

THE CABLETOW



GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

VOL. 72 NO. 4

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1995

The cruelty of loss...



1996

JANUARY

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Editorial

In the spirit of Brotherly Love, the Masons of Pampanga, Bulacan, and Bataan brought temporary relief to the victims of lahar in Central Luzon. The concerted effort was the result of an earlier meeting held at Templo Plaridel, Sto. Rosario, Malolos, Bulacan composed of the DDGMs, DGLs and GLIs and officers of the eight Lodges in the three provinces.

The actual distribution of the relief goods was done on December 14, 1995, at Angeles City in response to an earlier call issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Danilo D. Angeles to all Brethren in this jurisdiction to extend any kind of assistance to those affected by the flow of lahar in the province of Pampanga. A significant number of Brethren sent relief goods to the Grand Lodge for transshipment to the Brethren in Malolos. Others gave directly to the officers of the said Lodges.

The devastation wrought by the onslaught of pyroclastic materials or lahar as a result of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo more than four years ago in June 16, 1991 is an unprecedented event in the history of the Philippines.

The volcano that has laid dormant for 600 years finally erupted and gave vent to all its fury. Needless to say, one can hardly imagine the fear the people living near the volcano must have felt as this volcano erupted in the midst of a raging typhoon. Survivors recount stories of howling winds, earthquakes, explosions they thought were mere thunder claps but were accompanied by flashes of light and a hail of sand, rocks and ashes.

The sand and ashes, mixed with rain that came with the typhoon, assaulted the roofs which were too weak to carry this unexpected load causing them to buckle and collapse on the houses' occupants. Leaves were ripped off trees as the wet sand and ashes fell on them. Weeks after this fateful day, the entire

place, within a radius of almost fifty kilometers from the volcano, looked like a graveyard in a horror movie — barren, devastated and empty. It was an eerie sight especially at dusk.

As it turned out, the eruption was the strongest recorded so far in this century. The volcano spewed out in one blast more than one cubic kilometer of volcanic debris. To get an idea of the magnitude of the eruption, James E. Hansen, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, USA, estimated that it spewed out 20 megatons of volcanic dust in the atmosphere causing an effect on the earth's temperature that would last for more than five years. To make matters worse, the typhoon that accompanied the blast, though not the strongest, was not something to cough at either. It alone could have brought on a severe calamity. Accompanied by the eruption, we all know the extent of havoc it has wreaked.

All this was in June 1991. We are now at the close of 1995. After four difficult years, the worst is not over yet for the inhabitants of Pampanga. Volcanic debris that have been spewed out (which we now know so well as lahar) have already wiped out several rivers and three towns in Pampanga. So far, the onslaught has not shown any sign of relenting. Like we said, the worst is far from over.

The catastrophe is just too great to describe and the burden rests on our shoulders to do something and give our share to ease the load on the backs of the distressed. Masons have, after all, been taught to regard the whole of humanity as their family, their fellow inhabitants of this planet. Now is the time for us to practice and manifest the spirit of Brotherly Love in any

small way we can. Now is the time to put our sincerest beliefs to the test. We need to lend a hand.

The Brethren of Pampanga Lodge No. 48, Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105, Malolos Lodge No. 46, Cupang Lodge No. 295, Baliwag Lodge No. 301, Bataan Lodge No. 104, and Luis G. Reyes Memorial Lodge No. 224 have started extending theirs. This is a cue for all of us Masons to follow.

We have published the names of the officers and addressess of the above-named Lodges in the previous issue of The Cabletow. We can coordinate our efforts with them. The avalanche of lahar is not even halfway through. Let's give our share. 

Is Freemasonry difficult to get into?

It can be! This story gives one version:

A man was checking in at a hotel and, while at the registration desk, he noticed a group of men heading toward a function room. He said to the clerk, "Who are those men?" She replied, "Oh they are Masons. They are meeting in one of our rooms until their new Lodgeroom is finished." He replied, "Oh yeah, the Masons! Isn't that the group that is so hard to get into?" She replied, "You don't know the half of it! See that man with the sword? He's been banging on that door for eight months and they haven't let him in yet!"

(taken from the book of Masonic Trivia and Facts by Allen E. Roberts)

Masonic District 8-A Distributes Relief Goods

Following the dreaded aftermath of Super typhoon Rosing, officers and members of Masonic District 8-A, headed by VW Romeo P. Ramos, DDGM, motored to Lubao, Pampanga last November 5 to deliver relief goods to some 120 unfortunate families from Porac, Pampanga that had been dislocated by the lahar flows from Mt. Pinatubo.

Following a brief courtesy call to Congresswoman Zenaida Ducut, the group proceeded to three evacuation centers in Florida Blanca, Pampanga

to distribute P50,000 worth of relief goods.

VW Amado Sadsad, PDGL, joined the effort and assisted the group in distributing relief goods in Barangays Calantas, San Jose and Central.

Group head VW Ramos attributed the success of the project to the combined efforts of Masons from Olongapo and Zambales and other civic organizations, such as the Chinese Chamber of Olongapo, headed by Mr. Peter Tiu; the Anglo-Chinese School, headed by Bro. Sotero Gan; the Subic Golfers Club, headed



▼
Brethren from District 8-A with the coordinators of the Education Center.

by Bros. Nestor Ching and Domingo Lorenzo.

He likewise acknowledged the help of Brethren such as VW Ben de Guzman, VW Emil Leonor, VW Rolly de la Rosa, WB Emman E. Ramos, WB Pros de Jesus, WB Oscar G. Reyes, WB Danny Ramirez, Bro. David Yap, Bro. Alex Salles, and, of course, Bro. Sotero Gan.

Untiring in its efforts to give its share, the District once more distributed relief goods in the form of old clothes, mats, mosquito nets, thermos pots, gas stoves, can goods, feeding bottles, blankets, noodles, bread and medicines during the Christmas season. 

▼
VW Ben de Guzman giving
packed milk to the children.



▼
VW Romy
Ramos and the
Brethren
visiting the
quarters of the
lahar victims.

▼
VW Ben de
Guzman with
WB Emman
Ramos, WB
Danny
Ramirez, Bro.
Sotero Gaw
and our
representative
from the
Chinese
Chamber of
Commerce.



▼
VW Romy Ramos,
WB Emman Ramos and
Bro. Sotero Gaw giving
packages to the evacuees

Lodges Respond to GM's Call for Charity

Immediately upon receiving MW Danilo D. Angeles' circular calling for immediate action to extend assistance to thousands of families displaced by lahar in Pampanga, Lodges and individual

Masons sent cash donations, groceries and clothes to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in Manila.

Malolos Lodge No. 46 in Bulacan took charge of distributing the donations to the displaced families. 

Love is Giving Away Blankets

VW Vicente N. Ongtenco, PDDGM, knew that, as Edna St. Vincent Millay has put it: "Love is not all. It is not meat nor drink; nor slumber nor a roof against the rain; nor yet a floating spar to men that sink and rise and sink and rise and sink again." But also he knew that to a family whose house and personal belongings had been either blown beyond recovery or carried away by floodwaters and mudflows, a blanket of good quality would, somehow or other, restore some sense of security to members of such a family. Hence, momentarily leaving behind his lucrative business ventures abroad, he came home with 2,000 blankets worth P150,000 to be given away to victims of supertyphoon Rosing.

Last Nov. 24, together with WB Manuel Teebunhon, ertswhile mayor of the town, he personally distributed tickets to typhoon victims of the municipality of Mercedes — as far as they could reach them.

"Present this ticket at the Masonic Center, and you will receive a free blanket," he had told the typhoon victims.

Brother Masons also went around distributing tickets. VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., DGL, for instance, together with WB Ernesto C. Chicombing went as far as Gubat, Mangacruz, Cobangbang, Camambugan, and to the eight barangays of Poblacion Daet.

VW Ong Peng Lee distributed tickets at Mantagbac, Cahonon, Lag-on,

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Pandan, Burabod, Awitan, and Bagasbas; WB Ireneo G. Centeno, at Magang and San Pascual in Basud. Junior Warden Amable C. Ables, too, distributed tickets at the barangays in Basud; WB Naty D. Cortez, at the far-flung barangays of San Vicente; and WB Eduardo S. Freyra, at the municipality of Talisay, his hometown.

On Nov. 25, assisted by Sis. Luisa Ongtenco and Sis. Trinidad E. Peteza, the same Brethren distributed blankets to ticket-holding beneficiaries.

On Nov. 26, WB Freyra went to the municipality of San Lorenzo Ruiz to distribute tickets to as many typhoon victims as he could reach. VW Peteza, WB Chicombing, and WB Enrique D. Lukban, WB of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, who had just returned from Manila, went thither to distribute blankets to the ticket holders.

WB Lukban, at this juncture, informed the Brethren that he had discussed with Grand Master Danilo D. Angeles the problem of rehabilitating the badly-damaged Masonic Center. The Grand Master, he revealed, promised to help raise the much-needed funds for the repair and reconstruction efforts. The Worshipful Master added that he had worked out with the Grand Master ways and means of helping the typhoon victims rehabilitate their sources of livelihood on a long-term basis.

On Nov. 27, it was WB Lukban's turn to distribute tickets and blankets. He entrusted 200 blankets and tickets to Rev. Fr. Jose G. Marabe, parish priest of Labo. The priest's network of volunteers in turn distributed the blankets to typhoon victims.

WB Lukban also delivered some 100 blankets and the same number of tick-

ets to Fr. Enrique Salen, parish priest of the coastal barangays of Culasi, Pambuhan, and Tarum in the municipality of Mercedes, who in turn distributed the much-needed blankets to typhoon victims.

On Nov. 28, Bro. Ables entrusted 100 blankets and tickets to Fr. Quinn Parcerero, parish priest of Vinzons, and he himself distributed another 100 blankets to victims at the coastal barangays.

On Nov. 29, the Brethren entrusted 200 blankets to the parish priest of the coastal barangays of Paracale and another 200 to the parish priest of barangays along the seashore and the Camagsaan river in Capalonga. The houses of the victims were either washed out or destroyed beyond repair.

On Dec. 1, the Brethren distributed tickets to victims in the far-flung barangays of Basud.

"Our stamina or endurance as Freemasons was severely tested during the week-long conduct of the relief operations. But seeing the beneficiaries' radiant eyes and smiling faces was reward enough for our efforts," said VW Peteza. (17)

BUILDING STONE

A boy is the only thing that God can use to make a man, and a man is the only thing we can use to make a Mason.

- Grand Lodge of Missouri

GM Opens Masonic Ward for Crippled Children in Nueva Ecija Hospital

Crippled children in Nueva Ecija no longer have to travel all the way to Manila to avail themselves of treatment offered by the Masonic Hospital for Crippled Children.

Last November 7, 1995, GM Danilo D. Angeles, personally inaugurated the Masonic Ward for Crippled Children at the Eduardo L. Joson Memorial Hospital at Barangay Vitas, Cabanatuan City.

The Governor of Nueva Ecija, the Hon. Edno N. Joson was on hand to

receive the initial funding of P100,000.00 given by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines which was handed to him by Assistant Grand Secretary VW Jaime Austria. Governor Joson himself is the son of an illustrious father, the late Bro. Eduardo L. Joson, the legendary chief executive of the province for more than 30 years whose Masonic Charity knew no bounds.

Hospital Director, Dr. Benny de Guzman, in his response, called attention to himself, a polio victim crippled by the disease at a very young age. In



Inauguration and blessing of the Masonic Hospital for crippled children with Gov. Edno Joson and Grand Master Danilo Angeles signing the agreement.

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his speech, Dr. de Guzman said that, based on his own experience, he knows exactly how valuable this ward would be to the crippled children of Nueva Ecija and other adjoining communities.

For his part, MW Danilo D. Angeles expressed that setting up the ward

was the least he could do to honor the memory of a great Mason, in whose name the hospital that he established for the poor has been named.

Governor Edno Josen, who was profuse with his praises for the Masons of Nueva Ecija, declared his pride at being the son of a Mason. (1)

FATHER'S LODGE

*"Father's Lodge thought nothing of it, 'mid their labors and their cares,
Those old Masons learned to love it, that Fraternity of theirs.
What's a bit of stormy weather, when a little down the road
Men are gathering together, helping bear each other's load?"*

*"Father's Lodge had made a village; men of Father's sturdy brawn
Turned a wilde: erness to tillage, seized the flag and carried on.
Made a village, built a city, shaped a county, formed a state,
Simple men, both wise and witty, humble men, and yet how great!*

*"Father's Lodge had caught the gleaming of the great Masonic past;
Thinking, toiling, daring, dreaming, they were builders to the last,
Quiet men, not rich but clever, with the tools they found at hand."*

*"Father's Lodge no temple builded, shaped of steel and carved of stone;
Marble columns, ceiling gilded, Father's Lodge has never known.
But a heritage of glory they have left behind, the humble ones -
They have left their mighty story in the keeping of their sons."*

(Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Trowell - Fall 1995)

Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 Holds Medical-Dental Mission

by WB Jaime L. Nabua

The heavy rains brought on by tropical depression "Karing" notwithstanding, the Brethren of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 and their families pushed through with their scheduled Medical-Dental Mission and Family Day last July 30.

Their decision turned out to be a wise one since, as early as 7:00 a.m., a big number of Barangay Bolasi folks in San Fabian, Pangasinan were already at the designated site. When they arrived at 8:00 a.m., Drs. Mario Meneses, Delfin Gubatan, Jr., and Roy Serrano, all of whom are brother Masons, and Sis. Agnes, began performing their

tasks. Their hands were so full they were not even given the chance to have a coffee break and were only able to have lunch after 1:00 p.m. Even the representatives from the Pangasinan Dental Association, headed by their president, Dr. Cheryl Villanueva, were swarmed with patients.

Treatment of patients followed a systematic flow. Brethren handled the registration and Junior Warden Danilo C. Uy efficiently ushered in the patients to either the medical or dental group or the pharmacy section which was manned by Lodge members who were either medical representatives of drug companies or who possessed a vast knowledge of drugs. Even the wives of the Masons present gave their share in insuring the orderly conduct of the mission.

**Experience isn't
what happens to you.
It's what you do with
what happens to you.**

*(New Zealand Freemason, Vol. 23,
4th Issue, 1995)*

In the afternoon, Bro. Braulio Q. de Venecia, a respected resident of the barangay, and his lovely wife, tendered an impromptu merienda at their residence. Inspired by the success of their efforts, WM Edgar C. Tacadena announced that a similar endeavor would be undertaken in another barangay "to make Masonry visible in the community" — a suggestion that got the nod of everyone present. 

Mencius Lodge No. 93 Spearheads Physical Fitness Program

In keeping with its efforts to spread light to the downhearted and pursue its physical fitness program, the Sunshine Committee of Mencius Lodge No. 93 has stepped up visitation of its ill and not-too-well members including: WBs Federico J. Chusuey, Angeles Limguat, John Ong Lin Liu, Te Liong Bio; Bros. Josefina T. Arqueza, Bonifacio G. Tong, Rafael C. Go, Chua Bun Kue, Paulino Chan Lin Hio; and VW Benjamin C. Gotamco, Sr.

Led by 1-A DDGM Benito C. Ang and WM Wilson D. Keh, the committee is composed of VW Mariano Sih, WB Mariano A. Cleto, WB Andy L. Lim, Bro. Alejandro L. Tan, WB Johnson H. Yu, and WB William C. Dy.

Through the committee, the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines presented a P2,000 check to WB Te Liong Bio who had been operated on at the Chinese General Hospital.



Sunshine
Committee
Visitation:
Bro. Rafael C.
Go - 83 yrs.
old.

The committee also visited Sis. Conchita Ong, wife of WB Benito L. Ong, who likewise had undergone surgery.

The Lodge, meanwhile, spearheaded the launching of the Tai

Chi Chuan Physical Fitness Program of the District. Exercises are periodically held at the Aguinaldo Hall of the Grand Lodge building. No less than the Grand Master himself, MW Danilo Angeles, has joined the program. **67**



Sunshine
Committee
Visitation:
WB Te Liong
Bio, Past
Master- 73 yrs.
old.



Sunshine
Committee
Visitation:
WB Federico
J. Chusuey,
PM - 73 yrs.
old.

Sunshine Runs to the Rescue

*"To aid and assist a distressed worthy brother
Master Mason, his widow, or orphans..."*

Misfortune has once more befallen VW Domingo Chua, an illustrious worthy brother, a civic leader, a philanthropist (call him by any name you can aptly give a man with a big heart), this time with Sis. Felisa and companion. Ironically, it happened on their way home from attending the 49th day rites of their mother's demise. A wayward taxicab collided with their vehicle head-on as they were making their way through Bulacan en route to Pangasinan.

True to form, upon learning of the mishap, our Worshipful Master immediately dispatched the Sunshine team to visit and extend assistance to our fallen brother and sister who were brought to the Manila Doctors' Hospital at the UN Avenue in Manila. The group, composed of RW Celemente M. Nava, WB Michael V. Nava, VW Mariano Garantoza Sr., WB Raffy de Peralta, WB Protacio Merza, Bro. Alex Aurelio and Bro. Joseph Lo, left Dagupan at 4:30 a.m. and reached Manila Doctors' Hospital at 9:00 in the morning.

Indeed, Sis. Felisa was a dishearten-



▼
Sunshine to
VW Domingo
Chua, Manila,
Doctor
Hospital.
Oct. 8, 1995.

ing sight as she lay on her sickbed with sustained bruises everywhere and both legs fractured. Nonetheless, the grand old lady was still in good spirits. The worried Brethren did not, however, have the slightest inkling as to what has become of Bro. Domeng. They were in for a big shock, however! For in a few minutes, who would come sauntering into the room but Bro. Domeng himself, smiling happily as he greeted his shocked visitors as if nothing, albeit a few scratches, had happened to him.

A gleam of pure joy shone in his eyes upon seeing his Brethren. He knew they had motored all the way from Dagupan just to see him and his wife for a few minutes. Truly, the Lord works in mysterious ways, Bro. Domeng said, as He had probably given them a new lease on life for a definite mission. For this, the Brethren were one in thanking the Lord for infusing the couple with the strength that has enabled them to weather all the misfortunes that have beset them lately.

As the group said their goodbyes, RW Clemente Nava handed Bro. Domeng the Holy Bible, a gift from VW Andy Capati, and a letter from the Worshipful Master which read in part:

"The Officers and Members of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 are all deeply saddened by yet another misfortune that has cast its dark shadow upon your person and that of Sis. Felisa. The Great Architect of the Universe wipes away all tears and the unpleasant cloud of distress. Our revered VW Andresito Capati has dispatched his personal Bible to keep you in constant touch with His words whose love and mercy are eternal. VW Capati has marked a very particular passage which he trust could give you

the strength to overcome this present tribulation."

Upon reading the letter, VW Domeng, overcome with emotions, wept profusely as he felt the palpable caring and concern of his brother Masons. The Sunshine Group departed Manila at 10:30 a.m., happy and fulfilled in the thought that they have once more brought comfort and joy to a distressed brother and sister. (C)

MASONIC HUMOUR

Story with a Moral

A Mason was hunting in the forest. A terrible storm came up. He looked for shelter but there was none. It was raining in torrents so he crawled into a hollow log. It fitted snugly. The rain lasted for hours and the water soaked through the wood. The log began to contract. The storm abated and the man tried to get out, but could not. He strained but to no avail. The log held him tight. He knew he would die of starvation unless he could free himself. His whole life flashed before him, especially his mistakes. Suddenly he remembered he had not paid his Lodge dues. This made him feel SO SMALL that he was able to crawl out of the log. The moral of the story is: do not let your dues accumulate until you are in a tight pinch.

District 9-A Convention in Retrospect

by VW Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr.

Masonic District 9-A held its annual convention at the Asian Institute of Tourism in Quezon City last Nov. 11 with Silanganan Lodge No. 19 taking on the role of lead Lodge.

The event was orchestrated by VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., DDGM, who was ably supported by the officers of the district, most notably WB Raoul V. Victorino, District Treasurer, and the officers of the lead Lodge.

Masonic luminaries who graced the district convention include no less than the Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, MW Danilo D. Angeles, who was accompanied by Grand Line Officers RW Percival L. Adiong, DGM who opted not to join the dignitaries in the East largely due to the demands of his office; RW Leon A. Bañez, SGW; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and GS; and VWBs Jose O. Lustre, Amancio Donato, Benito T. Ty, Juanito P. Abergas, and Ernesto A. Malapaya,



MW Danilo D. Angeles, Grand Master, and party being received.



VW Bernardino L. Sapiaco, Jr., DDGM, turning over the gavel, symbol of authority, to MW Danilo D. Angelo, Grand Master.



MW Reynold S. Fajardo, MW Agustin V. Mateo, PGMs and VW Rodolfo Beltran being received.



MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and Grand Secretary being received.

who hold the positions of Asst. Grand Secretary, Grand Orator, Senior Grand Deacon, Grand Marshall, and Senior Grand Lecturer, respectively.

Two Past Grand Masters, MW Reynold S. Fajardo and MW Agustin V. Mateo, also graced the occasion in answer to the cabletow made by the W.M. of Quezon City Lodge No. 122 entreating them to make their valuable presence felt so as to impress upon the district that, insofar as the important gatherings are concerned, they are at their Mother Lodge's beck and call.

The scheduled activities commenced at 8:00 in the morning with the opening of the Lodge by the officers of Silangan Lodge No.19. This was followed by the reception of the dignitaries, the invocation by District Chap-

lain Justo Wayland Cabanban, and the welcome remarks of WB Raoul V. Victorino.

The roll call made by WB Delfin del Rosario revealed that there were actually 140 delegates to the convention.

Each Worshipful Master reported the number of Brethren in his Lodge's roster, their Lodge's record of attendance as well as their financial resources.

The following also presented their reports: WB Eluderio S. Salvo, president of the District Past Masters Guild; VW Ray A. Banaag, who reported on the present status of the District's Mutual Assistance Fund; VW Saul R. Exmundo, chairman of the Necrology Services; WB Wayland Cabanban, chairman, Sports Committee; WB

Abelardo Agulto, Chairman, Youth Affairs; Bro. Santiago "Boy" Gabionza, chairman, Committee on Resolutions; and WB Albert Q. Suguitan, who reported on the goings-on within the District's Building Committee.

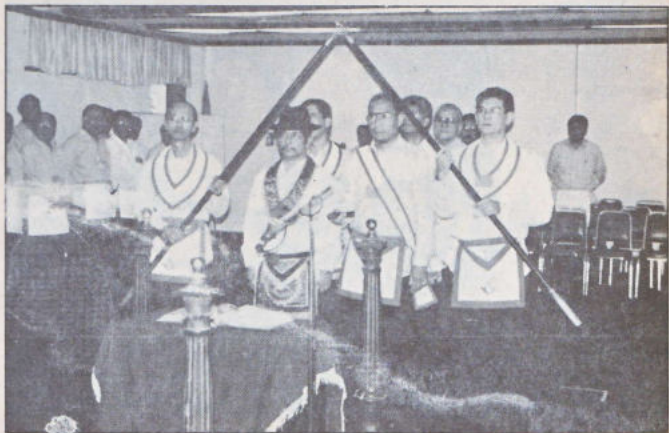
The icing on the cake for the attending Brethren was the Masonic Education portion held in the afternoon by VWBs Ernesto A. Malapaya and Amancio S. Donato who delved into the symbolism of the third degree. The free-wheeling open forum that followed their lectures was a veritable Masonic gold mine and a rich source of wisdom.

VW Ber Saplaco, Jr. read, in chronological order, the Brethren who have

ruled the district since 1959. Then he focused on the giant strides the District has achieved with regard to the program thrusts of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master commended the District for its accomplishments, remarking that his deputy in District 9-A might no longer qualify for the contest because "he is an almost permanent fixture in many of my official travels."

The fellowship that capped the convention was enjoyed by the GM and the other dignitaries, as well as by the delegates — thanks to the organizational efforts of VWBs Rey Banaag and B.J. Torres. 



VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., and the district officers being received. At his back are WB James Donadilla, WB Delfin del Rosario and WB Conrado Veneracion.



The guests at the Lodge of Remembrance intently listening to the discourse being made by VW Saul R. Exmundo, PDGL.



Another view of the audience at the Lodge of Remembrance. WB Hernani Castelo may be seen at far left. At far right is VW Ray A. Banaag, Silanganan Lodge No. 19's very efficient secretary.



Delegates from Quezon City Lodge No. 122. From left: WB Alvin A. Salvosa, WB Jun Soriano, Bro. Boy Gabionza, WB Al Suguitan and WB Renato Apuan, GLI.

WE SAY FOR CHARITY

To give with reluctance or regret.

To give cheerfully but not enough for the situation.

To give cheerfully and enough but not until solicited.

To give cheerfully and enough and before solicited but to be obvious about it.

To give so that he is known to the recipient but they are not known to him.

To give so that you know where it is going but the recipient does not know the donor.

To give charity so that the giver nor receiver know the other.

To give charity in such a way as to prevent poverty by providing money and help to assist your fellow man to become self-sufficient and establish pride in himself.

(The New Canadian Freemason, Vol. 6, 1st Issue, 1994/95)

Masonic District 9-A Holds Bowling Tourney

In a clear display of solidarity, almost a hundred Brethren took part in the bowling tournament held at the Congressional Bowling Lanes by Masonic District 9-A.

Participated in by representatives from all ten Lodges within the District, namely: Silanganan Lodge No.19, Marikina Lodge No.119, Quezon City Lodge No. 122, T.M. Kalaw Lodge No.136, Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147, Capitol City Lodge No. 174, Juan Sumulong Lodge No.169, Laong Laan Lodge No.185, Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199, and Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277, the event was formally opened by VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., DDGM; VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, SGL and dual member of Laong Laan Lodge No. 185, and MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM and revered elder of Quezon City

Lodge No. 122. VW Ernesto A. Malapaya stood as the official representative of our Most Worshipful GM Danilo D. Angeles who was in Southern Mindanao to fulfill yet another Masonic commitment.

In his impromptu inspirational talk, MW Rey Fajardo reminded the Brethren that pre-WW II Masons were bowling champions for several years.

As WB Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr. reported: "Those who were not given the chance to knock over the bowling pins contented themselves with demolishing the generous supply of bottled beer with or without the aid of glass tumblers. A good number also took along their better halves and children, thus adding more luster to the epic gathering by making the tournament a combined sportsfest and thoroughly enjoyable family affair."



Quezon City Lodge No. 122 adjudged team with the best participation at the District 9-A 1995 Bowling Tournament.

Winners of the bowling tournament are listed as follows:

A. Pinfalls — Capitol City Lodge No.174, champion; Mandaluyong City Lodge No. 277, 1st runner-up; and Juan Sumulong Lodge No.169, 2nd runner-up.

B. Three-Game Wins — Capitol Lodge No.174, 1st place; T.M. Kalaw Lodge No.136, 2nd place.

C. Individual — Capitol City Lodge No.174, highest team score; Mandaluyong City Lodge No.277, best team uniform; and Quezon City Lodge No.122, best participation. 



Mandaluyong Lodge No.277 adjudged 1st Runner-up—Team in Best Uniform.District 9-A Bowling Tournament.

Capitol City Lodge No.174. Champion: 1995 District 9-A Bowling Tournament. Front row, L-R: WB Ben Villanueva; Bro. Nanding Fernando; Bro. Jun Santos and Bro. Rimando. Back row, L-R: Bro. Nolie Cefido; Bro Ronald Cortez; Bro. Nando Borja; VW Roy M. Chu, capt.; WB Wayland Cabanban, WM & Mgr.; WB Pete Pagunuran and WB Francis Perifio. Venue: Congressional Homes, EDSA corner Congressional Rd., Q.C.



WALANA Dominates 1-A Annual Duckpin Tournament

WALANA Lodge No. 13 dominated the finals of Masonic District 1-A's bowling tournament held at the Manila Bowl-o-Drome last Nov. 18.

Eight Lodges participated in the tournament.

WB Hermie Palamine beat WM Jess Remonte of St. John's Corregidor Lodge No. 3 to win the championship in Group A. Bro. Rey Madrid of Nilad

Lodge No. 12 was 2nd runner-up.

WB Palamine also won the highest triple; WM Remonte, the highest single; and VW J. Waldemar V. Valmores, also of WALANA, the highest pinning.

In Group B, WALANA WM Joel Palacios edged out Bro. Alex of Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5 to bag the first place. Bro. Johnny Flaviano of St. John's Corregidor Lodge No. 3 was 2nd runner-up. 

WALANA Honors Past Masters

WALANA Lodge No. 13 paid tribute to more than a dozen Past Masters, whose terms spanned 30 years of service to their beloved Lodge, in an annual gathering held in their honor at the Philippine Columbian Club in Paco, Manila.

All warmly welcomed by their Brethren, the Past Masters were treated to an evening they would not forget. The most senior among them was WB Arsenio Pascual, Jr., who served two terms — one in 1965 and another in 1966. The most senior Master Mason was 80-year-old WB Cris Perez.

WB Horosi Aguilin, 1979 WM, commented: "I'm happy to see that the Lodge is going strong after years of difficulties brought about by declining membership in the 1970s."

He added, in jest: "Talagang mayroon na ang WALANA!"

For his part, WB Pascual stated that, "It is only proper for WALANA officials and members to look back to the difficult years and acknowledge the efforts of the Past Masters who worked hard to keep the Lodge alive. One of them was my own father-in-law, WB Ambrosio Lorenzo, Sr., who would go around hours be-

fore the stated meeting to fetch the elderly members so they could attend."

WB Lorenzo served four terms. He was W.M. in 1967, 1970, 1972, and 1973.

The other PMs were Cesar Lucero, Jr., Pat Bulatao, Max Cruz, Cris Diokno, Manding Mora, Rudy Cardona, Nap Soriano, Cris Perez, Hermie Palamine, and Ricky Mariano.

The Lodge, meanwhile, was able to raise a record high of P46,000 in a raffle draw to raise funds for its various projects this year. 

A Toast to Masons Making Their Mark in National Sports

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the editorial staff of *The Cabletow* are extending their warmest congratulations to Masons who have proven their skills in national sports.

Among them are VW Pedro Subido, coach of the national track team that

competed in the recently concluded SEA Games; Bro. Jose Lipa, Jr., coach of the national basketball team that won the gold medal in the SEA Games; VW Rene Cruz, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee; and WB Raoul Victorino of Silanganan Lodge No. 19, WM and District 9A Treasurer, who is a vice president of the Philippine Chess Federation. 

District 6-A Holds Sports Mini-Olympics

by VW Inocencio B. Sagun, Jr.

In keeping with its tradition of holding regular sporting events geared towards strengthening the bonds of fellowship among brother Masons and their wives, Masonic District 6-A held a mini-olympics last September 24 at the Nueva Ecija Sports Grounds..

Taking its cue from the program of MW Danilo D. Angeles of involving families of Masons in major activities, this year's mini-olympics involved not

only the Brethren's wives but their children as well. Apart from the usual tennis and bowling events, sports activities included a fun run, track races, tug-of-war, swimming, and volleyball. Attendance at the mini-olympics exceeded the organizers' most optimistic expectations.

A colorful parade complete with a marching band ushered in the start of the games. The four participating teams which were divided according to color included:



The band making their way around the corner of Freedom Park..

- **RED TEAM**, led by its team manager, VW Leonardo Ting, DGL, was made up of Talavera, Nueva Ecija 73 and MLQ Memorial Lodges.

- **BLUE TEAM**, led by team manager, VW Severo Carbonel, was composed of Cabanatuan, Kapatiran and MS Garcia Memorial Lodges.

- **GREEN TEAM** consisted of Kapitan Pepe, Zaragoza and Sta. Rosa Lodges. Its team manager was VW Andy Kayanga.

- **YELLOW TEAM**, led by team manager VW Rudy Estrada, consisted of Gen. Llanera, Factoria and Alfredo Lamson Memorial Lodges.

Mayor of Cabanatuan City, Brother Manollette Liwag, was on hand to greet the participants which included both young and old members of the families of Masons. Each one had the time of their lives vying for top honors in several fields. As the day wore on, however, one thing became evident— notwithstanding the results of particular events for which trophies were awarded, all who participated emerged as winners in view of the camaraderie, fellowship and renewed friendships that were achieved all around.

The resolve of everyone as the day ended: to meet again next year. **CT**



Start of the Fun Run with WB Morfe officiating.



GM Danilo Angeles with the Ladies Red Team led by its muse, Sister Nina Ting.



The Green Team headed by VW Andy Cayanga with the DDGM and the Grand Master.



The Red Team headed by VW Leonard Ting topped the tug-of-war event.



VW Bro. Lito Lacanilao awarding a medal to the winner in the swimming competition.



GM shares the smiles of the gold medalists for the track event — the Yellow Team.



Winners pose with GM Danilo Angeles who is himself a champion tennis player.



VW Rudy Estrada receiving the Championship Trophy for the Singles Tournament (Fellow Craft's Category) from Bro. Romy Grospe.



The Cabletow Editor-in-Chief, VW Arthur Villasan, won the runner-up trophy in the Singles Event (Master's Category).

Past Master Receives “Dangal Ng Bayan” Award

Mas vale tarde que nunca!
So goes an old adage.

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the editorial staff of *The Cabletow* are extending belated congratulations to a Brother who describes himself as “a humble government servant” and “a humble member of Bataan Lodge No. 104 and a

Past Master of Orani, Bataan.”

He is Bro. Dionisio Tiongson Bongco who received the “Dangal ng Bayan” Award last Sept. 14 at the Civil Service Commission from no less than Pres. Fidel V. Ramos himself.

WB Bongco, you are, indeed, an inspiration for us, your brethren, to reflect honor on our Fraternity! 



Sept. 14, 1995. CSC, Quezon City

Butuan Lodge No.299 Joins Anti-Nuke Rally

VW Ronald T. Ang, PDDGM of District 31, has reported that the Brethren of Butuan Lodge No. 299, headed by Worshipful Master Oliverio Benaje, has joined a candle-lighting rally held in Butuan City recently in protest of the nuclear testing being conducted by France along the Pacific area. 



(L-R) PM Ruben Tan, Bro. Tanny Balansag, SW Edgar Fernandez, PDDGM Ronald Ang, and Asst. Sec. Agileo Demata.

A new Candidate, having over indulged afterwards, arrives home slightly the worse for wear and is confronted by his wife. Wife: "Where have you been?" Candidate: "I have been initiated." His wife: "You're drunk." Candidate: "No I am not, I have been Initiated." Wife: "I know you are drunk and I can prove it." Candidate: "I've been Initiated." Wife: "Say Nebuchadnezzar." Candidate: "Oh no, you're not going to catch me that way, I will letter or halve it with you."

(New Zealand Freemason, Vol. 23, 3rd Issue, 1995)

ALSM Lodge No.158 Celebrates 35th Charter Anniversary

The grand celebration of the 35th charter anniversary of Dagupan City (new Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial) Lodge No. 158 was a red-letter day in the life of each surviving charter member of the Lodge. It was, in fact, a reunion of sorts and a day of nostalgic reminiscences.

The surviving charter members came, physical handicaps wrought by old age notwithstanding. They were all teary-eyed as they were received with "Masonic honors" from the door to the Altar, and from the Altar to the East. Thunderous was the applause from the Brethren; warm was the welcome from WM Michael V. Nava.





Earlier on, at the Lodge's lobby, the special plaque on which their names are forever enshrined as charter members of the Lodge was solemnly unveiled.

VW Teofilo Goyena was all praises for the honors accorded them. "On behalf of all charter members," he said, "I express my heartfelt gratitude to the officers and members of the Lodge for this memorable event in our Masonic lives."

RW Clemente M. Nava, in his response on behalf of the senior members, retraced the humble beginnings of the Mother Lodge from the time when it used to hold meetings in one of the "bodegas" of Carried Lumber Co., to the phenomenal improvements that has led to the Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge as it is known today. He likewise exhorted his younger

Brethren to always remember and uphold the lofty ideals that fired the zealous endeavors of their elders.

Expectedly, the fellowship night was vibrant and nostalgic. There were plenty of stories to tell and reminiscences to listen to. And as the night wore on, it became definitely an affair to remember. 

*Pay attention to
your enemies. They
are the first to
discover your mis-
takes.*

—Antisthenes

Batong Buhay 27 Sponsors 17 Scholars

Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 in Makati City has awarded to 17 deserving high school students scholarships in the form of tuition subsidy, school supplies, and stipends.

Said the Lodge's newsletter, The Livingstone: "The project was made possible through a fund-raising cam-

paign and personal sponsorship by the brethren."

VW Peter Aragon, PDDGM, and VW Greg Camiling, Jr., current DDGM, sponsored a scholar each.

The Lodge, meanwhile, had its charter day celebration (in honor of Past Masters) on Nov. 17 at the Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz Memorial Temple.

THAT BOOK

*I took a walk the other night
And stepped from darkness into Light.
And there right in front of me
I saw three symbols of Masonry.
The Square and Compasses we often see
Sometimes combined with the letter "G"
The two on top we all know
But what about the Book below?*

*I was told that the Book I saw
Was the Volume of the Sacred Law.
And in that Book you can find
All the Laws for Mankind.
So Honour that book, read it well
And many answers it will tell.
Because that book or Sacred Law
Is the Bible, God's Holy Law.*

(The New Canadian Freemason, Vol. 6, 1st Issue 1994/

NEWS PICTORIAL

Sorsogon, Sorsogon Joint District Convention



▼
Wreath-laying
at the Rizal
monument—
Capitol
Compund,
Sorsogon,
Sorsogon.

▼
Fellowship and
fraternal dinner
at Acacia Grill,
Sorsogon,
Sorsogon.



GM Angeles answering the questions of people from the media during his press conference.



The GM exchanging pleasantries with the press-media people.

Mencius Lodge No. 93 Sunshine Committee Visitation Sept. 24, 1995



Visitation to
Sis. Conchitina
Ong, wife of
WB Benito L.
Ong, PM, after
her recent
operation.

Visitation to Bro. Chua Bun Kue—79 yrs. old, and WB Federico J. Chusuey, PM—73 yrs. old
led by WB Wildon D. Keh - Worshipful Master; VW Benito C. Ang, DDGM - I-A; VW Mariano
Sih, PM; WB Mariano A. Cieto, PM; WB Andy L. Lim, PM and Bro. Alejandro L. Tan.



- ▼ Visitation and presentation of P2,000.00 check-re-proclamation No. 3, hospitalization benefit to WB Te Liong Bio, PM who was recently hospitalized and operated at the Chinese General Hospital. The check is from the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines. Shown in the picture are: WB Wilson D. Keh, Master and VW Benito C. Ang, DDGM, MD I-A.



- Visitation to Bro. Paulino Chan Lin Hio - 97 yrs. old, led by WB Wilson D. Keh - Master; VW Benito C. Ang, PM, DDGM I-A; VW Mariano Sih, PM; WB William C. Dy, PM; WB Andy L. Lim, PM; WB Mariano A. Cleto, PM; Bro. Alejandro L. Tan and WB Johnson H. Yu, PM. ▼



Launching of the Tai Chi Chuan Physical Fitness Program of Masonic District I-A

September 26, 1995

Chairman: Mencius Lodge No. 93, F. & A.M.





Mayon Lodge No. 61
Visitation to Senior Masons



▼
Visitation to
WB Teodoro L.
Jesalva of
Mayon Lodge
No. 61, 85 yrs.
old.

Multi-Discon Central Luzon, San Jose City September 29-30, 1995



▼
The GM during the courtesy call to Bro. Jose C. Filemon, City Mayor of San Jose City

RW Enrique L. Locsin, Junior Grand Warden, being escorted to the East by Lodge Marshal, Bro. Salvador Aniceto. ▼



▼ The honorable City Mayor delivering his message. In the photo are (L-R, front row) VW E. Malapaya, SGL; GM; VW A. Garcia, DDGM presiding; RWE. Locsin, JGW; VW R. Ramos, DDGM; VW N. Calimon, DDGM No. 7. (2nd Row) VW A. Villasan, GBB.



(L-R, front row) VW J. Lustre, AGS; VW I.B. Sagun, Jr., PDGL; VW O. Bunyi, DDGM No.12; VW B. Saplaco, Jr., DDGM No.9A; VW A. Cruz, PDGL; VW E. Malapaya, SGL; MW Danny Angeles, GM; Bro. S. Aniceto, Lodge Marshal; VW L. Chua, JGL; VW S. Centeno, Jr., DDGM No. 6A; WB A. Munsayac, (L-R, 2nd Row) VW A. Bocaling, DGL No.23; VW C. E. Cajucom, PDGM; VW E. Cayanga, DGL No. 6A, Bro. F. Nicolas. ▼



District 27 Convention
October 14, 1995
Bacolod City



Bicol Regional Convention Sorsogon, Sorsogon September 8-9, 1995



▼
The Grand Officers with the mayor of Sorsogon, Sorsogon.

▼ GM Angeles with our Daet Brethren during the fellowship.



▼ GM Angeles and RW Locsin exchange pleasantries with Municipal Mayor.



For the first time, Karl Megerle posed with GM Angeles. ▼



13th Mindanao Convention
September 15-16, 1995
Koronadal, South Cotabato





Early Christmas Gifts for Lahar Victims December 1995





Who Was Bro. Vicente Prado?

by Bro. Restituto C. Basa

When the Katipunan, led by Bro. Andres Bonifacio, declared a revolution against Spain in 1896, Tarlac, led by General Macabulos, joined the struggle. Among the freedom fighters under the Macabulos command was a contingent of Pangasinenses led by Col. Vicente Prado, a native of San Jacinto, Pangasinan and a Mason.

When the Pact of Biak-na-Bato collapsed and the Katipuneros, led by General and Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo, renewed hostilities against the Spaniards in 1898, Pangasinan was ready to do battle with the Spanish army division deployed therein. The Pangasinan Katipuneros were then under Col. Prado's command. He made the mountains of Labrador (Pangasinan) his command post.

General Francisco Caballes, together with his Spanish division, on the other hand, used the Roman Catholic convento in Dagupan as his command post.

General Macabulos, therefore, gathered the forces under his command, which included contingents from Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales and Pangasinan, and directed them to converge towards Dagupan. The Katipuneros began to advance towards Dagupan on March 7, 1899. Aware of

the combined strength of the Filipino forces thrown against them, the Spanish troops dug into the Roman Catholic church, using its thick walls as their fortress.

When the Katipuneros came to about a kilometer away from the church, they devised rolling trenches made from banana trunks wrapped with sawali, which they used as cover for the advancing troops. This strategy paid off, resulting in minimal casualties among the Katipuneros during the firefight.

By July 22, the Spanish forces surrendered Pangasinan and the entire Central Luzon was liberated from Spanish rule.

Bro. Vicente Prado was appointed military-political governor of Pangasinan by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. He was elected Pangasinan delegate to the Malolos Congress, where the issue of separation of Church and State was heatedly discussed. Those in favor of the separation, mostly Masons, won by a measly vote. Among these was Col. and Bro. Prado.

As military-political governor, Col. Prado purchased a parcel of land of more than one hectare on the bank of the then Toboy River in the Poblacion Oeste of Dagupan to serve as the site of various government offices. On this

lot stood a one-story building made of adobe blocks, which was used as the provincial capitol of Pangasinan under the Aguinaldo republic.

After Gen. and Bro. Antonio Luna's assassination in Cabanatuan in 1899, Bro. Prado parted ways with Gen. Aguinaldo. He joined the Church-organized Guardias de Honor and later became the commanding officer of the group.

Although Bro. Prado had parted ways with Gen. Aguinaldo, he continued to fight the new invaders — the Americans — who branded him a ban-

dit. He established his command post in the mountains of Labayog in Eastern Pozorrubio which was attacked by Gen. Jacob "Howling" Smith and his troops. Overpowered by the Americans' superior weaponry, Bro. Prado eventually surrendered. When asked to take his oath of allegiance to the U.S. flag, he refused. This led to his execution by firing squad at the Dagupan plaza in 1901.

These words of another Mason, Bro. Jose Rizal, may as well be those of Bro. Prado: "Ah, how beautiful it is to fall to give you flight, to die to give you life!" 

*To live fully as a Mason is to
think Masonically;
To think Masonically is to
wonder about the Craft ;
To wonder about the Craft is to
inquire into its origin,
philosophy, symbolism and
mysteries; and
To inquire into these is, for the
most of us, to read Masonic
Literature.*

The Three Masonic Moods

by MW Danilo D. Angeles

The great philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin tells us of a group of mountain climbers who took off to scale the heights. After some hours of walking, they arrived at a chalet about halfway up, where they refreshed themselves. After refreshments, they split up into three groups.

Those in the first group were sorry that they had undertaken such a strenuous trip, fraught with dangers and disproportionate to the expected enjoyment. Hence, disheartened or tired, as the case may be, they turned back.

Those in the second group were happy that they were there — in the clear mountain air, with the sun tanning them. They, therefore, spread their limbs out on the mountain grass and heartily ate the tasty sandwiches they had brought along. Some broke out into song and breathed in the freedom of the heights. Content and happy where they were, they saw no reason for them to move on higher. So, right there they stayed.

But those in the third group took off for the summit, which they had kept before their eyes from the time they left the valley bottom. That was their goal. They enjoyed tightening every muscle to attain it. They

were, no doubt, the real mountain climbers.

We in the Craft may, likewise, be classified into three different moods. To the first mood belong those who, somehow or other, have become disheartened or tired, or both, and therefore have failed to attend Lodge meetings and to perform other Masonic obligations — and have, eventually, faded away from the Masonic scene. Perhaps these Brethren have found out that they are not really worthy and well-qualified. Perhaps we did not sufficiently prepare them both in mind and in heart, to appreciate the beauties of Masonry.

This is why, dear Lodge officers and members, we have to pay closer attention to the investigative process when petitions are filed in our Lodges, as well as to the method of teaching our candidates and new members. That is why we have to pre-plan every Lodge meeting with the end in view of making each meeting contributory to every active member's growth and development. That is why we have to find effective ways of "injecting" into our active members small doses of the Masonic-education serum — not only during stated meetings but also on special occasions designed for that very purpose. We also have to devise ways and means of attracting our non-attending Brethren back to Lodge, as-

sureing them that we have created within our Lodges a new climate that is responsive to their need for growth, development, and fellowship.

To the first mood certainly belong those Brethren who, by their irregular conduct, seem to have turned their backs on their Masonic obligations. It is the actions of such Brethren that our critics exploit for launching their unfair attacks against our Fraternity — unfair because, decidedly, it is hasty generalization to condemn Masonry just because a few Masons have turned out bad.

In the face of such unfair criticisms, we must come to the defense of the Fraternity we love. We should point out to our critics that the aim and purpose of Masonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good, and make them better — but, certainly, no human agency can make men perfect. We should also point out to our critics that they should judge Masonry by the accomplishments of the greater number of its members, not by the failures of a few Masons.

To the second mood, those who are content and happy where they are, belong the Brethren who are satisfied with attending Lodge meetings and other Masonic functions every now and then, enjoying fellowship socials, but apparently forgetting "what they came here to do," namely, to improve themselves in Masonry and then practice their Masonry outside the Lodge room.

To the second mood, I dare say, also belong the past District and Lodge officers whose enthusiasm for the Craft seems to have burnt out or tapered off after their terms of office. Hence, we jestingly refer to them as "pasmado." They are satisfied with where they

are, apparently oblivious of the fact that the younger Masons look up to them for example — example of continuously serving the Fraternity "with freedom, fervency, and zeal."

To the second mood, too, belong those Brethren who are content with maintaining their good standing by paying their annual dues, apparently forgetting that to be a Mason of good standing means much more than paying one's annual dues.

Who, then, are the Brethren who belong to the third mood?

Are they the Brethren who have read a lot of Masonic educational materials? Partly yes, because when a Mason ceases to be a "student of Masonry," when he decides that he already knows all there is to know about Masonry and there is nothing more to learn that he does not already know, no need to continue traveling in search of the "lost word," then, at that moment, he ceases to be a Mason.

Are they the Brethren who are proficient in our Rituals and who can memorize lines for presenting working tools, lectures, charges, and the like? Partly yes, because the training of memory is a wholesome discipline that requires effort and application, and because their impressive delivery and execution will most likely stimulate our candidates to assimilate and exemplify the lessons already taught before advancing to a higher form and essaying more difficult tasks. That is precisely why we should not take lightly the Grand Lodge requirement for our candidates to pass proficiency examinations.

Are the Brethren who belong to the third mood those who regularly attend Lodge meetings and other Ma-

THE CABLETOW

sonic functions? Partly yes, because they view regular attendance in Lodge meetings as an opportune reminder for them to live honorable lives and to practice out of the Lodge those great moral virtues therein inculcated. They also view attendance and participation in other Masonic functions as an opportunity for strengthening the "chain of sincere affection" which binds together all Masons wheresoever dispersed.

Are they the Brethren who, because of their skills and abilities, are able to provide for themselves and their families? Partly yes, because all Master Masons must earn wages not only to support themselves and their families, but also to aid and assist distressed worthy Brother Master Masons, their widows and orphans.

Are they the Brethren who bring credit to themselves and to the Fraternity because of their accomplishments in their respective professions? Partly yes, because our Fraternity has prided itself of having as members men preeminent for their moral and intellectual achievements, including bigger-than-life figures who dictated the course of human history.

Are they the Brethren who put into practice the Masonic principle of "soothing the unhappy, sympathizing with their misfortunes, compassionating their miseries, and restoring peace to their troubled minds?" Partly yes, because Masons have always fulfilled the ancient charges, namely: "Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, protect the widow, support and educate the orphan, and provide decent sepulchre for the dead." Such Brethren, both individually and collectively, help build up our communities as their modest share to the gradual achievement of the

Masonic ideal of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

In fine, they are all good and true Masons. Since knocking at the door of Masonry, they have not lost sight of their goal — the summit of human perfection, by means whereof they can contribute best to the progress of mankind. They have put their lives into Masonry. They have allowed Masonry to direct their lives. And for that very reason, they have lived good, meaningful, and abundant lives.

They have lived such a life because they have opened the windows of their minds to great thoughts and ennobling ideas derived from diligent Masonic education.

They have lived such a life because they are less interested in getting Masonic titles or offices than in stimulating their minds with Masonic philosophy and cultivating a generous, benevolent spirit.

They have lived such a life because they want to show the world that a Mason's interest is less in knowing who is right than in discerning what is right and defending it with all the resources at his command.

They have lived such a life because they want to convince the world, by their actions, that a Mason has a deep reverence for the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, as a creature of God; that a Mason has a healthy sense of values, a breadth of outlook, and a depth of compassion which a purposeful Masonic education and training generates; that a Mason not only talks about how good Masonry is, but is also prepared and willing to sacrifice much to advance its noble cause; and that a Mason lives a life of relevance to the world we live

in, thereby gaining the respect, admiration, and esteem of people he comes in contact with.

If all Masons in this grand jurisdiction belonged to the third mood; if all of us were determined to give meaning and substance to the theme, "By Our Acts Shall Masonry Be Judged," and the logo that accompanies it; if we consistently show the world, by our actions, that Freemasonry shapes the

life of every one of us into a temple of character, into a fortress of manhood, into a stronghold of justice and related virtues; then we will have something to say to the whole Masonic world, we will have something to say that Philippine Masonry has never yet said.

But, my Brethren, the whole Masonic world is waiting for it to be said — and done! 

(A love poem written by Evangelina Guerrero-Zacarias daughter of the late Bro. Fernando Ma. Guerrero, a member of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16)

*I know that you love me although you tell me not.
I know that you have me captive for always
in the strong nets of your own life,
heavenly censer of a perennial dream.*

*Although you tell me not that without me you don't
live, my longing tells me that everything is true,
that many sad flowers surround your forehead
if troubled you think of an awakening.*

*I ... what must I tell you? I look at you and keep quiet.
You already well understand my deep silences.
The star-made flower of the distant sky
contemplates its shadow on the waters without fears.*

*Let my pain alight on your breast like a tired,
travelling dove.
At the lukewarm shade of the tranquil garden
Let us enjoy the good caress of peace.*

*May the rest (in the garden) be a song, a serenade,
while we recollect in the serene hour
the mature dreams of past times
that fill to the brim our aging souls.*

*Although you tell me not that you think of me
That you keep me totally in your heart,
I'll return to remembrance ... and finding you (there),
Although you tell me not, I'll know that it is love.*

The Emblem of Innocence and the Badge of a Mason

by W. G. Macero and E. Z. Paredes

The one article of clothing, the single solitary piece of regalia, that clearly distinguishes the Freemasons from mere ordinary individuals is the Apron. Symbolically, the lambskin or white linen apron is the greatest gift a Masonic Lodge can bestow on a person, for once invested with it, the Lodge accepts that person as its own. No longer is that person a stranger, but through his admission into the Masonic Lodge, he has become one with Brethren all over the world.

Unfortunately, inspite of the strong admonition that was given to us, we take little care and concern about our aprons. We can trace this to allowing Lodge aprons to be there at the tyler's station for everybody to use. The presence of the "Pile of White" tends to make us complacent and careless. This is because we leave it to the Lodge property custodian, or the tyler, or the secretary to prepare the "Apronng Bayan." The fact that somebody else will take care of the apron for you, makes you lazy. We depend so much on others who make sure we have that "badge" always ready for us to wear, that we fail to see our symbolic duty to keep that emblem clean and untarnished. That is why most Lodge aprons are no better than flimsy napkins with frayed edges, stained and crumpled.

Let us do away with house aprons. Let us compel each and every brother to bring his own personal one. This is the only way we can do justice to that "emblem of innocence and badge of all loyal craftsmen in all the four corners of the globe. Let us learn to care for our own aprons properly!

Let us never disgrace our aprons, for it will never disgrace us! 



The Great Masonic Commandments with Commentaries

by VW Amancio S. Donato, GO

THIRD COMMANDMENT

Thou shalt unceasingly war against vice.

Thou shalt not do unto others that which thou wouldst not wish them to do unto thee.

Thou shalt be submissive to thy fortunes, and keep burning the light of wisdom.

COMMENTARIES

The first aphorism suggests that the greatest struggle that any aspirant for the higher life or the life of the spirit must engage in occurs within his own self. The vices of man in the world assume many forms and have varied intensities, depending upon the level of the individual's development.

To be engaged in some minor or major form of any vice should be, to the true Mason, already a thing of the past. He must, once upon a time, have found such vices to be necessary monitors or teachers to him. But now he must transcend all of them and transmute the energies he would spend in

their indulgence. The weary Pilgrim may find vices as necessary teachers because, perhaps, they are the only motivating factors of his existence. An MM/MRS, however, no longer needs them because, presumably, he has learned their bitter lessons — lessons that are so necessary for the soul's growth.

If wise, the MM/MRS carries not in the grounds where the world's vices abound, nor does he despise their existence. He sees through any vice and knows that it will grow, bear bitter fruit, and then die. He knows, too, that it is the sin he must condemn, never the sinner; for the sinner is still a part of his own self and deserves all the sympathy and understanding for being in such a condition.

The true Mason is mindful that in the ceaseless fight against vice in whatever form, the sin and share of the world is his, as well as anybody else's, sin and shame; hence, he must not shrink away from it.

The first aphorism of the third Masonic commandment is often considered the Battle of Armageddon or, in the Bhagavad Gita, the Battle of Kurukshetra, where there is a relentless fight between the lower and the

THE CABLETOW

higher nature of man, but, in the end, the higher Self must always remain victorious since all the vices conceived by men are mere illusions, transitory and unreal, yet they do teach sensible lessons to young souls whose feet, so to speak, are still buried deep in the mires of the senses.

The second aphorism is the Golden Rule of Masonry. This is quite simple; it is a reiteration of the Golden Rule of the Master Jesus as well as the saying of Confucius of China.

Man is, as was previously quoted, the free agent in nature. He alone must answer for things done or undone while in the body. The Universe is run by immutable laws, and one of these laws is the just law of compensation, of retribution. We in the East call it the immutable law of Karma, which states that for every action there must always be an equal reaction. The Johannine Gospel states it so beautifully: "What a man has sown, that he must also reap!" This law applies in all levels of nature — thoughts, words, deeds. Thus, we say that the MM or the MRS must always think, speak, and act kindly and gently unto all things.

The last aphorism of the third commandment reminds us to bear our human lot or Karma cheerfully and to submit ourselves to our fate without the least resistance or bitterness on our part. It reminds us to perceive beyond that suffering or pain through a deep understanding, reinforced by wisdom, of why such a misfortune has befallen us. Nothing in this manifested world comes our way that we do not deserve. It may have been caused by us in the past through ignorance or foolishness but now we must reap its consequences. There is absolutely no injustice in this universe, and the wise man exactly knows how to accept all

the misfortunes in life with gladness and cheerfulness, without any rancor in his heart, without casting blame upon others.

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Thou shalt honor thy parents.

Thou shalt pay respect and render homage to the aged.

Thou shalt instruct the young.

Thou shalt protect and defend infancy's innocence.

COMMENTARIES

This commandment enjoins us to honor our parents and to resect and pay homage to the aged. This is filial piety. It is a simple way of expressing gratitude to parents and elders. Without their guiding hand in our earlier development, we would have been like derelicts at sea exposed to the elements. And to continue the chain of concern, we are admonished to instruct the young that they may grow and develop properly into manhood under our able and wise guidance and counsel.

The innocence of the infants is likewise ordained particularly to be protected. This is so because children live in natural harmony with the universe and have not yet acquired the limitations and confines of all the rubbish orientations so prevalent in the world, which contaminate them in their later years as adults. The child is sometimes on equal footing with the wise man. He looks at the world without limitations as does the sage. Both are

happy because the child has not yet developed a material sense of values, and the sage has become aware that the material no longer has any value in his world.

It is on this core that we are ordered specially to uphold infancy's innocence and to teach or transmit only those essential teachings appropriate for the spiritual guidance of a struggling human soul on the road to development.

We are reminded, at this point, of the statement of the Master Jesus, namely: "Suffer these little children to come unto Me for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!" And He said further, "Except ye be converted and become as a little child, you can in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven!" (Matt. 18:3 & 4).

This simply means that, like a child, we must all look at the world with awareness of its transitoriness and impermanence and fasten our efforts to those endeavors that must really matter consonant to our higher possibilities as children of the Most High. This, to my mind, is a simple formula of happiness; it may bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth — even now.

FIFTH COMMANDMENT

Thou shalt cherish thy wife and children.

Thou shalt love thy country, and obey its laws.

COMMENTARIES

Marriage is a social institution that the State and the laws of God cherish

and whose welfare, therefore, is our primary concern. Its binding force is based on mutual love and affection.

We are, each one of us, born into a family and at the same time into a country with laws prescribed for social stability and cohesion. Yet the principle of Brotherly Love teaches us "to regard the whole human species as one family—the high, the low, the rich and the poor, who, as created by one Almighty Parent and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect one another." We must, in other words, cultivate brotherliness for all mankind regardless of race, sex, social standing or position, and color. We must demonstrate patriotism but temper it with the spirit of humanist internationalism; for love of country does not mean narrowness and fanatical attitude of isolation from the rest of the world. Rather, we should treat the whole world as our nation since it includes all mankind, whose dreams and aspirations are inextricably interwoven with ours.

SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Thy friend shall be to thee a second self; misfortune shall not estrange thee from him.

Thou shalt do for his memory whatever thou wouldst do for him, if he were living.

COMMENTARIES

We must treat a true friend as our other self, as our alter ego. True, "rainy day" friends do not allow any misfortune that may befall them to strain their good relationship with each other.

The commandment to "do for his memory whatever thou wouldst do for him, if he were living" is related to the first sentence of Commandment 7. Who, then, is our friend? Who is our neighbor? The answer to these questions may well be grounded upon the mechanics of human relationships. We are all involved, one way or another, with each other's activity. The closest of us in terms of our fleeting relationships may or may not be our friend in the real sense of the word; yet, he is a part of us.

Francis Bacon has given us a beautiful rule on treating friends and enemies. "Treat your friend," he enjoined, "as though he were one day to become an enemy, and treat your enemy as though he will one day become a friend." Indeed, the best way to deal with all men is to treat them as our own selves. We must not only go out of our way to aid and assist them personally when alive, but even go beyond; we must remember them after they are gone. As MM's and MR's, we go beyond this. We embrace the widows and orphans of our deceased brethren. Yes, we Freemasons are asked to go a bit more than the scope of commonplace, shifting relationships.

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Thou shalt avoid and flee from insincere friendships.

Thou shalt in everything refrain from excesses.

Thou shalt fear to be a cause of a stain on thy memory.

COMMENTARIES

Flee, we must, from insincere friendship and avoid entanglements from them. The criteria Francis Bacon has given us must always be our guide when confronted with the problem of testing the sincerity of a friend.

Very often, people climb sycamore trees to see us, or friends abound, when we are in positions of power and influence. But when we are down and the chips are against us, the majority of our so-called "friends" are nowhere to be found. But while those "sunny-day" friends suddenly desert us, our true, often called "rainy-day," friends, few as they may be, are there to console us. But still, we must not be discouraged from doing what is good and proper unto all men.

The second aphorism refers to the Masonic virtue of temperance in our indulgences or the maintenance of the golden mean or equilibrium in all our actions. This is the Grecian adage "Medan again" — virtue in the middle—nothing in extremes.

The last aphorism warns us to be always fearful of being the cause of staining even our memory, when we are gone from this world. It urges us to ever bear in mind the following statement of the English bard in Julius Ceasar: "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." It reminds us that the best legacy that a true Mason can leave to his heirs and friends is an unblemished record and spotlessness of character, which is the real mark of a Mason. That is one reason for regular attendance at Lodge. Wearing the white linen apron reminds us to live honorable lives. 

A FEW CHOSEN THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS

by VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM

"Wear your learning like your watch in your private pocket. Do not pull it out merely to show. And above all things, avoid speaking for yourself, if it be possible."

"Meet hatred with hatred and you degrade yourself. Meet hatred with love and you elevate not only yourself but also the one who bears you hatred. If you are ready to treat him as he treats you, then you show clearly that there is in you that which draws the hatred and ill treatment to you. You deserve what you are getting and should not complain, nor would you, if you were wise."

"Faith in moral principles, in virtues and in God, is as necessary guidance for man, as instinct is for the guidance of an animal."

"The basis of order is moral order. If there is no moral order there will be no political or social order. This is how civilizations end as revealed by history."

"We should live within our means and leave the world in a much better state than the one we were born into."

W

ith the above chosen thoughts, we may, among others, resolve that in the bank of life we should keep our accounts in positive balance. Thus, we

are assured that when the rainy days come, we have more than the needed wherewithal to fall back upon. Then, we are free from worry should we reach and enter into the happy stage of sailing gently into the sunset of life.

After casting aside our desire for material satisfaction, how can we leave this world in a better state than when we were born into it? This we can accomplish if AFTER we have done our work, we may, without fanfare and without attracting attention, HELP OTHERS accomplish their work likewise.

We should remember that our life is not only for us to live but ALSO for others to share. We should enrich and open our life so others can draw from it as much.

May I conclude with Albert Pike's wisdom:

"There are two things worth living for: to do what is worthy of being written, and to write what is worthy of being read: but the greater of this is the doing."

But the question is: When shall we make use of the above thoughts? When shall we put into practice, implement, or allow these thoughts to flower and bloom in the garden of life? Next time? Tomorrow? On Christmas?

No, my friend. Next time shall never come. Tomorrow or Christmas might be too late. When then? NOW, MY FRIEND, NOW! TODAY! 

Keys to "BETTER BROTHERHOOD"

(New Zealand, Vol. 23, 4th Issue, 1995)

1. Speak to your Brothers. There is nothing as heart-warming as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile. It takes 72 muscles to frown - only 14 to smile.
3. Call your Brothers by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
4. Be friendly. If you would have friends you must be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be interested in people. You can like everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise - cautious with criticism. Be considerate of the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
8. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. There are three sides to a controversy - yours, the other fellow's and the right one.
9. Be ever ready to serve. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

1996

JULY

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DECEMBER

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29	30	31				

The CABLETOW
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...the brethren's response:



Spreading the Christmas cheer to the distressed.