

Specific contingencies have been brought to the attention of the Masonic hierarchy about atrocious actuations of some brethren who, once upon a time, occupied prestigious positions in Lodges and who had gained the respect of the brethren. If so, what happened along the way? Your guess is as good as the others! But one thing is definite and certain, and this defies contradiction, that the well-meaning brethren "over-trusted" and "over-tolerated" the veiled nefarious activities of the ill-motivated perpetrators who took advantage of the virtue of "brotherly love." The discovery of the irregularities shocked and dismayed the unbelieving brethren as to the perspicacity and shrewdness of these "Classroom Masons" which brought ridicule and embarrassment not only to the Lodge concerned, but to the Fraternity

as a whole. Before you inquire who the "Classroom Masons" are, we herein submit their identifying personality—brethren who are outwardly knowledgeable and sincere, but are inwardly and in truth, morally corrupt and masonically ignorant by personal choice.

In the face of this predicament, what then shall we do? Shall we disregard the situation and let it pass as "one of those things?" Do we have solutions to offer? Maybe we can try the following safeguards:


A. We should be uncompromising and rigorous in admission of petitioners. All doubts regarding qualifications of petitioners should be resolved in favor of the Fraternity.

B. We should see to it that the totality of the annual dues of the brethren shall be able to answer for all the annual expenses of their Lodge including per capita, hall rentals, office supplies, Grand Lodge requirements, and other missions of money-eyed-petitioners whose financial capabilities may tempt a hard-up and nearly insolvent Lodge to accept a petitioner even if he hardly qualifies. His qualifying trait being his ability to bankroll the needs of annual dues of the brethren. In other words, Lodges must be self-sustaining.

C. We should implement a fortified systematic Masonic Education in all Lodges. It is through Masonic Education that we develop the Craftsmen's attitude towards Freemasonry and towards their brethren and fellowmen. With this ap-

proach, we help develop the habit of mind about our duties, our standards of taste and morals, and harness wisdom stored in our teachings, tenets, proverbs, and aphorisms.

By being required to memorize our obligations, lectures, charges, prayers, and rituals, the teachings therein contained, which are mostly Biblical, are deeply ingrained in our minds. Memorizing and constant repetition, subconsciously, help shape our thinking process, our character, and our sense of moral judgments all throughout life.

The above suggestions may help lure the "classroom Masons" out of complacency and may make them strive towards more active and meaningful participations in projecting Masonic brilliance, through their own way of life, inside and outside the Lodges. We should rise up from apathy and develop a sense of urgency in our quest for the return of more respectability, more dignified behavior, and more nobility among Freemasons and, consequently, the Fraternity. 

We acknowledge with gratitude the kind assistance provided us by the Philippine Postal Corporation in allowing us to publish this year's Christmas and New Year's stamps.

Masonic Symbolism

The Working Tools of a Fellowcraft



he working tools of a Master Mason which he uses to fulfill his duties are the Square, the Plumb, and the Level.

The Square

In the language of Masonic symbols, the Square has yet another meaning. It stands for Virtue. Virtue should guide you in all your transactions with your fellowman. No man who cheats or defrauds another can be a Freemason in his heart. He may be able to hide his actions from man, but not from God.

The Square, as one of the Working Tools of a Fellowcraft, has another virtue added—Morality. Although in some quarters the word "square" has become a term of contempt, to the right-thinking man, it still has a moral and virtuous significance. When you "act upon the square," you are telling the truth, as you see it. You are giving the other fellow an "honest deal."

The Plumb

The Plumb was used, and it still is, by operative Masons to test perpendiculars. It is unlikely that any wall will stand for long

if it is not straight. It is highly unlikely that a Mason who does not lead an upright life can be of any help to his fellowman. He certainly will not enhance the Fraternity in the community in which he lives. The Freemason who will follow the quest for truth will understand the symbolism of the Plumb. It stands for Righteousness—an upright life before God and man. It becomes a standard by which to test morality. By understanding this symbol, the Mason can put into practice the meaning of the other Working Tools.

The Level

The Level is used to prove horizontals in operative Masonry. It is used by the speculative Mason as a symbol of Equality. The equality of man before God was pictured and practised by Freemasonry long before it became popular in other circles. Masons meet upon the level. They have the same duties, responsibilities, and rights. They have the same Almighty Parent. They are brothers.

Equality does not mean, and never will, that all men have the same skills or abilities. All men are first of all individuals. It is this individuality that makes Freema-

sony great. Individuality builds countries, communities, businesses. It creates wealth or depression. It brings peace or war, which indicates that it is dependent upon the teachings received in youth and early manhood.

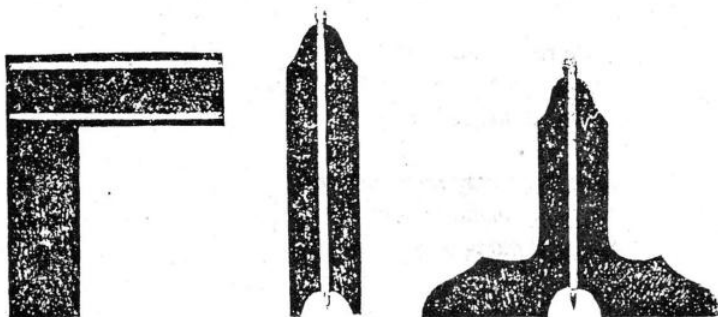
Freemasonry in its formative years endeavored to create a level, a universal brotherhood where men could achieve mutual respect and understanding, where they could work in peace and harmony. They achieved this goal! They kept out of the Lodge those things that divide men—religion, politics, nations. Regardless of a Mason's political beliefs, religion, or nationality, he can meet upon the level with his brethren in a Masonic Lodge.

Symbolically, you will be building a Spiritual Temple. It will require hard labor.

Just to construct the level site for its foundation will require thorough spiritual work. Your horizontal platform will provide the stage from which you will realize an understanding of all men as equal before God. Your work will be rewarded. You will receive the approval of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, if it is Level, Plumb, and Square work.

The Fellowcraft is symbolically and factually a builder. He is presented with builder's tools. He is urged to build square, level, and plumb. And he must keep building if he is to become a part of the great heritage left him by his forefathers of the operative Craft. (CT)

(Source: "The Craft and Its Symbols," published by Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148)



Ang Damdamin

By Bro. Enrique M. Alvarez
Dapitan Lodge No. 21

*Ang buhay sa ibang bansa (Amerika)
Totoong ang mga mata mo ay busog
Sa mga bagay at magandang tanawin.*

*Ang bibig mo ay sagana
Sa masasarap na prutas at pagkain
Ang katawan mong nasasayaran
Ng mamahaling damit at magagarang alahas.*

*At higit sa lahat,
Ang pagkakaroon ng Mercedes o BMW
Na iyong masasakyan.*

*Ang tanong, masaya ka ba?
Dahil ang damdamin, kasiyahan
Ay pansamantala lamang.*

*Wala raw kasinsarap
Makipag-usap sa iyong kababayan
At mahal mo sa buhay.*

*Iyan ang tunay na damdamin
Na iyong matatagpuan
Sa sarili mong bayan.*

For Others

(Editor's note: The following is a declamation piece delivered by Lyra S. Daga, Grade IV, First Prize winner at the District Declamation Contest.)

*I was once a shadow of a stranger
Laughing at the miseries of others
Now, man without shelter, hungry man,
Thirsty man and naked child. . .*

*I am your brother.
"I was sick, you visited me.
I was cold, you lent me your sweater.
I was hungry, and you shared your food
with me.
I was thirsty, and you gave me something to
drink.
I was different, and you defended me.
That others may not make fun of me.
As long as you did it for one of these.
The least of my brethren. . .
You did it for me."*

*For what? To make my own name
And be proud of my good deeds?
For display? That I may have a standing
ovation?
A grade of 99? A gold medal?
A conduct of excellence award?
Is this for the future?
Yes, with power.
A businessman in the making for illegal
logging.
A doctor-specialist, knifing my way
For my fat savings account.
A policeman, a general in the drug addiction,
Sex crime and violence business.*

*A graft and corrupt politician.
Look at my fat belly. . .
Attests to the beer and meals in expensive
restaurants.
A lawyer offering services to those
Who can afford my highest fees.
A judge who can be bought.
Rich, adored movie star!*

*What is life through all the years?
Will I live just for these?
For honor, power, riches, self-glorification?
Are these real? Will these make me forever
happy?*

*My heart is real.
A doctor, a government official, a teacher, a
lawyer,
A surgeon, a judge, an engineer, a policeman
I will be!
But for others.
I will be the Filipino who reaches out
Not just bragged about but whose presence
Is in the hearts of the least of my brethren.*

*THIS will be the miracle of history.
A change in man.
Offering services because of love.
Real. Now and forever.*

Letter to the Editor

FROM THE DESK OF

DOCK O. CARTER
 FAX (210) 696-7490

Dec. 5th 1993
 San Antonio Texas

Dear Bro. Protacio
 I write to thank you for my Cabletow, which I received Dec 2nd - I had not received one in so many years - I can't even remember the last one.
 My name Dock O. Carter 69 years old, I served in your area during WWII and was called back for the Korean War. I served at Coote's Air Station 1951 & 1952. I joined the Coote #2 Lodge while there at Coote. I had my family there for 1 1/2 years. I fell in love with your country and your people as most of us Americans have over the years.
 I have a Life Membership Card #123 from the Coote #2 Lodge. My Scout # is 32° in Dallas Texas. My Shrine Temple is also Dallas Texas - I live in San Antonio at present time but will move back to Dallas area in a couple of years.

Thanks Again
 for my Cabletow -

D. O. CARTER
 3210 CLEARFIELD
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78230

Telephone
 210-696-7490

Letter to the Editor

14 September 1993

Managing Editor
The Cabletow
Flaridel Masonic Temple
1440 San Marcelino, Manila
Philippines D-2801

Dear Bretheren;

Greetings to all my fellow bretherens. I am writing this letter to inform you that I have recently read an issue of **The Cabletow** at our Lodge and I was overwhelmed and happy to read its content(s).

I am presently stationed here at Sasebo, Japan. My mother lodge is **Nippon Lodge No. 9**. I am, a very active participant of our lodge and will continue to do so as long as I am here.

I am inquiring how to subscribe your monthly, quarterly or yearly issue of "The Cabletow." Can you furnish me any information and please address it to:

LCDR Dan Almazan
PSC 476, Box 80
FPO, AP 96322-3000

Should you require any additional information(s), please let me know, and I will do just that. Again, thank you and will await for your reply.

Brotherly,


Bro. Dan Almazan
Lieutenant Commander, USN

LCDR DAN ALMAZAN
PSC 476, BOX 80
FPO, AP 96322-3000

New Year Stamps

In the West, when someone asks you about your star-sign, he is really asking which month you were born in. The Chinese, however, like to know what year you were born in. The 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac are used to name the different years in one Great Year of 12 ordinary years. So, according to your particular year of birth, you may be a rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, cock, dog, or pig.

Legend says that the Buddha summoned all the animals and that these 12 were the only ones which answered. It is more likely, however, that these animals' names were carefully chosen by ancient astrologers because they seemed to be the best ones to represent the characteristics of people born in those years, and also indicated what the events of the coming years might be like.


Fidelity, honesty, and humor are high priorities for the typical Dog character. Such a likeable personality easily makes friends, forging long-lasting relationships. Being a steady worker, the Dog becomes a trusted and valued employee. But conservatism can be a handicap. The Dog tolerates considerable hardship and inconvenience rather than plunge into

unknown prospects in making major changes, and when circumstances force the issue, it takes a long time to adjust, no matter how improved conditions may be. For the Dog, nothing is ever as good as it was "in the old days."

Intensely defensive where friends and families are concerned, the Dog will not



stand by while others are maligned. Otherwise, the Dog is a sympathetic listener to other people's woes, always ready with a shoulder to cry on.

Rare displays of violent anger are almost always justified, but wrong are quickly forgotten and resentment only borne against those outside the intimate circle of family and friends. 



Christmas at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The **CABLETOW**
Plaridel Masonic Temple
1440 San Marcelino, Manila D-2801



BRO. RAOUL V. VICTORINO #19
1 Yakal St., Pasig
Metro Manila



1994 YEAR OF THE DOG 狗年