

# THE CABLETOW



GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

VOL. 72 NO. 5

January - February 1996

Masonic charity at work...a faraway



Response to GM's call for aid.



(L to R) PNRC Secretary General, Dr. Celso O. Samson; MW Gus Mateo, PGM; RW Enrique Locsin, JGW; Gov. Lourdes Casas-Quezon, Vice Chairman - PNRC; MW Danny D. Angeles, Grand Master; MW John Choa, PGM, Grand Representative - Grand Lodge of England; RW Leon Bañez, SGW; and Mr. Veneracion, Director - PNRC.

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## Editorial

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# GM's Call Gets Response


**T**he response to the call of the MW Grand Master for relief to the distressed people of Central Luzon ravaged by the aftermath of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo has been very encouraging.

The message reached far-away England and, in typical Masonic Charity fashion, the United Grand Lodge of England responded. The equivalent amount of P796,000.00 was sent to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines expressly to be given as aid to the victims of the calamity through the Philippine National Red Cross.

Emon Lodge No. 179 responded likewise, sending one 20-foot container van of relief goods.

MW Danilo Angeles promptly turned over the cash and goods to the PNRC on February 6, 1996 as requested. Of course, as Masons, we understand the rationale for the procedure. We are familiar with the passage about "... the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing ..." which translates to the highest form of charity with the donor not knowing the beneficiary and vice-versa because if the recipient knew the donor, then the act would have been paid for.

The act is typically Masonic in the absence of press releases. We do our good works quietly and let others judge by the manner of our actions.

We await with patience the continuous flow of relief. 

## Masonic District No. 27 in Bonifacio Day Celebration

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**M**asonic District No. 27 once again took the lead in celebrating the 132nd birth anniversary of Bro. Andres Bonifacio at the A. Bonifacio Elementary School in Bacolod City.

The Brethren, led by VW Alfredo J. de la Paz, VW Leo G. Cuachon, and VW Jun Cortes, were imposing in their

aprons and collars. Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 was in full force. There were also Brethren from Negrense Lodge No. 200, Abello Memorial Lodge No. 260, and M.V. Ko Memorial Lodge No. 210.

The affair was highlighted by a tableau, the singing of nationalistic songs, the floral offering, and the speech of Mayor Leonardia. **67**

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## Three-in-One Affair in December

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*by VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr.*

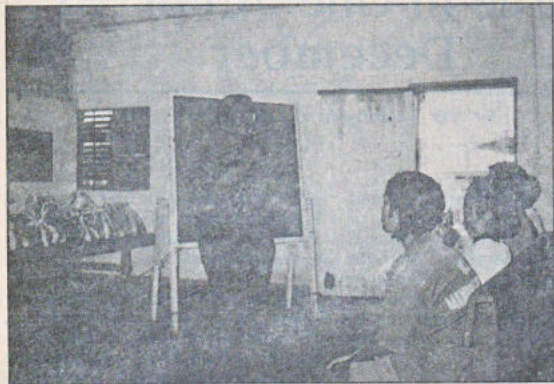
**A**mid turbulent times and the battered economy of the province resulting from the devastation brought about by supertyphoon "Rosing," the Camarines Norte Freemasons still found time to undertake a three-in-one affair last December 30.

The affair started with the offering

of fresh flowers at the foot of the First Rizal Monument in downtown Daet, followed by a breakfast conference in a plush restaurant.

For the sixth time, Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 and Daet Lodge No. 247 conducted their annual "Paglingap" project which saw Brethren happily distributing Christmas packages of assorted groceries to some

▼  
WB Enrique D. Lukban (extreme right) supervising the distribution of gift packages to the indigents.



▼  
Senior Warden Antonio T. Aberca, Jr. giving the closing remarks.

100 indigents.

The affair was capped by a Christmas party attended by some 23 Brethren and 19 Sisters accompanied by their children and grandchildren, with ages ranging from 2 to 12 years old. Everyone present enjoyed the parlor games and won prizes in the process.

Saddened by the absence of W Joselito N. Tabios, Jr., who was confined in a hospital in Daet, WB Enrique D. Lukban appealed for financial assistance for their hospitalized brother. The Brethren readily chipped in what they could afford and prayed that their sick brother would recover immediately. (1)

▼  
WB Eduardo S. Freyra, Director of "Palingap" and SP member, explaining to the indigents the principal tenets of Freemasonry — Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth — and emphasizing that Freemasonry is not a religion.



## THE AIMS OF FREEMASONRY

- practise universal charity
- provide opportunities for self development
- foster moral standards
- build friendships
- seek excellence in all pursuits

*(The Victorian Mason, Vol. 12, No. 6, Spring)*

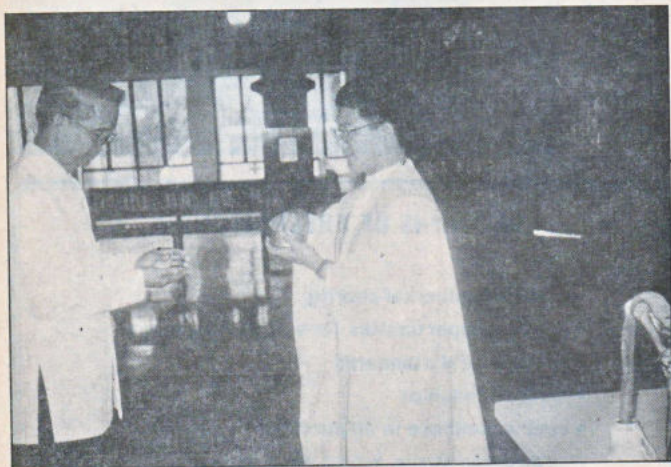
# Saigon Lodge No. 188 Brings Cheers to the Needy

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**V**W Oscar V. Bunyi, WB of Saigon Lodge No. 188 and DDGM of District 12, led the Brethren in giving out gifts to the needy. The Grand Master, MW Danny Angeles, was at

hand to help the Lodge distribute the gifts.

Before the gift-giving, Fr. Laurence Lugo officiated in a thanksgiving Mass at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, Grand Lodge Building. **67**



Thanksgiving Mass officiated by Fr. Laurence Lugo at the GLP Building, December 21, 1995.



Gift-giving at the Grand Lodge of the Philippines chaired by VW Oscar V. Bunyi, DDGM, District 12, December 21, 1995.

I've been told that approx. ten years ago, upon a candidate's first entrance in the lodge, he was asked "In times of great... in whom do you..." and his answer was: "My Boss."

The question was repeated - "In times of GREAT...in whom do you..?" This time the word "great" was pronounced many decibels louder. To this, the candidate replied: "My Wife."

# ALSM Lodge No. 158 Shows Commitment to Masonic Charity


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**L**ast Christmas, officers and members of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 conducted "Bigay Saya '95" during which they gave away used clothing, shoes, food, and other goodies to the old men, women, and small children abandoned by their families who were all residents of the Missionaries of Charity Home of Peace at Lucao District, Dagupan City. More importantly, the Brethren gave the residents of the "Home" a touch of love, care, and concern, which they badly needed.

Project Chairman Daniel C. Uy was happy that the officers and members of the Lodge gave their full support to the "act of charity." The experience, he said, made our holiday season somewhat different — more relevant, more meaningful.

During the Lodge's Christmas program, the Brethren spread cheer not only to their own wives and children, but also to those of their departed Brethren.

Earlier, the Lodge conducted a medical-dental mission at Brgy. Lobong, San Jacinto, Pangasinan where more than 200 patients were treated.

It likewise gave away free medicines, including deworming medications for small children. 

**Our schools can  
teach Reading,  
'Riting and  
'Rithmetic  
more effectively  
when parents  
teach Respect,  
Responsibility  
and Reliability in  
the home.**

**— William Arthur Ward**

## WE ARE SURVIVORS!!!

(for those born before 1945)

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, beams and ballpoint pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothing, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were not Volkswagens.

We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, a togetherness....not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece of wood. Hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam...Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffees were unheard of. We hit the scene where there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for 5 and 10 cents. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two post cards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600...but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was 1 cent a gallon!

In our day, Grass was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was Grandma's lullaby, and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

But, we survived!!! What better reason to celebrate?

(Hawaiian Lodge F. & A.M.)

## CVL No. 133 in Community Development Projects

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**S**pearheaded by Community Development Committee chairman and co-chairman Artemio D. Castro and Rustico B. Santos, respectively, Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133 has pursued several development projects

in cooperation with the DOST of Region 2 headed by WM Wilfredo D. Palada.

According to VW Mag Nuevo, PDDGM, one of these projects is the livelihood skills training, specifically in the production of banana chips, pineapple juice, and vinegar from



CVL No. 133 members during the demonstration sessions for the production of banana chips, pineapple juice and vinegar. (Third from left) HL Exu G. Santos, (fourth from left) WB Rustico B. Santos and (extreme right) WB Artemio D. Castro.



(From third left to right) Santiago City Vice Mayor Amy S. Navarro, DOST Regional Director WB Rustico B. Santos and Chairman of the Committee on Community Development-CVL 133 WB Artemio D. Castro.





(Extreme right) WB Artemio D. Castro, Chairman: Committee on Community Development CVL 133.





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pineapple waste. Mr. Lucio Calimag and Ms. Arceli Umipig of DOST with Prof. Exu G. Santos of Isabela State University conducted the demonstrations. Officers and members of the Santiago City Green Ladies Organization from 37 barangays, or a total of 350 participants, were the beneficiaries of the project. City Vice Mayor Amelita S. Navarro along with WBs Artemio D. Castro and Rustico Santos were around to show their all-out support for the project.

VW Nuevo also disclosed that another project of the Lodge is the training on the production of low-cost laundry soap or the nata de coco project. Present during the sessions were Amaranth Court No. 12 officers HIs Inesia Y. Rasay, Prefedigna M. Ranch, and Exuperia G. Santos. This training is conducted every second Saturday of the month.

Through its community development projects, CVL No. 133 has successfully raised the level of public awareness of Masonic charity, VW Nuevo concluded. (C)

Man has no choice  
but to love. For  
when he does not,  
he finds his  
alternatives lie in  
loneliness,  
destruction and  
despair.

—Leo Buscaglia



## MAN and a MASON...

*Compiled by MW DANILO D. ANGELES*

Masonry means much more  
than wearing of a pin  
or carrying a paid-up dues receipt;  
So, the Lodge would let you in.

You can wear an emblem on your coat  
and from a finger flash a ring;  
But if you're not sincere at heart  
this does not mean a thing.

It's merely an outward sign  
to show the world that you belong;  
To this great Fraternal Brotherhood  
that teaches right from wrong.

What really counts lies buried deep  
within the human breast;  
'Til Masonic teachings brings  
it out and puts it to a test.

If you can practice out of the Lodge  
the things you learn within;  
Be just and upright to yourself  
and to your fellowmen.

Console a Brother when he is sick  
or assist him when in need;  
Without a thought of personal reward  
for any act or deed.

Walk and act in such a way  
that the world without could see that none  
but the best could meet the test,  
laid down by Masonry.

Always live up to your trust  
And do the Best that you can  
Then you can proudly tell the world...

YOU ARE A MAN AND A MASON!

## Service Lodge No. 95 Shows Concern for Elderly

---

**O**fficers and members of Service Lodge No. 95 carried out their yearly charitable work for the elderly last December 17 at the Stella Maris College in Quezon City by distributing 850 medium-sized plastic containers, each of which was filled with grocery items.

Brethren who participated in the charitable act included Bro. Bien

Panganiban of Okinawa, Japan; VW Ramon Go, PM and PDDGM, Masonic District 1-C and Chief Executive Officer of Ashlar Corporation, the manufacturer of the famous Orocan plastic container; and WB Ruddy Tan, GM, Burlington Industries Phils. Inc., maker of Burlington socks, the official socks of the Philippine Basketball Association; along with other donor-members of the Lodge. **CT**



(L to R) VW Mody Gonzales, PM, PDDGM; WB Victor Yu, PM; VW Ramon Go, PM, PDDGM; VW Bobby Go, PM, PDGL; WB Biong Ilagan, PM; WB Ruddy Tan, Director of COSE; Ed Gerlock; WB Paul Chua, Incumbent Master.



Service Lodge No. 95 distributing 850 medium-sized Orocan plastic containers filled with groceries.  
 (L to R) VW Bobby Go, WB Paul Chua, WB Ruddy Tan (partly hidden),  
 VW Mody Gonzales, WB Biiong Ilagan, and VW Ramon Go.

**Q:** *"How many Masons does it take to screw in a lightbulb?"*

**A:** "Three. One to screw it in, one to read the minutes of the previous bulb replacement, and one to sit on the sidelines and complain about the way they USED to screw in lightbulbs."

## WB Pat Cunanan, PM: A Centenarian

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**W**B Patricio S. Cunanan, Past Master of Mati Aurora Lodge No. 190 from 1970 to 1971, will mark his 101th birthday on August 28 of this year.

Recently, the Brethren of his Lodge — Don Salvador P. Lopez Memorial

Lodge No. 276 — and sisters of Rosal Chapter No. 27, OES, paid him a visit.

Although bedridden for almost three years now, WB Cunanan could still murmur Shibboleth. He was visibly moved when a Past Master's apron was presented to him as a gift from the Brethren of the two Lodges. **CT**



Shown at the bedside of WB Pat Cunanan are Brethren from the visiting team, his daughter, a former Governor of Davao Oriental, Sister Inday C. Sibala, a member of the Josefa Llanes Escoda Chapter No. 10, OES, in Dumaguete City.

## WHEN IS A MAN A MASON?

*by Rev. Joseph Fort Newton*

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage — which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins — knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, and with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song — glad to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

# Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 in Manaoag Activities

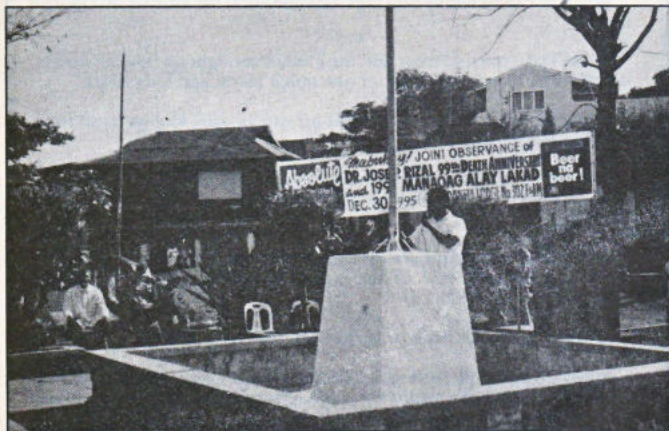
by Reynaldo C. Cruz, JW

**U**rdaneta Lodge No. 302, led by WM Roberto C. Rebodos, attended the joint Alay Lakad and 99th death anniversary celebration of Dr. Jose Rizal last December 30, 1995.

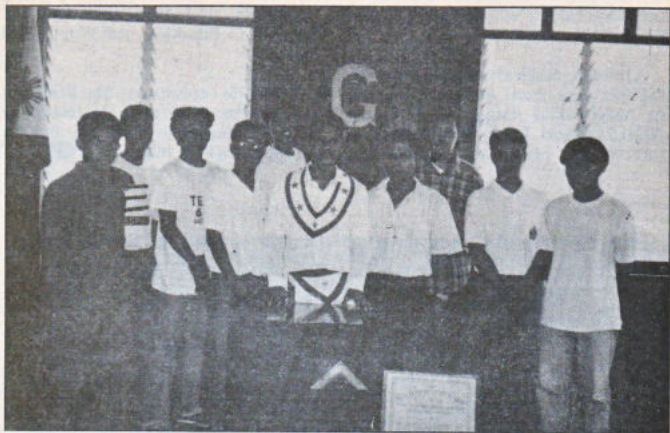
The festivities were ushered in by the raising of the Philippine Flag by members of the 54th Coy Engineering Brigade, Philippine Army Band of

Camp Lt. Tito Abat in Manaoag, Pangasinan. Representatives of various government organizations, public and private schools, civic and religious organizations, the business sector, and fraternal organizations followed with a floral offering at the foot of Bro. Jose Rizal's statue.

Immediately after the floral offering, the participants walked through Rizal and Soriano Streets in Manaoag for



Brethren of Urdaneta Lodge No. 302, led by WM Roberto C. Rebodos (seated at left), join in the observance of Dr. Jose Rizal's 99th death anniversary held on December 30, 1995 in front of the Rizal monument in Manaoag, Pangasinan.



Brethren of Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 pose with members of the Urdaneta Chapter Order of DeMolay after a simple program in observance of Bro. Andres Bonifacio's 132nd birth anniversary held at the Urdaneta Lodge Temple on November 30, 1995.




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the Alay Lakad, which ended at the Rizal park.

A literary-musical program, dubbed, "Si Gat Jose Rizal at ang Kabataan sa Alay Lakad Tungo sa Pilipinas 2000," ensued, led by Mayor Pedrito Garcia of Manaoag, Honorary

Chairman, and Municipal Assessor Roberto C. Rebodos, our Worshipful Master.

After the ceremonies, the Brethren of the Lodge motored to the residence of WM Rebodos in Barangay Pugaro for an enjoyable fellowship. 



WM Roberto C. Rebodos and Brethren of Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 visiting Rizal's monument during the repainting work.

NEWS PICTORIAL

Urdaneta Lodge No. 302, F & A.M.  
Urdaneta, Pangasinan  
Christmas Party  
December 17, 1995

by Bro. Reynaldo C. Cruz, Junior Warden

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Fellowship



Ladies of Masons in parlor games.



WM Roberto C. Rebodos distributes gifts to children of Masons.



Brethren of Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 and their family members.



Children of Masons dance contest.


# Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

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**K**anlaon Lodge No. 64, considered the Mother Lodge in Masonic District No. 27, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on March 19, 1996.

WB Pong C. Tan, PM and Secretary


of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 announced that their Lodge will "soon have a computerized list of officers and members — from 1920 to date."

All we can say is: *Mabuhay ka, Kanlaon!* 

**The unity of Masons does not  
come from dull conformity,  
but rather, from the creative  
talents of each Mason expressed  
in various ways,  
and applied to the task of adding  
beauty to the Temple of Masonry.**

**(Masonic Manager)**

# Punta Sulawan Lodge No. 242 Celebrates Foundation Anniversary

**P**unta Sulawan Lodge No. 242 recently celebrated its foundation anniversary during which VW Downy Valdivilla, DDGM of Masonic District No. 17, presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Asia Brewery, Inc. VW Filomeno Chia, Jr. received the award on behalf of the company. 

There are  
three things  
extremely  
hard: steel,  
a diamond, and  
to know one's self.  
—Benjamin Franklin





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## Tumauni Lodge No. 251 Consecrated

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by E.A.M., SGL

**T**he affair marking the dedication-consecration of Tumauni Lodge No. 251 which was held recently formally began with ribbon-cutting ceremonies led by MW Grand Master Danilo Angeles and WM Roger Z. Guzman, WM of the Lodge, accompanied by Sisters R. Z. Guzman and Florenda Macalinao.

Grand Officers of the day included: MW Danilo D. Angeles, GM; RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., SGW, DGM; VW Ber

Saplaco, Jr., DDGM, 9A, SGW; VW Renato Aquino, DDGM, 2, JGW; VW Angel C. Bacoling, Jr., DGL, GT; WB Inocencio Ilagan, PGLI, GS; VW Amancio S. Donato, G. Orator, GC; this writer, G. Marshal; VW Leonardo P. Chua, JGL, N. Luzon, G. Lecturer; WI Dionisio Panajon, GLI, GBB; WI Rodrigo M. Vicarme, GLI, GSB; WI Faustino G. Claravall, GLI, SGD; WI Elpidio Macoco, PM, JDG; WB Antonio T. Valencia, PM, SGS; WB Jose C. Lingat, PM, JGS; WB Miguel Jovencio, PM, G. Tyler; VW Safiro Vinarao, PDGL, Bearer, Book of Const.; WB Manual A. Angobung, WB

Luciano Balisi, and WI Conrado U. Gabriel, Jr., GLI — PMs with Lighted Taper.

The Grand Lodge was opened in the Lodge's Preparation Room. There were some 100 persons present — from Brethren to hermanas and children — assembled in the Hall.

In his remarks, Grand Orator Amancio Donato briefly touched on the meaning of life, including the afterlife. This writer then proclaimed that "the Hall wherein we are now assembled is dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry in Due and Ancient Form. All persons interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly." Benediction was given by VW Donato.

In his usual mild and accommodating manner, GM Angeles presided over the rest of the day's proceedings.

Tumauini Mayor, Bro. Ricardo Angobung, welcomed one and all, and SW William Macapia presented a brief historical background of the events leading to the Lodge's formation.


A Resolution was passed naming the meeting hall: "Bro. Sinforoso Macalinao Hall," in honor of the late Bro. Sinforoso Macalinao, who, with his family's concurrence, donated the 500-or-so-square-meter lot on which the Lodge was erected.

The passing of another Resolution followed, this time on making the following Grand Lodge Officers Honorary Members of the Lodge: MW Angeles, RW Bañez, VW Donato, VW Chua, VW Saplaco, VW Aquino, VW Bacoling, VW Simon, VW Vinarao and this writer.

The hermanas then regaled the Brethren with a musical number. GM Angeles led the singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn.

WM Guzman gave an eloquent address in which he invited GM Angeles to be the Installing Officer and Guest of Honor, and the Honorary Members and other Grand Lodge Officers to be present in the installation of the first set of officers of the Temple. "These officers will become part of the history of this Temple," he reminded the Brethren.

On behalf of the DDGM, VW Felipe A. Salvador, Jr., VW Angel T. Bacoling, Jr., DGL, delivered his message, followed by the awarding of plaques/certificates. An intermission number ensued performed by the sons and daughters of Brethren. The Lodge presented a Plaque of Appreciation to the GM, who then delivered his message.

WM Guzman expressed the Lodge's gratitude to the family, especially the widow of the late Bro. Sinforoso Macalinao, for having donated the lot on which the Masonic Temple of Tumauini now stands. 

The reputation of a  
thousand years  
may be determined  
by the conduct of  
one hour.  
—Japanese proverb


# Philippine Masonic Association of New Jersey Formed

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**A**nother milestone and historical event unfolded last November 23, 1995 at the Jersey City Masonic Center. This was the day when a group of Filipino Masons all residing in the state of New Jersey got together and formed the Philippine Masonic Association of New Jersey.

On this day, the by-laws governing the organization was adopted and the following officers were elected: Constantino "Tom" Buño, president; Ros Rosales, Secretary; Emmanuel dela Paz, Treasurer; Bert Aguilera, Auditor; Loreto Razon, PRO; and Jose Daguman,

Chaplain. The Planning and Project Committee was also formed under the chairmanship of Loreto Razon Florencio Ramirez and Teofilo Saulog served as its members.

Masons who are interested to join the Philippine Masonic Association of New Jersey may contact Bro. Ros Rosales at telephone number (908) 238-8470 or Fax number (908) 390-1996. They may also get in touch with WB Tom Buno at (201) 451-9000 extension 211 or send their written inquiries to the Philippine Masonic Association of New Jersey, Inc., 87 Hutton Street, Jersey City, N.J. 07307. 

... Our ancient customs have proved their worth and value and are so sound today as ever before and will withstand the test of the future.

... Masonry will remain as a strong force for good as far into the future as man will go.


# 1st Indian-Pacific Masonic Congress to be Held

**T**he 1st Indian-Pacific Masonic Congress will take place in Perth, Western Australia on October 15-19, 1996 at the Buršwood Convention Centre. The theme of the Congress is "Freemasonry in Tomorrow's Society."

Speakers of international repute will provide keynote addresses. Among them are RW J.W. U Eu, District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge, Eastern Archipelago (E.C.), Kuala Lumpur; WB John Hamill, Librarian and Curator of the United Grand Lodge of England; RW Justice Leonard,

Depute District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong and the Far East (E.C.); and MW David E. Fewster, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Australia.

Freemasons and Lodges throughout the world are responding to the call for a focus on the Congress. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Philippines is one of the foreign grand jurisdictions that have responded to the request for participation.

This congress is a clear sign that Freemasonry is looking for its place in the 21st century. 

**Masonry, whether it be structural or speculative, needs most to have action.**

**Machines—human, mechanical, or fraternal—will trust out in far less time than they will wear out.**

**(Alberta Grand Lodge Bulletin)**

# 12th Tri-District Convention in Butuan City Held

by E. A. M., SGL

**M**asonic Districts 17, 31 and 35 held their 12th convention in Butuan City, Oct. 6 and 7, with Agusan Valley Lodge No. 160 as lead Lodge. A total of 25 subordinate Lodges — six in Masonic District No. 31, 12 under Masonic District No. 17, and seven under Masonic District No. 35 — attended the convention.

Day one of the convention was highlighted by a courtesy visit to the City Mayor, Hon. Democrito D. Plaza II. In his absence, Hon. Leovegildo B. Banaag, the City's Vice Mayor entertained the convention delegates.

A dinner/fellowship, which served as a pre-convention affair, was held in the evening at the Garden Restaurant and Videoke.

On the second day of the tri-discon, Brethren conducted a floral offering at the monument of Bro. Jose P. Rizal — a stone's throw away from the hotel. After this, the delegates proceeded to the convention hall: the Butuan Doctor's College Gym.

Convention proceedings were set off with an Invocation by WB Warlito B. Rubio. Highlights of the tri-district

convention which was attended by 142 registered delegates include:

- A session on Masonic Education by this writer
- Approval and passage of resolutions on the use of IDs/nameplates by delegates; standardization of the Masonic apron; institutionalization of the use of the Past Master's Jewel and Past Master's Apron; and the inclusion of a P100 per capita for the Masonic Temple Fund for the purpose of financially helping symbolic Lodges desiring to put up their own Lodge Halls/Temples
- Remarks by Bro. Lt. Gen. Orlando V. Soriano, Commanding General of the Philippine Army who spoke on the ongoing modernization program of the Army, especially the upgrading of the Engineering unit
- Closing message by RW Enrique L. Locsin, JGW

VW Bonotan closed the Lodge/Convention in short form.

District No. 35, led by VW Credo B. Rubio, consented to host the next tri-discon provided it be agreed upon that the convention be held on the first week of October 1996, that it be only a one-day affair, and that the registration fee be P600.

A fellowship dinner followed at Jet's Pop Garden and Restaurant. Guest speaker was Congresswoman Charito B. Plaza, who exhorted the Masons to take the initiative in the economic development of the new region of Caraga No. 13.

Plaques and certificates of appreciation were given out to Congresswoman Plaza, Bro. Gen. Soriano, RW Locsin, VW Rubio, this writer, VW Bonotan, VW Brown, VW Pagotan, SW Megerle and VW Downey

C. Valdivilla. District No. 35 received a Certificate for Perfect Attendance. Camilo Osias Memorial Lodge No. 253, Mt. Musuan Lodge No. 155, and Lake Pinamaloy Lodge No. 230 got well-deserved Certificates for their large delegations.

One sad note that interrupted the merry-making was the tragic news of the death of Sister Mendoza and the serious condition of the family of Bro. Bebot Mendoza. ☹

## 19th Masonic District No. 27 Holds Convention

by VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, SGL

**M**asonic District No. 27 held its 19th convention at the Bacolod Masonic Temple in Bacolod City with seven Lodges in attendance. Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 served as lead Lodge in the convention attended by a total of 62 delegates.

Grand Master Danilo Angeles and his party were met at the Bacolod Airport by the Brethren, headed by VW Alfredo J. dela Paz, DDGM.

MW Simeon Rene T. Lacson, PGM, tendered dinner for the GM and his party at his residence in nearby Silay City. Some 30 or so Brethren and sisters attended the occasion as well.

Dignitaries who graced the affair included: MW Rosendo C. Herrera, GT

and Grand Master of DeMolay; the GM; VW dela Paz, DDGM; MW Lacson, PGM; WB Manuel E. Abello III, WM; this writer; and WB Peter Kenneth Cavaje, PM, Foochow Lodge No. 1912, E.C., Hongkong.

The Masonic Ladies were composed of Sister Lita Angeles, Sister Ching Herrera, Sister Elenita Abella, and Sister Agnes Aurelio, whose husband, VW Jesus J. Aurelio, PDDGM, was introduced MW Herrera.

MW Herrera narrated, among other things, that he attended a convention of PGMs in New York, as well as the Knickerbocker Chapter of DeMolays, also of New York, which was revived by Filipino Masons in that state, and that the Rosendo C. Herrera Class of 1995 of the DeMolays is to

be held annually by the Filipino Masons in that state. He informed the delegates that there are 65 Chapters of the Order of DeMolay in the whole country, and that each Chapter has two installations in a year.

Reacting to MW Herrera's talk, the DDGM said that all the three Lights of Kanlaon 64 were DeMolays.

In the Mañonic Education portion, this writer read his digest of the Chapter "Don't Talk to Me about Change," A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson.

After the question-and-answer portion, resolutions were discussed and passed. Interestingly, only three of the delegates were in favor of the resolution stating that the terms of the Grand Master and the other Grand Lodge elective officers be two years without re-election. The rest were in favor of maintaining the status quo.

The resolution to increase the minimum number of Lodge attendance from three to six a year was approved

by the majority (17/15).

It was agreed that the next Discon be held at San Carlos Lodge No. 186.

In his address, the Grand Master focused on "Unity of Purpose, Pride in Accomplishments." He urged the Brethren to "continue to dwell together in unity that we might take true pride in our accomplishments as Master Masons."

A dinner/fellowship was held at the Apollo Restaurant where collars were presented to Advisers of DeMolays, and the following Brethren were given acknowledgments: WÉ Ykalina, VW dela Paz, VW Jose Justiniano, Sis. Ching, Bro. Edwin Costes, and WI Abraham E. Tionko.

Awards were also presented to VW Pong C. Tan, PDGL, District Secretary; Bro. Vicente D. Presbetero, Architect and Designer of the District Logo; VW Gil N. Octaviano, Jr., PDDGM, PJGL, Chairman, Masonic Directory; this writer; MW Herrera; and the Grand Master. (C)

The GM and his party after they were formally received by Brethren of Masonic District No. 27 headed by VW Alfredo dela Paz, DDGM.





Grand Lodge officers and members of Masonic District No. 27 enjoying the Fellowship Dinner rendered by MW Rene Lacson, PGM, at his residence in Silay City.

*"Kung lahat ng tao sa mundo ay Mason, walang mag-aaway at sila ay magtutulong-tulong pa.... Yes, most of the problems besetting the world would quickly disappear if all of humanity suddenly embraced the principles of Freemasonry."*

— WB Quirino Marquez, head of the Consumers Union of the Philippines

# Tri-Discon Held in Catbalogan

**M**W Danilo D. Angeles, accompanied by SGW Leon Bañez, Jr., SGL Ernie Malapaya, and DDGMs BerSaplaco (9A) and Oscar Bunyi (12), was warmly welcomed at the airport by Brethren led by DDGM (39) Ponciano R. Rosales.

Breakfast, sponsored by Makabugwas Lodge No. 47 and Tacloban Lodge No. 221, was at VW Andy Perez's residence, where the GM was later interviewed by radio people.

Thence the GM and his party traveled by land to Catbalogan. After checking in at the Hotel St. Bartholomew and Restaurant owned and operated by Mt. Huraw Lodge No. 98's WM Neal and wife Judy Tan, they paid VW Lorenzo Lao Hao, PDDGM, a "sunshine" visit. The latter in turn tendered his visitors a luncheon. The visitors enjoyed the supgo tremendously.

After paying Gov. Jose A. Roño a courtesy call, the GM and his party, as well as the delegates and their wives were tendered a welcome dinner at Bro. Tony Uy-Sobremonte's Kitchen. They were later joined by District 16 Brethren, specifically, VWBs Ben Chua, Leonard Lim, Cesar Sinco, Samuel

Morgia and Robert Savellon, WB Bobby Trabajo, and Bro. Harish Lalwani.

The following morning, the delegates were treated by WB Neal and Sis. Judy to a heavy breakfast, again with freshly-cooked alimasag and inihaw na 'snappers' as favorites."

The Brethren then proceeded to the town plaza for a floral offering at the monument of Bro. Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

In the convention hall, 54 Brethren and 10 Sisters were present. DDGM Rosales declared the convention open after which VW Malapaya proceeded to treat the delegates to some Masonic Education.

The delegates approved the following resolutions:

- A Lodge should shoulder the expenses of the four voting delegates during the Ancom and even during the Tri-Discon.
- Expansion of the Acacia Mutual Aid Society's coverage to include, among others, hospitalization, bigger insurance coverage, and so on, the details of which are to be worked out by the District.
- A P100-per-capita assessment by the Grand Lodge in order to assist


Lodges which as yet do not have their own temples.

- Creation of a five-man board of governors made up of the most recent PGMs, with the immediate PGM as its Chairman — a move to prevent wasting the talents of a Grand Master after his term.

It was agreed that Masonic District No. 16 will host the next (10th) tri-dicon, with Maktan Lodge No. 30 as Lead Lodge.

After his inspired speech, the GM was presented by the District and the Brethren with a beautiful shell-laced mirror — a product of the region.

The convention proper was followed by a sumptuous dinner followed by "ballroom dancing."

Virtually without sleep, the GM and his party were conveyed back to Tacloban for the early morning flight back to Manila. 

## District 1-B Convention

by VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, SGL

**B**rief it was, the main focus of the District 1-B Convention being the presentation of 17 resolutions — all of which occupied the greater part of the day. It was attended by some 75 Brethren.

The Grand Master was accompanied by RW Jose Percival L. Adiong, DGM; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, Grand Secretary; VW Benny T. Ty, SGD; VW Henry Ang, DDGM, 1-A; VW Raffy Roxas, DDGM, 1-C; VW Ber Saplaco, Jr., DDGM, 9-A; and this writer.

VW Medardo B. Apacible gave the welcome remarks, and, in the absence of VW Evaristo A. Leviste, DGL, WB Jacinto Astrero gave the Masonic Education. He touched on the derivations of the due-guards of the

three degrees. This he did complete with demonstrations, right at the Altar, and in less than five minutes.

The resolutions presented and approved were:

- To amend Edict No. 81 regarding the minimum number of attendance per year from 3 to 6.
- To exempt non-PMs from paying the P30 per capita annual assessment to the Grand Guild of Past Masters, provided, however, that only those non-PMs who have such contributions for no less than three years should be credited as such.
- To require a thorough investigation of surrounding circumstances first before finally suspending a Brother for non-payment of dues.

- To require all petitioners for degrees to furnish a medical certificate plus an NBI clearance.

- To allow membership in one and affiliation in more than one Lodge within the jurisdiction, i.e., no limit in affiliation "dual" membership.

- To require a petitioner for degrees to also submit a copy of the ECG test

(to be incorporated with Resolution 4).

- To consider the creation of the elective position of Grand Lodge Auditor.

After some cajoling, this writer reminded the DDGM that he should submit a written report on the convention to the Grand Master within 30 days after the convention. (27)

**Not what you get from Masonry, but  
what you give.**

**Not what you say, but how you live.  
Giving the world the love it needs,  
Living a life of noble deeds.**

**Not whence you came but whither  
bound.**

**Not what you have but whither  
found.  
Strong for the right, the good, the  
true,  
These are the things worthwhile to  
Masons, such as me and you.**

**— Andrew Hill**

## District 4, 5, and 24 Convene in Baguio

**S**ome 144 delegates from 14 Lodges comprising Masonic Districts 4, 5, and 24 convened in Baguio City, specifically the Baguio Masonic Temple, to discuss common problems and come up with solutions thereto.

The convention proper was ushered in by MW Danilo D. Angeles'

interview with the print and broadcast media, a courtesy call on the City Mayor, and a floral offering at Bro. Jose Rizal's statue.

Besides the Grand Master and his wife, Sis. Lita, and daughter Nanette, the following dignitaries graced the convention with their presence: SGL Ernesto A. Malapaya, G. Organist Dennis T. Gabionza, Asst. Grand



GM Angeles with the officers of Baguio Lodge No. 67.



GM Angeles with Baguio convention delegates.

Secretary Jose O. Lustre, Junior Grand Lecturers Alberto L. Escultura and Leonardo P. Chua, District 12 Deputy Oscar V. Bunyi, and District Grand Lecturers Roberto Q. Pagotan and Angel T. Bacoling.

District Deputy Danny L. Chan of Masonic District No. 5 reported that:

- Baguio City Lodge No. 67 now had 89 members, but the average number of Brethren attending state meetings is only 32. It has sponsored 27 scholars.

- Union Lodge No. 70 has 96 members, but the average attendance in stated meetings is 25. It has P196,000 total assests.

- Siete Martires Lodge No. 177 has 26 members, with seven, on the average, attending stated meetings. It participated in marathon and bicathon

aces in celebration of the Mayor's birthday, undertook tree-planting activities, and co-sponsored field training in refrigeration.

District Deputy Amancio Q. Alconcel of Masonic District No. 4 informed the Brethren that, due to the prevailing peace and order condition, the terrain of Abra Lodge No. 86 serves as a deterrent to good attendance. "To get benighted after attending Lodge meeting," he said, "is basically unsafe." He reported further that his District, as a whole, has gotten involved in community projects and has honored deserving Brethren, that three Lodges in the District are still struggling to have temples of their own, and that the transfer of Angalo Lodge No. 63 to a new site has been approved.

VW Andresito M. Capati of Masonic District No. 24 cited the leadership

composition of each Lodge in his area. He reported an increase in Lodge attendance from 28 percent to 72.7 percent, pointing to the following as contributing factors:

- fellowship program
- family outings
- buddy-buddy system
- frequent visitation of Brethren
- inter-Lodge visitations
- Masonic Education
- observance of proper decorum during meetings
- newly raised Brethren's gaining proficiency in lectures in one or two months
- GLP's strict observance of Edict No. 131
- observance of Edict No. 81

By and large, he said, the Brethren were more aware of their public duties. Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 conducted a medical mission; Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 was active in Alay-Lakad; Alfonso

Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 had a seminar on AIDS awareness and had raised some P190,000 for community projects; and Hundred Islands Lodge No. 201 continued artificial reef planting and conducted its blood-typing project.

It was agreed upon by all that Masonic District No. 4 will host the next tri-discon.

The following were nominated for DDGMS: VW Ernesto E. Cua, M.D. No. 4; WI Conrado Dolor, M.D. No. 5; VW Jaime L. Nabua, VW Romulo Estrada, and WB Wilmer Panabang, all of M.D. No. 24.

SGL Ernesto A. Malapaya then reminded the Brethren that "No District Deputy Grand Master shall hold office in his Lodge except as Master." He then proceeded to discuss excerpts of Chapter 13 of A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson.



The GM sharing light moments with the members of Baguio Lodge No. 67, one of whom is VW Honesto Belen, PGT, PDDGM.

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Discussions in the Masonic Education workshop focused on:

- Masonic Education — Lip Service or Personal Progress?
- Attendance — Where are the Rest of the Brethren?
- Youth — Lost Hope?

Union Lodge No. 70 was given an award for most number of delegates; WB Faustino Techny, Jr., of Rio Chico Lodge No. 182, first registrant; Bro. Ely Morales of Saranay Lodge No. 193, "shortest" registrant; and WB Dalmacio S. Miranda, oldest registrant.

Best attendance Awardee Union Lodge No. 70 also received the Teamwork Award and the Award for Lodge with Most Number of Candidates Initiated, Passed, and Raised. Moreover, two of its members garnered special awards, namely: Bro. Eulogio B. Paño, Jr., Aspiring Lecturer, and Bro. Felipe A. Suarez, Best Lecturer in

District 5.

Lead Lodge Baguio No. 67 was best in the proper uniform category.

WM Joaquin C. Ostrea, Jr., of Siete Martires Lodge No. 177 was given a very special award: Restoration Effort on a Lodge.

Plaques of Appreciation were presented to MW Danilo D. Angeles, JGL Chua, VW Clemente M. Nava, and Bro. Vic Hao Chin, while WI Cornelius D. Van Luspo received a Plaque of Recognition.

Also given acknowledgments were: VW George Chua Cham, PDDGM; VW Jose Yuchiongtian, PDDGM; VW Ernesto E. Cua, PDDGM, DGL; Brethren of ALSM Lodge No. 158; and all Brethren who, in one way or another, helped in the success of the convention. (6)



Press conference held by GM Angeles.



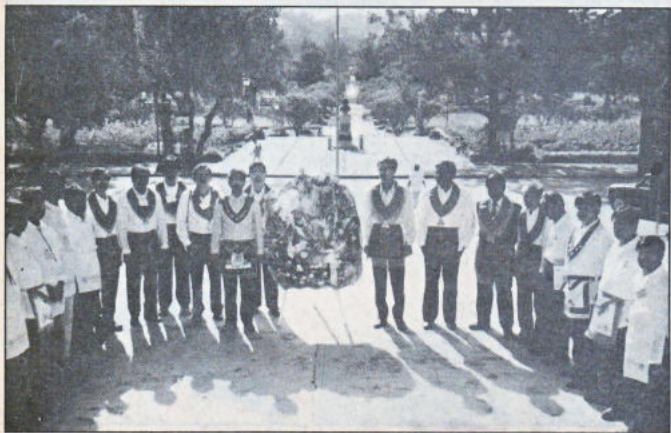
Press conference held by GM Angeles.



VW Jose O. Lustre, AGS, stressing a point during a seminar-workshop at the multi-district convention of Masonic District 4, 5, and 24.



GM Angeles with VW Danny Chan, DDGM, Masonic District No.5, offering flowers at the foot of the statue of Dr. Jose Rizal while the rest of the Brethren look on.





The Grand Line officers and Brethren pose for posterity.

**“Life’s battles don’t always  
go to the strongest or the fastest  
man; but sooner or later,  
the one who wins  
is the one who thinks he can.”**

**(anonymous)**

# An Affair to Remember?

by eF. R. en

I failed to be with the GM and his party because Morpheus forced me to keep him company. That's why I was filled with envy when my VW Brods — Ber Saplaco, Dennis Gabionza, and Ernie Malapaya — recounted the enjoyable time they had at the two-in-one affair in Isabela Province.

"He paid a courtesy call on Santiago City Mayor Jose Miranda," VW Dennis narrated with his usual impish smile. "In the absence of the honorable mayor, we were entertained by his pretty Vice Mayor, Hon. Amelita Navarro."

VW Ber joined in: "Boy, you should have seen the teary eyes of our senior



GM Angeles with Brethren in Santiago City.



Fellowship dinner with Brethren of Santiago City.



GM Angeles officiating the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the new Ganano Lodge No. 313 temple.



Courtesy call to the Vice Mayor of Saqtiago City, Hon. Amelita S. Navarro. (From L to R) VW Ernie Malapaya, SGL; VW Felipe Salvador, Jr., DDGM, District No. 23; Hon. Amelita S. Navarro; VW Leonardo P. Chua, JGL, Northern Luzon; MW Danilo D. Angeles, GM; and Sis. Lita Angeles.

Brethren, WB Rodolfo Silvestre of Echague, Isabela and WB Anero H. Dirige of Santiago City when he paid them a 'sunshine' visit!"

"Even though the cornerstone-laying ceremony was slightly delayed as a result of some members of the GM's party getting lost on the way to the site, the ceremony proceeded smoothly and the lunch was simply great!" VW Ernie enthused.

Commented VW Dennis: "I did not know the GM could throw the ceremonial bowling ball and dart that well!"

The trio then talked about the successful press conference for the GM at the Santiago Masonic Center. "A

press conference for the Grand Master," VW Ernie opined, "should be a permanent feature of every Masonic convention."

"Ah, you really missed the fraternal fellowship and cultural night at the Spring Garden in Bo. Sin-sayon," VW Ber said. "Ganano Lodge presented what they called tallelet, the Amaranth choral number plus a folk dance."

Added VW Dennis: "RW Bañez led the District 2-A Brethren in an Igorot dance. GM, Ernie, Ber and I were literally dragged to the dance floor to join in the dance."

"After the awarding of trophies to winners in the athletic events, T-shirts

were raffled off," VW Ber reported, then added, "But none of us won in the raffle."

"There were 179 registered delegates," VW Ernie recalled. "But, as you know how these conventions go, that number dwindled as the convention wore on."

"The Vice Mayor was the keynote speaker," informed VW Dennis. "She paid tribute to the high ideals of Masonry."

According to my three excited Brethren, the reports of DDGMs Francisco C. Salinas, Sr. and Felipe A. Salvador, Jr. invariably indicated that Masonry in those districts was on the move.

"There were three resolutions presented," VW Ernie recalled. "One,

to amend the ritual regarding Flag Retirement vis-a-vis the Marshal's going around the S.D. at the Altar. Two, for the Grand Lodge to form a superbody composed of PGMs to work out a continuing dialogue with the CBCP. And three, to put a limit to the number of times a dispensation may be issued within 12 months concerning a rejected petitioner.

"The resolution to divide the district into two," continued VW Ernie, "was to be discussed lengthily in the district's next meeting. District 2 will host the next multi-district convention."

As if all these were not enough, my three brothers went on to narrate the wonderfully enjoyable (they kept using this word) time they had during the fellowship dinner at the Wiler Resort. **GM**



GM Angeles throwing the ceremonial dart at the opening contest.



GM Angeles with VW Felipe Salvador, Jr., DDGM, throwing the ceremonial bowling ball.



Visitation to a senior Mason — WB Antero H. Dirige, PM (Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133) and his wife with Grand Lodge officers.

## THOUGHTS OF A MASON'S WIFE

*How many wives of Masons have ever given much thought,  
To the wonderful biblical lessons that Masonry has taught?  
Have you asked yourself this question, when you sit alone at night,  
While hubby is away at Lodge: is my reasoning straight and right?  
I know the nights are lonely and long, but this question comes to me,  
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"*

*I know nothing of their secret work, but this much I understand,  
That the lessons taught in Masonry have made a better man.  
So, ask yourself this question, which has always come to me,  
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"*

*They call us Masonic widows; I've been one for many a year.  
I've spoken my piece on lonely nights, and berated my hubby dear.  
But, then again, I regret my words, and with wisdom try to see,  
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"*

*So I try to be a patient wife, as alone I meditate,  
And see his point, as he leaves for Lodge, with these words,  
"I won't be late!"*

*Some say that men make Masonry, and this I understand,  
But, deep in my heart I still maintain, "that Masonry makes the man."  
And as we journey the highway together, to the inner things of life,  
May their teachings go on forever.*

*Sincerely,  
A Mason's wife*

(This poem was taken from Cabletow, Vol. 56, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1995, of  
Hawaiian Lodge, F. & A.M. — Ed.)

# The Great Masonic Commandments with Commentaries

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by VW Amancio S. Donato, GO

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## EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

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*Thou shalt allow no passions to become thy master.*

*Thou shalt make the passions of others profitable lessons to thyself.*

*Thou shalt be indulgent to error.*

A Freemason must not only use the compass to circumscribe his desires, but must have also subdued his passions. He ever bears in mind that, because of unbridled passions, many a man has fallen from great heights of achievement. As a man who aspires for moral rectitude and spiritual unfoldment, the Freemason never loses sight of the fact that sharp passions of unguarded moments cut very deep, indeed. As a "Builder," he is specially ordered to make profitable to himself even the lessons culled from the experiences of men who have indulged in vices as a consequence of unbridled passions.

We, Freemasons, must make the conquering of vices as steps in the ladder of experience, which lead us to a richer and fuller expression of life. We must always bear in mind the following great and wise precept: "Abstain because it is right to abstain, not that we should be kept clean." We must emulate the wise man who,

having become aware of the great illusions of a passionate life, turns inwardly and says: "It is all illusion and I have been deceived by my senses."

We should not, however, condemn nor regret anything. We should, instead, use those wonderful lessons as our guide to do better when the baser instincts in us call again. Instead of condemning the men who yield to the call of passions and vices, we should, when necessary, try our best to instruct them, with understanding and compassion. Lest we forget, the sin and shame of the world is still our sin and shame because our ultimate destiny is very much linked with all mankind. It becomes our duty, then, to lift a little of the heavy burdens of our fellowmen whose feet have become imbedded in the mires of ignorance and the senses.

"To err is human; to forgive is divine." But, of course, it is better not to have erred at all. Yet in life, we are continuously exposed to a round of choices and we are prone to commit mistakes — both in acts of omission and errors of commission. If ever we make mistakes, instead of regretting or feeling sorry, we should rise above those errors with a good measure of wisdom and knowledge. As MMs or

MRSs, therefore, we must always strive to be so perfect in all our words, thoughts and deeds that the Light which we have seen may still become brighter along the Way.

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### NINTH COMMANDMENT

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*Thou shalt hear much. Thou shalt speak little.*

*Thou shalt act well. Thou shalt forgive injuries.*

*Thou shalt render good for evil. Thou shalt not misuse either thy strength or thy superiority.*

To hear much is to listen carefully with the ear of the spirit when instructions are being transmitted. It also implies the capacity to absorb much from wise counsel and words of wisdom and listen to the Song of Life as well as to the Voice from within our innermost being, sometimes known in the East as the Voice of Silence and commonly called conscience. Most frequently, we are very preoccupied with the external world so that even the voice of the sages gets lost in the noise of the "madding" crowd, so that we can no longer detect those sounds that matter much to us. Since instructions and wise counsel are rarely repeated, we do frequently lose the opportunity to respond properly when the occasion presents itself.

We must hear even the cries of the suffering humanity, so that we can act accordingly, that is, render assistance where and when needed. It is, decidedly, essential to hear much!

Speak little? That means that we can only speak what reflects the true, the good, the beautiful, the wise. And before we can speak in the presence of

T.G.A.T.U., our voice must have lost the power to wound! We must subject our power of speech to thorough hecking and control lest, in the process, we also become agents of falsity and superstitions, thereby increasing the darkness that surrounds us in the world. This is what is meant by "to put a sentinel upon our lips" or by the pun "Look before you lip" (instead of leap).

To know, to dare, to will and be silent — these are the hallmarks of a true Mason. Our acts must similarly reflect the nobility of character we profess. We must, in other words, do only what is right regardless of the price or consequences it may bring us. To act well is to do things with propriety and efficiency, with candor and wisdom. Where principles are at stake, regardless of the consequences, we, too, must act wisely without compromise, without condescension. What is right must always be foremost in our minds. In all our actions, the Temple Builder's goal must always be the primordial consideration.

Now let us take a closer look at the second and third aphorisms.

So often have we been exposed to conditions where not only our physical integrity is injured but our pride and self-esteem are wounded. What is our first impulse? It is, most commonly, to retaliate in anger and hatred.

When such a situation comes again, we must pause and consider well lest we lose sight of the wonderful opportunity of "mending the fences" that have been broken down by the lack of human understanding and brotherhood.

We have enrolled ourselves in the Noble Order of Freemasonry as co-

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workers of the G.A.O.T.U. and, therefore, must act nobly with wisdom, with patience, with a greater degree of tolerance than the ordinary man. The Master Jesus has given the following counsel to guide us in this respect: "Whoever slaps you on the right cheek, turn him the other. Whosoever compels you to walk with him a mile, walk with him twain. Whosoever shall sue you for your coat, give him also your cloak...." (Matt. 5:39-40).

In this portion of the Commandment, our lower nature, observably, exhibits resistance. Then follows the aphorism: "Thou shalt render good for evil." An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth — that is the rule of the jungle. But, as Master Builders, we have assumed the greater role of peace-makers wherever we are. To fulfill this role, we ourselves must have become men of peace. We must always remember that one of the greatest secrets of being happy and remaining joyous in this world is to forget and forgive injuries; never to carry grudges; not to get hurt by the thoughts, words, and acts of others; to maintain a serene, balanced disposition amidst all apparent furies and troubles. In this way, we reflect to others, including our enemies, the "peace that passeth all understanding" and, in the process, the Master Builder's fulfillment of a trust and a vow.

The last aphorism, obviously, does not refer to physical superiority or strength only, but also to intelligence, to mental powers. It exhorts us to refrain from taking advantage of our fellowmen's weaknesses, ignorance and failings and to make ourselves available, when necessary, as their shields against tyranny, oppression, and exploitation.

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## TENTH COMMANDMENT

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*Thou shalt study to know men, that thereby thou mayest learn to know thyself. Thou shalt ever seek after virtue.*

*Thou shalt be just.*

*Thou shalt avoid idleness!*

The first aphorism reminds us that, as Freemasons, we must be rabid students of human nature and human relations. Our approach to such studies must even be deeper than that of the academicians knowledgeable in psychology or human behavior. This, in turn, will enable us to understand ourselves better — for a greater realization of the whys, the whithers, and the wherefores of human existence!

To unravel the mystery of life is the grandest task of our Ancient Craft. This, then, is the goal of every Master Builder seeking to establish within himself the remaining capstone of the Temple. To attain personal perfection in his return journey to God, the Master Builder must, first of all, know himself. He must also know others who are a part of himself. This is Brotherhood in action!

All men are, indeed, the children of the Most High. As such, they deserve to be cherished, to be understood, to be helped by us along the path towards eternal life. To know our other self reflected in the face of the seemingly separated lives around us is to understand their joys and their sorrows, to project ourselves in their lot, to feel how they feel, to be one with them in their joys and misfortunes. If we are to be true to Masonry, we now transmute that experience into golden threads of

wisdom and virtue that we may, each one of us, become more efficient servers in the Temple. Such, indeed, are the wages awaiting us Master Builders — to seek but only to share, to learn but only to serve.

Let us examine the second, third and fourth aphorisms.

To practice the virtues is the only way to polish the "rough ashlar" or, to change the metaphor, the dross of matter that has accumulated through eons of human existence, which in turn makes it difficult for us MMs or MRSs to perceive our true nature.

We are all lonely pilgrims who, more often than not, become weary as we pursue our return journey to God, our senses having been dulled by the accumulation of vices. Hence, the mandate to ever seek after virtue. If we are self-righteous Masons, we can only accomplish the science of moral and spiritual regeneration by practising the precepts or, alternatively, by learning the hard way of bearing the immutable laws of nature as consequences of wrong acts.

To be just unto all men is to meet our fellowmen always on the Level. It also means proper application of fair dealings in all our transactions in the outer world. It means that we should be "softer than the petals of flowers where kindness is concerned; but gentle and firm where principles are at stake."

To avoid idleness is to be always occupied every minute of our lives. Work includes, perforce, quiet reflection of our multifarious duties, as well as meditation or contemplation and pouring our loving thoughts to those in need of help or assistance. In


all our activities, we must not allow our thoughts to be swayed back to inactivity or sloth.

The summation of all the other Commandments is a reiteration of the commandment of Master Jesus: "Love one another." This is followed by the great Commandment of Masonry: "He that says he is in the Light, and hates his brother, remains still in darkness."

Love is self-forgetfulness, but it does not mean self-sacrifice nor possessiveness. It is the capacity of the human spirit to recognize oneness with all whether in their sorrows or in their joys.

As MMs or MRSs, we presume to have seen the Light. Yet, if there still remains an iota of hatred in our hearts against our fellowmen, we are still in darkness. We have, therefore, to reflect in our lives this admonition of the Master Jesus Christ: "... If thou bring thy gifts to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gifts before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

Along the path of self-realization and moral regeneration we can shed only one Light: the Light of the Soul. If we cannot see that Light, it is futile to look for it elsewhere. An act of forgiveness may just ignite that Light to shine more brightly on the Way!

Let us, dear Brethren, always remember the great Commandment of Masonry — the New Commandment given unto each one of us: "... Love one another. He that sayeth he is in the Light, and hateth his brother, remaineth still in darkness!" 

Freemasonry Perspective

## How Do You Know?

*As a man travels through the degrees of Masonry and beyond, he will be asked, "Are you a Mason?" Since the question occurs in the process of instruction and later as one of general interest, his answer is simple and perfunctory. Armed with a dues receipt and recalling the congratulations of the Master of the Lodge, his affirmation is easy.*

*But if the question is phrased: "How do you know you are a Mason?" A ready answer may not be forthcoming.*

*A man knows he is a Mason when abstract principles learned in the degrees find practical application and use in the real world. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth make easy listening in the lectures. It is not until these ideals find expression in daily life that a man can answer the question, "How do you know?" He knows because he recognizes within himself an honest and underlying desire to aid, protect and support his Brethren and to make sure that no act of his will impinge upon their welfare.*

*He knows when an act of cheating, wronging or defrauding another is naturally contradictory to his behavior. He knows he is a Mason because he has acquired the true spirit of Masonry.*

*We may assume that an active Mason, whatever his role in his Lodge, knows he is a Mason. How he knows is more of a challenge. The simple answer given in the degrees is only the first glimmer of light. By it he is able to enter the Lodge, listen to its lessons and take its obligations. But then it dawns on him that the secrets of Masonry were what made him a Mason.*

*A man knows himself to be a Mason when he learns the principles and precepts upon which the Craft was founded. As its history unfolds before him, he begins to feel a kinship with the multitude of men who have gone before. There is an emotional stimulation in recognizing the influence Masonry has had in the founding of his country, in the forming of its government, and in the writing of the Constitution.*

*Evidence that a man knows he is a Mason is not found in the recitation of the ritual or in the recognition of signs and emblems. It is found in the heart, because from there comes the charity, tolerance, generosity, kindness and goodwill. As these become a part of his beliefs and his conduct, then he knows he is a Mason.*

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

# Masonic Harvest

by eF.R.eN

**W**hy is it that no Brother should sit in a chair in the middle of the north side of the Lodge? Why is there no officer in the North of a Lodge?

Answer our Monitor: "... because King Solomon's Temple, of which every regular Lodge is a representation, was situated so far north of the Ecliptic that neither the Sun nor the Moon, at meridian height, could dart its rays into the north part of the building. The North, therefore, among Masons, has always been a place of darkness."

Despite having given the lecture of the First Degree for quite some time now, I have found that explication to be rather inadequate.

Fortunately, I recently stumbled upon an explanation — a very simple one — given by RW William A. Brown, PDDGM. This is what he says:

"... The North is where God, the Great Architect of the Universe, is supposed to be seated. In fact, every religion and sect of ancient times believed that God was in the North watching everything on earth. As the sun rose on His left and set on His right, He was able to witness all that went on in the world of His creation.

"Today, we scoff at the ideas of our ancient Brethren. Yet they believed and had proof that God dwelt in the North. They knew in their wisdom that the only point in the Universe which was stationary was in the North. The North Star, or Polaris, was the only point visible around which everything moved or turned. Thus, GOD, who must be at the center of everything, must dwell in the North.

"The reference to the Northeast Corner is that as being the place where everything started. The sun rose on the left hand of God to start the day and is emblematic of the beginning of everything which was dedicated to God.

"From the first time man selected a place to build, be it a building, house or temple, it was believed that the land belonged to God, and no man had a right to take a piece of ground, and say 'this is my land.' It was believed that man was permitted to use the earth to live upon, but to say any part of it belonged to him was to invoke the wrath of God.

"From the earliest known structure built by man, we find all cornerstones in the Northeast Corner. It was believed that by placing a particular stone in the Northeast Corner, men were

acknowledging that the structure was dedicated to God, and would be blessed and protected by God." (The Virginia Masonic Herald, Oct. 1995-Jan. 1996, p.5)

According to RW Brown, our ancient Brethren also practiced the custom of placing under the cornerstone a dead man's body as a sacrifice to God, "Sometimes," he says, "the man was dead when placed under the stone, but in most ceremonies, the man was alive and the stone was dropped upon him crushing him to death. This particular custom was used when the building was a Temple or some great structure erected to God or Potentate or King. Great walls were always dedicated with a live man placed under the Cornerstone in belief that the Wall could not be broken down by enemies." (Ibid.)

Our RW Brother informs us that this custom of placing a body under the cornerstone was practiced until the middle ages. "The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France," he points out, "had a body of a man under the cornerstone." He further stresses that cornerstones should be dropped, and never slid, into place. (Ibid.)

So, Brethren, when Lodge is in session, let us imagine that God is seated on the North side of the Lodge and is watching everything (our thoughts, words, and deeds) with His all-seeing eye.



An excerpt from Bicentennial Lodge 1978 newsletter informs us that the Northwest Corner marks the start of the candidate's journey of life to the East of the rising sun, where he is to

receive light and knowledge, to guide him on his journey West of the setting sun and the end of life.

The Northeast Corner, on the other hand, is where the candidate must understand that Masonry is a way of life, that it exists in the heart and not in its outward forms and ceremonies, and that only by continuing study in the search of truth can he spiritually move out of the darkness of the Northeast Corner to the more abundant life and light of the symbolic East.



Here is a significant statement by Albert Pike: "No true Mason ever treats a woman with anything but respect."

But, have we involved our wives in Masonic functions? Can our wives say, as did Lois Marcey, the wife of Dr. Herbert E. Richards, 32nd degree, KCCH, a member of the Portland, Oregon, Scottish Rite: "Participating in all aspects of Freemasonry can be an exhilarating, heart-stirring and soul-lifting experience for any woman?"



If you want others  
to be happy,  
practice  
compassion. If you  
want to be happy,  
practice  
compassion.  
—Dali Lama

# Why was 15 a Sacred Number Among Orientals?

**W**e learn the answer from RW Bro. Bobby R. Faulkner, whose articles were reprinted in Masonic Light, Vol. 68, No. 6. Wrote Bro. Bobby: "... the letters of the Holy Name, JAH, were, in their numerical value equivalent to fifteen; and hence a figure, which the nine digits were so disposed as to make fifteen either way when added together perpendicularly, horizontally, or diagonally, constituted one of these most sacred talismans. The fifteen steps are, therefore, symbolic of the name of God."

**Speaking of  
Masonry, Henry  
Ford said,  
"Masonry is the  
best balanced  
wheel the United  
States has, for  
Masons know  
what to teach  
their children."**

Further explains SGW Barry A. Rickman: "A talisman, as defined by Webster's Dictionary, is an object bearing a sign or character engraved under astrological influence and held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune. This would be somewhat similar to our good luck charms or a rabbit's foot we all remember from our youth. Of course, the Oriental's Talisman with the numbers totaling 15 were far more meaningful, because theirs was sacred and involved the intervention of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

"A mathematical analysis for the arrangement of the numbers three, five, and seven to equal fifteen either way when added together perpendicularly, horizontally, or diagonally indicates the pattern to be as follows (or variations thereof):

7	3	5
3	5	7
5	7	3

"In summary, to the Orientals of early history, this arrangement of numbers when viewed as decorations on their walls and buildings or scribbled on a single-sided rubic's cube and carried in their pockets or displayed on roadside billboards... ever reminded them of their beneficent Creator.

"Also, many of us have difficulty in determining the numerical values of the letters of the Holy Name, JAH, among the Orientals. After studying the structure of this word in the Hebrew alphabet (from which the word sound is Y and which we pronounce as JA or YA is not two letters, but is actually only one letter and is the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet and, therefore, this combination of letters which we translate from one language to another has a numerical value of ten.

"Then the remaining letter in the Holy Name in the Hebrew alphabet has the name of HE and has the sound of H. It is the fifth letter in the Hebrew alphabet and has a numerical value of five.

"Thus, we deduce that from the Hebrew alphabet (reading right to left) these characters make up the Holy Name. They are pronounced JAH and have the numerical of fifteen."

### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF A MASTER MASON

by WB Mabini G. Hernandez, PM

- I. Thou shall put god first in all undertakings
- II. Thou shall love, respect, serve, and be honest to the members of your family and to yourself.
- III. Thou shall obey and comply with the laws of your country and of the place where you live.
- IV. Thou shall obey and comply with the laws, rules and regulations of Freemasonry and preserve its landmark.
- V. Thou shall serve your country, your brethren and your fellowmen.
- VI. Thou shall perform your obligations heartily.
- VII. Thou shall conduct yourself uprightly in private and in public.
- IX. Thou shall open your eyes and your ears and lend your helping hands to cries of the widows and orphans and those in distress.
- X. Thou shall keep yourself, spiritually, morally and physically clean.

SO MOTE IT BE.

\*inspired by, dedicated to and in memory of  
VW OSCAR L. FUNG, PM (RIP) by his Brethren in Freemasonry

**“ . . . One of the most distressing aspects of our own administrative system is what happens to a Grand Master after his one year is up. He spends years in a succession of posts, gaining knowledge and experience, until his efforts culminate in his being installed Grand Master – the pinnacle of his success and power. As soon as his term expires, he drops from any real position of authority.**

**Thus the Grand Lodge system might be likened to a man making a slow climb up a mountainside. When he reaches the top, he does not climb back down, but is pushed off the cliff. Most of us could agree that with experience comes knowledge, and that the two together produce judgment, the greatest attribute of true leadership. Thus, the role of the Grand Master may represent a great waste of talent.”**

**– John J. Robinson from *Pilgrim's Path***

## THE APPROPRIATE DOCTRINE IN HUMAN LIFE

1. The biggest enemy in Human Life is ourselves.
2. The biggest failure in Human Life is egotism.
3. The biggest foolishness in Human Life is dishonesty.
4. The most mournful disposition in Human Life is jealousy.
5. The biggest mistake in Human Life is discouragement.
6. The biggest criminal act in Human Life is to cheat ourselves and defraud others.
7. The most pitiful sense of being in Human Life is inferiority complex.
8. The most admirable virtue in Human Life is to endeavor to strive for progress.
9. The biggest bankruptcy in Human Life is to lose hope.
10. The biggest wealth in Human Life is health.
11. The biggest debt in Human Life is the debt of gratitude.
12. The nicest gift in Human Life is forgiveness.
13. The biggest deficiency in Human Life is ignorance.
14. The biggest satisfaction in Human Life is to give donation to charity.

(research by: VW FILOMENO O. CHIA, JR. DGL, 1995; MD #17, Cagayan de Oro City)

## ADDENDUM

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### WALANA LODGE NO. 13

Address	:	1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila
Stated Meeting	:	Fourth Saturday (except April & Dec.) 2:00 pm
Worshipful Master	:	JOEL P. PALACIOS
Senior Warden	:	RUBEN M. GAZZINGAN
Junior Warden	:	REY DE VERA
Treasurer	:	WB ARMANDO A. MORA
Secretary	:	VW RODOLFO H. CORDONA, PDGL
Auditor	:	VW GENESIS V. AQUINO
Sec. Address	:	623 Sancho Panza, Sampaloc, Manila

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### SILANGAN LODGE NO. 19

Junior Warden	:	FELIPE VICENTE A. VELASCO
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### MAGUINDANAO LODGE NO. 40

Address	:	Cagayan de Oro City
Stated Meeting	:	First Saturday, 5:30 pm
Worshipful Master	:	RUDY P. BRIOSO
Senior Warden	:	LEO D. MIRA
Junior Warden	:	GALILEO G. PADERO
Treasurer	:	BENHUR Q. DE LA TORRE
Secretary	:	BONAFEBE D. LEYSON
Auditor	:	VICTORIOSO M. CURAMING
WM Address	:	468 Zone I, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City
Sec. Address	:	Zone 6-C, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City

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### CAMIGUIN ISLAND LODGE NO. 296

Address	:	Mambayao, Camiguin
Stated Meeting	:	Third Saturday, 2:00 pm
Worshipful Master	:	RUPERTO I. GUANGCO, JR.
Senior Warden	:	TEODORO A. GALES
Junior Warden	:	JESUS D. PACURIBOT
Treasurer	:	RENATO QUIBLAT
Secretary	:	SOL ANTHONY DEL ROSARIO
Auditor	:	WB REXEL M. PACURIBOT
WM Address	:	DPWH, Mambajao, Camiguin
Sec. Address	:	Governor's Office, Misamis Oriental

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**PNRC Directors with the Grand Master and Junior Grand Warden at the GM's office just before the turn-over ceremony.**

The CABLETOW

Plaridel Masonic Temple

1440 San Marcelino St., Manila D-2801



Turning over of the donation from the United Grand Lodge of England of L20,000 (sterling pounds) to PNRG, February 6, 1996, Emilio Aguinaldo Hall at GLP, Manila.

Handwritten signature and date: 1996