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The Cable Tow

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES MARCH - APRIL 1995



MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. and Family

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FROM THE GRAND ORIENTAL DESK



* MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr.

Another Masonic year is about to slip away. It seems but weeks ago that you gave me the assignment to lead. I embarked upon the assignment given me with the "Share the Masonic Light" program. Probably to some of you the program was simplistic. But I believe, up to now, that the principal thrusts of that program will remain relevant and therefore worth pursuing even long after I have stepped down from the Grand Oriental Chair.

It is necessary that we persist in searching for more and more Masonic Light through continuing Masonic education and that we renew, if not deepen, our commitment to keeping the flame of Masonic principles ever aglow in our hearts, so that we will contaminate the people we come in contact with. It is also imperative that we improve interrelationships within the Craft and with Appendant Bodies; for it is only by working in close harmony with one another in the widespread Masonic Family that we will convince the world of Masonry's worth as a way of life. It is important that we share the spark of Masonic values and principles with our own families and get them actively involved in Masonic functions, so that they will realize that Masonry strengthens family relationships instead of pulling us away from our families. It is important, too, that we carry the message of Masonry beyond the confines of our Lodges and our homes. We have to raise the level of the general public's awareness and understanding of Freemasonry and Freemasons. This we can do both individually and collectively. In this vein, we must undertake joint benevolent works and civic projects, particularly those that directly address the needs of the local, national and global communities, so that our undertakings will have greater impact on the public.

It is very encouraging to witness individual Masons, as well as Lodges and Districts, enthusiastically carrying out these thrusts of our administrative program of sharing the Masonic Light.

Yet, at this point in time, I am confronted with the realization that nobody is indispensable in our Fraternity. The following lines from the April 1994 issue of *The NSW Freemason*, in effect, applies to me, as well as to any of the officers during my term in the Grand Orient:

> Sometimes when you are feeling important
> Sometimes when your ego is in bloom
> Sometimes when you take it for granted

You are the best qualified in the room
Sometimes when you feel your going
Would leave an unfillable hole
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles the soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water
Put your hand in it up to the wrist
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is the measure of how you'll be missed.
You may splash all you please as you enter
You can stir up the water galore
But stop and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral of this quaint example
Is to do just the best you can.
Be proud of yourself — but remember
There is no indispensable man.

I have tried my best to lead, but I cannot be everything that you might have wanted me to be. There is just not enough time to do everything on my trestleboard.

I am happy and proud to report to you that, to a great extent, we have computerized *The Cabletow*.

In this edition, we are featuring the late PGM Pedro M. Gimenez whose 100th birth anniversary we celebrate on April 29. We also give you again articles designed to facilitate your search for "jewels" hidden in the recesses of the "caverns" of our mystic Order, with the fervent hope that you will share the light of Masonic knowledge and truth among yourselves and with non-Masons. We also give you accounts of several district conventions (including speeches therein) and other activities of Grand Lodge. We also give you features on some Masonic events and personalities at various levels of the Craft, as well as news and flashbacks.

In the next and last edition, I will give you—for your consideration and judgment—a summary of my acts and deeds as your Grand Master. History alone will judge their value to our Grand Lodge.

In any case, the next Annual Communication is fast approaching. It may be the start of something great for Philippine Masonry, or it may be another meeting which puts off needed action for another long year. Your presence and active participation in the Ancom will launch the former possibility into a reality. Remember, we need the thinking of every Lodge as we chart our course for Masonic Year 1995-96. See you, then, at the Ancom here in Manila.

Meanwhile . . .

Continue helping us spread the cement of enthusiasm for sharing the light of Masonic teachings and principles throughout our Grand Jurisdiction.

God bless and love you and your families.

EDITORIAL

RECORDING FOR POSTERITY

For the first time in the history of *The Cabletow* we print the pictures of the Grand Line Officers, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs, WMs, SWs, JWs, Secretaries, Auditors, so that in the future this edition will serve as a historical document, a historical record, a prima-facie evidence that during the Masonic year 1994-1995, under the administration of Most Worshipful Pablo C. Ko, Jr., such brethren served their brethren and this wonderful Fraternity, with the main purpose of making Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction grow and glow, working as a great team of players with the single aim of SHARING THE MASONIC LIGHT among themselves and with non-Masons.

Gathering some 600 pictures was not without difficulties. As usual, we had a lot of promises from the brethren. If we do not have pictures of some brethren concerned, we surmise that either they were too busy to honor us with their pictures or they simply forgot their promises. Nonetheless, we are happy that the majority responded early enough to make the deadline set for the publication of this issue.

This Masonic year was a fructiferous one in that some of our brethren went out of their ways not only to fulfill their tasks but also to respond to the Grand Master's program.

Through the kindness of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, I was privileged and honored to see the action in the different District/Multi-District Conventions all over the country. We tried to record the highlights and sidelights of the conventions if only to make the brethren feel the pulse of what other Districts did. This is another "first" in **The Cabletow**. It is hoped that future generations will peruse the records of the efforts of our Fraternity as reported in the different issues of this, our newsmagazine.

And now, believing that this year was a meaningful one, we bid goodbye. . .perhaps for the nth time. It remains for us, the members of the editorial staff, to thank our Grand Master for having allowed us to travel with him if only to get the feel of the doings of the different Districts.

Traveling with the Grand Master was not without constraints. A number of those who traveled with him had to leave their work to attend Discons. Truth to tell, no one is complaining. We joined the Grand Master's entourage on our own free will and accord. We joyfully fellowshipped with the brethren in the provinces as well as in the metropolitan areas, exchanging thoughts, swapping ideas, imbibing one another's wisdom. This healthy exchange has, we believe, resulted in the improvement of both visitees and visitants, in the sharing of one's own self. The reaching out of the brethren was invariably warm and cordial and, indeed, very Masonic!

We in *The Cabletow* are proud to say that, to a great extent, we have updated the addresses of our subscriber-brethren. We look forward that we will be able to solve the infirmities of our ever-changing system, if only to expedite production.

To the next editorial staff our prayers that they be blessed in their endeavor.

SAYONARA. . . ADIOS! —SPF

OUR GRAND MASTER IN 1963: HONEST, DEDICATED GOVERNMENT AUDITOR



Our Grand Master in 1963 was born on April 29, 1895. This year, then, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth. Hence, this adapted version of his biography in Kinship to Greatness, the book MW Rody C. Herrera published during his term in the Grand East (1983) as a tribute to our Past Grand Masters.

Our Grand Master in 1963, the youngest of seven children, was only three years old when his father dropped the working tools of life. Hence, his mother and eldest sister had to undergo daily sacrifices, working their fingers to the bone just to keep the family together — and alive! The boy saw his mother and sister's resolve to achieve that purpose, no matter how heavy the task was, no matter how rough and rugged the road might be. The two women, in effect, were "men" scraping for the family's survival. So, the sensitive, observant boy must have decided, "I must proceed to my allocated task of acquiring an education so as to be able to help my mother and sister make both ends meet."

When he was four years old, he learned the rudiments of reading and writing from an uncle. When he was seven, his mother somehow managed to send him to a local school.

When he was 12, an aunt invited him to stay with them in Cavite, where her husband, George S. Gardner, a Mason, worked. That invitation must have made the young boy see a glimmer of hope — hope for a better life.

Childless, the Gardners took him as their son. When they transferred to Manila in 1911, their young protege enrolled at the Manila High School, the only public high school in the City at that time.

When he was a high school junior, he took and passed the second-grade civil service examination. His first government job was that of a clerk in the Bureau of Post; as such, he was receiving the measly amount of forty pesos a month.

Two years later, he had to resign from his clerical job so as to enroll in the College of Liberal Arts of the University of the Philippines. Later he took and passed the first-grade examination. This led to his employment as computer-indexer in the Bureau of Audits (now Commission on Audit).

Most probably because of the example set by Bro. George S. Gardner, he was attracted to the Masonic Light. He knocked at the door of Pintong Bato Lodge No. 51 in 1918.

Meanwhile, he took up Law in the evening and graduated in 1926. But he held on to his job in the Bureau of Audits. Industrious, honest, and reliable, he rose in that Bureau.

At the same time he was a dedicated, committed member of Pintong Bato Lodge No. 51, the officers of which taught him to "tread round after round of the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle." In 1938, he became the Master of the Lodge.

In his daily work, Masonry was to him thoroughness and dependability. In the lodge room, Speculative Masonry was to him information and inspiration. In the home, Masonry was to him kindness and fidelity. In social contacts, Masonry was to him moderation and self-control.

In 1949, he was elevated to the position of Deputy Auditor General. Seeing him to be a rare gem in government service, Pres. Ramon Magsaysay appointed him in 1957 as Auditor General — a position which served as his government career's crowning glory.

But he did not allow his high government position to dampen his enthusiasm for the Craft. In fact, in 1958 he became a Scottish Rite Mason, Philippine Bodies, and a Shriner. The following year he was appointed Grand Orator. In 1960 he was elected Junior Grand Warden, in 1961 Senior Grand Warden, in 1962 Deputy Grand Master, and in 1963 Grand Master.

In his inaugural address, he said in part: "...No matter how heavy the task is, no matter how rough and rugged the road may be, no Mason refuses to do his duty. No one amongst us should falter to proceed to his allocated task if that would mean for the best interest, the welfare and survival of the noble mission of our ancient and honorable fraternity."

True to that pronouncement, MW PEDRO G. GIMENEZ did his duty as our Grand Master "for the best interest, the welfare and survival of the noble mission of our ancient and honorable fraternity."

In word and in deed, our Grand Master in 1963 showed his true worth as an outstanding Mason and as a truly honest, dedicated government official, committed to the service of his fellowmen.

On April 29, this year we celebrate the first centennial anniversary of MW Pedro M. Gimenez. The best tribute we can give to our late Past Grand Master is to strive after excellent levels of performance both as Masons and as professionals — eF.R.eN (based on our late PGM's biography, Kinship to Greatness, pp. 214-215)

COUNTERPOINT



* VW Samuel P. Fernandez

...desirous of our Grand Lodge's welfare, which is also ours, in seeking the best "cure" I shall do what was done in ages past: expose on the steps of the temple the proposals of the brethren, invoking the "god," hoping that the following wisdom will have a remedy.

Dr. Jose Rizal spelled out his purpose for writing his social magnum opus *Noli Me Tangere* thus: "In the catalogue of human ills there is to be found a cancer so malignant that the least touch inflames it and causes agonizing pains; afflicted with such a cancer, a social cancer, as if dear image appeared to me, when for my own heart's ease or to compare you with others, I have sought, in the centres of modern civilization, to call you to mind.

"Now, desirous of your welfare, which is also ours, and seeking the best cure of your ills, I shall do with you what was done in ages past with the sick, who were exposed on the steps of the temple so that the worshipers, having invoked in god, should each propose a remedy.

"To this end, I shall endeavor to show your condition, faithfully and ruthlessly. I shall lift a corner of the veil which shrouds the disease, sacrificing to the truth everything, even defects and weaknesses are also mine."

In many of my travels with the Grand Master a number of brethren have candidly proposed ways to improve our direction. My gut feeling is that since I am the Editor-In-Chief they are trying to air these suggestions as their own way of letting me reflect on issues which perhaps will not be discussed in DisCons. So, like Rizal, desirous of our Grand Lodge's welfare, which is also ours, in seeking the best "cure" I shall do what was done in ages past: expose on the steps of the temple the proposals of the brethren, invoking the "god," hoping that the following wisdom will have a remedy.

Body of Literature

Certainly there is a dearth of reading materials for brethren to peruse, to study or to reflect on. This Masonic year the editorial staff of *The Cabletow* have endeavored to record the highlights and sidelights of the various multi-district conventions. While we have recorded the excitement of the present and the labors of our brethren there are other areas which easily can be the project of many lodges like the history of the Blue Lodge and the biographies of our elders and/or Masons who have contributed

much to our fraternity. I've had conversations with talented brethren who could tackle some vital issues, many of them belonging to the academe and sporting doctoral degrees. Issues like "The Retraction of Rizal," "Masonry and the Church," "Brethren Who Have Involved Themselves in Government," "Masons Who Are World Class In Terms Of Involvement In The Arts" are waiting to be written. Unfortunately, though, this part of our endeavor has not been given attention by Blue Lodges. For what reason? It is an expensive project. Most of the programmed activities of Lodges are directed to civic concerns. Blue Lodge Masonic newsletters are but a few compared to the number of existing lodges in our jurisdictions.

It is hoped that the leaders of Blue Lodges realize the value of written literature. It is hoped that Grand Lodge produce a body of literature of Masonic Education and the Blue Lodges write on subject matters which they can easily accomplish.

District vs. Multi-District Conventions

There are salient features which Multi-District Conventions can attain but District Conventions cannot. Meeting other brethren from other districts can avoid inbreeding. One can learn from other Districts precious lessons which can be applied in a particular District. Unfortunately, though, some Districts do not give much premium to Multi District Conventions, thus missing out in solving their endemic problems. In many of the Multi-District Conventions I have attended, Blue Lodge as well as district resolutions are not given importance. It is distressing that some Multi-District Convention resolutions are peripheral and lack depth.

It is suggested that before Multi-District Conventions the leaders meet and seriously grapple with issues that will call the attention of the Grand Lodge. Edicts are issued because Blue Lodge/DisCons have not done their homework.

AnCom

Now that we have the Grand Lodge, we should consider that this temple primarily was constructed for our annual communications. Some brethren suggest that Regional Conventions be encouraged but AnCom should be handled by the Grand Lodge. Two valid reasons have been forwarded by observers:

1. AnCom is a Grand Lodge affair; ergo, it should be a Grand Lodge activity, not a District or a Lodge endeavor.
2. AnCom is an income-generating activity.

For those who have attended AnCom since the time it was held in different venues, at least two incidents gave the leadership of the Grand Lodge migraine after liquidating all expenses. The Grand Lodge had to contend with the organizers who could not remit the supposed monies they owe the Grand Lodge.

Whether these suggestions of the brethren are valid or not, this situation should be carefully studied.

Right of Suffrage

The issue of letting the Past Masters vote or not is still a raging controversy. To some brethren, the present system of giving Blue Lodges equal number of votes is an ideal situation - Past Masters under our system are supposed to be members of the Grand Lodge and, as such, they are entitled to vote. True, the PMs are represented by the

immediate Past Masters but some brethren argue that if the PGMs are given the honor to exercise their suffrage, why not the PMs? Some of the brethren invoke the landmark. Again, others contend that if we invoke the landmark, then by all means only the three Elected Lights are qualified. I remember Most Worshipful Rody Herrera's wise observation that edicts and laws perceptions should be wrestled with during the AnCom. The whole year round the Grand Master is a powerful leader who can issue edicts which the AnCom can either approve or reject.

If there be any agitation for change, then such change should be done during the AnCom.

PGMS' Nominations

One sensitive area of concern is the PGMs' nominations. Some contend that just as the Cardinals are all potential Popes let the brethren attend the AnCom and all of them attend as potential Grand Masters. To this group of brethren they argue latitude of choice. PGMs, after their term, except for a few, do not travel to feel the pulse of the vision of the Blue Lodges in our archipelagic country. Limiting our choice to the five suggested names is not democratic enough. Others even suggest that to make the PGMs' nominations full-proof the nominations should be done a day before election. According to them, long before the nominees would have been announced the rest of the brethren already know the PGMs' nominees.

Again, if the present system needs change, this issue should be brought up in the AnCom.

Cabletow

In the Grand Lodge there are positions that should not be co-terminous with the Grand Master. Some brethren opine that if the Editor-In-Chief cannot deliver, then let the Grand Master and the PGMs decide that he be changed for the better.

As an Editor-In-Chief who has served several GMs I believe there should be a sense of continuity in managing *The Cabletow*. *The Cabletow* should be spared from political undertones.

The Cabletow publication, since it was aborted as a corporation, is an entity that projects the image of the Grand Lodge.

We have a number of writers. That is a fact. But, getting the feel of the Craft is another matter. I would even go further that the Editor-In-Chief should be elected. Let the brethren decide if the individual holding the position is worthy and well qualified. And, has reached a level of Masonic Maturity.

The Cabletow is sent to 145 Grand Lodges all over the world. This, indeed, is a heavy Masonic responsibility. In many Blue Lodges it is a source of information and education.

Blue Lodge Secretaries/Treasurers

Some brethren suggest that Blue Lodge secretaries and treasurers be Past Masters. They reasoned: Why?

1. The positions should be given to the Blue Lodge pillars who understand the endemic problems of elders of the Lodge.
2. Come AnCom, non-Past Masters decidedly will be hard put to participate in the Grand Lodge deliberations.

I can only say amen to the above observations.

Once more with feelings, I do appreciate the openness of the brethren. But, here's praying we offer remedy to our perceived directions and problems.

So mote it be.

MASONIC HARVEST

* Flor R. Nicolas

ATTRACTING MORE MASONS OR MAKING MASONRY MORE ATTRACTIVE TO MASONS?

The Craft, worldwide, has been divided on this issue. On the one side, many Masonic leaders advocate aggressive movement to attract more Masons, pointing out that the practice of "non-solicitation" and the failure to engage in "selective recruitment" are at the root of waning Masonic membership.

The Friend to Friend Membership Development Program (FFMDP) initiated by the R.W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania is a case in point. That Grand Lodge, indeed, has shared the FFMDP with 20 Grand Lodges in the USA. It sponsored a seminar in historic Philadelphia during the week of the D-Day Anniversary last year. At the start of the seminar, R.W. Grand Master George H. Hohenshildt told the delegates, "This Fraternity has to let good people know who the Masons are, what Masons do, and what it means to be a Mason. Friend to Friend is a program of education."

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has sent copies of the 16-page tabloid Freemasonry in Pennsylvania ... and Around the World to the majority of the homes in that State, as well as copies of the Friend to Friend brochure and copies of a letter to Pennsylvania Masons. Besides, the FFMDP was described in detail in The Pennsylvania Freemason. The FFMDP was designed to help members know how to stand up and tell worthy friends about the Fraternity (without solicitation) and let them recognize that no one is asked to join, but it must be their own desire to do so.

Each Lodge in Pennsylavania has a 12-member Task Force to carry out the educational message to non-Masons. This task force, in effect, serves as an "offensive front line."

Said WB Dean E. Vaughn, PM, the framer of the program: "Friend to Friend is based on the premise that every Freemason knows a number of non-Masonic friends who are as qualified (as we are) to be members of the Craft. We have to provide our Brethren with the tools to educate their friends about our Fraternity."

Now, as was reported by the R.W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania, throughout the USA Lodges, especially those in Pennsylvania, are experiencing a minor flood of petitions for membership. American Masons are at present aware of a renewed enthusiasm, renewed

dedication, renewed commitment to preserve and enhance our great Fraternity.

Shall we adopt a similar program to make the public realize that Freemasonry is, indeed, a worthy way of life?

What, really, is the dire need of the Craft in our Grand Jurisdiction? Is it attracting more Masons? Is it true that the practice of "non-solicitation" and the failure to engage in "selective recruitment" are at the root of declining Masonic membership?

Let's listen to what Bro. W. E. Gutman of King Hiram Lodge No. 12, Shelton, CT, has to say about this issue or concern. In his article, "The Amazing Well-Worn Alibi!" (published in the summer 1994 edition of Trowel, official publication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts), he wrote, "The causes for such erosion, while serious, are in my opinion subtler and far more insidious, and may require an earnest reappraisal of our collective rationale, our practices and our very reason for being."

That is what some fellow Filipino Masons, particularly VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM, have been stressing. VW Hernandez has proposed the adoption of a moratorium in admitting new members into the Craft. States the PDDGM: "During that period, we will clean, strengthen, and put in order our respective Lodges. That is to say, we will correct wrong practices or irregularities committed by the so-called hoodlums in aprons, spoon-and-fork Masons, San Miguel Masons, the wannabees, and other undesirables among us. We should have denied those undesirables admission into the Craft. But we did not. Now, as our Grand Master puts it, we have to reform them while dwelling in our midst." To the objection that Freemasonry would die if we stop admitting new members for a specified period, the PDDGM retorts, "On the contrary, we will find our strength reinvigorated."

According to him, during the moratorium period, we will implement an extensive and intensive Masonic education program. The Grand Lodge shall establish, direct, and supervise a Masonic school for the training, education and refinement of Master Masons who desire improvement in Masonry.

"Hopefully," VW Hernandez comments, "with the help of the Masonic school, our Masonic values and principles will not remain skin-deep and will penetrate and sink into our being and shape our way of life."

He proposes that, during the moratorium period, the Grand Lodge, through the GLIs, will act on petitions for Masonic degrees. After all, he says, a petitioner does not join any particular Lodge. He joins the Fraternity. Hence, the Fraternity should take interest in the petitioner's motivation and qualifications.

He proposes further that, during the moratorium period, the totality of the annual dues of Lodge members should be able to meet and sustain the Lodge's obligations for the year. In this way, he says, we can refuse a moneyed oligarch whose only qualification is the financial resuscitation he may inject into the Lodge.

During the period of moratorium, too, no new Lodges will be created — unless it is extremely necessary, and weak Lodges beyond rehabilitation should be merged.

VW Hernandez agrees with Bro. Gutman that instead of attracting more members, we must make Masonry attractive to the current active membership by enhancing Masonic life, by turning Masonic proceedings into meaningful, stimulating, relevant experiences in Lodge. He asks, "Why is attendance in Lodge poor? Is it not because many of our Lodges, other than dedicated to producing other Masons, are afflicted with chronic inertia and succumbing to ritualized boredom? Is it not because after having been initiated, Entered Apprentices,

Fellowcrafts and Master Masons are often suspended in a vacuum? Have not many of these brethren pointed out that in addition to paying their dues, they shell out hard-earned money as share in expenses for fellowships and as contributions for this and that project, and that they do not get what they most desired: LIGHT?"

We tend to agree with that point of view; for apparently, what we find most enjoyable is the fellowship, sometimes jestingly referred to as "pilyoship." This is ironic because we insist that we are not a mere social, civic or fraternal club, but rather, a worldwide fraternity with "nobler," "more glorious" aims. The problem is, the leadership in many a Blue Lodge has not adequately stimulated every candidate to persistently pursue those noble and glorious aims of Freemasonry or to make Masonic values, principles and precepts a part of his philosophy of life.

Let us, then, take these frank, sincere statements of Bro. Gutman to heart:

> "There is a higher purpose, a loftier calling, a grander scheme to Freemasonry than a couple of monthly meetings, a slate of swiftly adjourned Stated Communications, a belabored and half-hearted degree conferral or two. What I see is a challenge. A mystical journey. Teachers able and ready to guide the neophytes along spheres of higher learning. Student eager to apprehend and appreciate the history, lore and mysteries of our Order. Together, a body of men willing ... to vie for new heights of human intellect instead of basking in the brilliancy of yesterday's Masonic constellation: George Washington, Ben Franklin, Lafayette, Mozart, Goethe, Kipling, the Roosevelts, Truman, Ford. . . . We idolize these men as though notoriety or wisdom, or creative genius were 'Masonically' transferable. It is not. If a child should not bear the burden of his ancestors' misdeeds, nor should a child revel in his forefathers' fame. He must seek his own paths of glory."

Today, parents in most countries are advised by population control experts to control the sizes of their families, so that they will be able to love, protect, and educate every one of their children. Masonic officers at all levels should, therefore, first satisfy the needs and aspirations of our Fraternity's present constituency before attracting more members into the Craft. True, a sustainable, thriving membership is a desideratum; it is, however, the culmination of, not the basis for, a healthy Masonic family. Hence, before getting more adherents into the Craft, we should first clean up our Lodges — from the inside — and "let the faithful breast, the attentive ear and the instructive tongue be the measure of our hospitality."

No, we cannot make Philippine Masonry stronger, more vigorous, more vibrant by having a bigger membership. An old adage reads, "A chain is as strong as its weakest link." The strength of our Craft should, therefore, be equated with quality, not quantity.

A critical middle ground between attracting more Masons and not accepting new Masons during a specified time is the position taken by the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. That Grand Lodge seriously tried to address the problems facing the Craft, particularly the drop in Masonic membership. It commissioned a market research, so that they would stop guessing and understand what members and the

public thought about Masonry and Masons. At the same time it called together a representative cross section of the Craft and took a cold hard look at themselves. Grand Lodge officers listened to the comments, took on board the research results, and planned a way to solve their difficulties. They came out with a Strategic Plan for Freemasonry. Then they sent a team of presenters to every district in New Zealand and, with a slide presentation, shared with the brethren their market research information, their statistics, their plans for the future, and their Mission Statement.

As a support for this, the Grand Lodge of New Zealand sent every one of its members a copy of the Strategic Plan. It circulated to all Worshipful Masters copies of the Lodge Renewal Handbook. Moreover, it set up local District Advisory Committees (DACs) to help Lodges grapple with necessary change. It stimulated the whole Craft to buy into their common Vision, or the mutually agreed destination for the Craft in that grand jurisdiction, and to work together in close harmony toward realizing that Vision.

According to M.W. Bro. Ken Norton, Grand Master, their Vision is, in a way, aimed at every member's heart, head and hand. Stated MW Norton:

> "Our heart tells us our heritage is our unique niche and it sets us apart from most other competing organizations. It also tells us that fellowship with like-minded men regardless of creed, race or religion is important. Men of sound morals might be hard to define, but easily understood with the 'mirror test'. Simply stand in front of a mirror and decide if your own ethical standards are high. Inside yourself you will know the answer. Finally, benevolence, the wish to help the less fortunate, is fundamental to a Freemason's beliefs. These values are our competitive advantage.
>
> "Common sense (the head) tells us we must stop the rot, the membership loss at 15,000 men by the year 2000 and then start growing.
>
> "The hand describes how to achieve the vision. First we must overcome the tendency to focus on internal goals and politics at the members' expense, and instead refocus on members' needs. Empower members to take responsibility to see that their own lodge meets members' needs and is relevant to today, by changing the environment of their lodge.
>
> "When we have improved the lodge environment, then we retain the existing members because we better serve their needs. We can regain those we lost because we previously did not fulfill their requirements. Finally, we renew with new younger members, secure in the knowledge that they will stay because the new lodge climate appeals to today's world, even with yesterday's unique heritage."

In any case, how to attain quality membership and how to make Philippine Masonry a "quality product" for its current active membership should be the focus of the coming Ancom, not the election of a new Junior Grand Warden, much less the socials lined up by the organizers thereof.

MEMOIRS OF THE GRAND MASTER'S VISITATION OF DISTRICT NO. 14 (ILOILO)

eF.R.eN

Masonic District 14 and 27 held their joint convention in Iloilo City, November 18-19, 1994.

Day One

Friday, November 18, was "unlucky" for the Grand Master and his party because the aircraft we were in had to return to Manila due to pressurization problems. As a result, we had to wait practically the whole morning at the Manila Domestic Airport.

Informed of the delay, our Iloilo brethren decided to make most of the morning by visiting several nonagenarian Masons.

Finally, we took off for Iloilo in another airplane, this time with Bro. Tito Garcia as pilot. Through VW Sammy Fernandez, Bro. Tito requested the GM to scribble a message for his Lodge, which was to celebrate its anniversary later in the evening. He would read the GM's message to the brethren of the Lodge. The GM, of course, acceded to his request.

Despite their long wait, our Ilongo brethren, led by VW Leon B. Gellada, Jr., DDGM-14, gave us a warm welcome.

We had some picture-taking at the airport and nearby before we were driven by VW Manuel de Asis, PDDGM and District Secretary, to Amigo Hotel, where we later took a late lunch with several of the hosts.

At the historical Masonic Temple on Plaza Libertad, Iloilo City, we were met by fund-raising DeMolays and Jobbies. Inside the office of host Lodge Acacia No. 11, delegates were registering. While the GM exchanged pleasantries with convention officers and delegates, we went to the veranda to view the equally historic plaza below.



VW Sammy F. was caught by amateur lensman Dennis Gabionza telling a joke, which RW Danny Angeles, VW Ber Saplaco, Jr. and eF.R.eN seemed to enjoy.

The GM and his party later met with the WMs, Wardens, GLIs, Treasurers and Secretaries who were around in the Powell Hall on the third floor of the Masonic Temple.



DDGM Gellada's family and other ladies who graced the fellowship

After the meeting the hosts treated us to the famous La Paz batchoy at a restaurant somewhere in the city.

Later in the evening, VW Manny de Asis and his charming wife (a relative of VW Ber's better half) took us to Arevalo Villa Beach Resort for a fellowship with the brethren and their ladies. We certainly relished the food — assorted seafoods and the "aphrodisiacs": bayawak and umboc.

The De Asises took us to Sarabia Manor Hotel to join the DDGM, together with other brethren and their ladies. We enjoyed ballroom dancing with our Sisters, who even taught us how to "swing."

To cap the night, the De Asises treated us to arroz caldo.

The day sputtered with an agonizing start but, due to Ilongo hospitality, it came to be fraught with memorable activities.

Day Two

At 7:30 a.m. we offered flowers at the Rizal monument at the center of the plaza between the Masonic Temple and the San Jose Cathedral. The monument, mind you, was constructed in 1907.



The smiles show satisfaction with the "specialty of the house."



Grand Lodge and District Officers and several convention delegates, including my buddy, WB Leo Espinosa, PM, before the historic monument.

The convention proper, which focused on Masonry: Its Relevance with the Times, as usual, started with the reception of dignitaries by DDGM Leon "Tall Boy" Gellada, Jr. WB Teotimo B. Arandela, PM, gave the invocation, and VW Manny de Asis called the role of delegates by Lodge.

There were only a few delegates from M.D. No. 27. They were led by VW Antonio U. Chua, DGL, and VW Frank DeMonteverde, who informed us that their district would have its own convention, anyway.



VWBs Ber Saplaco and Sammy Fernandez with Tigbauan Lodge brethren

In any case, the DDGM of M.D. No. 14 welcomed the delegates and the few female visitors.



Grand Lodge Officers received into convention hall.

Introduced by WB Severino C. Aguilar, PM, the guest speaker, Iloilo Governor and former Education Undersecretary Arthur G. Defensor, said in part:

> "I have had a few regrets in my life. I hope your brotherhood will not be one of them, for I was not given a second chance to join your Fraternity. ... You Freemasons have qualities that make you stand out. You possess values which others may not have, such as humility, as was illustrated by Pres. Harry Truman's relationship with his gardener, who was his superior in the Lodge... "

He then expressed admiration for the Craft's continuing pursuit of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God, as well as optimism that Masonry would relate itself to the felt needs of a fast developing society.

"Let's relate our lives, not for ourselves, but for the Fraternity, for the love of mankind, and for the love of God," the Iloilo Governor stressed. He also suggested that the GM's theme, "Share the Masonic Light," is very relevant because adhering to and upholding Masonic principles, radiating Masonic brotherhood to the outside world, loving and sharing, helping the distressed, sacrificing for the Brotherhood of Man, pursuing charity, helping improve the quality of human life, being catalysts for change, being instruments of peace and justice — all this is the key to enduring peace.

The former Education Undersecretary concluded thus: "I hope I will be given another chance to join you, but I don't know if your rules allow it."

Standing ovation!



Grand Lodge/District Officers with the Iloilo Governor, a Mason-to-be?

VW Gellada reported that he had visited the Lodges in the District, except those in Aklan, Tigbauan, and Antique; that the brethren planted trees at the Philippine Science High School in Jaro; and that Quintin Salas 231 undertook civic projects also in Jaro.

VW Bros. Antonio Chua and Frank DeMonteverde reported that the District (27) Council meets every 2nd Saturday; that the brethren had undertaken several reach-out projects, such as cataract operation, including donation of intra-ocular lenses to six patients; that they had contributed to ecological improvement by establishing a Masonic Tree Park at Sagay and by planting trees at the seven-hectare R. Benedicto estate; that in December the Lodges would have a joint Christmas party and a joint Masonic family outing; and that the children of Masons would engage in bowling competitions.

VW Ernie Malapaya being still abroad on official business, RW Danny Angeles conducted Masonic Education. He focused on reception of dignitaries, the three-squared motion, reception of the flag, wearing and symbolism of the apron, symbolism of the three Lights of the Lodge (why equilateral triangle?).



Lunch was at the Summer House, Iloilo City.

The convention delegates unanimously approved the resolution that the election of Lodge Officers be moved back to December, instead of February, to enable the DDGM to attend all installations of officers.

The Iloilo brethren agreed to an additional allotment of P40 for the support of the DeMolay Chapter and Job's Daughters Bethel.

Since M.D. No. 27 wants a separate District Convention, so mote it be. M.D. No. 14 will also have its own. This resolution was tabled.

The nominations for DDGMs followed.

VW Tommy O. Que, PGGDM, and WBs Selmo Q. Bernas, Vicente E. Villareal, and Pablo Chu were nominated for the position of DDGM of M.D. No. 13.

The GM urged the brethren to continue spreading the light of Masonic tenets and principles throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. Quoting **SA MASONIC NEWS** of April 1993, he stressed:

"If you become a Mason, you put into Masonry more than money, more than anything you have or possess. . . . You put your life into it. Unless you can let Masonry direct your life, you have no investment, and you get little or nothing from Masonry. . . . You may have wealth and put your money into paying propositions, but you can make no investment that will pay you greater dividends than Masonry will, if you make Masonic effort to build character."

Hence, the necessity of recommitting ourselves to practicing Masonic principles and sharing them with our families, with our friends, with the general public.

VW Edgardo R. Elechicon, PDDGM and JGL for W. Visayas, ably emceed the convention proper.

The subsequent fellowship at the Masion House Restaurant was, to say the least, fun galore. It was emceed by WB Edgardo R. Catilo, WM, Acacia 11, who momentarily set aside his Judgeship to make the evening enjoyable. Once he began singing, it was hard to stop him. When he cracked jokes, he was, like Bob Hope, poker-faced.



The Lodge Treasurer seemed to pray, "Lord, enlighten our think tank to come out with laudable projects along the simple guidelines set forth by our Grand Master."

Other "oldies but goodies" who sang included VW Elechicon, VW Gellada, VW Pastor Torres, Jr., WB Vicente Villareal, and VW Jose Jesus Decolongon, Jr., JGL-14 and incumbent Dumangas Mayor.

Other brethren sang, too, several of whom could not complete their songs, but they dared sing for camaraderie's sake. Still others told jokes.

VW Aurelio Lopez, Jr., PDDGM, recited Shakespeare's sonnet

"When In Disgrace...," which he could not finish, either. To save grace, he called on fellow Nobles to help him sing some Shrine songs.

Bro./Gen. Benilla gave a short talk. He did not, he said, relish having been raised at Baguio Lodge in 1981 by a Nueva Ecija team, but now that a Nueva Ecijano is about to ascend to the Grand Oriental Chair, the "third degree" he received from Nueva Ecija has become a source of pride to him.

VW Sammy Fernandez, likewise, displayed his singing prowess in addition to introducing the GM's party.

The DeMolays and the Jobbies contributed several modern melodies to change the pace of the evening.

WB Emilio L. Young, to prove he is an avid supporter of the young, initiated a fund-raising for the Jobbies.

Several District 27 brethren, led by VW Frank DeMonteverde and WB Rodel Jacinto, belted out some songs.

Among the awardees for the night were: WBs Cesar Regalado and Emil Young — first to register; WB Cornelio Regalado — oldest registered delegate; Bro. Romy Mascoso of Datu Bago in Davao City — Brother from farthest Lodge; Makawili 55 in Roxas City — Lodge with largest delegation; Negrense 200 — Lodge with three Lights and Secretary.

Not to be outdone, the Grand Master told a joke and sang a couple of melodies.

More songs, more jokes, dances. Then we called it a night.

Day Three

Early morning, Nov. 20, the Junior Grand Lecturer for W. Visayas, the District Secretary, the DDGM, and several other brethren brought us to the airport, where we breakfasted together.

We enjoyed the airplane ride, particularly VW Dennis Gabionza, who proved he could carry on a conversation with a pulchritude throughout the flight from Iloilo to Manila.



the GM and Bro./Gen. Benilla in seemingly serious tete-a-tete before dinner

3101 c.3 p



GM seems to be thinking, "Sammy can better sing when inspired."

The brethren and guest enjoying the fellowship.





The GM is happy to award a trophy to a Brother from Davao City.



GM tells an amusing story to the delight of his audience.

PGM MATEO PARADES PHILIPPINE FLAG BEFORE 7,000 DELEGATES

MW Agustin V. Mateo and his wife, Sister Lolita, Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron of Sampaguita Chapter No. 3, respectively, together with some 58 delegates representing 30 OES Chapters all over the Philippines attended the 41st Triennial Assembly of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

Shown in the picture below is MW Mateo proudly parading the Philippine Flag before 7,000 delegates from all over the United States of America and 16 other countries.



MASONIC DISTRICTS 17, 31, 35 HOLD CONVENTION IN BUKIDNON

* VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, SGL

Day One

On November 25, 1995, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., MW Raymundo N. Beltran, MW John L. Choa, VW William Rañaga, VW Samuel P. Fernandez, and this writer took the 0530 hours PAL flight to Cagayan de Oro City, where we were welcomed by banner-bearing District 17 brethren, headed by VW Jimmy Ting, DDGM.

After taking a brief breakfast at the Philtown Hotel, we proceeded to the Central Mindanao University (CMU) in Musuan, Valencia, Bukidnon, some 125 kilometers southeast, arriving there at 1100 hours.

We met the District 35 brethren, headed by their DDGM, VW Feliciano O. Delfin, Sr. Then we lunched at My Place, owned and operated by WB Medino A. Yebron, WM of host Zosimo Montemayor Lodge No. 212.

The following served as officers during the cornerstone-laying of the host Lodge: MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. — **Grand Master**; MW John L. Choa, PGM — **Deputy Grand Master**; VW Feliciano O. Delfin, Sr. — **Senior Grand Warden**; VW Jimmy Ting — **Junior Grand Warden**; VW William Rañaga, GBB, — **Grand Treasurer**; MW Ray N. Beltran, PGM, GS — **Grand Secretary**; VW Sammy P. Fernandez, GP — **Grand Chaplain**; this writer — **Grand Marshal**; VW Andres Alfredo S. Mendoza, JGL — **Grand Lecturer**; WB Crisologo Ocaya — **Grand Standard Bearer**; VW Jose Rapanan — **Grand Sword Bearer**; VW Credo Rubio, DGL — **Grand Bible Bearer**; WB Ireneo Mendoza — **Senior Grand Deacon**; WB Leo N. Balase — **Junior Grand Deacon**; WB Juan Calleja — **Senior Grand Steward**; WB Herminio Paba — **Junior Grand Steward**; WB Alfredo — **PM Bearing Book of Const.**; VW Amado Montemayor — **Escort of the Day**; and VW Pedro Guasa — **Grand Tyler**.

After a brief respite, we had dinner. WB Rizalino Gregorio, VP-Administration of CMU, and VW Credo Rubio, MD 35 DGL and PNP Provincial Director of Bukidnon, gave their welcome addresses. Then we were entertained with songs and cultural tribal dances. As part of one such tribal dance number, "Bidlisiw," presented by the CMU Cultural Troupe, one of the girl dancers serenaded and caused the Grand Master to dance with her. A choir song, entitled "One, Unity," was very touching; in the closing portion, the audience was asked to join in.

MW John L. Choa, Grand Guild of Past Masters (GGPM) President, installed the Officers of the District Guild of Past Master. He was assisted by VW Sammy P. Fernandez, who acted as Grand Guild Chaplain, and by this writer, the Grand Guild Secretary, who acted as the Grand Master of Ceremonies. The District Guild Officers installed were: VW Feliciano O. Delfin, Sr. — **District Deputy Grand Guild Master**; WB Jose R. Olivares -**District Guild (DG) President**; WB Alberto Dizon — **DG Vice-President**; WB Rodolfo Tan — **DG Treasurer** (absent); WB Deogracias D. Navaja — **DG Secretary**;

WB Salvador Dime — **DG Chaplain**; WB Evidencio C. Matiam — **DG Marshal**; WB Ferdinand R. Roque — **DG Auditor**; WB Santiago Dabio — **DG Inner Guard** and WB Desiderio Bagaipo — **DG Outer Guard**.

Cong. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. then gave his address. He talked chiefly on his perceptions on the GATT. He remarked, "The current national officers are destroyers — destroying the life, the economic life of the people, unlike the Masons who are the true builders of the nation."

Just before the end of the evening's affair, the Congressman was presented with a plaque of appreciation.

Day Two

November 26, started relatively early with wreath laying at the Dr. J.P. Rizal monument and flag-raising ceremony in the town proper of Valencia.

The Lodge was opened at 0830 hours. Then the following were received: DDGMs, headed by VW Feliciano O. Delfin, Sr., and DGLs of the three participating Districts; MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. and party; PGMs, MW Manuel D. Mandac, MW Ray Beltran, and MW John L. Choa.

Gov. Carlos O. Fortich sent a stand-in: Mr. Francis Intos, Provincial Administrator of Bukidnon, who delivered the Governor's keynote-welcome message and received the plaque of appreciation for and on behalf of the Governor.

"Thank you, Grand Master, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., for this is the first Grand Master's administration where a Grand Secretary's Hour is included during DisCons."

Thus started the Grand Secretary. He exhorted the brethren to learn by heart and to sing with fervor the Grand Lodge Hymn, which for Masons is the equivalent of the National Hymn.

Other matters MW Ray touched on were:

1. Only one copy of the Lodge Secretary's report is needed. The Lodge's report must bear the signatures of the Worshipful Master and the Lodge's Auditor.
2. Some Lodges have not yet submitted reports for 1993; others are late for 1994.
3. The monthly membership report by the Lodge Secretary is mostly not filled out/submitted. Lodge Secretaries must use the prescribed report form.
4. Candidates must be guided in filling out the Petitioner's Form.
5. Lodge Secretaries must pay closer attention to the grammar of their reports. These reports become permanent and historical records for Lodges. They are, in other words, being written for history.

He revealed that the night before, during the fellowship hours, he passed around some questions for distribution to Lodge Secretaries. Among the questions were:

- What are the problems you encounter as Secretary?
- Regarding these problems, do you have any proposed solutions?

Raised during the open forum was the concern that brethren of Bukidnon Lodge No. 245 are afraid to get elected as Lodge Master because the Lodge Master has to shoulder the annual dues to the Grand Lodge.

Retorted the Grand Secretary: "The WM and the Lodge Secretary and other officers of the Lodge should help in the collection of dues from the brethren."

As to the remark that petitioners' names are not yet published in the GL Circular No. 12, the Grand Secretary rejoined, "This Circular is published every

10 days. If ever the names of some petitioners are not yet published therein, it must be due to postal delays — to or from the Grand Lodge. The publication of names is needed before balloting is done in the Lodge."

Then the Punta Gorda Lodge No. 303 brethren expressed gratitude for the approval for them to change the Lodge's name to Benjamin O. Go Memorial Lodge No. 303.

Since MW Ray Beltran is MCCCI President, he advised the brethren to continue availing of the services of the MCCCI. He informed them that there are accredited hospitals in four different parts of the country: Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao.

This writer divided the Masonic Education portion of the convention into three sections, namely: his observations on the day's rituals; reading of "The Bible and Early Masonry" as well as questions and answers; exemplification of the opening ritual of the 3rd degree.

Among his observations were:

1. The apron's cabletow should be so tied that it encompasses the shirt/coat; the knowt is to be hidden under the triangular flap.
2. The presiding officer should be addressed before the Grand Master and other dignitaries in the East are addressed.
3. The flag/staff should be tilted not more than 30 degrees from the vertical when in motion and vertical at the Altar.
4. WB Ireneo Mendoza should be congratulated for having done his part as Chaplain very well; that is to say, he did not touch the Great Lights, nor did he salute the presiding officer while at the Altar.
5. In the reception of a number of PGMs, presentation should start from the most senior to the junior, e.g., MW Mandac, MW Beltran, MW Choa.
6. In the reception of a Non-Mason, the visitor is to be held by the Marshal in the right hand. (For Masons, the left hand is held.)
7. In the reception of Masonic dignitaries, three-squared motion is needed; in private reception, the 3 x 3 batteries of Grand Honors are to be given thus: The battery for the first degree is to be consummated by the end of the first squared motion, i.e., one step to the southeast of the Junior Deacon's station; the second battery on reaching the front of the Senior Warden's station; the third one step before the Altar.

"The Bible and Early History," which this writer read before the brethren, underlined two significant events in the history of the world which spelled out the decline of the Church as the sole interpreter of the Bible, namely, the translation of the Bible from Latin to English and the invention of the printing press.

Next the brethren of Mt. Musuan Lodge No. 155 exemplified the Lodge opening ritual in the 3rd degree.

Then the three Districts submitted their nominees for the position of DDGM in their respective Districts.

VW Jimmy Ting, DDGM of MD No. 17, presented a very comprehensive report. Covered in his report were the following:

1. The District Officers — the two DGLs, the 11 GLIs and himself — have performed their duties to the best of their ability.
2. In 80% of his visits to Lodges in the District, he was ably assisted by VW Sison Uy, DGL.
3. VW Andres Alfredo S. Mendoza, JGL for N. Mindanao, has

rendered able guidance and helping hand.

4. "Masonic Gems," mostly bits of history, are given during the Masonic Education period in each and every Lodge in the District.
5. The District has successfully undertaken fund-raising programs.
6. Kitanglay Lodge No. 256 had the cornerstone of its temple laid.
7. The District has focused on family togetherness.
8. All Lodges in the District have their respective outreach programs. Apo Kahoy Lodge No. 66, for instance, has its 4-year college scholarship grants. Camiguin Island Lodge No. 296, likewise. Other programs are medical-dental, blood-letting/ blood chemistry analysis, operation harelip, anti-rabies vaccination.
9. The brethren have planted trees in different parts of the District.
10. District No. 17 excels in regard to Lodge attendance.

On his part, VW Proceso C. Bonotan, DDGM for MD No. 31, reported that, despite the big problem of distance — the nearest Lodge being 120 kilometers away and as far as approximately 300 kilometers — he has managed to visit all the six Lodges in the District. He then asked the Lodge Masters in his District to make their individual reports. Only four Masters, however, rendered their reports.

Agusan Lodge No. 160 has had zero growth in membership. Nonetheless, it has been 80% successful in financial collection; it has improved its building's facade; its members have been active in the higher bodies/appendant bodies.

Timberland Lodge No. 219 has a membership of more than 40. Of these 35 are active; four were raised recently. The site of the future lodge hall is 3000 square meters.

Mt. Diwata Lodge no. 236 has an average membership growth of 1-2 each year. The Lodge raised one several days earlier. (The Master extended his invitation to all to attend the 39th Mindanao Masonic Convention, which his Lodge would host, on January 26-27, 1995).

Butuan Lodge No. 299, which was constituted by MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. in 1992, hosted the 38th Mindanao Masonic Convention in 1993. Its outreach program includes medical service, i.e., urinalysis, malaria and typhoid medication. It shall put up a landmark in the town.

VW Feliciano O. Delfin, Sr., DDGM, MD No. 35 said that the District's programs include tree-planting; outreach program such as operation tuli, medical check-up, anti-rabies vaccination; social duties, e.g., Independence Day, Rizal Day. Attention has been focused on the holding of the present Tri-DisCon, with the help of the two other Districts.

The bid of Agusan Valley Lodge No. 160 to host the next Tri-DisCon was approved unanimously.

Next VW Ildefonso G. Agbuya, PDDGM, MD No. 17, proposed that a Resolution of appreciation and thanks to the Zosimo Montemayor Lodge No. 212 and MD No. 35 be approved for having successfully hosted the present Tri-DisCon. His proposal was approved with thunderous applause.

Stated VW Andoni T. Dumlao, PDDGM, MD No. 31: "I am presenting again a Resolution which was approved in the 1988 DisCon, namely: That the Grand Lodge create a Committee/ Commission tasked to look into the lingering suspicion in the minds of some people, the brethren included, regarding

the alleged part of Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo in the assassination of Bros. Andres Bonifacio and Antonio Luna."

The resolution was unanimously approved.

After congratulating the brethren, especially the organizers, for the successful holding of the Tri-Discon, MW John L. Choa said, "My main task in coming over was to install the Officers of the District Guild of Past Masters of MD No. 35. That was done last night. I am requesting the other two Districts, Nos. 17 and 31, to rush up re-organization of their respective District Guilds."

He then mentioned that he was elected GGPM President during the Bacolod AnCom for a three-year term and re-elected for another three-year term during the Cebu AnCom. Next he advised that the 1993 Ancom in Davao approved the raising of the P10 per-capita dues for the Past Masters Guild to P30. Said he: "I issued proclamations regarding a P2000 death benefit for the family of a deceased Past Master, and another requesting Lodges to advise the Grand Guild of every such sorrowful event for a similar action, and still another regarding a P1000 hospitalization benefit for a Past Master."

The GGPM President punctuated his talk with the assurance that the GGPM funds are being carefully managed in such a manner that, at least, the expenses should not exceed the income since the funds are put in trust.

"You may have noticed from time to time the SGL would hand me a yellow sheet of paper," the Grand Master said. "They are feedbacks about the attendance of brethren inside the convention hall. From a headcount of 165 this morning, there were 110 immediately after lunchtime and by the last count only 92 brethren. Attendance is, indeed, a perennial problem in all Masonic gatherings."

He congratulated the brethren, especially the organizers, for the successful holding of the present tri-discon. He also expressed gratitude, to the Grand Secretary for having handled some of the issues and concerns raised. Then he touched on GL dues cards/IDs; GL Circular No. 12; Edict No. 157-Mateo (regarding the required proficiency examination that a Master Mason has to undergo within the prescribed period of 90 days after his raising); the Circular on Masonic Supplies, which states that Lodges in good standing are given a 30-day credit but those with back accounts can procure such supplies only on a cash basis; and writing the Grand Lodge about any change of address toward proper mailing of copies of **The Cabletow**.

"RW Danny Angeles, DGM, is not in my party this time," the Grand Master announced, "because I asked him to represent me in the Convention of the DeMolays."

As in past discons, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. said, "The Grand Master's term is only for one year, but the Grand Lodge's program goes on forever. Good things come in small packages... Truth and light, not a fraction of them, are the true heritage of Masonry... I do not impose on you unattainable goals or objectives.... What the sad world needs and what w need is more LIGHT."

Presiding Officer Feliciano O. Delfin, Sr. closed the Lodge/Convention in short form at 1630 hours.

Fellowship dinner at My Place ensued. The brethren and their ladies were served lechon baboy and baka, some broiled fish, and Ilocano pinapaitan. It was during this time that PGMs Ray Beltran and John

Choa engaged in a friendly verbal joust; that is to say, they exchanged jokes at each other's expense.

Said MW John: "The Grand Secretary, on the SGL's yielding the microphone to him, promised to sing, by way of instructing us, the correct lyrics of the Grand Lodge Hymn. Instead, he extemporized on the more than 3000 Masons in Cavite. I promised to give my rendition of some songs if MW Ray would do as he promised."

Retorted MW Ray: "I am not like MW John who would harangue you for hours without actually saying anything substantive... But I will sing as I had promised."

The Grand Master then delivered his parting message.

We motored back to Cagayan de Oro City that evening, arriving there at 2210 hours.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

* Noble Roy Worstell

Fifteen-year-old Rino Mutuc was climbing a coconut tree on Saturday, January 15, 1995. When he was about 20 feet up the tree, he fell and landed with such an impact that his hip bone was broken at the socket. The femur or thighbone in his right leg snapped, driving the broken fragments three to four inches up into his leg and then outward.

His mother managed to take Rino to the hospital. Having examined the extent of his injuries and wrapped the leg, the doctors advised his mother as to what she should do. Thinking that the treatment would cost too much, the mother took Rino home to let nature run its course.

A week later Noble John Mytko learned of the accident. He then tried to notify the officers who usually handle such cases. The Hospital Committee, however, was out of town and most of chairman and the other officers were unavailable.

But Noble John persisted. Eventually, the boy was taken to the hospital once more. The doctors found it difficult to properly set the injury as it was infected and the bone fragments were hard to locate and remove. Rino had to have a rod inserted and several pins put into his leg in order to have it properly set. A cast was then placed on his leg from the ankle up to over the hip. It will take a long time for this injury to heal and his right leg will always be shorter.

In any case, had not the Nobles of Mt. Arayat Shrine Oasis acted with dispatch upon learning of Rino's injury, this could have developed into gangrene and eventually resulted in painful death.

Editor's note: The Grand Lodge of the Philippines, through the MCCCI, congratulates all the Nobles for the work they provided to upgrade the Masonic Ward in Mary Johnston Hospital. Mabuhay sila!

M.D. NO. 10 HOLDS 62ND ANNUAL CONVENTION; PINTONG-BATO LODGE NO. 51 CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

eF.R.eN

Diamond Jubilarian Pintong-Bato Lodge No. 51 hosted the "enjoyable, helpful and rewarding" 62nd annual convention of Masonic District No. 10 in Bacoor, Cavite on November 30, 1994.

Grand Lodge Officers whose early presence at the Bacoor Town Plaza was conspicuous were MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., GM; RW Danilo D. Angeles, DGM; RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., JGW; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, GS and Vice-Chairman, Board for General Purposes; VW B.J. Torres, AGS; VW William Rañaga, GBB; VW Robert Pe Liao, JGL, Metro Manila; and VW Dennis T. Gabionza, GO.

Other "early birds" were two PGMs and current members of the Board for General Purposes: MW Rudyardo V. Bunda and MW John L. Choa.

VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., DGL for M.D. No. 9-A, whose van has been made available for the GM and his party's use, imposed upon himself the chore of cameraman. VW Willie Rañaga, likewise, took pictures of the proceedings.

Part One and Two

Motorcade from the town plaza to Barangay Longos, where the Grand Master, assisted by DDGM-10 Valeriano M. Espiritu and WM Miguel T. Jimenez unveiled the Pintong-Bato Masonic Marker.

Motorcade back to the town plaza, which by that time took on a festive atmosphere because around the stage beside the church and in front of the municipal hall had gathered Masonic dignitaries, convention delegates, members of Appendant Bodies, and four brass bands with variegated uniforms.

Fireworks announced the start of the program emceed by Bro. Manuel C. Lazaro, one of the Orators of the host Lodge.

Bro. Virgilio T. del Rosario intoned a fitting invocation in Filipino. WB Victor R. Miranda, Bacoor Municipal Mayor, welcomed the delegates and guests to the booming province of Cavite in eral and his town in particular. Bro. Juanito R. Remulla, Provincial Governor, gave an inspirational talk, in which he said in light vein, "Buong-buo pa, mas lalo sa gitna!" He revealed, in effect, his preparedness to run for reelection in the coming May elections.

The Grand Master gave tribute to the heroes, particularly those from Cavite, who suffered all so that this country would have freedom to enjoy peace and happiness. (The text of his speech is given somewhere in this issue.)

Part Three

The Grand Master and his party offered flowers at Bro. Jose Rizal's monument in front of the old municipal

hall. They were assisted by GLIs, WMs of the participating Lodges, and heads of Appendant Bodies.

The Grand Master let loose ballon clusters to signal the opening of the convention.

Part Four

Our brethren in Cavite, a bastion of Freemasonry, do not find it hard to implement one of the GM's program thrusts, viz, raising the level of the general public's awareness and understanding of Freemasonry's essence, goals, and undertakings. In fact, they have been doing this down the years. One dramatic way of doing it is the parade.

This time, the parade started from Bro. Jose Rizal's monument to the Espiritu Compound in Mabolo, Bacoor. We marched in this order: El Gobernador Band, Mendez Nu_ez Square & Compass Club, Emmanuel Baja Chapter (IOD), Assembly No. 3 (IORG), Pilar Lodge No. 15, XIII Martires Chapter No. 16 (OES), Batong Buhay Lodge No. 17, Aguinaldo Memorial Lodge No. 31, Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49;

Award-winning 96 Band, Tierra Alta (IORG), Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69, Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97, Indang Lodge No. 115, Tagaytay Lodge No. 164, Aguinaldo Chapter (IOD), Amaranth Court No. 6, Mothers Club;

Hilarion F. Rubio Band, Magdiwang Lodge No. 238, La Naval Lodge No. 269, St. Augustine Lodge No. 300, A. Mabini Chapter (IOD), Bethel No. 8 (IOJD), Order of the Eastern Star, Host Lodge Pintong-Bato No. 51, District and Grand Lodge Officers with Gov. Juanito Remulla, and Amah Zapote Band.

Cavite, indeed, is famous for organizing such a parade. The FACTS Monitoring Group kept the parade smooth flowing. Along the way posters and billboards announced the convention and Cavite's welcome to the GM and his party; homes of Masons expressed fraternal greetings. Onlookers and bystanders must have admired the senior Masons who did not show signs of fatigue as we wended our way to Mabolo, where we were greeted with the playing of the Grand Lodge Hymn by the El Gobernador Band and by a festive atmosphere.

Part Five

After the usual reception of dignitaries and flag ceremony, WB Antonio B. Gemanil, PM, recited an invocation. The DDGM called for a one-minute silent prayer in memory of departed brethren. WB Miguel T. Jimenez said his Lodge had worked very hard toward making the convention enjoyable, fruitful, successful. He expressed the hope that his Lodge would give an example of how a Discon should be conducted. He said, "May the experiences here gathered and lessons learned induce Lodges in the District to perform their duties to the best of their ability."

VW Val Espiritu stressed that the Discon should be a time for the District to reassess itself relative to the GM's program thrusts, as well as a time for renewing old friendships as well as striking new acquaintances.

"Without my permission," the DDGM smilingly said, "nobody can leave this lodge room."

The roll call of Lodges revealed that, indeed, most, if not all, of the delegates were inside the convention hall.

After the approval of the minutes of the 1993 covention, the Deputy Grand Master reminded the Masters to submit prompt reports to the Grand Lodge. He also stressed that leading our lives in accordance with the symbolism of

the white linen apron is the best rejoinder to attacks against our Fraternity.

He then opted to answer queries from the brethren. To the query "Why are there no female Masons?" he commented, "Higit pang isa ang bibig ng babae!" But, seriously speaking, he said, according to Ill. Bro. Albert Pyke, a female is not a laborer. (Doesn't she labor giving birth to a child?)

According to William Hutchinson, the DGM added, the presence of a woman in Lodge may cause disharmony and jealousy among the brethren when their hearts are filled with love for the woman.

To the comment that Masons, who are supposed to observe a well-regulated course of discipline so as to preserve their mental and corporeal faculties to their fullest energy, should refrain from smoking, the DGM retorted, "Maawa ka sa nananagarilyo sapagkat kukunti na lang ang natira sa kanya."

Should not the officers of the host Lodge, instead of ceremonial officers of the convention, open the Lodge? Ideally, the officers of the host Lodge open the Lodge during a convention. But, in the case of Cavite, there was a "gentlemen's agreement" that the following would serve as the convention's ceremonial officers: WB Miguel T. Jimenez (51), WM; WB Dominador V.R. Eugenio (69), SW: WB Carlito G. Sauler (15), JW; WB Espiridion A. Zapanta (97), Treas.; WB Romeo D. Bautista (2), Sec.; WB Cipriano T. Pasco (238), Aud.; WB Nemesio I. Dabal (269), Chap.; WB Hermogenes F. Arayat, Jr. (97), Mars.; WB Vergel H. Domingo (17), SD; WB Gil Toledo (165), JD; WB Jose M. Panganiban (31), SS; WB Pacipico A. Hintay (49), JS; and WB Ruperto S. Sangalang (115), Tyler.

To give the delegates food for thought, the DGM asked, "If the Lodge may be closed in short form, why shouldn't it be opened in that form, too?"

After congratulating the host Lodge, he alluded to the fact that two of the eight rays of the Philippine flag represent Cavite and Nueva Ecija and expressed his expectation that Cavite would extend utmost support during his term in the Grand East.

VWB Virgilio F. Sarmiento, DGL, submitted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, Circular No. 8-Beltran states that the official hymn of the Grand Lodge of the Phil. F. & A.M., shall be played/sung after the singing of the Philippine National Anthem;

"WHEREAS, it was approved in the Baguio Ancom that the Lodge Standard shall be presented after the singing of the Philippine National Anthem in every stated meeting and other Masonic activities, such as installation and convention;

"WHEREAS, in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry a Pledge of Allegiance to its Supreme Council is recited by every aspirant;

"It is therefore moved that at the retirement of the Lodge Standard in every Lodge a Pledge of Allegiance be recited in order to enhance our Masonic dedication to our Fraternity.

"It is suggested, furthermore, that the Pledge will be worded thus: 'I pledge allegiance to the standard and to the Fraternity for which it stands — a Fraternity which unites all men, a Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.'"

The convention also adopted the resolution of Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69 requesting the MW Grand Lodge to exempt distressed and incapacitated brethren from paying per-capita assessment; the resolution of Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97 requesting the Grand Lodge to consider Life Membership by Purchase before 1983 as Life

Membership by Longevity in order to ease the Blue Lodge of the problem of subsidizing their annual assessment brought about by their refusal to increase their trust funds; the resolution of the District Guild endorsing the candidacy of VW Edgardo N. Reyes to the position of Junior Grand Warden of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines; another resolution of the District Guild requesting the MW Grand Lodge to make Mr. Caesar A. Virata a Master Mason at sight.

The next annual convention will be hosted by Primera Luz Filipina No. 65.

WBs E.C. Perez, Leonardo R. Pineda, and Julio C. Agana were nominated to the position of DDGM.

MW John L. Choa gave out checks of P2000 each to the families of PMs who had dropped their working tools, namely: WBs E. Mercado of Tagaytay 165, Angel Rica Alvarez of St. Augustine 300, Gaudencio Legaspi of Tagaytay 165, Eusebio Sarmiento of Indang 115, Teodorico Espiritu of Indang 115, and Rosendo Santos of Bagong Ilaw 97.

Then the Grand Master urged the brethren to continue pursuing the thrusts of the "Share the Masonic Light" program.

Part Six

Right after the sumptuous luncheon, there was a program emceed by Bro. Manuel C. Lazaro. We learned that the M.D. No. 10 Sportsfest was coordinated by Indang Lodge No. 115, by WB Ruperto S. Sangalang and Athletic Manager Damian B. Perido, JW, in particular. Overall coordinator was, of course, VW Val Espiritu.

The sportsfest groupings were as follows: Group A (Lodges 31, 97 and 238), Group B (Lodges 15, 51 and 69), Group C (Lodges 2, 17 and 269), and Group D (Lodges 49, 115, 165 and 300).

The winners/awardees:

1. **Individual/Dual Sports**
   - 1.1 Dart — Grp D, 1st; Grp C, 2nd; and Grp B, 3rd
   - 1.2 Bowling — Grp D, 1st; Grp B, 2nd; and Grp A, 3rd
   - 1.3 Chess — Grp D, 1st; Grp A, 2nd; and Grp B, 3rd
   - 1.4 Table Tennis — Grp C, 1st; Grp B, 2nd; and Grp A, 3rd
2. **Team Sports**
   - 2.1 Volleyball — Grp C, 1st; Grp B, 2nd; Grp D, 3rd; and Grp A, 4th
   - 2.2 Softball — Grp A, 1st; Grp C, 2nd; Grp D 3rd; and Grp B, 4th
3. **Championship Ranks**
   - 3.1 Champion — Group C
   - 3.2 1st Runner-up — Group D
   - 3.3 2nd Runner-up — Group A
   - 3.4 3rd Runner-up — Group B

Convention organizers also distributed souvenirs to guests and participants alike.

The fellowship, to say the least, was warm, lively, enjoyable. The Grand Master, the Junior Grand Warden, and the Assistant Grand Secretary enjoyed dancing the cha-cha with the Jobbies, the Rainbow Girls, the Amaranths, and the Eastern Stars.

En Route to Grand Lodge

On the way home we stopped at the Parañaque wet market, where we joined VW Jimmy Austria and other Nueva Ecija brethren in an informal fellowship over several diversely delicious fresh seafoods.

METRO MANILA DISTRICTS SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS JOINT CONVENTION IN HALF DAY

* E.A.M. & eF.R.eN

For the first time, the joint convention of Masonic Districts 1A (host), 1B, 1C, 9A and 9B was successfully finished in half day. The organizers have shown that a half-day convention is feasible without, in a way, obviating from the substantive aspects of a true convention.

Early Floral Offering, Breakfast, Registration

MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. led a floral offering at the Rizal Monument in the Luneta at 0670 hours. This was followed by breakfast and registration of delegates at the E. Aguinaldo Hall, New Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Convention Proper

At 0848 hours host Lodge Cosmos No. 8 opened the Lodge, which subsequently received the DDGMs and party, headed by VW Alexander B. Madamba; MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., Grand Master, who was accompanied by RW Danilo D. Angeles (DGM), RW Leon A. Banez, Jr. (JGW), VW Bobby L. Go (SGD), VW William Rañaga (GBB), VW Dennis T. Gabionza (GO), and one of these writers (the Senior Grand Lecturer); MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and Grand Secretary, and MW John L. Choa, PGM and Grand Guild of Past Masters (GGPM) President; and WB/Dr. Francisco Fellizar, Jr., Deputy Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, vice WB/DECS Secretary Ricardo T. Gloria, the invited keynote speaker, who could not make it because he had to be with President Fidel V. Ramos elsewhere.

After the flag ceremony and singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn, VW Peter C. Chua, DDGM of MD No. 1B, intoned the following invocation:

"Great Architect of the Universe and our heavenly Father, while aware of our shortcomings and inadequacies in life, we your children, brothers of the noble institution of Freemasonry, who are here gathered today for the joint convention of MD Nos. 1A, 1B, 1C, 9A and 9B, raise our hands to Thee and fix our eyes heavenward to seek Thy loving kindness.

"May the Holy Spirit come down upon us during our convention. Grant that the sublime principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth guide us during our deliberations and subdue every discordant passion within us thereafter, so that where there is darkness, there shall be light; where there is war, peace; where there is sadness, joy; where there is hatred, faith; where there is despair, hope; and where there is distrust, jealousy and envy, there shall be love.

"Father God, bless our guest speaker... Give him strength and wisdom as he guides the destiny of the education of the youth. Bless our Grand Master and the leadership of our Fraternity. Bless our multi-district convention. Bless our loved ones, and bless us all.

"Finally, dear Father God, please spare our country and our people from further calamities, specially during this

Yuletide Season, that we may celebrate in peace the birth of Your Son.

"All this we pray in the name of our Lord and Master. Amen."

VW Peter T. Aragon, DDGM of MD No. 9B, then called the roll by District. Although there were 231 registered brethren, headcount inside the hall was 184, including dignitaries in the East.

VW Rafael J. Roxas, DDGM of MD No. 1C, gave the welcome remarks, and VW Wilfredo D. Cruz, DDGM of MD No. 9A, had to make two introductions — the first for WB/Sec. Gloria and the second for the Secretary's stand-in, WB/Dep. Sec. Fellizar.

WB/Dep. Sec. Fellizar first read WB/Sec. Gloria's prepared speech, entitled "Sharing for Learning". Then he gave his own comments on how we can make Masonry make the difference. He said in part:

"It is not memorizing rituals but imbibing and practicing Masonic teachings that will enable us to show the world that Masonry can make a difference in the lives of men. We need to have unity of purpose and action. We must, through sacrifices, persist in building temples in the hearts of men."

During the open forum, one of the issues raised was the need for Masons to take a lead in economic issues. Many Masons, it was pointed out, are in a position to help make Filipino products competitive through science and technology. Masons, it was pointed out further, should engage more in community projects. Besides, Masons can help in educating politicians by not supporting those who do not measure up to our standards. We can also help solve the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

After the open forum, the Metro Manila DDGMs presented WB/Sec. Gloria a Plaque of Appreciation. WB/Dep. Sec. Fellizar received the plaque. (He, too, should be given a plaque of appreciation for having delivered a short but incisive message!)

The coffee break over, the Grand Secretary touched on such administrative matters as the need for one and all to learn by heart the Grand Lodge Hymn, the failure of some Lodges to submit reports to Grand Lodge, and the tendency of some other Lodges to submit "kilometric" reports.

"Dues cards are issued only upon payment of dues," the Grand Secretary declared. "Once prepared, they are promptly signed by me and sent out forthwith."

"Who should issue dues cards for dual members?" a delegate asked.

"Dues cards for dual members are normally issued through the Mother Lodge," the Grand Secretary answered. "But, starting 1995, these may be issued through the Lodge with which the Brother is a dual member."

The SGL (one of the writers of this report) divided the Masonic education portion into two Sections: (1) some "kiliti" on his observations of the rituals and (2) exemplification of the opening of the 3rd degree.

In the first section, the SGL reminded the brethren that the flag/staff is to be tilted at not more than 30 degrees from the vertical while in motion, but it should be vertical at the altar. Next he pointed out, "The Marshal is to hand the flag to the Tyler without leaving the lodge hall during retirement." He then congratulated the Chaplain for not touching the great lights during prayer and for not saluting the Master after prayer. He, moreover, reminded the brethren that the Presiding Officer should be addressed first, followed by the GM and other dignitaries. Finally he congratulated Cosmos Lodge No. 8 brethren, headed by WB Mar J.

Remoquillo, for having exemplified the opening of the 3rd degree almost flawlessly.

WB Teodoro B. Gonzales read a total of nine resolutions before the body. All the resolutions were approved.

One of the resolutions nominated WB Ricardo T. Misa as DDGM for MD No. 9B. The other Districts refrained from submitting their nominees, leaving the choice to the incoming Grand Master.

MW Pablo C. Ko Jr. first touched upon the day's attendance: 184 by headcount. As before, he stressed the obligation of every registered delegate to stay throughout the convention. Then he proceeded to deliver his message (which is also printed somewhere in this issue). In the main, he urged the brethren to continue pursuing the thrusts of our "Share the Masonic Light" program.

The Lodge/Convention having been closed by VW Alex B. Madamba in short form, delegates and dignitaries descended to the E. Aguinaldo Hall for luncheon.

Part of the luncheon hour was utilized for the installation of the newly elected officers of District 1C Guild of Past Masters. MW John L. Choa, PGM and GGPM President, installed the officers. He was assisted by the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Guild Chaplain, and the SGL, Grand Guild Secretary, who acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Installed were the following: VW Rafael J. Roxas, District Deputy Grand Guild Master; VW Cesar C. Mendoza, PGT, District Guild (DG) President; WB Modesto L. Nonato, PM, DG Vice-President; VW Julio M. Cabali, DGL, DG Treasurer; VW J. Waldemar Valmores, PDGL, District Guild Secretary (absent); VW Samuel P. Fernandez, GP, DG Chaplain (absent); VW Rene C. Damian, PDDGM, DG Marshal; VW Teodulo O. Yap, PDGL, DG Auditor; WB Egidio "Gigi" R. Ancajas, GLI, DG Inner Guard; and VW Edgardo S. Delmo, DGL, DG Outer Guard.

The Council of Advisers for the District Guild included PDDGMs Ramon G. Nuñez, Modesto D. Gonzales, Carlos R. de Castro, Jaime S. Archebuche, and Leonardo T. Chua.

In his acceptance speech, VW Cesar C. Mendoza expressed optimism that officers and members of the District Guild will extend to him their utmost support and cooperation in carrying out projects designed to benefit the Past Masters of MD 1C and their families.

MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. congratulated the newly installed officers and exhorted them to uphold the Masonic tenets and to perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

The GGPM President then gave out a gratuity grand of P2,000 to each of the followed brethren who had dropped their working tools; WBs Leonides Arriola, Eduardo Bahia, and Alfredo Guevarra.

The awarding of prizes to winners of the sports competitions capped the half-day convention.

In golf, Bro. Boy Angeles garnered Lowest Net; VW Al Dualan, Lowest Gross; Bro Jing Rajon, Class A; MW Teddy Baldonado, PGM, Class B; and Bro. William Liao, Class C.

In bowling, WB Hermeno Palamine emerged as champion. WB Dennis del Rosario and WB Ted Gonzales were 1st and 2nd runners-up, respectively. WB Palamine captured the High Game award, while Bro. Mulvia the Highest Pinning.

Many a delegate tarried awhile near the Acacia Tree Complex to see what was going on in the Paskuhan sa Grand Lodge sponsored by the DeMolays and the Jobbies. Valuable prizes were raffled out.

Thus, the convention that started early and well ended well and early.

OUR THREE-DAY STAY IN MINDANAO

* E.A.M. & eF.R.eN

January 27, 1995

Rousing was the welcome at the Surigao City Airport given the Grand Master and party by the brethren, and sisters. Delicious was the lunch served us at King Solomon's Bar (obviously Brother-owned); fellowship was made Merry with beer and durian and sing-along. Enthusiastic was the conversation the GM and brethren had with Surigao City Mayor Salvador C. Sering in the latter's office. The Mayor even accompanied us down to the Social Center of Surigao, which served as venue of the dinner-fellowship.

Wine and beer brought more cheer to the approximately 200 diners, mostly members of the Masonic Family, who obviously relished the belly-satisfying foods prepared by our hospitality-laden hosts as well as the music furnished by a seven-man band and two female singers.

We were further entertained with musical numbers from the M.D. 31 choir as well as vocal solos by VW Sammy Fernandez, VW Pong Lustre, WB Johnny Pimentel, Jr. of Red Mountain Lodge No. 241, and Bro. Florentino Almacen, Jr., among others.

We showed appreciative enjoyment of the folk dance number, "Habanera Botolena," rendered by Brother Masons and wives, headed by VW Proceso "Joey" Bonotan, Jr., who to us proved to be the most graceful of the male dancers.

Truly enjoyable for one and all was the evening.

January 28

During the floral offering at the monument of Bro./Dr. Jose P. Rizal MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. briefly explained why we usually pay tribute to Mason heroes before the start of a Masonic convention.

Brethren of Lead Lodge Mt. Diwata No. 236 opened the Lodge right inside their Lodge's Hall because the convention hall could not be tyled.

The region comprises 12 Masonic Districts. But only seven DDGMs were received into the convention hall. Also received were the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Junior Grand Lecturer for Northern Mindanao, the Grand Organist, the Grand Persuivant, the Grand Tyler, and the Senior Grand Lecturer (the first of the two writers).

GLI Cecilio M. Toledo intoned the invocation, and WB Mario R. Hatague, PM, Secretary of the lead Lodge, called the roll by Lodge. Our head count was some 130 brethren and six sisters.

The delegates approved sans amendment the minutes of the 38th Mindanao Masonic Convention read by VW Ernesto P. Boaquina, DGL and District Secretary.

Approved unanimously was the resolution congratulating M.D. 31 for successfully hosting the present convention.

Only M.D. 25 submitted the bid to host the next Mindanao Masonic Convention. VW Chris Tek An Chua, PJGL, together with SW "Bing" Lluch, told the delegates that Iligan City would be the venue and Maranaw Lodge No. 111 the lead Lodge.

Again the Masonic Education portion of the convention was divided into three portions, namely: observations of the SGL on the day's rituals reading of "Freemasonry's Candle" and questions and answers.

RW Danny Angeles congratulated the brethren for successfully holding the convention. He reiterated the message of the Grand Secretary to the brethren, viz.: What are the problems of the Lodge Secretary? Do you have any communication problems with the Grand Lodge? Do you have any proposed solutions to these problems? Then RW Danny advised the brethren that the theme he had chosen for this year in the Grand East is "By Our Acts Shall Masonry Be Judged."

Our Grand Master also thanked the brethren for their hospitality and congratulated them for the successful holding of the convention. He moreover admonished the brethren to update addresses and to pay their dues so that they could get their dues cards. He further informed the brethren that the Grand Lodge has opened an account with the Far East Bank.

"Soon you can make your remittances to the Grand Lodge through the Far East Bank," he said.

The GM also reminded the brethren that the last Ancom had approved a P20 assessment per member to finance the research work of the Commission on Filipino Nationhood. Said he: "Such assessment shall last until 1998, or for a period of five years."

(The GM's main message is included in VW Sammy Fernandez's sidelights.)

The Lodge/Convention was closed in short form by DDGM "Joey" Bonotan.

Gov. Francisco T. Matugas and Hon. Sering could not attend the convention because the former's presence was needed out of town and the latter had to assist the COMELEC in the day's registration of new voters.

In any case, the lunch that ensued was as delicious as, if not more than, the dinner the night before.

Guess Who!

During lunch, a Brother returned to the foods table for a second serving of seafoods. But he accidentally dropped his dentures into the bowl of soup? The Brother unceremoniously retrieved the dropped dentures. Fortunately, only a couple of brethren saw the incident.

A Grand Line Officer, with his hands full, reportedly returned to get his share of the soup from the same bowl.

Tsk! Tsk! Tsk!

The brethren were advised to return to the same venue in the evening. But many brethren decided to hie to their places of abode. VW Sammy Fernandez opted to go with VW Andres Alfredo S. Mendoza, VW Jimmy Ting, and VW Peter Lim Lo Suy to Cagayan de Oro. Hence, he missed the much bigger night on the 28th. He should have witnessed for himself the DDGM's own rendition of the very short-step cha-cha and his trying to compete with the GM, voice for voice, in the choir songs they both participated in. Why, even VW Dennis and VW Pong covered the whole dance floor, too, with their respective beautiful partners. The GM, of course, had his fill of dancing.

The Sisters presented another folk dance, the "Itik-Itik". (We want at this juncture, to salute our Sisters and Brethren in the District for such extensive preparations, let alone the added expense for the costumes needed!)

The night revealed latent and already developed talents of brethren, who put the abilities of such personalities as Pat Boone, the Platters, Elvis Presley and the like to shame. The GM and his

party (save the two of us).were not to be outdone. They smoothly glided on the dance floor and even sang together with brethren of the host District. The DGM, mind you, was bodily lifted by six brethren to the stage to join the GM and VW Pong in the choir.

We wanted to stay longer in the social hall, but we had to leave the hosts because we had to wake up early the following morning for Butuan.

January 28

We were driven to Butuan by the DDGM and other leaders of the host District. Our Butuan brethren joined us at breakfast in the airport.

The GM's flight to Cebu was on time, but the Butuan-Manila flight of the rest of his team was diverted to Cagayan de Oro.

VW Joey Bonotan, Jr., WB Mar Hatague and other Surigao bade us farewell and the Butuan brethren took over the chore of attending to us.

Sis. Inday Boaquina treated us to a sumptuous lunch. While we were lunching, VW Bonotan and company returned with the SGL's green bag which was left in WB Hatague's brand-new Toyota and joined us in lunch.

The van of Bro. Edwin L. dela Cruz, PPA Head in Cagayan de Oro, brought us to Cagayan de Oro. VW Jimmy Ting, VW Danny Mendoza, and VW Peter Lim Lo Suy joined us at the Philtown Hotel, where they treated us for dinner. They also made bookings for our flight the next day.

Headed by the DGM, we were given a tour of two potential venues for the 1996 Ancom, namely, the Dynasty Hotel and the Grand Caprice.

After lunch in Dynasty, we took the flight back to Manila.

Those three memorable days revealed that Freemasonry in Mindanao is very much alive, especially in the hearts of Brethren and Sisters who do practice Brotherly Love and Fellowship.



Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148 family outing at the Maguino Rehab Center

Sidelights:

39TH MINDANAO MASONIC CONVENTION IN SURIGAO CITY

VW Samuel P. Fernandez

Day One

The 39th Mindanao Masonic Convention decidedly was the largest Masonic Convention next to AnCom. The convention was comprised of twelve Masonic Districts (17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38 and 40) covering seventy Masonic lodges in Mindanao and Sulu.

It was with anticipation that I wanted to see for myself how this only Regional Convention will be conducted.

Morning of Jan. 27, 1995, RW Danilo Angeles together with VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, Senior Grand Lecturer; VW Dennis T. Gabionza, Grand Organist; VW Jose O. Lustre, Grand Tyler; Bro. Flor R. Nicolas, Cabletow Editor; and me rendezvoused with MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. at the Mactan International Airport. VW Napoleon Soriano, PDDGM and PGSB, joined us. This is one instance that we did not go to the airport together as we used to do. Besides, Bro. Flor came last and created some excitement. He forgot to bring his plane ticket. He had one improvement this time: he was able to bring his I.D. Nonetheless, RW Danilo Angeles and the entourage had to chip-in, if only to solve the situation. Call this a writer's quirk but Bro. Flor provided us with comic relief.

As transit waiting for our next flight to Surigao City we had time exchanging wits and wisdoms to while away our time.

The Fooker Plane we took to Surigao City was cute but comfortable enough. We were met by VW Proceso C. Bonotan, Jr., DDGM of Masonic District No. 31, with some of the brethren and sisters at the Butuan City Airport.

VW Danny Mendoza came in directly from Cagayan de Oro City with some brethren.

The brethren brought us to a Brother's restaurant where we had a blessed fellowship. Inside the restaurant was King's Solomon's Bar. With a number of brethren from other Districts greeting each other the place became crowded. Nonetheless, it was a sight to behold. The fellowship was an occasion to renew fraternal ties and occasion to inquire as to the doings and project activities of the Districts.

We were then brought to Surigao City and billeted in an idyllic hotel facing the windy sea wafting soothing cold air to our tired souls.

After settling in the hotel we went to the City Hall for the courtesy call on the Hon. Salvador C. Sering, Mayor of Surigao City. The mayor was in his usual element, jovial, accommodating and entertaining. He was excited for his city and its potentials.

The City Hall was a solid structure that has weathered nature's lashes. I suppose it will be able to withstand nature's challenge.

During our dinner and fellowship VW P.C. Bonoton, Jr. welcomed us.

The Social Center where we held our fellowship had a fiesta atmosphere

with matching seven-men band and two professional female singers. VW Proceso "Joey" Bonotan, Jr. led bro. masons and wives to a "Habanera Botolena." The number was well executed that we felt that we were seeing the Phil. Dance Troupe transported to Surigao City.

Not to be outdone the Masonic District 31 choir rendered a rousing musical number.

VW Pong Lustre, WB Johnny Pimentel, Jr. of Red Mountain Lodge No. 241, Bro. Florentino Almacen, Jr. and this writer belted solo numbers to cap the occasion attended by some 200 brethren and guests.

The rest of the night our sisters remained and danced with the visiting brethren. Bro. Jake Tolentino of Iligan City showed to all and sundry that he could rise to any dancing situation whether it with be the favorite cha-cha to maski pops. Majority of the brethren contented themselves hopping from one table to the other shaking hands with the brethren tossing to the health of one another. We return to our respective hotels happy at the thought that we can have an occasion to be together, to leave our routine task, to take a respite to our sometimes humdrum existence.

Day Two

MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. led the brethren for a floral offering at the monument of Bro. Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

The park where the monument of Jose Rizal had all the signs that the place was once a Spanish promenading center. The City Hall was almost facing the Roman Catholic Church.

The park during the Spanish regime was a microcosm of the country. All the important buildings surrounded it. This is the reason why when people during that time went to the park they often say "papunta ako sa bayan."

As usual, the Grand Master exhorted us to the virtue of Bro. Rizal and how we can emulate his virtues and values. Back in my wind was a wish: perhaps we should also honor the Father of Masonry, Illustrious Marcelo H. del Pilar, who gave not only his talent but his life that we may be extricated from colonial ignorance.

The Surigao Provincial Capitol certainly was a site to behold. Perched on top of a mountain its modern skyline bespeaks of its response to the requirement of the time. The design of the building was panoramic and eye-catching. With the lush land scaping the provincial capital hall faced the pacific ocean.

The Convention was opened by the Mt. Diwata Lodge No. 236. The Grand Master and his party (RW Danilo Angeles, DGM; VW Andres Alfredo S. Mendoza, DGL; VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, SGL; VW Dennis T. Gabionza, Grand Organist; VW Samuel P. Fernandez, Grand Pursuivant; and VW Jose O. Lustre, Grand Tyler) were properly welcomed.

WB Cecilio M. Toledo, GLI, led in the invocation. The secretary of Mt. Diwata Lodge No. 236, WB Mario R. Hatague, PM, called the roll by lodge. Some 130 brethren and six sisters were in attendance. VW Ernesto P. Boaquina, DGL and District Secretary, read the minutes of the 38th Mindanao Convention held in Butuan City, Feb. 18-19, 1994.

Only Masonic District 25 submitted the bid to host the 40th Mindanao Convention. Venue would be Iligan City with Maranaw Lodge No. 111 as lead Lodge.

VW Ernesto A. Malapaya led in the

Masonic Education portion. He capped his lecture with an article called "Freemasonry's Candles."

RW Danilo D. Angeles congratulated the brethren for their efforts in holding the Convention. He reiterated PGM Raymundo Beltran's message in Bukidnon. RW Angeles proceeded to announce his theme "By Our Acts Shall Masonry Be Judged."

MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. graciously thanked the brethren for their hospitality. He then delivered his speech thus:

Message of GM

Julius Caesar once said, "Veni, vidi, vici," or "I came, I saw, I conquered."

An American GI, I was told, paraphrased Julius Caesar by saying, "I came to Olongapo, I conquered a Filipina, and I got V.D."

But, jesting aside, I now declare: "I came to Surigao; I saw you, my Mindanao brethren; and I was conquered by you — by your warm welcome, your demostration of ardent love for our Fraternity, your hearty reception, and your sincere fellowship."

To organize and hold a regional convention is, decidedly, a difficult task; for it demands careful planning and close coordination on the part of the organizers on the one hand, and utmost support and cooperation on the part of the delegates on the other.

To hold a regional convention consistently, year in and year out, as you do, is no mean accomplishment; it is a feat which the other regions have found difficult to duplicate.

In behalf of the other officers and members of our Grand Lodge, therefore, I convey sincerest admiration, commendation, and congratulations to the organizers of this regional convention, as well as to the delegates. Mabuhay kayong lahat! Mabuhay ang Masonerya dito sa Mindanao!

Very soon, dear brethren, I will step down from the highest office you can bestow upon a Brother. I will do so with the knowledge that I have done my best to merit your trust.

Do I sound making my valedictory address? I do! For, as a matter of fact, this is the last convention during my term as Grand Master.

And speaking of trust, I do trust that the record I will lay for your inspection during the coming Annual Communication in Manila will, in the main, meet with your approval. I say in the main because it is presumptuous to suppose that all the brethren will approve each and every act and deed I have done as Grand Master.

But, I do know, and I assure you, that I have served you and this wonderful Fraternity to the very best of my ability.

I am aware that I have made decisions that were unpopular to some, but they were made because I believed them to be the right decisions. I have tried to rule and govern the Craft according to the Laws of our Grand Lodge, the rules of human dignity, and the will of Almighty God.

In any case, dear brethren, I will consider my year in the Grand East a modest success if I have done no more but to PERSUADE YOU TO CONTINUE PURSUING THE THRUSTS OF OUR "SHARE THE MASONIC LIGHT" PROGRAM.

The first thrust of this program is, as many of you may have already known, to urge all Master Masons, all of us without exception, to RENEW, IF NOT DEEPEN, OUR COMMITMENT TO KEEPING THE FLAME OF MASONIC PRINCIPLES EVER AGLOW IN OUR HEARTS, SO THAT WE WILL CONTAMINATE THE PEOPLE WE COME IN CONTACT WITH.

This thrust is based on the firm belief that THE STRENGTH OF MASONRY IS VESTED IN EVERY ONE OF US MASTER MASONS. EACH OF US IS, POTENTIALLY, OUR FRATERNITY'S BEST PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN, ITS BEST MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER, ITS BEST DEFENSE AGAINST RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS — NAY, ITS LAST DEFENSE AGAINST EXTINCTION.

That is why, in my meetings with District Officers and other Masonic leaders, I have urged them to pay closer attention to meeting the needs of members. I have told them, "Members' enthusiasm for the Craft is our greatest asset. We must, therefore, give them the chance to participate in solving Lodge and District problems and empower them to assist with the implementation of their solutions. Let us refocus on members' needs, so as to retain our current members, and regain those lost. Let us, moreover, create within the Craft a climate that is in keeping with today. Let us create within every Lodge an environment that makes Masonry worthwhile and satisfying in every member's life."

Yes, dear brethren, it is important that each of us renews his dedication and commitment to practicing Masonic tenets and principles. This entails, among other things, CONTINUING SEARCH FOR MASONIC LIGHT, which means not only proficiency in our rituals, but also constant study of Masonic history, philosophy and jurisprudence. It entails performance of our Masonic obligations, such as regular attendance at Lodge meetings and other Lodge functions, paying our annual dues, and

so forth. It also entails persistently developing ourselves into "perfect ashlars" or tirelessly working toward personal perfection. And it entails proudly and openly demonstrating our Masonry before the world.

Needless to say, the effectiveness of Masonic teachings will always be the measure by which the outside world judges Masonry. The proof of Masonry is in our deeds, and it is in our deeds that Masonry is made known to non-Masons. The only way the Craft can be judged is by its product. Hence, Masonic leaders must pay closer attention to the method of selecting and teaching our candidates because this is a vital part of the process of producing Masonic leaders, instructors, and scholars.

There is no gainsaying the fact that THE PRESTIGE OF MASONRY LIES SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF EACH ONE OF US. We have, therefore, to always reflect in our daily lives and conduct the image of Masonry passed on to us by those who went this way before. Only so can we prove ourselves worthy of the trust reposed in us when we were advanced to positions of leadership in the Craft. Only so can we continue to build our Fraternity strong and great.

We know very well that the image of Masonry brought to the minds of non-Masons does not include the tyled lodge, the rituals, the warmth of fellowship and fraternalism among us, and other things dear to our memory. We know very well that non-Masons draw their picture of Masonry from what they see of us outside the lodge room. Non-Masons see what manner of husbands and fathers we are, as well as what manner of professionals we are. They note whether we regularly attend church, what kind of company we keep, and what activities in our respective communities do we engage in. It is important, then, that, as we go about among our fellows Masons and non-Masons alike — we conduct ourselves in such a way that we earn their respect, their admiration, and their sincere esteem and affection.

Twenty-five years ago, Illustrious Brother George A. Newbury, 33°, pronounced: "It helps little to advance our loved fraternity to recite with fervor and eloquence the great truths and lessons taught in our rituals and allegories if the image of Masonry we reflect outside the lodge room fails to be a credit to us and to the fraternity."

The second thrust of our "Share the Masonic Light" program is to stimulate strengthened relationships among us in the Craft and with members of our Appendant Bodies. It is important that we show all and sundry that we in the widespread Masonic family are,

indeed, "linked together with an indissoluble chain of sincere affection," and that we are a close-knit band of men and women who best agree and who best work together in close harmony to practice our Masonic tenets and principles.

We must, furthermore, share the Masonic Light with our own families. This entails IMBUING THEM WITH MASONIC VALUES AND PRINCIPLES, GETTING THEM INVOLVED IN MASONIC FUNCTIONS, AND IF NEED BE, STIMULATING THEM TO JOIN OUR APPENDANT BODIES, INCLUDING OUR MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. IN THIS WAY, MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILIES WILL REALIZE THAT MASONRY DOES NOT PULL THE MASON AWAY FROM HIS FAMILY, BUT RATHER, SUPPORTS IT.

Sharing the Masonic Light also means that, individually and collectively, we help raise the level of the general public's awareness and understanding of Masonry and Masons.

Our Fraternity depends on us to carry its message. This means that we must be well educated Masonically, so that we can confidently and convincingly talk about Masonry to non-Masons.

There is, certainly, so much for us to talk about, such as Fraternity's impact on us as individuals, what it means to our families, and what it contributes to the betterment of human life.

Sharing the Masonic Light, in addition, entails GETTING INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES. If need be, let us increase our benevolent works in our respective communities, so that out beloved Fraternity will regain its relevant presence in the community. The harder we work in an organized way to help build up our communities, the stronger we become as a Fraternity.

Let us, individually and collectively, set a proper example for non-Masons to see and understand. Let us convince the world both by our words and by our acts that, as Illustrious Brother Warren F. Schueler, Sr., 33 , put it, Masonry is, to us, at least ten things, namely:

One: In the lodge room, Speculative Masonry is inforamtion and inspiration.

Two: In the home, Masonry is kindness and fidelity.

Three: In Business relationships, Masonry is honesty and veracity.

Four: In our daily work, Masonry is thoroughness and dependability.

Five: In social contacts, Masonry is moderation and self-control.

Six: Toward the fortunate, Masonry is congratulations and best wishes.

Seven: Toward the weak, Masonry is compassion and assistance.

Eight: Toward wickedness, Masonry is rebuke and resistance.

Nine: Toward the penitent, Masonry is forgiveness and another chance.

Ten: Finally, toward God, Masonry is reverence, love and obedience.

I want to conclude my "valedictory address" to you with the story of a philosophy professor who wrote on the chalkboard "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?" Then he asked the class to write their answers during the next half hour. After the papers had been collected, one of the students asked, "Professor, what IS the meaning of life?"

"That's a fair question," the professor said. "I asked you; so, you are entitled to ask me."

He went over to a classroom window and took a small pocket mirror. Holding it at an angle, he reflected the sun's rays into the classroom, a light almost equal to that of the sun itself. He centered the light on a far corner of the room where sunlight never reached. Then he said, "There's the answer: reflecting light into dark places. The light represents knowledge and truth, while the dark place, ignorance. That, I believe, is the meaning of life."

Similarly, dear brethren, the meaning of Masonry is, as we all know, reflecting the light of Masonic philosophy and doctrine in dark places — in places where exist ignorance, bigotry, prejudice, inequity, injustice, animosity, and other evils. These evils we must replace with brotherly love, relief or charity, truth and knowledge, justice, prudence, faith, and other virtues we have been charged to cultivate and promote.

This task of spreading or sharing the Masonic Light has not always been easy. But we must persist in accomplishing it in resolute pursuit of our Masonic ideal: THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

Do you, dear brethren promise that, even long after I have stepped down from the Grand Oriental Chair, you will continue pursuing the thrusts of our "Share the Masonic Light" program which I have outlined just now? If you do, say "AYE!"

(The brethren say, "AYE!)

That promise, my dear brethren, has made my coming to Surigao to see and be with

you most meaningful and fruitful; it has made your conquest of me complete.

Brethren, you are, indeed, the real heartbeat of our gentle Fraternity because you labor so tirelessly, so diligently, and so unselfishly to advance the cause of Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction, specifically here in Mindanao.

Therefore, I repeat: MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT! MABUHAY ANG MASONERYA DITO SA MINDANAO!

The Supreme Architect of the Universe love and bless you all.

VW Proceso C. Bonotan, Jr. closed the Lodge Convention after the retirement of the flag in short form.

Addendum: After the Convention we had our lunch in the same hall and were treated to seafoods not found in other places. Certainly the lunch was one fellowship that will long linger in the minds of our brethren. Mt. Diwata Lodge No. 236 officers and members acted as marthas, able hosts and caring lead Lodge.

Of course, the Regional Convention format was no different from the Multi Conference I attended. While sitting at the east with the other Grand Lodge dignitaries a thought crossed my mind that perhaps Regional Conventions can accommodate other organizations and/or government entities to enlighten us so as a fraternity we can be effective social catalyst in the community. I witnessed a great potential in a Regional Convention. It could be a time not only of sharing thoughts and wisdom but also seeking out how we can be effective as a fraternity in imbibing our Masonic tenets and virtues.

The 39th Mindanao Masonic Convention in Surigao City was indeed a fellowship of kindered minds. We left the City with fond memories. The brethren of that city did their utmost to make us feel their hospitality.



Kalaw Chapter No. 9 officers visiting PP Domingo FM Domingo. Left to right: Sisters Linda A. Fernandez, Toni Mosera, Norie Redor and Chit Tapales. Sitting: Sisters Pacing Miravite, Claire Agulto and Domingo FM Domingo

Features:

MASONS CONTINUE SHOWING CONCERN FOR CRIPPLED, OTHER DISABLED CHILDREN

• eF.R.eN

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines founded the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI) in 1924. Through the MCCCI, it has maintained a Masonic Ward for Crippled Children at the Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo, Manila. It has also opened three regional units — in Baguio City, in Cebu City, and in Davao City.

In 1994, MCCCI-Manila registered 37 admissions for 31 patients (two were admitted thrice, another twice).

The patients' places of origin are as follows: Bicol, 13; Metro Manila, 6; Angeles City, 4; Nueva Ecija, 3; Zambales, 2; Palawan, 1; Cavite, 1; Batangas, 1; and Mindoro, 1. Of these, 14 are males and 17 females.

According to diagnosis, the patients may be categorized thus: congenital clubfoot; 11; cerebral palsy, 4; arithropyposis, 3; post polio deformities, 3; TB of bones and joints, 3; nemofibromotoses of spine, 1; neglected patellar dislocation, 1; parathyroidisin, 1; multiple logenetal constriction bands, 1; and congenital hip dislocation, 2.

The MCCCI has observed that in the past few years Bicol and Central Luzon have become leading areas whence patients come — no longer Metro Manila. This may be attributed to the zeal with which Lodges or even individual brethren from those regions actively search for children who need the MCCCI's help.

But the MCCCI would like to do more for crippled, other disabled children. Hence, it urges individual brethren and even Lodges to get actively involved in looking for children who need its help very badly. It is, says the MCCCI, painful to see young people, some as old as 13 to 18, with badly deformed limbs; if they had been found and treated at a much earlier age, treatment would not have been quite difficult and costly. Early discovery and treatment of deformity insure better long-term results. (So, brethren, let's go out to locate children with deformed limbs. Let's make a difference.)

The MCCCI has also noted that in the past few years there has been a shift in diagnoses from infectious diseases (polio, TB and bacterial osteomyclitis) to congenital conditions like clubfoot and hip dipplasia and cerebral palsy. This shift signals the need for longer hospitalization due to prolonged rehabilitation and physiotherapy. In other countries, such patients are usually transferred to convalescent or rehabilitation homes where medical expense may be brought down.

With this in mind, the Board of Trustees of the MCCCI and its medical directors have been proposing that a convalescent or rehabilitation home be put up, so that children who do not need operations or have already been operated on can recover from surgery and prepare for return to normal life. This is also a step toward building our

very own Masonic Hospital for Crippled Children..

The Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in the USA and our own MCCCI were actually organized within one year of each other. Yet, while the former is now a network of about 20 hospitals for burnt and crippled children, the latter is still dreaming of building a hospital of its own.

It is the MCCCI's most fervent wish and prayer that before the end of this century the dream of our illustrious brothers who founded it will be realized — the dream of starting a convalescent home for crippled children.

The officers of the MCCCI are as follows: MW Raymundo N. Beltran — President; RW Jose Percival Adiong — 1st Vice President; VW Roberto C. Reyes — 2nd Vice President; VW Bienvenido G. Ongkiko — Treasurer; VW Lucas C. Ty — Secretary; WB Honorio L. Carreon — Asst. Treasurer; Bro. Fernando Lacsamana — Auditor; WB Ang Ke Yu — Asst. Auditor; and VW Benito T. Ty — Director. Bros. Manuel Rivera and Michael Rivera are Medical Director and Assistance Medical Director, respectively.

Members of the Craft and Appendant Bodies, meanwhile, continue to show their concern for crippled and other disabled children.

The picture below shows a visiting Job's Daughter with the physiotherapists and two of the patients at the Masonic Ward, Mary Johnston Hospital.



Sometimes the MCCCI or individual brethren and sisters take the crippled children out on field trips to such places as Manila Zoo and the Rizal Monument in Luneta.



MW JOHN L. CHOA: GOLDEN TAMARAW AWARDEE

MW John L. Choa was one of nine distinguished alumni who were recipients of the 1995 Golden Tamaraw Awards by the Far Eastern University Law Alumni Association during the homecoming and testiomonial dinner held at the Club Filipino recently in honor of Classes '66, '67, '68, and '69.

MW Choa was chosen Most Distinguished Alumnus in Civic Leadership

Shown in the photo below are the nine awardees.

ON UNMASONIC CONDUCT

* VW Renato S. Corpuz, DGL

One issue of **The Cabletow** contains an article on Masonic education, the theme of which is, What is the use of teaching the brethren the floorworks and requiring them to memorize the Monitor if we forget to instill in them those moral virtues which Masons are supposed to cultivate, act on and live by?

The article is timely and timeless. As was reported by the Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence during the last Annual Communication, some Masons have been charged with and penalized for various misdemeanors like mishandling of lodge funds and such things as forgetting themselves in public after imbibing spirits. We refer to these acts as unmasonic conducts.

Why the adjective unmasonic? Because we in the Craft should not act in such a manner. I do not mean to say, of course, that if we were not Masons we could do so. My point is, our Fraternity expects us, its members, to maintain the high moral character that it assumed we already possessed when we first knocked at its door precisely because we were so vouched for by tongues of good report that we were accordingly accepted into its fold. Had we been reported as profligates, our petitions for degrees would have been rejected outright. And, surely, it would be very embarrassing to be given the legendary blackball for that reason. To be better men than before, then, is what is expected of us.

Of the second misconduct mentioned by the Committee on Jurisprudence I shall speak; for a great many of us, without realizing it, are guilty of this seemingly harmless transgression of the ethical standards that, incidentally, apply not only to Masons but to everybody else.

Refreshments after labor being part of our traditional and regular rituals, occasions are frequent wherein we, due to human frailties, are exposed to and, more often than not, overwhelmed by alcohol even in the presence of cowans and eavesdroppers. Under such condition, our tongues are loosened and we come to be voluble, prone to inanities, or otherwise, and likely to unwittingly reveal in public our Masonic secrets. If we do not at times turn out to be pugnacious, we become either vexatious or unfaithful to our Masonic obligations. We tend to lapse into some indiscretions here and there that, if witnessed by non-Masons, bring discredit not only to the particular brother involved but to the entire organization as well. Indeed, we cause harm to Masonry in the process without intending to do so. That could be the justification why drinking alcoholic beverages is not allowed within the Grand Lodge premises.

Not being a teetotaler, I am no advocate for complete abstinence from drinking; for it is not bad to drink. In fact, alcohol has been tested to be invigorating and proven to medicinal if not taken in excess. That is why, from time immemorial, wine has been recognized as part of the wages for our labors. But, as many have observed, sometimes in the exuberant outpourings of our brotherly love and camaraderie during fellowship socials, we overdrink. And that is when our problem begins.

It is well and good if we just retire and/or sleep when we find ourselves inebriated. But if we behave not unlike, if not worse than, Darwin's origin of the human species, that is an altogether different story. Under such circumstance, some corrective measure or preventive remedy is believed to be in order and necessary.

Confronted as we are by this chronic problem, I refuse to just excuse myself by simply saying "Am I my brother's keeper?" We are, after all, called upon to whisper good counsel to our "erring" brethren.

I have, of course, the least intention to pontificate. I myself might have been guilty of the indiscretion in some near or distant past. I just want to share with you a lesson worth remembering from a TV commercial advertising an alcoholic drink with a machismo model reminding the viewers to "DRINK WITH MODERATION." This is the same as reminding ourselves, "LET US GUARD AGAINST DRINKING IN EXCESS." That, my brothers, is the message that I want to put across. I hope you will take it as a brotherly advice.

Did I hear somebody saying "LET US DRINK TO THAT!?"

Note: VW Corpuz delivered this lecture to District 1-C Lodges to which he is assigned as DGL.



MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. and Grand Lodge Officers at the welcome sign constructed by Pintong Bato Lodge No. 15, Cavite

MASONIC SPORTSFEST: A TRULY THRILLING EXPERIENCE

*** Bro. Mindo N. Aquino**
R.S. Roque Memorial Lodge No. 289

THE ROAD TO FAME AND SUCCESS is rough and rugged. But, if we intend to reach our elusive but rewarding goals, we have no choice but to travel on that road.

This truism illustrates the zeal and determination reflected upon each Brother's face in our latest inter-Lodge sports competitions at the Isabela Sports Complex in Ilagan, Isabela. Nine Lodges of Masonic District No. 23 participated in the sportsfest; their members actively competed in various sports events.

Highlight of the affair, as in the past, was the full involvement of Hermanas from at least four Lodges in several events, including volleyball, dart, tug of war, and 200-meter relay. This made us realize better than before the import of our Grand Master's words, "If you get the Brother's family, particularly the wife, involved, you get the Brother involved."

Two young Lodges participated: San Mariano No. 307, which was constituted only last July, and Ganano Lodge U.D. at Echague, Isabela.

The veterans saw their athletic supremacy slipping away from them; for the young blood, their budding successors, clearly outshone them in marathon, swimming, chess, tug of war, 400-meter relay, and basketball.

Said the veterans: "The mind is strong, but the body cannot any longer sustain the needed strength, speed and stamina."

I myself have to admit that I experienced the so-called fatigue factor. I thought I could run the whole course of the five-kilometer marathon. But halfway I felt my calves cramming. I could have walked my way through, just to finish and earn a point, but my chest was like a drum thundering with fatigue.

What, alas, happened to my mountain-climbing ability some years back? I used to walk on uphill and downhill dirt roads and even trails in our routinary field work in the forests at the Sierra Madre mountain ranges — a must for foresters like me who work in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Am I growing old? Have I reached — or even gone past prime of youth?

At any rate, for a new Master Mason like me, eager to participate in such a noble activity as an inter-Lodges sportfest, I experience the exhilarating emotion of thrill. Losing matters not. The sages, after all, consider losing an excitement, an adventure; for, as G. K. Chesterton paradoxically put it, "Adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered, and an inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered." Why, even romance novels do dramatize this fact.

No doubt, the road to fame and success is rough and rugged, rugged and rough. But we have to travel on it just the same to reach our goal. We have no other choice. As travelers, we Freemasons have to keep on following our journey...

VISION IS IN A TRUE MASON'S HEART, NOT IN HIS EYES

* Bro. Xavier R. Tanchico, 32°

When I was a newly raised Master Mason — that was way back in 1986 — I came across a copy of "One Hundred and Sixty Questions and Answers Pertaining to the Symbolism of Masonry and Its Connection with the Bible." This is a compilation by C.E. Patterson from the works of Albert G. Mackey and many other eminent Masonic authorities (c. 1935, 1957 by A.J. Holman Co.)

One of the questions that attracted my attention then was, "What is the symbolism of a Master Mason, and how presented?" The answer is as follows:

"The Master Mason represents man, when youth, manhood, old age, and life itself, have passed away as fleeting shadows, yet raised from the grave of iniquity and quickened into another and better existence. By its legend and all its ritual, it is implied that we have been redeemed from the death of sin and the sepulcher of pollution; and the conclusion we arrive at is that youth, properly directed, leads us to honorable and virtuous maturity, and that the life of man, regulated by morality, faith, and justice, will be rewarded, at its closing hour, by the prospect of eternal bliss."

Yet, I learned from the same compilation that one of the lamentable weaknesses of Masonry is...

> "That the newly initiated candidate is left to shift for himself, and not instructed that there is more to Masonry than just a few grips, signs and passwords. He has received the key, the degrees, and it is necessary, if he desires to leave the rut of ritualistic routine and inform himself on the nature and character of the institution, that he enters the recesses of its caverns with Masonic pick and shovel, in search of the jewels hidden there, and invest himself with the rich fruits of Masonic knowledge all the days of his life."

I was not left to shift for myself. A Worshipful Brother, also a 32nd degree Mason, was with me, particularly during stated meetings. He gave me Masonic education, including some of his unforgettable experiences with other Master Masons in other parts of the country whom he had met during his travels.

Thus this Worshipful Brother instructed me on the nature and character of our venerable Order, and he stimulated me to engage myself in Masonic research so as to invest myself with the precious gems of Masonic knowledge. But, to me, he has been an embodiment of a true Mason's loyalty and dedication, an exemplar of a sense of commitment to Masonic principles that is worth emulating, a veritable sharer of Masonic light.

Born on September 19, 1930, this Worshipful Brother is now past 64. A native of Malabon, Rizal, he has been a devoted family man — a true husband to Dr./Sis Mercedes Eden Manalang and a loving father to his four children.

My Masonic tutor is a dental surgeon by profession. As such, he was a two-

term president of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA). In October 1955, he was an official delegate of the PDA to the Asia-Pacific Conference of the World Public Dental Associations.

He is also a retired colonel of the Philippine Constabulary.

That he comes from a family of Master Masons is a source of pride to him.

"My father is a Past Master of Labong Lodge No. 59," he tells all and sundry with a tinge of true pride. "Two of my elder brothers are Master Masons of the same Lodge: Jose Bernabe and Rafael. I was raised in the same Lodge on September 7, 1963 and elected Worshipful Master of the same in 1969, in 1977, and in 1984. Since 1986 I have been Life Member."

Up to this day, he has exhibited genuine dedication to his duties as a Master Mason. His failing eyesight notwithstanding, he is always present at Lodge meetings — except when there is no available vehicle cum driver. He is, more often than not, ahead of others when it comes to paying yearly dues. He even takes the responsibility of communicating with our other brethren abroad, updating them on Masonic activities hereabouts and reminding them of their dues and other duties.

In short, he exemplifies this statement by the late Bro. W. H. Moran of Lodge Caledonia No. 796, in "The Meaning of Freemasonry": "One man living a brotherly life a is a worth a thousand lectures or articles on brotherhood. Men can make many things, but faithful and charitable hearts are not the work of man. The difficulty is that we are apt to build without foundations. Freemasonry is the realization of the GAOTU and the practice of brotherhood; it must begin with each of us in our lives."

The true Mason's vision shines bright in the heart of WB MANUEL RODRIGO C. PEREZ, not in his eyes. The Mason in him is manifest in his acts, not in his words. He typifies one who, in the words of MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., "ever keeps the flame of Masonic principles ever aglow in his heart, so that he contaminates the people he comes in contact with."

Mabuhay ka, WB Manuel Rodrigo C. Perez! May your likes increase in our Craft! — eF.R.eN



CHANNEL V'S FIRST PINOY VJ IS MASTER MASON'S DAUGHTER



Melanie Casul, who was chosen from among a thousand applicants, is the first Pinoy VJ of Channel V.

She bested four finalists, namely: Jason Farley, Christina Bitanga, Rachel del Mar, David Wu-ish, Erwin Valencia.

Melanie is the daughter of WB Methusael A. Casul, PM, Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199.

A YOUNG MASON'S LETTER, A MASTER'S ANSWER

The Worshipful Master of Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282 received the following letter from a concerned young Master Mason:

I am a newly raised Master Mason and was looking forward to an enlightening experience in our Fraternity. However, in a short time since my raising, doubts and slight frustration are creeping in.

I joined the Fraternity because of the good things I had heard and read about it. My expectations were initially confirmed when I was given some orientation and interviewed by the Council of Elders, from whom I received some light. Then the warm reception and acceptance by the brethren upon my raising impressed me more. The activities of the Lodge both within and without convinced me that I had made the right decision.

Then I heard the stories — of how some brethren up to now are trying to bring down our Lodge by spreading rumors; of how they took advantage of the trust and confidence of brothers for favor, with promises not fulfilled. Have they forgotten their obligations? Their Charges? What happened to the lights given them? Why the destructive tongue?

Why are there inactive Masons? Even some of our officers lack visibility and are often absent!

I heard that the Lodge is contemplating to move out of District 9-B. Is this the solution?

We look up to you, the Worshipful Master, for guidance and counsel. This is the reason we sit at the northeast corner of the Lodge. Please enlighten me. You have my attentive ear, sir.

The Master's reply is as follows:

Thank you for your letter. Your request for advice and counsel is most welcome.

You are not the first to have doubts. There were some before (young and old Masons) and perhaps a few more later if we do not make corrections now. There were even those who wanted to knock but never did because of similar observations. Some did join but in other Lodges because they were discouraged.

I have to admit that within the Fraternity there are brethren who have somehow forgotten the lights given to them in Masonry. However, I want to assure you that their numbers are few and that corrective actions are being taken not only by our Lodge but also by the District and by the Grand Lodge.

Everything should be done with patience and we have to abide by the justice system. We have to do it by the book, so to speak.

In our society today, we can find destructive and corrupt individuals in almost every grouping — in the government (executive, legislative and judicial), in the business sector, in the technical field and even in the clergy. If you remember, even in the Lord Jesus' Court, one of His disciples (Judas) betrayed Him.

I am not justifying the presence of "bag eggs" in the Fraternity. I only want to emphasize that there could be some mistake in our selection of candidates and in how we mold new members. It was our fault that they are within.

* Did the sponsoring brother really know his candidate? He was supposed to recommend only those who can bring honor to the Fraternity.

* Did the investigation committee do its job? The members were to do research and conduct interviews to determine the background and reputation of the candidate.

* Did we cast our ballot intelligently when the candidate's petition was being acted upon? A single negative vote could have denied membership.

We have improved our selection process and you can confirm this as you went through it recently. We have also improved the molding process through one-on-one instruction and through immediate involvement of newly raised brethren to Lodge activities, both within and without. Again, you are a participant in this program.

Of course, the program's success is dependent on the individual concerned. That's why the processing is very important. It will be hard to change what was learned in more than 21 years. Good learning, however, is easy to enhance.

There is the plan to move to another District. This is a contingency plan and the intent is to save our present District 9-B. As of now, the District could not achieve harmony because of one particular Lodge. The Grand Lodge is aware of the situation and is doing its best to remedy the situation.

For the moment, our Lodge is moving forward. We have good membership (increasing and better quality); we have good projects; proficiency is high and commitment improving.

It's true that some brethren have not been active lately and contact has been established to determine why they could not make their 24-inch gauge work. Your observations are well taken, and I advise you to consider whatever negative you have heard or observed as simple irritations which should not distract you from the task at hand. You joined the Fraternity with a clear goal in mind and and with your path and direction specified. Carry on and be a part of the Pagkakaisa 2000 "Dream Team". Let us walk the path together. In Masonry, you will never be alone.

Please remember the four cardinal virtues when you make decisions:

Temperance — enables us to restrain our affections and passions, thereby helping us avoid vices and bad habits.

Fortitude — enables us to undergo any pain or trouble; have courage to bear your bad observations, look toward the bright side.

Prudence — teaches us to regulate our lives and actions to the dictates of reason and wisely judge all things relative to our present, as well as our future, happiness; show

carefulness and foresight and avoid rashness.

Justice — **enables us to render unto every man his just due without distinction; it should be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the minutest principles of justice, which is the standard or boundary of right.**

Feel free to see me anytime. As I told you before, when in doubt, consult your Worshipful Master.

Fraternally,
WB BERT PAGOTAN

Said MW Quintin Paredes (1922): "I would call attention OF SPEAKING ILL OF OTHERS, TOLERANCE to the attitude frequently adopted by certain Masons to criticize and find faults with the bad habit which some of these brethren have carried to the extreme of speaking ill of others. They forget too easily and often that tolerance is one of the virtues that should adorn the Mason and that frankness and sincerity towards the brother are essential to good understanding and harmony. If a Mason cannot say anything good of his brother, he should at least keep silent. We must whisper good counsel into the ear of our erring brother and not slander or insult him or speak ill of him."



Giving due recognition plus gifts to widows and orphans of brethren of Pangasinan 56.

...Teach us from its life giving precepts; invoke upon our labors the blessing of that Divine Being whose infinite goodness it so fully reveals and unfold to us, and warn us by its lessons of wisdom and truth...

SARAH: PRINCESS MADE QUEEN MOTHER IN OLD AGE

*** VW Samuel P. Fernandez, GP**

Introduction

Many a man has quested for the elusive fountain of youth or for shangrila, where no one grows old. But his scientific discoveries or technological advances notwithstanding, man has remained what he naturally is: a being towards death. No cosmetics, no medicine, no modern laser has prevented human nature from taking its course.

Youth, with its vigor, energy, idealism and dynamism, is, concededly, an enjoyable, pleasant, memorable stage of human life. The late Claro Mayo Recto, a classical writer-turned-politician in the Philippines, wrote as part of his lyric poem entitled "My Nipa Hut":

> "Youth that I yearn! Poor mad illusion
> that left in my soul scintillations of the sun;
> honey and dew were in your mouth,
> divine tenderness in your heart!"

Old age, to many, is a nuisance. But old age may be viewed as a blessing; for, really, how many people ever reach that stage?

Life is not plain chronological age. Age should not worry us. Our worry should be how to infuse quality into life no matter how short it is. Our duty to ourselves is to follow such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of our corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy, so that we will be able to exert the talents with which God has blest us both for His glory and the welfare of our fellow creatures.

If we follow such a course of discipline, most likely we will live up to old age.

In any case, as Margaret Kuhn aptly put it, "Aging is a life-spanning process of growth and development from birth to death. Old age is an integral part of the whole, bringing fulfillment and self-actualization. I regard aging as a triumph, a result of strength and survivorship."

This classical, often quoted line from Ecclesiastes, furthermore, is worth considering:

> There is a time for everything,
> and a season for every activity under heaven;
> a time to be born and a time do die,
> a time plant and a time uproot,
> a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

In the case of Sarah, wife of Abraham, there was a time for barrenness and a time for fertility. She was barren in her youth; at 90 she became, through God's intervention, pregnant and then a mother to Isaac, father of nations, at 91. For here there was a time to doubt and, rebuked, a time to trust in God.

Biblical Reference

Genesis 18 tells us that the Lord appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre. Abraham was seated at the entrance of his tent as the day was growing hot. That was, to him, a time for rest. Then he saw three men standing nearby. Upon seeing them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them. Bowing to the ground, he addressed the leader of the group, whom he did not yet recognize as Yahweh: "Sir, if I ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under a tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way." His seeing the three signaled that it was time for him to show hospitality to strangers.

"Very well," they replied, "do as you have said."

Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three seahs of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls." He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then he got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before them. And he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

Almost 100 years old, Abraham found time to rest but he also found time to show his benevolence to strangers, giving the best of what he had to them, waiting on them himself. Old age was, to him, not an obstacle to serving one's fellowmen.

Here is the rest of the story (Genesis 9-15), as told in the Good News Bible, Today's English Version:

> Then they asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?"
>
> "She is there in the tent," he answered.
>
> One of them said, "Nine months from now I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son."
>
> Sarah was behind him, at the door of the tent, listening. Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods. So Sarah laughed to herself

and said, "Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too."

Then the Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, Can I really have a child when I am so old? Is anything too hard for the Lord? As I said, nine months from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Because Sarah was afraid, she denied it, "I didn't laugh," she said.

"Yes, you did," he replied. "You laughed."

Biblico-Historical Background

Sarah was originally named Sarai, an old Semitic feminine form meaning princess. She was Abraham's principal wife. Beautiful she was, about ten years younger than Abraham. She was the latter's half-sister on his father Terah's side.

Even in her middle age, she was very attractive. Because of this, Abraham get into trouble with Abimelech, the ruler of Gerar. But, of course, Abimelech took Sarah for himself in good faith and with clean hand; for Abraham had told him that Sarah was his sister, and Sarah had also told him that Abraham was her brother.

Warned by God in a dream, Abimelech returned Sarah to her husband Abraham early the next morning; apologized to Abraham; and, in reparation for what he had done, took flocks and herds and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham. All in all, he gave Abraham the equivalent of a thousand shekels of silver.

"Here," he told Abraham, "my land lies at your disposal; settle wherever you please."

Abimelech then said to Sarah, "See, I have given your brother a thousand shekels of silver. Let that serve as a vindication before all who are with you; your honor has been preserved with anyone."

Knowing Abimelech's good intentions, Abraham interceded for him with God, who in turn restored health to Abimelech, that is, to his wife and his maidservants, so that they could bear children; for God had tightly closed every womb in Abimelech's household on account of Abraham's wife Sarah.

After this, the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said He would. He did for her as He had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son whom Sarah bore him.

So it came to pass that Sarah became queen mother to Isaac later to be renamed Israel, father of nations.

Yet.....

When Abraham was granted a theopany, Sarah, listening in to the conversation between her husband and the three strangers, laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? Besides, my husband is old too."

When asked by the Lord why she laughed and doubted His promise that she would have a son, Sarah, afraid, denied that she had laughed and doubted. Hence, the Lord rebuked her, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Thereupon Sarah put her trust in God.

Subsequently, through God's power, her physical vigor was renewed. After nine months she gave birth to Isaac.

Reflection

Like Sarah, particularly in the face of adversity, vicissitude, or misfortune, we often forget that there is nothing too hard for the Lord. But Sarah's experience should impel us to put our trust in God. If, for instance, we do not blossom early or if we do not attain personal perfection at a youthful age, most probably it is God's will that we will do so at a later time. We should not forget that age is never a hindrance to fulfillment. Let us consider this inspiring poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

"Never Too Late"

"It is too late!" Ah, nothing is too late -
Gate learned Greek at eighty; Sophocles
wrote his grand "Oedipus", and Simonides
bore off the prize of verse from his compeers
when each had numbered more than fourscore years!
And Theophrastus, at fourscore and ten,
had begun his "Characters of Men".
Chaucer, at Woodstock, with his nightingales,
at sixty wrote the "Canterbury Tales".
Goethe, at Weimer, teiling to the last,
completed "Faust" when eighty years were past.
What then? Shall we sit idly down and say,
"The night has come; it is no longer day"
for age is opportunity no less
than youth itself, though in another dress,
and as the evening twilight fades away,
the sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.
It is never too late to start doing what is right.
Never.

Many other persons than these mentioned by Longfellow became achievers at a late ago. George Burns won his first Oscar at 80. Golda Meir was 71 when she became Israel's minister. George Bernard Shaw was 94 when one of his plays was produced. Grandma Moses started painting at 80, but in the remainder of her life, she completed over 1500 paintings, 25 per cent of which were produced after she was 100.

How old was Michelangelo when he painted the Sistine Chapel? Why, he was 71! At 89, Albert Schweitzer was still performing operations in his African hospital. At 58, Doc Counsilman became the oldest person ever to swim the English Channel. Retiring as president of San Francisco State University at 70, S.I. Hayakawa subsequently ran as candidate for the U.S. Senate and won.

At 84, Herbert However served as U.S. representative to Belgium. At 65 Winston Churchill became Great Britain's prime minister. At 70, standing on top of his car, he eloquently addressed the admiring crowds on V-E Day.

I can rattle off the names of many other achievers at a ripe old age. To these people, what James A. Garfield said applies: "If wrinkles must be written upon our brow, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should not grow old." The spirit of such achievers at a late age is to do and be their best at what they want to do. They view life, not as a matter of adding years to their age, but rather as a matter of

putting life or meaning to their age. They look at the world as something beautiful, something to enjoy. They want to enjoy life so much that they find no time to be sad, to be anxious, to be uptight, to worry, to agonize, to despair. They know that God has created in every human being that spiritual desire to seek out those who are in need of help, to continue searching for the truth, to appreciate the beautiful as well as to share the beautiful with others. to be productive since man's urgent desire is to improve himself and his environment.

We may not belong to the elite category of these achievers. But we can work along more modest lines. Like them, we must have a positive attitude toward ourselves, toward the world we live in, toward other creatures. This positive attitude will energize us. It will enable us to survive against odds.

Most of all, like Sarah, we should have a positive attitude toward our Creator. We must implore His aid in all our lawful undertakings; we must look up to Him in every emergency for comfort and support — ever remembering that with God nothing is impossible. With His divine grace as well as with our firm resolve to follow His divine plan, we can accomplish much — both for His glory and for the welfare of our fellow creatures.



The GM and PGMs seem to relish the food while RW Bañez and other dignitaries at the presidential table enjoy a joke told by VW BJ Torres (party hidden).

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Iligan Lodge No. 207



SEVERINO C. HERRERA, JR.
Toril Lodge No. 208



VW ERICSON T. JUMALON, PDDGM
Bernardo A. Neri Mem. Lodge No. 214



VICENTE B. TECSON
Salug Valley Lodge No. 216



TEODORICO B. CAPUYAN
Leonard T. Panares Lodge No. 220



GERONIMO L. TAN
Bantugan Lodge No. 223



ROBERTO AU TAN
Dadiangas Lodge No. 225



MATIAS T. APISTAR
Quintin Salas Mem. Lodge No. 231



REXES E. MORALES
Ormoc Lodge No. 234



FRANKLIN B. BUNO
Panabo Dalisay Lodge No. 237



CIPRIANO T. PASCO
Magdiwang Lodge No. 238



GIL T. LEDESMA
Sindangan Lodge No. 240



MANOLITO E. REYES
Manticao Lodge No. 243



MANITO C. ONG
Daguma Mountain Range Lodge No. 244



JESUS B. BAS
Sibuguey Valley Lodge No. 246



FAUSTINO G. CLARAVALL, JR.
Tumavini Lodge No. 251



WILLIAM S. CHU
Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252



EVIDENCIO C. METIAM
Don Camilo Osias Mem. Lodge No. 253



DAVE O. JEREZA
Manuel M. Abello Mem. Lodge No. 260



ALBERT G. TAN
Shariff Kabunsuan Lodge No. 266



EBENEZER G. MORALDE
Midsayap Masonic Lodge No. 267



FRANCISCO L. TAN
Jose P. Rizal (Cal) Lodge no. 270



GILBERT G. BARROQUILLO
M.H. Del Pilar Mem. Lodge No. 272



ARNOLD O. ANCOG
Don Salvador P. Lopez Mem. Lodge No. 276



JOSE G. GUILLERMO
Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277



FEDERICO TAN
Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279



ROBERTO Q. PAGOTAN
Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282



PHILIP B. DUCLAN
Mampiya-An Lodge No. 284



CHARLES C. PERKINS
Unity Lodge No. 285



MAMERTO P. SANTOS
Kagitingan Lodge No. 286



FAIZ P. SAAB
Tanglulan Lodge No. 287



LUIS B. VARGAS
Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291



FELIZARDO P. TIRADO, PM
San Pedro Lodge No. 292



AGELIO L. BRINGAS
Butuan Lodge No. 299



ZIEGRED T. SENDICO
Maribulan Lodge No. 304



VIRGILIO T. VELASCO
Ganano Lodge, U.D.

SENIOR WARDENS



WILLIE ANG BUE TE
Manila-Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1



ERNESTO V. AZARCON
Cavite Lodge No. 2



JESUS G. REMONTE, JR.
St. John's Corregidor Lodge No. 3



CAMILO B. PARRILA
Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5



FELICIANO P. MAURE
Biak-Na-Bato Lodge No. 7



RUFINO S. LANACA
Walana Lodge No. 13



PABLO V. DEL MUNDO, JR.
Pinagsabitan Lodge No. 26



AMADOR CUVIN
Isarog Lodge No. 33



OSCAR S. ALANO
Lincoln Lodge No. 34



JOEL S. BOONGALING
Batangas Lodge No. 35



VICENTE T. BULAN
Isabela Lodge No. 60



NOEL S. ENCARNACION
Angalo Lodge No. 63



MANUEL E. ABELLO III
Kanlao Lodge No. 64



ROBERTO J. PARAS
Tamaraw Lodge No. 65



RENATO S. GONGORA
Gonzaga Lodge No. 66



ANSON RIA
Union Lodge No. 70



FLORANTE C. FAUSTINO
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ARNALDO G. LIMPIN
High Twelve Lodge No. 82



SUCESO A. ARCAMO
Dagohoy Lodge No. 84



MEDEL C. TAVERNER, PM
Abra Lodge No. 86



AGELIO C. BAUTISTA
Hiram Lodge No. 88



GERONIMO M. DOMINGO
Muog Lodge No. 89



JOSE B. CADUYAC
Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91



WILSON DEE KEH
Mencius Lodge No. 93



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Isagani Lodge No. 96



OLIVER C. CUEVAS
Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97



NEAL H. TAN
Mt. Huraw Lodge No. 98



PERCIVAL T. SALAZAR
Palawan Lodge No. 99



PROSPERO B. DE JESUS
Zambales Lodge No. 103



ROGELIO SQ. ZULUETA, JR.
Bataan Lodge No. 104



VIRGILIO E. BUNAO
Leonardo Wood Lodge No. 105



WILFREDO T. SIAO
Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110



SALVADOR LLUCH III
Maranao Lodge No. 111



HERADEL B. FERANIL
Indang Lodge No. 115



ADRIANO ALONZO
Victory Lodge No. 116



GEMINIANO V. GALAROSA, JR.
Quezon City Lodge No. 122



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Sixto Lopez Lodge No. 129



MICHAEL M. MANAPOL
Juan S. Alano Lodge No. 137



HENRY O. CAPISPISAN
Manuel A. Roxas Lodge No. 152



GIL G. TABOR
Mt. Musuan Lodge No. 155



FERNANDO M. FIGUEROA
Mt. Matutum Lodge No. 156



MICHAEL V. NAVA
Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. Lodge No. 158



WILFREDO E. CRUZADA
Lingayen Lodge No. 161



RONILLO D. LEE
Dipolog Lodge No. 162



ARISTEO VALDEZ
Lam-Ang Lodge No. 164



RENATO S. YBAÑEZ
Kidapawan Lodge No. 170



JUSTO WAYLAND M. CABANBAN
Capitol City Lodge No. 174



CESAR R. ABLANG
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Magdiwang Lodge No. 238



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Sindangan Lodge No. 240



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Manticao Lodge No. 243



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Shariff Kabunsuan Lodge No. 266



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Unity Lodge No. 285



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Kagitingan Lodge No. 286



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San Pedro Lodge No. 292



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Ganano Lodge , U.D.

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Cavite Lodge No. 2



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Mabini Lodge No. 39



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Labong Lodge No. 59



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Angalo Lodge No. 63



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Gonzaga Lodge No. 66



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MANUEL ENRIQUEZ
Bataan Lodge No. 104



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Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105



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Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110



LEO PATES
Maranao Lodge No. 111



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Indang Lodge No. 115



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Victory Lodge No. 116



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Sixto Lopez Lodge No. 129



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Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147



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Mt. Musuan Lodge No. 155



MANUEL C. PLANTA, JR.
Mt. Matutum Lodge No. 156



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Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. Lodge No. 158



RAMON B. CUARESMA
Lingayen Lodge No. 161



EUTIQUIANO Z. LADERA, JR.
Dipolog Lodge No. 162



ROBERTO A. OMANDAC
Kidapawan Lodge No. 170



PUBLIO E. CALIP
Capitol City Lodge No. 174



GIL S. SACAYANAN
Cordillera Lodge No. 178



NELSON O. RIGOR
Rio Chico Lodge No. 182



NOEL S. BUENAVENTURA
Mati Aurora Lodge No. 190



MANUEL T. MENIA
Saranay Lodge No. 193



FLOSERDO B. TUGBANG
Graciano Lopez Jaena Lodge No. 194



LEONCITO G. HERNAEZ
Shangri-la Lodge No. 196



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Datu Bago Lodge No. 197



ALBERTO V. LOPEZ
Pantabangan-Bonari Lodge No. 203



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Tagum Lodge No. 204



IKE SATURNINO C. GAITE
Iligan Lodge No. 207



ERNESTO L. LOUH
Toril Lodge No. 208



JOELITO G. INTONG
Bernardo A. Neri Mem. Lodge No. 214



RUDOLPH A. ASENIERO
Salug Valley Lodge No. 216



ALBERTO L. LIM
Bantugan Lodge No. 223



VICENTE P. GARRIDO
Dadiangas Lodge No. 225



AURELIO L. LOPEZ, JR. PM
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JOVENCIO DONALDO
Ormoc Lodge No. 234



IRINEO P. BULSECO
Panabo Dalisay Lodge No. 237



JESUS J. MEDINA
Magdiwang Lodge No. 238



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Sindangan Lodge No. 240



GIUSEPPE MARTIN MICHAEL S. TIANCO
Laoag Lodge No. 243



ROLANDO T. DINO
Daguma Mountain Range Lodge No. 244



NICIAS J. ALAMEDA
Sibuguey Valley Lodge No. 246



ROGER Z. GUZMAN
Tumauini Lodge No. 251



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MENRADO D. CUENCA
Manuel M. Abello Mem. Lodge No. 260



GODOFREDO R. RAPACON
Midsayap Masonic Lodge No. 267



NARCISO H. CANCISIO
Jose P. Rizal (Cal) Lodge No. 270



RUBEN S. SIKAT
Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277



LEON F. HUFALAR
Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279



CESAR B. PERALTA
Mampiya-An Lodge No. 284



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Unity Lodge No. 285



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Kagitingan Lodge No. 286



JOSELITO V. MAGHIRANG
San Pedro Lodge No. 292



EDGAR P. FERNANDEZ
Butuan Lodge No. 299



ARTHUR T. SENDICO
Maribulan Lodge No. 304



RELLI C. PABLEO
Ganano Lodge, U.D.

TREASURERS



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Manila-Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1



ERDULFO E. TANDOC, PM
Cavite Lodge No. 2



RODOLFO SALVACION
Saint John's Corregidor Lodge No. 3



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Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4



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Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5



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Isarog Lodge No. 33



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Mabini Lodge No. 39



GEORGE J. VILLANUEVA
Angalo Lodge No. 63



ALFREDO J. DELA PAZ
Kanlao Lodge No. 64



VW JAIME B. CONCEPCION, PDDGM
Tamaraw Lodge No. 65



ROGELIO R. RONQUILLO
Union Lodge No. 70



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Makiling Lodge No. 72



GEORGE L. SO
High Twelve Lodge No. 82



TELESFORO G. LAPAT
Dagohoy Lodge No. 84



BASILISO A. PASCUA, PM
Abra Lodge No. 86



JOSE K. QUIAMBAO, PM
Mount Kaladias Lodge No. 91



WILLIAM C. DY, PM
Mencius Lodge No. 93



VW COSMO P. ANTONIO, PDDGM
Isagani Lodge No. 96



VW CESAR P. VELARDE, SR., PDGL
Mt. Huraw Lodge No. 98



ATILANO AB. VILLAOS
Palawan Lodge No. 99



JOSELITO A. CO
Zambales Lodge No. 103



RENATO C. DECENA
Bataan Lodge No. 104



VW ANTONIO R. MANIO, PDGL
Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105



PEDRO S. OCAMPO, JR.
Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110



ELPIDIO E. LEGASPI, PM
Indang Lodge No. 115



LORETO G. LACADIN
Victory Lodge No. 116



ELUDERIO S. SALVO
Quezon City Lodge No. 122



ROBERTO M. LUNA
Juan S. Alano Lodge No. 137



ELIAS C. AVANTE, JR.
Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147



VICTOR TANTEKSIAN, PM
Manuel A. Roxas Lodge No. 152



BARTOLOME M. TIONGSON
Mt. Musuan Lodge No. 155



ORLANDO S. MANALUZ
Mt. Matutum Lodge No. 156



CLEMENTE S. NAVA
Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. Lodge No. 158



RUDY Q. MENDOZA
Lingayen Lodge No. 161



VW EMILIANO M. FALCONITE
Dipolog Lodge No. 162



ROMULO H. TABORA
Kidapawan Lodge No. 170



RODOLFO D. RIMANDO
Capitol City Lodge No. 174



VW WILLIAM R. CALDERON, PDGL
Kidapawan Lodge No. 178



BENIGNO V. CADAWAS, JR.
Sierra Madre Lodge No. 181



CRISANTO A. COCAL
Rio Chico Lodge No. 182



VICENTE TANG
Kalantiao Lodge No. 187



WEE CHEE Y. TOM
Mati Aurora Lodge No. 190



ROGELIO A. GANOTISI
Saranay Lodge No. 193



SALVADOR MALLO, JR., PM
Graciano Lopez Jaena Lodge No. 194



RICO O. IBONIA
Shangri-La Lodge No. 196



NESTOR C. PARUGGANAN, PM
Datu-Bago Lodge No. 197



ALLAN O. BONTUYAN
Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199



SECINIO A. BERMUDEZ
Pantabangan-Bonari Lodge No. 203



AGRIPINO S. CRUZ
Tagum Lodge No. 204



FRANCISCO VICTOR S. LAYA
Iligan Lodge No. 207



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Bernardo A. Neri Mem. Lodge No. 214



FIDEL P. CAMPOREDONDO
Salug Valley Lodge No. 216



RONALDO G. BILLENA
Leonardo T. Panares Lodge No. 220



BENEDICTO L. LU
Bantugan Lodge No. 223



PETER S. DEL VALLE
Dadiangas Lodge No. 225



ROGELIO T. UY
Ormoc Lodge No. 234



CLAUDIO K. TAN
Panabo Dalisay Lodge No. 237



ROMEO C. CASTRO
Magdiwang Lodge No. 238



VW JOSE P. LIM, JR., PDGL
Daguma Mountain Range Lodge No. 244



RAMON T. LUGO
Tumauini Lodge No. 251



DANILO L. KIMSENG
Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252



RICARTE V. ABRIOL
Don Camilo Osias Mem. Lodge No. 253



DAVID J. LOZADO, SR.
Manuel M. Abello Mem. Lodge No. 260



JOHNNY W. TAN, PM.
Shariff Kabunsuan Lodge No. 266



GREGORIO NEALSON M. DY
Midsayap Masonic Lodge No. 267



OSCAR B. JAURIGUE
Jose P. Rizal (Cal.) Lodge No. 270



EDGAR M. TAN
Don Salvador P. Lopez Mem. Lodge 276



ROMEO L. SARENAS, PM
Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277



ROMEO P. QUEZON
Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279



CONRADO S. SIPSIP
Mampiya-An Lodge No. 284



CARZON M. TAN
Unity Lodge No. 285



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Kagitingan Lodge No. 286



EDMUNDO R. CHAVEZ, JR.
Tangkulan Lodge No. 287



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Butuan Lodge No. 299



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Baliwag Lodge No. 301



CARLOS TRECE R. MAPILI
Urdaneta Lodge No. 302



JOSEPH S. CHUA KAO
Maribulan Lodge No. 304



ANTONIO A. PORTABES
Ganano Lodge, U.D.

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Manila-Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1



VW MARIO E. CRISOSTOMO
Cavite Lodge No. 2
DGL - District No. 10



ELY DANTE B. SOLANO, PM
Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5



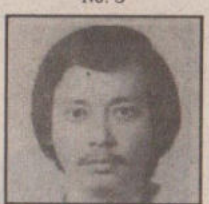
VW RODOLFO H. CARDONA
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Zambales Lodge No. 103



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Bataan Lodge No. 104



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Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110



MOISES DALISAY
Maranao Lodge No. 111



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Indang Lodge No. 115



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Victory Lodge No. 116



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Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133



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Mt. Musuan Lodge No. 155



XAVIER C. CAPILITAN, SR.
Mt. Matuturn Lodge No. 156



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JOSE BAN RAMOS, PM
Lingayen Lodge No. 161



MOHD. TRANS. T. [illegible]AAROL, AL HAJ.
Dipolog Lodge No. 162



MANUEL C. MENDOZA, PM
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Kidapawan Lodge No. 170



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Iligan Lodge No. 207



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Dadiangas Lodge No. 225



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Ormoc Lodge No. 234



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Magdiwang Lodge No. 238



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Sindangan Lodge No. 240



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Daguma Mountain Range Lodge No. 244



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Sibuguey Valley Lodge No. 246



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Tumauini Lodge No. 251



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Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277



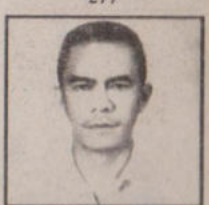
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Capitol City Lodge No. 174



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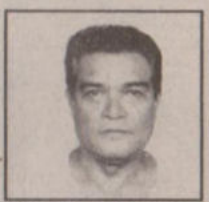
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THE GM'S LAST LONG TRIP IN FIVE ACTS

* eF.R.eN

Prologue

At 5:00 a.m. two vans left the Grand Lodge premises and took to the north-bound highway to keep certain promises to brethren in northern and northeastern Philippines.

In one van were Grand Master Pablo C. Ko, Jr., Grand Pursuivant and Cabletow Editor-In-Chief Sammy Fernandez, Grand Organist Dennis Gabionza, Dist. 9-A DGL Ber Saplaco, Jr. and his driver, Grand Lodge Cashier Ben Villanueva, and this writer.

In the other were Asst. Grand Secretary B.J. Torres, Southern Luzon JGL Oscar Bunyi and his driver, Buildings Administrator and Junior Grand Deacon Fernando "Amang" Mariano, and Noli Me Tangere 148/Perla del Oriente 1034 Past Master Ernesto Ong.

Stopping only a few times, we reached our first destination eight hours later.

Act 1

At the house of re-elected Worshipful Master Benjamin Turgano in Sevilla, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur we were warmly welcomed by our Lam-Ang Lodge No. 164 brethren as well as by MW Rody Herrera, PGM and Grand Treasurer General, Supreme Council, A.&A.S.R., and Ill. Bert Reyes, PGO and Grand Secretary General, Supreme Council, A.&A.S.R.

After taking a late lunch, we proceeded to the hospital in San Juan, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur. In the office of the hospital director the Grand Lodge was opened after some "comedy of errors." Then we marched in procession through the hospital grounds, across the highway, to the lot of Lam-Ang Lodge No. 164.

MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. presided over the ground-breaking and cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the future temple of the Lodge. Assisting him were the following: VW O. Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master; VW Maning Lee, Senior Grand Warden; VW D. Gabionza, Junior Grand Warden; VW Ernie Cua, Grand Treasurer; VW Ber Saplaco, Jr., Grand Secretary; VW S. Fernandez, Grand Chaplain; VW B.J. Torres, Grand Marshal; VW Edward Leung, Grand Lecturer; WB Arturo Hermoso, Master of the Lodge; Bro. Rodolfo Espiritu, Principal Architect; Bro. Juan B. Cabanting, Grand Bible Bearer; WB Ernie Ong, Senior Grand Deacon; Bro. Jessie Antonio, Junior Grand Deacon; WB Ben Villanueva, Senior Grand Steward; Bro. Naulie Cabanting, Junior Grand Steward; Bro. German Juan, PM w/ Book Constitution; and WM Manuel Mendoza, Grand Tyler.

The Grand Master reminded the brethren that they should duly communicate with the Grand Lodge so that they could strictly comply with the requirements for any Masonic ceremony.

Then in procession as before, we crossed the highway and trekked back to the hospital director's office, where the Grand Lodge was duly closed.



GM presiding over Lam-ang's cornerstone-laying.

We motored back to Sevilla in Sta. Cruz. Dignitaries of District 4 and 24, as well as brethren of other Lodges in the districts, had already arrived — and more were arriving at the Sevilla Community School grounds. There, too, were many non-Masons eagerly awaiting the start of the Installation of Officers of Lam-Ang Lodge No. 164.

Then the Lodge was opened...

The Grand Master, accompanied by Grand Lodge Officers and other dignitaries, was solemnly received into the Lodge; MW Rody C. Herrera likewise.

Bro. Luisito Espiritu gave the tribute to the Flag, and Rev./Bro. Pedro E. Torio intoned the invocation. Bro. Aristeo Valdez introduced the visiting brethren and guests. Hon. Virgilio J. Valle, Municipal Mayor of Sta. Cruz, could not make it to the installation. In his stead, Judge Rodrigo Romano, candidate for Vice Mayor, gave the welcome remarks.

First speaking in fluent Iloko, he wished the memory of this event would last for a lifetime. Then switching to English, he welcomed the visitors. Rest assured, he said, that though we may be poor in material resources, we are rich in the moral and spiritual realms. After his remarks, he hied to join the mayor in the election campaigns elsewhere in the town.

Superbly, hence impressively did Installing Officer Rody Herrera and Master of Ceremonies Bert Reyes perfom their assigned tasks!

Installed were WB Benjamin D. Turgano, Worshipful Master; Bro. Aristeo Valdez, Senior Warden; Bro. Mario Castillanes, Junior Warden; WB Rodolfo Espiritu, PM, Treasurer; WB Rufino C. Arcega, PM, Secretary; WB Juan B. Cabanting, PM, Auditor;

Bro. Pedro E. Torio, Chaplain; Bro. Roderick Roldan, Marshal; Bro. Naulie G. Cabanting, Senior Deacon; Bro. Luisito Espiritu, Junior Deacon; VW Reynaldo Olvena, PDDGM, Lecturer; Bro. Oseas Diazen, Lecturer;



The GM poses with Districts 4 and 24 dignitaries and brethren before the start of installation ceremonies.

WB Samson Suen, PM, Orator; Bro. German Juan, Almoner; Bro. Marcelo Manzano, Senior Steward; Bro. Jessie Antonio, Junior Steward; WB Solomon Abellera, Sr., PM, Organist;

WB Manuel C. Mendoza, PM, Historian; Bro. Carlos Sumbad, Master of the Banquet; Bro. Manuel Jimenez, Bible Bearer; and WB Rodolfo Piamonte, PM, Tyler.

Eloquent was the second inaugural address of WB Turgano, a lawyer by profession.

"Believing my performance during my first term as Master to be below par, my brethren made me a repeater in the Oriental Chair," he jestingly commented. Then he enumerated the accomplishments of the Lodge last Masonic year. He singled out their Lodge's sisterhood pact with Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 as well as its tree-planting project. He again solicited the utmost supports and cooperation of his hermanos in carrying out their program of activities, particularly the construction of their future temple and the undertaking of benevolent/civic projects for the benefit of the community, so that the public would feel the relevant presence of Lam-Ang Lodge in their midst.

"Individually and collectively," he stressed, "let's be outstanding, so that we will gain the respect and esteem of non-Masons in the community." He recalled the Supreme Court's definition of Outstanding, namely: labas na (out) tumindig pa (standing). But, he said, jesting aside, let's aim at the highest levels of perfomance during my second year in the East. I know, he concluded, our ALSM brethren will help us move toward excellence.

WB Turgano then requested the Grand Master to assist him in presenting Masonic Widows Pins to Mrs. Victoria V. Lara, widow of VW David T. Lara; Mrs. Lydia D. Cadiente, widow of Bro. Jesus Cadiente; and Mrs. Juanita Martinez, widow of Bro. Elmo Martinez.

The Grand Master next delivered his message.

The Philippine Flag having been retired, VW Edward Leung, DDGM for District 4, closed the Lodge in short form.

Dinner was at the residence of WB Turgano nearby. Delicious were the variegated foods; the beer was cheery, the wine hearty, and the fellowship lovely. But deepening was the night; hence, the Grand Master reminded us that we had promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep. Willy-nilly , we left the fellowship social together with VW Ernie Cua, DGL for District 4, and other brethren of Laoag Lodge No. 71 en route to Laoag City. WB Ben Villanueva was left behind; he was to go back to the Grand Lodge the morning after.



MW Macoy awards Widow's Pin.

Act 2

At the Texicano Hotel in Laoag City we were met by brethren of Laoag Lodge No. 71, specifically WM Llewellyn Santos, SW Jacinto Rigo, Jr., JW Joey Soriano, and Bro. Eric Pasaporte. Bro. George Gaddi, the Chief of Police of Laoag City, joined us in the night cap of Texicano. But we had to cut the fellowship short because we had other promises to keep and miles to go before we reach our third destination.

We took breafast on Friday, March 31, with VW Ernie Cua and several Laoag Lodge No. 71 brethren at the Texicano Hotel restaurant. Then we were taken to the temple of the Lodge, which is adjacent to the provincial hospital. To go up to the temple, one has to hurdle 33 steps; having entered the building, one has to traverse another flight of winding stairs so as to go up to the lodge hall on the second floor.

After some picture taking, we bade our Laoag brethren farewell, expressing our ardent wish to see all of them at the Ancom.

Act 3

We again took to the highway, passing through several towns of northern Ilocos Norte, stopping at scenic places to pose for pictures, but hurrying again because we knew the brethren were waiting, waiting, waiting for us in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan.

In front of the Municipal Hall of Sanchez Mira a banner shouted welcome to the Grand Master and his party. RW Leon A. Bañez, JGW; VW Edilberto Fragante, DDGM; VW Manolo Cipriano, PDDGM; VW Renato Aquino, DGL; WB Jose Lingat, PM; VW Renato Cruz, PDGL; Bro. Ederlino Diego, SW; Bro. Anthony Olalia; WB Elpidio Panig, GLI; Bro. Quintin Bañez — all of Gonzaga Lodge No. 66 — were there to extend welcoming hands to us. The Officers and members of Sanchez Mira (Callo) Lodge No. 233, of



At the Cagayan's Hanging Bridge.



The GM and his party in the office of WB Mamerto Pacris, Sanchez Mira Mayor.



Brethren with the first GM to visit Sanchez Mira.

course, were there in full force. I remember having met the following brethren: Jesus Raralio, Julian Tolentino, Jr., Bienvenido Cacatian, Macario Ines, Homer Agnir, Dadie Rasgo, Isidro Acang, Jose Fuertes, Manrico Baricaua, Nonito Vicente, and William Raguindin.

We paid Hon. Mamerto T. Pacris, Town Mayor and a member of the Fraternity, a courtesy call, after which we ambled to the house of WB/Dr. Herman and Sis. Lilia Asanias, where we partook of a delicious lunch consisting of pinakbet, seafoods, and other delicacies.

After a brief fellowship with the brethren, led by RW Leon Banez, we had to leave for Tuguegarao. We stopped for a while at the hanging bridge for a picture.

At RW Bañez's Villa Ludivina we had merienda. But we were informed that our Isabela brethren were waiting for us at Tumauini. So, we again took the road.

Act 4

Indeed, our brethren had been waiting at Tumauini for quite a time! With them leading the way, we proceeded to Ilaga, Isabela. After checking in and freshening up in Orchid Plaza, we had dinner with the brethren at the ground floor of the hotel, followed by a lively, enjoyable fellowship social. Boy, did we have a lovely, lovely night! Thanks to such brethren as the following: WB Freddie Martinez, Sec. (251); Bro. Alex Castillo, JW (60); Bro. Floren Ambatali, SW (60); WB Vic Bulan, WM (60); WB Diony Panajon, PM (307); WM Luciano Balisi (307); Bro. Deodato C. Go, SW (307); Bro. Leo P. Jaramillo, Sec. (60); WB Dante Simon, PM (60); WB Jun Gabriel, PM (60); WB Federico Ambatali, PM (60); WB Tony Valencia, PM (251); Bro. Nelson Graza (203); and VW Jose R. Anez, PDDGM, Dist. 23.



Cagayan brethren and the GM and his party.

In the morning of Saturday, April 1, we motored to San Mariano, Isabela. Well attended and well prepared were the cornerstone-laying ceremonies, so that the GM was patently overjoyed.

The Grand Lodge was opened in a room of Delfin Albano Memorial Institute of Agriculture and Technology, Sta. Filomena, San Mariano.

The participants in the cornerstone-laying were: Grand Master—MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr.,; Deputy Grand Master—VW Oscar Bunyi; Senior Grand Warden—VW Dennis Gabionza; Junior Grand Warden—VW Abraham C. Domingo, DDGM; Grand Treasurer—VW Fernando "Amang" Mariano; Grand Secretary—VW Ber Saplaco, Jr.; Grand Chaplain—VW Sammy Fernandez; Grand Marshal— VW B.J. Torres; Grand Lecturer—VW Rodolfo Cardona; Master of the Lodge—WB Diony Panajon; Principal Architect—WB Roger M. Balmaceda, GLI; Grand Bible Bearer—VW Arturo M. Toledo, DGL; Grand Sword Bearer—WB Dante Simon; Senior Grand Deacon—VW Nap Soriano; Junior Grand Deacon—WB Hermie Palamine;

Senior Grand Steward—WB Ernesto Ong; Junior Grand Steward

WB Mar Juan; PM with Book of Constitution—WB Vic Bulan; and Grand Tyler—WB R. Agsalda.

We marched in orderly procession through the school grounds to the lot of San Mariano Lodge No. 307, donated by Bro. Dante and Sis. Susana Pascual. Then we returned to the room of DAMIAT, where the Grand Lodge was closed.



The "travelers" with Laoag Brethren.

Next we motored to the San Mariano Community Center, venue of the 2nd Installation of Officers of San Mariano Lodge No. 307.

The Grand Lodge Officers and dignitaries and guest speaker having been received, Sis. Clarinda C. Galiza led us in singing the Philippine National Anthem. WB Felipe Salvador, Jr. said the invocation, and Bro./Mayor Deodoro C. Go, Senior Warden-elect, gave the welcome address.

MW Macoy Ko, Jr. was installing officer, assisted by VW Nap Soriano as Master of Ceremonies and VW "Amang" Mariano as Asst. Master of Ceremonies. VW Oscar Bunyi orchestrated the ceremonies.

Installed were the following: Worshipful Master — Bro. Luciano M. Balisi; Senior Warden — Bro. Deodoro C. Go; Junior Warden — Bro. Nilo B. Umayan; Treasurer — Bro. Dante P. Pascual; Secretary — Bro. Rodolfo B. Costales; Auditor — WB Dionisio C. Panajon, PM;

Chaplain - Bro. William M. Galiza; Marshal - Bro. Romeo B. Chan; Senior Deacon - Bro. Monico I. Aggabao; Junior Deacon - Bro. Arnold J. Pua; Orator - Bro. Edgar T. Go; Lecturers - Bros. Faustino Claravall and Manuel B. Banez, Jr.;

Historian - WB Rogelio B. Uy, PM; Senior Steward - Bro. Paul Anthenor T. Go; Junior Steward - Bro. Rodolfo B. Austria; Organist - Bro. Ricardo Bayudan; Asst. Secretary - Bro. Ronald Allan B. Costales; Custodian of the Work - WB Conrado U. Gabriel, Jr., PM; Master of Banquet - WB Ernesto C. Uy, PM; and Tyler - WB Rustico A. Manuel

To borrow the GM's words, WM Luciano Balisi must have experienced a feeling so rare that when it is gone, it can never be replaced and can never be forgotten, when Masonic dignitaries such as charter members JGL Nards Chua, DDGM Abraham Domingo, and some 14 Past Masters, as well as honorary members WB Hermeno Palamine, VW Nap Soriano, VW Fernando Mariano, VW Oscar Bunyi, and MW Macoy Ko, Jr. joined the brethren in giving allegiance to him. RW Danny Angeles and VW Ernie Malapaya are also honorary members of the Lodge.

In his inaugural address, WB Luciano M. Balisi said that he would not even try to equal, much less surpass, the achievements of his predecessor. But he asked the utmost cooperation and support of the brethren particularly in the arduous task of building their temple.

VW Leonardo P. Chua, JGL for Northern Luzon, presented the Past Master's Jewel and Apron to WB Diony Panajon, Immediate Past Master of the Lodge, who read his well-prepared response. (Indeed, as he said, he excelled in Reading!)

VW Abraham C. Domingo, DDGM for District 23, challenged the officers to demonstrate dynamic leadership so that they would get the cooperation of the members and therefore inspire unity of purpose and pride of accomplishment.

The Grand Master next gave his message and the DDGM closed the Lodge in short form.

By this time everybody was famished. But, certainly, we did not wolf down the fraternal lunch at an elementary school nearby.

We wanted to enjoy the fellowship with our brethren, sisters and guests a little longer. But the Grand Master once more reminded us that we had promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep.

After retrieving our luggage at Orchid Plaza, we motored through rugged roads to the farm of DDGM Abraham Domingo in Aurora where we relished the pla-pla and the tomato cum sibuyas and enjoyed the camaraderie of both brethren and sisters.

Then we took to the road once more en route to Santiago, where we once more enjoyed a fellowship social with the brethren. After the fellowship social, we returned to the hotel for a much-needed rest.



A very organized cornerstone – Paying ceremony — that,



according to the GM, is beyond the shadow of a doubt.

At 7:00 a.m., Sunday, April 2, we left the hotel and had breakfast with VW Leonardo P. Chua and WB Pat Magtanggol in a Chinese restaurant somewhere in the city.

After breakfast we headed for Maharlike Highway; at several places we stopped for a while for some picture taking.



→ **The GM and Grand Lodge, District Officers during installation of officers of San Mariano Lodge No. 307.**



The GM, his party, District Officers and brethren after the Installation ceremonies.

Epilogue

We lunched at Cabanatuan City. After a brief respite, we dropped by the house of RW Danny and Sis. Lita Angeles, where we took merienda.

Thence we arrowed off back to Manila, stopping twice to buy pasalubong for our families.

Thank God, traffic in the North Diversion Road was not heavy. Hence, we reached the Grand Lodge at about 6:00 p.m., feeling satisfied that we had kept our promises to brethren in northern and northeastern Philippines and could at long last give our tired bones some refreshing rest.



The GM and brethren and several ladies at VW Domingo's farm.



The "travelers" breakfast before taking to the highway.

MARANAW 111, MANTICAO 243 HOLD JOINT INSTALLATION

Maranaw Lodge No. 111 and Manticao Lodge No. 243 held joint installation of officers for 1995-96 at the Maria Cristina Hotel in Iligan City last March 24.

Below are pictures taken during the occasion.



→ **WM Bing and Sis. Mely LLuch**

WM Bing Lluch and WM Eduardo P. Quimpo taking their oath of office





→ **The Cabletow editors with District 25 top brass**



Maranaw 111 brethren with Cabletow editors



Manticao 243 brethren with Cabletow editors



At center is Hiram Awardee Chris Chua Tek-An.

...Inside the Masonic Ward for Crippled Children at Mary Johnston Hospital



→ Daughters & Guardians pose with patients



← Visitation of Vice Supreme Guardian Mom Judith Bavister and Vice Associate Supreme Guardian Dad Jim Patterson of the International Order of Job's Daughters with Grand Master & Dad Pablo C. Ko, Jr.

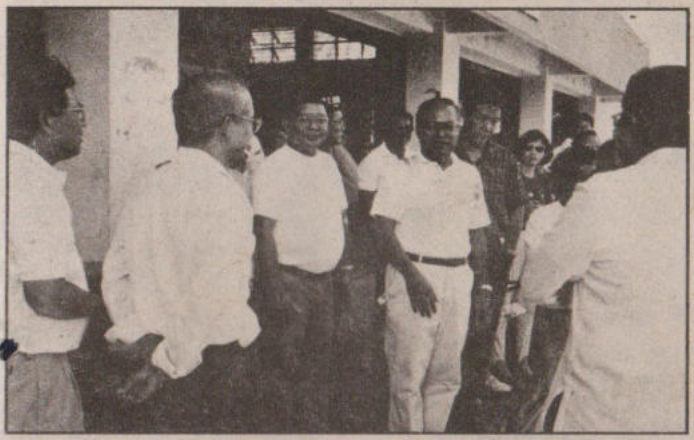


→ With the Daughters from various Bethels in this Jurisdiction



← The International Order of Job's Daughters Phils. welcoming Mom Judith Bavister, Vice Supreme Guardian and Dad Jim Patterson, Vice Associate Supreme Guardian.

OUR THREE-DAY STAY IN MINDANAO



DDGM Joey Bonotan, VW Danny Mendoza, VW Peter Lim Lo Suy and other Mindanao brethren welcome GM and party at Surigao airport.



The GM, the DGM, the SGL, the GO with Mindanao brethren at the King Solomon's Bar in Surigao City.



Cagayan de Oro brethren with VW Dennis Gabionza, GO.



Grand Lodge Officers with Mindanao brethren over soft drinks.

SURIGAO CITY



Floral offering in Surigao



The GM explains importance of floral offering, and the brethren listen.



→ The GM with DDGM Joey Bonotan and the Filipiniana dancers (wives of Masons) of Surigao.

NCR Multi District Convention



VW Alexander B. Madamba, DDGM of District 1-A, the host District of the NCR Multi District Convention, is shown turning over the gavel to MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr.



MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. receiving the Plaque of Appreciation presented by the DDGMs of the five Districts under NCR. From left, VW Alexander Madamba, District 1-A, VW Rafael Roxas, District 1-C, VW Peter Chua, District 1-B, VW Peter Aragon, District 9-B, VW Wilfredo Cruz, District 9-A and MW Ko.



After the wreath laying program at the Rizal Monument, Luneta, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., RW Danilo Angeles, RW Leon Bañez and the brethren of the National Capital Region posed for posterity. The program kicked off the Multi-District Convention.



MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., being received during the Multi District Convention sponsored by Districts 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 9-A and 9-B.

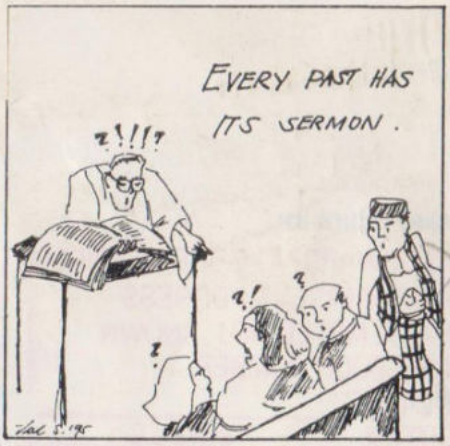
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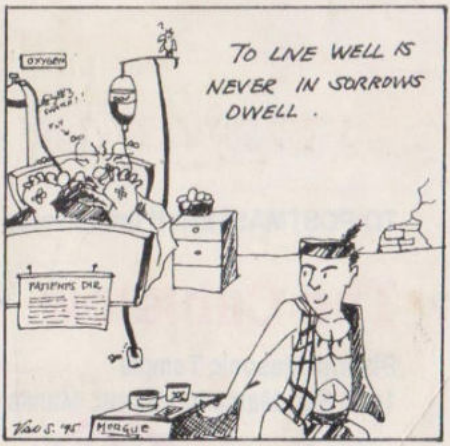
CONCEPT BY
SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ

ART BY
VIEL F. SAMANIEGO









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