

The Cable Ford



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GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



FREEMASONRY:
A UNIVERSAL
BROTHERHOOD





ARTEMIO "Vibora" RICARTE



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Our Cover:

MW Bro. Stewart Cowan, Grand Master of Hawaii (**extreme left**), MW Bro. Leon Angel Bafiez of the Philippines (**second from left**), and MW Bro. Gerald H. Grosskopf of New Jersey (**extreme right**) somehow made history when they closed all together a special meeting of Enterprise Lodge #31 in New Jersey City last Oct. 3. With them (**second from right**) is Bro. Kelly Dessart, S. Deacon of the Lodge. Freemasonry is, indeed, a universal brotherhood.



GRAND MASTER'S message

November is the time we especially remember the members of our own families and of our venerable Order who have laid down life's working tools. We feel confident, as taught by the "*Sprig of Acacia*," that their souls are now in the Celestial Lodge blooming in eternal spring.

The best way to show our fidelity to the memories of our deceased Brother Masons is to strive to keep ever burning the flame of our Fraternity's torch that they have passed on to us and to improve ourselves in Masonry. The greatest tribute we can render to them is to strive to live the kind of life we all were taught at the Altar of the Lodge.

That kind of life was exemplified by the Lord Jesus, whose birth we joyously commemorate in December.

May the angel's message on the first Christmas be at once our prayer and duty: "*Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and to all men goodwill.*"

May we emulate the Lord Jesus, most frequently referred to metaphorically as the "*Lamb of God*," by wearing the lambskin (white linen) apron, the Masonic badge, honorably throughout life; by constantly growing in wisdom and virtue until we become

"perfect ashlars," fit to form part of "that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens"; by being men of God and for others, particularly the disadvantaged and the downtrodden; by sticking to our convictions and principles, notwithstanding the pressures, the dangers, the consequences; and so forth.

The Lord Jesus' message, "*Be you perfect as my heavenly Father is perfect*," is also Freemasonry's message not only for us, its votaries, but for our society as well; for, as Past Sovereign Grand Commander Francis G. Paul, 33°, said ten years ago, "*The real problem is not a decline in morality. It's a failure to realize that we, as human beings, can walk in more noble paths and live by higher and higher standards.*" (See *The Northern Light*, May 1987.)

Let us, then, be assured that, continued anti-Masonic attitudes and initiatives notwithstanding, Freemasonry is important and relevant today. Why? Answers Ill. Paul once more: "*It gives us a vision of morality at its best! It forces us to face that fact that we have not reached our full potential. Freemasonry is a reminder of what we can become if we work at it.*" (*Ibid.*)

May the whole Masonic Family in this jurisdiction and all regular Masons wheresoever dispersed have a peaceful, joyful, fruitful and therefore meaningful Christmas season! May peace prevail in this country and in other parts of the world, and goodwill among all men. May we Freemasons enter the New Year with a firmer resolve to work at the completion of the Temple

of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God; for, to quote Berton Braley in **A Banjo at Armageddon**:

*The best verse hasn't been
rhymed yet,*

*The best house hasn't been
planned.*

*The highest peak hasn't
been climbed yet,*

*The mightiest rivers aren't
spanned.*

*Don't worry and fret, faint-
hearted,*

*The chances have just
begun.*

For the best jobs haven't

been started,

*The best work hasn't been
done.*

**Maligayang Pasko at
manigong Bagong Taon sa inyong
lahat!**

Faternally,

LEON ANGEL P. BANEZ, JR.
Grand Master

Editorial

ATTRACTING MORE YOUNG MEN OF PROMISE INTO THE CRAFT

Now that, once again, we are electing new sets of Lodge officers, it is quite opportune for us to delve deeper into why intelligent young men in the community—including, unfortunately, the sons of highly respected Freemasons—do not seek membership in what we claim to be *“the greatest fraternity that has ever graced the annals of the world’s history.”*

Is it because, to use a pun, those intelligent young men are suffering from **t.b.—too busy** running after professional success? Maybe. But, an adage argues, *“Busiest men find time.”* Those young men of promise will find time to join our Lodges if and when they see that they have much in common with members thereof. They will find time for Freemasonry if and when they see that Freemasonry offers a social, intellectual and cultural atmosphere conducive to their growth and development.

Is it because those young men

of promise do not have the money? Maybe. But again, possessed with intelligence, youth and leadership qualities, they are more worthy of membership in our Lodges than petitioners who can pay the fee and have nothing else, except their interest in using the Fraternity only as a springboard from which to gain a prestige symbol. Since Freemasonry regards no man on account of his worldly wealth or honors, or since it is the internal and not the external qualifications which recommend a man to be made a Mason, we should devise

ways, as well as find the time, to communicate with those men of promise with respect to what Freemasonry is and what it seeks to do. If we do that, maybe they, in turn, will devise legitimate ways of getting the money they need for Masonic membership and once admitted, they will, we fondly hope, find time for Freemasonry.

Is it, then, because young men of promise are not interested? Most probably!

Many of the intelligent young men in the community know nothing or very little about Freemasonry. This is due, at least in part, to our inveterate reluctance to talk about Freemasonry to strangers. But if we don't talk about Freemasonry to those potential members of promise, how can we expect them to get interested to join our ranks? There is no way we can expect them to look up to Freemasonry unless and until we, as Master Masons, show a great deal of pride in our Masonic membership by telling them what we are and what we have.

Other intelligent young men in the community are not interested to seek our fellowship because not a few of us, specifically those wearing Masonic emblems, do things that do not command their respect.

Let's face it! Due to certain factors, such as economic pressure on our Lodges and careless investigation of petitioners, Masonic standards, generally, have gone down, so that a significant number of men who should never have passed the ballot actually dwell in our midst. The Craft, as a result, is not looked upon with the same degree of respect it once enjoyed.

That is why the leadership of our Grand Lodge has recurrently urged us, individual Freemasons, to act, particularly when abroad in the world, so consistently as to show to non-Masons that, influenced by the pure

principles of Freemasonry, we have become better men in our several stations in life, displaying the beauties of holiness, to the honor of God's holy name, and contributing to the building of better local, national and international communities. If we live our Masonry, decidedly, young men of promise will seek our fellowship.

That is why the leadership of our Grand Lodge has recurrently reminded Lodge officers, particularly Worshipful Masters, to be more eager to qualify men for Freemasonry. It has repeatedly emphasized that **there simply is no substitute for quality**. Hence, Lodge officers ought to assign for duty on investigating committees Brethren of high standards who so love the Craft as to be genuinely desirous of preserving unsullied its reputation; Brethren who go farther than making a token investigation of candidates; Brethren who would really stand guard at the West Gate, suffering none to pass, except such as are duly qualified and have permission.

That is why the leadership of our Grand Lodge has recurrently challenged Lodge officers to work together in close harmony for the purpose of creating within the Lodge an environment that makes Freemasonry worthwhile and satisfying in every member's life. This task includes, among other things, concerted planning and development of a many-sided year-round program that provides every member, as well as his family, with opportunities for growth, development and fellowship.

It is hoped, then, that the Brethren who will be elected to responsible positions in our Lodges will demonstrate their enthusiasm for Freemasonry, so that our Lodges, ultimately, will regain the position they once occupied in the interest and loyalties of men, particularly intelligent young leaders in the community.

So mote it be.—eF.ReN

ILOILO CONVENTION

by VW Charles G. Agar, DGL

Masonic District No. 20 held its convention last August 29 & 30 at the Masonic Temple on Plaza Libertad, Iloilo City, with Iloilo-Acacia No. 11 as lead Lodge.

On Day 1, the visiting dignitaries and brethren were treated to a sumptuous lunch at the Breakthrough Restaurant, where they relished the famous seafoods of the place.

The Grand Master and his party arrived at the Iloilo Airport a day before the convention and were warmly welcomed by the brethren, headed by VW Tommy Que, Junior Grand Lecturer for Western Visayas; VW Emilio L. Young, DDGM; Worshipful Master Franklyn Andrada; and DGLs Patricio Magat and Arthur Young.

The Grand Master's party was composed of MW Jose Percival L.

Adiong, IPGM; VW Emil Langomez, Jr., AGS; WB Vic Tan, Bro. Benjie Bañez and this reporter. The hosts tendered us and other guests a welcome dinner at the Summer House Restaurant. Chief Supt. de Leon, PNP Regional Director of Region 6, and Atty. Salumpides, NAPOLCOM Regional Director, graced the occasion with their presence.

Deputy Grand Master Enrique L. Locsin, together with VW Ike Arribas, VW Mon Nuñez, VW Pyke Alibadbad, JGL for Southern Tagalog, and VW Florencio Diaz, DDGM for MD No. 6, and his wife, arrived in the morning of August 29. They were likewise warmly welcomed by the brethren.

Senior Grand Warden Franklin J. Demonteverde also arrived from Bacolod City.

Worshipful Master Andrada opened the Lodge in due and usual form and the convention in public form. VW Emilio Young, together with VWBs Magat and Arthur Young, was received into the convention. Then

Welcome Dinner

MW Bañez and MW Adiong with P/Supt. de Leon, Napolcom Dir. Salumpides, AGS Emil Langomez and brethren of M.D. #20.





GM Bañez receives IPGM Adiong as VW Young, WB Andrarda, and RW Locsin look on.

the Grand Master and his party were received, followed by the reception of IPGM Adiong and that of the Hon. Augusto Syjuco, former ConCon delegate, guest of honor and speaker.

After VW Young's welcome address, MW Adiong delivered his message, which dwelt mainly on the present political situation of the country. He challenged the media to be objective in informing the people on current issues.

VW Ludovico A. Caronongan introduced the guest speaker, who, in his speech, demonstrated his knowledge of Masonic personalities.

"Masons made the destiny of our country," he said, "for it is the Masons who led the struggle to emancipate our country from colonial and neocolonial rule."

The theme of your Grand Master, as well as his motto, Hon. Syjuco added, is very timely. We must work together to achieve this goal, for it is the ingredient for our national growth and prosperity. No matter how much effort we exert, there will be no progress if there is no peace and unity.

During the recess, the guest speaker and MW Adiong left for o t h e r appointments. MW Adiong proceeded to PNP Recom No. 6 and then to the NAPOLCOM prior to his trip to Dumaguete.

VW Patricio Magat, District Secretary, revealed that the

participating Lodges—Kalantiao 87, Graciano Lopez Jaena 194, Quintin Salas Memorial 231, Hamtic 76, Aklan 205, Makawiwili 55 and Tigbauan 229—were adequately represented in the convention.

VW Ike Arribas of the Ancom 98 Secretariat announced to the convention the highlights and program of the 1998 Ancom.

"The Ancom will be very meaningful," he said, "because it will coincide with the centennial celebration of our Independence. Our Grand Lodge will have its own float in the forthcoming Independence Day celebration."

During the fraternal dinner held at Summer House, the Grand Master expressed his observation that there were no *Hermanas* around. So, he admonished the brethren to bring their ladies to the following day's affair.

On August 30, the brethren assembled early at Plaza Libertad for the floral offering at Bro. Jose Rizal's monument. This time the *Hermanas* were present, including officers and members of the Orders of the Amaranth, Eastern Star, and Job's Daughters. The Grand Master expressed his elation to see the

Hermanas and Hijas around. Newly-arrived MW Rey Beltran, PGM and Grand Secretary, joined the wreath-laying ceremony.

All the Grand Lodge Officers were present, except RW Oca Bunyi, who was at that time in Bulacan representing the Grand Lodge in the birth anniversary celebration of Ill. Bro. Marcelo "Cupang" H. del Pilar.

The Grand Master delivered a message on the significance of the wreath-laying ceremony in every Masonic convention.

The convention passed a resolution endorsing the upliftment of the Grand Lodge Dormitory, and Kalantiao Lodge No. 87 was given the distinct honor of hosting the next District Convention.

The following Masonic dignitaries spoke on various topics: VW Patricio Magat, DGL; VW Florencio Diaz, DDGM; VW Pyke Alibadbad, JGL; MW Beltran, Grand Secretary; RW Franklin Demonte Verde, SGW; and RW Henry Locsin, DGM.

The delegates applauded MW Beltran's announcement that a ward of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children would be put up in Iloilo City, with VW de

Asis as head.

After the speeches of the resource persons, a very informative and educational forum took place.

The Grand Master congratulated the lead Lodge and the District as a whole for the successful convention and thanked them for the warm reception and accommodation. He urged them to be vigilant and to continue guarding our Craft against the insidious attacks of anti-Masons. Let us, he stressed, involve our families and inform them about our Craft.

The fraternal luncheon and dinner were held at the Summer House, this time with the presence of a significant number of *Hermanas* and *Hijas*. Gladdened, the Grand Master joined the ladies at their tables and exchanged pleasantries with them.

In his brief remarks he said, "I am very happy and inspired tonight to see our *Hermanas* and *Hijas* around. They are, indeed, our inspiration to work harder for a better country and a better world."

The brethren treated us to an early lunch at the Tatoy Seafoods on Sunday morning. All concerned were happy at the airport after the hard days' work.

Hon. Augusto Syjuco greets WM Frank Andrada, while VW Young wields gavel and MW Bañez observes...



15TH SOUTHEASTERN MINDANAO MULTI-DISTRICT CONVENTION

by VW Michael L. Quiñones, PDGL
District Correspondent

One hundred six delegates from the different Lodges of Districts 42, 44, 46 and 48, which cover the Cotabato and Davao areas, attended the 15th Southeastern Mindanao Masonic Convention, which was held in the peaceful town of Kidapawan, Cotabato's capital town.

The convention was hosted by Masonic District No. 46, ably led by District Deputy Grand Master Jose Agerico R. de Guzman, with Kidapawan No. 170 as lead Lodge.

We were proud to extend warm welcome to visiting dignitaries, headed by MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Grand Master of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. These dignitaries included MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM; VW Emil Langomez, AGS; VW Rodolfo Cardona of the Acacia Mutual Aid Society; Honored Lady Flora L. Benzonan, Grand Royal Matron, and Sir Knight Ofero J. Benzonan, Grand Royal Patron, Order of the Amaranth; VW William "Bill" Carter, DDGM under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington State; RW Clemente Nava, Junior Grand Lecturer for

Central Luzon; VW Froilan Tecson, Junior Grand Lecturer for South Central Mindanao; and VW Benjamin Geli, Past Senior Grand Lecturer.

Highlights of the convention were as follows:

1. Reception of dignitaries, including HL Flora and SK Ofero Benzonan.

2. Speech of the luncheon speaker, Rep. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, Asst. Majority Floorleader, House of Representatives, who centered on the current political and economic issues besetting our country.

3. Conduct of a Lodge of Instruction, with the following as speakers: RW Nava, on the organizational structure of a Lodge best suited to its inherent functions; VW Geli, on possible changes in Philippine Masonry in order for it to find relevance in the coming millennium; VW Cardona, on the current programs of the AMASI; and short lectures by MW Aportadera and VW Carter.

4. Reports of the DDGMs of the four participating Districts, namely: VW Melchor S. Perdido of MD 42, VW Nestor C. Purugganan of MD 44, VW de Guzman of host District 46, and VW Menandro V.



The Grand Master and our Southeastern Mindanao brethren with VW Carter before Bro. Rizal's monument after wreath-laying ceremony.

Lapuz of MD 48.

5. Speech of the second luncheon speaker, Rep. Gregorio Andulana of the 2nd District of Cotabato, representing Hon. Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

6. Speech of the Grand Master, MW Bañez.

We were able to demonstrate to all and sundry our ability to give meaning to the motto, *"Together Is Better."* The four DDGMs and their officers worked together in close harmony, and the officers and members of lead Lodge Kidapawan No. 170, particularly the chairmen and members of the different committees, with Wor. Master Roberto A. Omandac orchestrating the activities, labored with a unity of purpose: *to make the convention a success.* And we achieved this.



MW Bañez awards VW Menandro V. Lapuz, DDGM of MD 48, with a Plaque of Commendation for successfully negotiating the release of a Brother Master Mason by his abductors in Sultan Kudarat in the early part of February 1997. ↑



MD 48 awards MW Bañez with a Plaque of Appreciation. ↓

Rep. Andulana (vice Hon. Jose de Venecia) is formally received into the convention. ↑



DAWNING OF AN EMERGING MASONIC PARADIGM?

by VW Michael L. Quiñones, PDGL
District Correspondent

In his lecture during the 15th Southeastern Mindanao Convention held in Kidapawan, Cotobato, last Sept. 19-20, VW Benjamin Geli, PSGL, posed this challenging rhetorical question: *"Will Philippine Masonry, particularly the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, fine-tune itself so as to stay relevant to the challenges of the coming millennium, or will it opt to maintain the status quo and take the risk of becoming an archaic organization?"*

The Grand Master gave this answer: *"Freemasonry is not only a fraternity. It is a family. It is in the context of a family that the tenets of Freemasonry will find more meaning. The brethren must, therefore, get their families involved in Masonic affairs, so that eventually we will establish a strong Masonic Family in this jurisdiction."*

MW Bañez received with grand honors Grand Royal Matron Flora L. Benzonan, accompanied by Grand Royal Patron Otero J. Benzonan, of the Order of the Amaranth. To many of the delegates the reception of HL Benzonan in an open Lodge was unprecedented.

The Grand Master, moreover, manifested his elation over the fact that the officers of the host District had invited Representatives Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Gregorio Andulana, who represented Speaker de Venecia; for this brought together Masonic leaders and leaders of the community, both local and national. The latter were able to see that Freemasonry is alive and active in our present society. To the Grand

Master, the more frequently we do this, the wider will be the social acceptance of our Fraternity. This will erase, or at least reduce, the public's wrong impression that Freemasonry is a secret society.

How else can Philippine Masonry attune itself and be relevant to the challenges of the coming millennium?

There are, according to VW Geli, four areas in which changes may be made. They are: (1) the penalties in our obligation, (2) balloting of candidates, (3) membership solicitation, and (4) liquor ban in Lodge premises.

On his part, RW Nava strongly suggested a modern approach to suiting the organizational structure of a Lodge to its inherent Masonic functions. He suggested, in effect, that we should have a well-defined mission-vision, so that to this can we direct our short-term goals and objectives. In this way, all Blue Lodges will have a common direction.

VW Cardona said the Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. is likewise fine-tuning itself towards a more acceptable contract between the members and the society.

The delegates who participated in the convention were, indeed, fortunate because they were able to discern the dawning of a new Masonic paradigm.

Will Philippine Masonry make this shift in paradigm? We look forward to the eventual shift because it will enable Philippine Masonry not only to survive, but to thrive, amidst the changing and challenging milieu as we move forward to the next millennium.

THE LEGEND OF HIRAM ABIF: AN EXEMPLIFICATION

Masonic District No. 3 under of the stewardship of DDGM Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, assisted by DGLs Antonio Tuason and Benito K. Tan as well as VW Rudy Ong, has initiated and sponsored a continuing Masonic Education program.

The District organized an exemplification team composed of selected top-caliber, proficient brethren in the district. The team raised three lucky candidates of Island Luz Minerva No. 5, namely, Bros. Ernesto H. de Leon, Victorino Misael Mina and Jesus B. Bacayu, all of whom acted as Hiram Abif.

The exemplification was held at the Plenary Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple, from 1:30 to 8:00 p.m., last July 26.

Interested brethren were informed of the exemplification through invitations and notices on bulletin boards.

"This is to demonstrate the proper way of handling candidates, especially in the second section of the Third Degree," VW Pedregosa announced. *"It is in conformity with Grand Master Choa's Edict 131 as amended by Grand Master Bañez's Edict 131-A."*

The costumes worn by the team made the exemplification colorful and realistic, and the background music added to the solemnity of the event. The costumes were provided by Cosmos Lodge No. 8, while the audio was operated by Bro. Amador Reyes.

Grand Master Bañez and RW Oscar V. Bunyi were among the interested attenders and witnesses. The Grand Master was so elated that he personally congratulated the newly raised Brethren, giving them the five points of fellowship

inside the Lodge.

Dinner was held at the Bonifacio Hall, with *lechon baka* as main dish. The Grand Master congratulated the district officers and the members of the exemplification team for the successful staging of that beautiful part of the district's continuing Masonic Education program.

The members of the exemplification team were as follows:

First Section—VW Pedregosa, DDGM and VW Romeo Yu, PDDGM, **Worshipful Master**; VW Napoleon Soriano, PDDGM, **Senior Warden**; VW Rodolfo Cardona, PDGL, **Junior Warden**; VW Romeo Musngi, PDDGM, **Secretary/Working Tools/Hymn**; VW Mariano Remoquillo, DGL, **Treasurer**; VW Florencio Sy, PDGL, **Chaplain**; VW Fernando Mariano, PJGD, **Marshal**; WB Roy Azarcon, WM, **Senior Deacon**; VW Benito Tan, DGL, **Junior Deacon**; VW Rudy Ong, DGL, **Senior Steward**; VW Mariano Licaucó, PDGL, **Junior Steward**; and VW Isagani Cruz, PDDGM, **Tyler**.

Second Section—VWBs Pedregosa, Soriano and Alexander Madamba, PDDGM, **King Solomon**; VWBs Sy and Cardona, WB Azarcon, **Hiram of Tyler**; Candidates de Leon, Mina and Bucayo, **Hiram Abif**; VWBs Benito Tan and Mar Remoquillo, WB Bon Hoi, GLI, **Senior Deacon**; VW Tuason and VW Ong, Bro. Efrén Turla, SW, **First Fellowcrafts**; VW Ong and VW Teodoro Gonzalez, **Second Fellowcrafts**; VW Mariano Licaucó, PDGL, VW Nerville Peñalosa and VW Antonio Tuason, **Secretary/Recorder**; and Bro. Joey Ang, **Sea/Wayfaring Man**.

(Congratulations to District No. 3 and all the members of the exemplification team!)

—by VW Charles G. Agar

GM Bañez poses with King Solomon (VW Pedregosa) and Senior Deacon (VW Ben Tan). ➡



3 Ruffians presented before King Solomon, (left to right): Bro. Amador Reyes, VW Boyet Delmo, VW Amang Mariano. ↓



THE CAST
Kneeling are the Hiram Abifs. (left to right): Bros. Franklyn Bucayo, Ernesto de Leon and Victorino Mina.
Seated, from left to right: VW Alexander Madamba, GM Leon P. Bañez, Jr., VW Marlowe S. Pedregosa,



RW Oscar Bunyi and WB Roy Azarcon. **Standing, first row, left to right :** VW Simeon L. Torralba, VW Mariano Remoquillo, WB Bon Hoi, VW Teddy Gonzales, VW Boyet Delmo, WB Areto Pacquing, VW Rudy Ong, VW Romeo Musngi, Bro. Amador Reyes, VW Neville Peñalosa and VW Antonio Tuazon. **Standing, last row, left to right:** Bro. Ed Chua, VW Rudy Cardona, VW Florencio Sy, VW Fernando Mariano, VW Ben Tan, and Bro. Joey Ang.

COSMOS HONORS PAST MASTERS

The officers and members of Cosmos Lodge No. 8 honored their Past Masters with a special dinner held at the Heroes Hall, Scottish Rite Temple. They awarded their Past Masters, as well as some of the members with Plaques of Recognition & Appreciation for their valuable contributions to their Lodge in particular and for outstanding achievement in their respective fields of endeavor.

The following awardees are Past Masters who, at certain times, were appointed Grand Line Officers of our Grand Lodge: **VW Richard Hart**, Junior Grand Deacon in 1971 and Senior Grand Deacon in 1974; **VW Neville P.**

Peñalosa, Junior Grand Deacon in 1983-84 and District Grand Lecturer in 1989; **VW Jovito Tamayo**, Junior Grand Deacon in 1983 and Junior Grand Steward in 1995; **VW Carlos G. Aguba**, DDGM of MD 28 in 1992 and DDGM in 1993-95; **VW Fernando F. Mariano**, Junior Grand Deacon in 1994 and Grand Tyler in 1995; **VW Teodoro B. Gonzales**, DGL in 1997; **VW Mariano J. Remoquillo**, DGL in 1997; and **WB Areto C. Pacquing**, GLI in 1984.

The other honorees were: **Bro. Avelino L. Razon, Jr.**, who is the current Director of the Western Police District, **Bro. Oscar D. Canlas, Jr.**, and **Bro. Thomas G. Rentoy III**.

On the same occasion the following received their Master Mason Diplomas: **Bros. Rogelio P. Udarde**, **Philbert G. Togle**, **Diosdado Lacsamana**, and **Jose Abbo Roncesvalles**.

After the presentation of the Flag of our country, **WB Santiago B. de los**

Reyes led the invocation. **WM Danilo G. Briones** welcomed all and sundry, especially the awardees.

Dinner over, **WM Briones**, assisted by **WB Paquing** and **VW Peñalosa**, presented the awards. **Bro. Razon** gave a response in behalf of the awardees.

"Congratulations to you, Brethren

Awardees. You deserve it!" **MW Agustin V. Mateo**, PGM, said in his succinct inspirational talk.

—by **VW Charles G. Agar**



VW Richard Hart receives Plaque of Appreciation from WM Briones.

VW Neville Peñalosa happily receives plaque of appreciation. ⇒

MW Agustin Mateo, PGM, with the awardees. ⇓



IDEOLOGICAL ENEMIES TURNED FRIENDS AND BROTHERS

"MASONRY UNITES MEN OF EVERY COUNTRY, SECT AND OPINION AND CAUSES TRUE FRIENDSHIP TO EXIST AMONG THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE REMAINED AT A PERPETUAL DISTANCE."

This statement in our Monitor applies to the late Col./Bro. Orlando C. Dulay and Rt. Rev./Bro. Nilo S. Tayag in particular. The former was a much-feared nemesis of activists during the martial law years; the

latter, a staunch advocate of nationalism, even to the point of advocating the Maoist (communist) ideology, and therefore an avid critic of the Marcos regime. They pursued their divergent ideologies with fervency and zeal. Col. Dulay, in the main, was instrumental in the capture and imprisonment of Prof. Tayag.

But the captor visited the

captured one in prison. During such visits, they exchanged views about the politics and economics of the country, including its increasing external debt and the grinding poverty of the greater masses of the Filipino people. This was the time the communist ideology began to read and study the Scriptures. Eventually, he decided to leave his activist activities behind and to embrace the Filipino Ideology espoused by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos. Set free from prison, he became a firm defender and intense propagator of Marcos' nationalist ideology, thereby becoming a friend of his erstwhile tormentor, captor and immurer and an enemy to his former co-communist ideologues. Both men continued comparing notes with regard to their views of human life. Both sought membership in Freemasonry—in Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199, F. & A.M., in particular—in different years, of course. Hence, they embraced the Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. From then on they felt *"linked together by the indissoluble chain of sincere affection."*

Came the EDSA *"revolution."* They found themselves in the same prisoncell. They were able to transcend the rigors of prison life not only because

they were visited by family, friends and fellow Masons, but, more importantly, because they continued their study of the Scriptures since both were seekers and defenders of truth in their own right.

Col./Bro. Dulay founded a religious sect of his own, and Bro. Tayag became a minister of religion. Now he carries the title of Right Reverend. They were, so to speak, two lines which seemed to run parallel for quite sometime, but which, as willed by Divine Providence, came to converge at certain points.

So, when the brethren of Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199 conducted Masonic obsequies in memory of the late Bro. Orlando C. Dulay at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Q.C., last June 5, it was not surprising that Bro. Nilo S. Tayag was chosen to give the eulogy. He played his role to the hilt—eloquently and persuasively, albeit extemporaneously.

WM Cristolito P. Balaoing gave the honor of presenting the Scroll of Remembrance to the family of our departed Bro. Dulay to M.W. Bro. Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., who, together with AGS Emil Langomez, SGL Bert Pagotan, PDDGM Mags Nuevo and this writer, found time to pay last respects to a man and Mason who had dropped the working tools of life.—eF.R.eN

HE WAS THE LAST

WB ANTERO H. DIRIGE, Past Master, 33° IGH of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, was the last, but certainly not the least. He was the last of the charter members of Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133 to travel to the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe forever presides.

His active participation and

continuing concern for the affairs of the Lodge is well recognized, respected and emulated by his brethren and will never be in vain.

"He was truly a man of principles" VW Marcelino C. Cabucana, PDDGM, in eulogy delivered said. *"He was honest both to his family and his brethren, and would not hesitate to lecture to brethren who, in the practice of their Masonic lives, did not stick to*

the observance of the provisions of our laws, rules and regulations. His views, commentaries and criticisms were straightforward and were gleaned from his long experience as a Mason and from Masonic practices and traditions since time immemorial."

VW Cabucana added that during the brother's lifetime, he was an ardent believer in the beautiful teachings of his church—the Roman Catholic Church, the very church which he cherished one day would lend a strong support for the salvation of his soul. He bore all the marks of a true believer of his Christian Church.

Like any other Master Mason, VW Cabucana continued, WB Dirige was always guided by the Great Lights of Freemasonry: the Holy Bible as the rule and guide of his faith; the Square, to square his actions; and the Compasses, to circumscribe his desires and keep his passions within due bounds toward all mankind.

Even at the point of death, WB Dirige did not give up his beliefs in the fine teachings of his church and neither did he give up his undaunted and unvarnished knowledge of the beautiful tenets of Freemasonry. If anybody, therefore, contests these inherent personal attributes of our deceased brother, then let him submit himself for judgment at the time he, too, will meet his Creator, VW Cabucana continued.

Ever loyal to his church, he did not leave his faith even when a son was not permitted by a Roman Catholic priest to be married in his church, because the father is a Mason. And even when several brethren who traveled ahead of him to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler ever returns were refused Catholic church

rites, he and members of his big family remained loyal to their Church, when others similarly situated moved to other faiths.

In the course of the local Catholic Church's stand with respect to Freemasons, he willed that should his church refuse to give him the last rites, his remains be brought to the Philippine Independent Church for the purpose.

It was prophetic. Before interment, his body was brought to the PIC at Santiago City where a Mass celebrated by the Very Reverend Bishop and Bro. Hermogenes Rancho was held and Masonic funeral rites were officiated by Worshipful Master Antonio A. Ramos with the assistance of VW Napoleon H. Roque, DDGM, VW Leonardo P. Chua, PJGL, this writer and officers of CVL No. 133.

The church was filled to overflowing capacity. Many were at the churchyard and along the adjoining street during the service. Conspicuously present were the surviving comrades from the Veterans Federation of the Philippines and members of the Order of the Amaranth Court No. 12 led by HL Zenaida Cabucana and HL Luzviminda P. Roque, both Past Grand Royal Matrons.

WB Antero H. Dirige, 91, is survived by Sister Dominga Silverio, ten children, several grandchildren and great grandchildren. He has gifted all his children with the highest possible education they could crave for and all are now successful in their respective lines of undertaking. Four of his sons are members of the Craft, one of whom, WB Maximo S. Dirige, is a Past Master of Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133.

Farewell, dear brother. We are certain the seeds you sowed will never be in vain.

—Mags A. Nuevo, PDDGM

OF HOLMAN HUNT AND THE LATE WB DIAZ

In the July 1997 issue of D'TROWEL, monthly magazine of Koronadal Lodge No. 209, F&AM, which is edited by WB Leopoldo C. Hong, PM, who is Cabletow Correspondent for M.D. #48, there is an amusing anecdote about renowned painter Holman Hunt and an art critic.

During the unveiling of Mr. Hunt's painting, *"The Light of the World,"* which shows the Lord Jesus Christ in a garden at midnight, his left hand holding a lantern and his right knocking on a heavily paneled door, the art critic remarked, *"Mr. Hunt, haven't you finished your work? There is no handle on that door!"*

Replied the artist: *"That is the door to the human heart. Only from the inside can it be opened."*

In the same issue, Bro. Frederico P. Togonon, Jr. pays a tribute to WB Leodegario F. Diaz, Sr., who recently dropped his working tools. From 1980 to 1997 WB Diaz poured his heart out for the benefit of Koronadal 209 in particular and of Freemasonry in general.

When, in 1985, WB Pax Mangudadatu laid out the temple of the Lodge, WB Diaz, then Chief of the Bureau of Equipment, had filling material transported to the building site.

When the building was erected, he did voluntarily offer his own engineering expertise to the Building Committee Chair, Eng./Bro. Manuel Ja. Amador.

When the Master of the Lodge, whoever he was, delegated an assignment to WB Diaz, the latter never said "No". In fact, he always handled an important committee for the success of any function raising activity. More often than not, he actively participated in the conferral of degrees, filling in any station or position that was vacant. In fact, he was so proficient in the ritual that he was considered by the brethren as "Walking Masonic Monitor." The absence of the designated lecturer in any of the degrees during conferral was never a problem as long as WB Diaz was present. He was also a proficient deliverer of the Charge of each degree.

WB Leodegario F. Diaz, Sr. may have gone to the Celestial Lodge where the GAOTU presides, but his memory will never die among his brethren.

This reminds us of the ancient Chinese saying which our Grand Master is fond of quoting when he is asked to say a few words during memorial service for a departed Brother, namely: *"To be remembered after death is far greater than to be honored in life."* —**cf.R.eN**

TREE PLANTING: DISTRICT 13'S PET PROJECT

Brethren of Masonic District No. 13, led by V.W. Bro. Hernani Lopez (King Solomon Lodge No. 150), with special participation of the officers and members of Artemio Ricarte

Lodge U.D., the Master of which is Wor. Bro. Clemente Mariano, Commanding General of the Philippine Army, have started to plant trees in Survival Center, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

This site was identified by Bro. Ruperto Pabustan (L.T. Pañares Lodge No. 220), Commanding Officer of SEG, Philippine Army, to be a portion of Fort Bonifacio that would not be included in the base conversion.

Said Bro. Emilio de Leon, Deputy Commanding General, Philippine Army, in his short inspirational talk: *"Let us cover this place with trees for our children and our children's children to inherit. This area will be the last bastion of forest in the Mega City of the future. Let this area be the living witness that we Freemasons are lovers and protectors of Nature."*

WB Oddie Diapana of Kagitingan Lodge No. 286 provided the seedlings, and Bro. Pedro Cabuay (Talavera Lodge No. 273), Commanding Officer, ISG, Philippine Army, *"called the brethren from labor to refreshment."*

V.W. Bro. Hernani Lopez, assisted by Bro. Pabustan, plants the "DDGM Hardwood Tree" at the Survival Center. ↓



SIXTH M.D. 46 ASSEMBLY

by VW Michael L. Quiñones
District Correspondent

Masonic District No. 46, under the leadership of VW Jose Agerico R. de Guzman, DDGM, held its 6th Assembly in Cotabato City. The affair was hosted by Bantugan Lodge No. 223, led by WM Benedicto A. Lu.

VW Primitivo S. Bella, Jr., PDDGM, was guest speaker. He stressed the duty of a Master Mason to improve his inner self, so that he will serve as a fitting living stone for *"that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Said VW Bella: *"A Master Mason is duty-bound to translate into action those great moral duties taught in the lodge hall, particularly the main tenets of Freemasonry."*

This annual Assembly, which was started in 1991 by VW Eduardo C. Rabago, PDDGM, serves as an opportunity for the brethren to renew fraternal ties, share ideas, acquire more Masonic knowledge and plan projects and activities in line with the Grand Master's program thrusts.

The 6th Annual Assembly was the best attended so far.

LEE SIN, LAM-ANG REKINDLE SISTERHOOD FLAME

Headed by WM Alexander A. Aurelio and VW Rafael B. de Peralta, Jr., Interlodge Relations Committee Chair, brethren of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 motored to Candon, Ilocos Sur for the specific purpose of rekindling the flame of their Lodge's Sisterhood relations with Lam-Ang Lodge No. 164.

Led by WM Aristeo Valdez, brethren of the host Lodge warmly welcomed the visitors.

RW Clemente M. Nava, who lectured on "Lodge Management" with charts and props, got the brethren of the host Lodge so interested that an elderly brother

expressed his wish that the lecturer leave behind his charts and props, which they might adapt for their purposes.

The ensuing fellowship dinner at the house of WM Valdez, composed of *calderetang kambing*, *sinampalukang ulo ng kambing*, *sisig*, *kilawen*, *papaitan*, *sashimi*, *lechon manok*, *inihaw na liempo*, *pinakbet*, *sweet and sour lapu-lapu*, etc., made the Sisterhood flame even more ardent—thanks specifically to Sis. Aleli Valdez, who served as perfect hostess to the affair attended by approximately 160 members and friends of Masonry.

ALSM FOCUSES ON TEMPLE RENOVATION

Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 in Dagupan City has focused its attention on the rehabilitation of its Temple. Its dynamic leaders, headed by WM Alexander A. Aurelio, are confident that they will complete the project within this Masonic

year because the brethren have demonstrated their all-out cooperation via their substantial contributions or donations.

RW Clemente M. Nava was appointed by Execom Chair Andy Capati as Chair for the forthcoming unveiling and rededication ceremonies.

More and more, when you say "Happy New Year"-it's a triumph of hope over experience.—R. Orben

PINAGSABITAN SPONSORS FREE MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION

by WB Ruben E. Falogue, PM

Spearheaded by WM Gerry C. Frondoso and his energetic wife, Sister Nene, Pinagsabitan Lodge No. 26 recently sponsored a free medical and dental mission at Barangay Gatid, Santa Cruz, Laguna.

More than 200 children and adults, mostly from the depressed areas of the barangay, were recipients of free medicines.

Community Outreach Committee Chair Philip P. Plantilla, PM, led the medical team, composed of his wife, Dr. and Sis. Corazon H. Plantilla, Dr. Elvic Tengco, Ms. Mary Ann Barnes, Hila S. de Ocampo and Mr. Ernesto Melodillar.

Dr. Noel A. Piga, JW of Makiling Lodge No. 72, on the other hand, headed the dental team, composed of Dra. Mena M. Kabamalan, Mr. Rodrigo

S. Arjone, Mr. Ariel Asistido and Ms. Geraldine Pasco.

Besides this writer, VW Rosauro M. Magcalas, VW Eduardo R. Altobar, WB Nilo Gavia, Bro. Menjamin Monzon, Bro. Onofre Reyes, Bro. Leopoldo Ongkiko, Jr. and Bro. Bernardo Monzon were present during the activity, giving our helping hands wherever these were needed.

Bro. Pepito L. Ng Cha and this writer donated the foods and drinks, while the barangay health workers and the teachers of Gatid Elementary School extended their assistance to the success of the project.

This activity is part of the continuing program of our Lodge to reach out to the less fortunate families within its jurisdiction.

PANGASINAN 56'S RAFFLE DRAW: A SUCCESS

The fund-raising project of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, a Raffle Draw, was held in the most transparent and honest possible way, with the brethren, sisters and friends of Masons in attendance.

Thus reported WM Danilo C. Uy, who added that before the draw, the 623 ticket stubs that were submitted and paid for were dropped into the *tambolero* and then independent parties were requested to draw the ticket stubs and to

witness the procedure.

VW Roy V. Serrano, DDGM, drew the winning ticket stub, which turned out to belong to RW Clemente M. Nava. His prize? Nissan LEC Sentra worth P310,000.!

WB Ramon C. Reyna reported that the latest Building Fund balance is P286,499.

Stated WM Uy: *"Let me thank you all, brethren, sisters and friends of Masons, for supporting us in this worthy undertaking. My sincerest thanks to VW Nonie Cornel, Jr. for selling*

almost one third of the raffle tickets... Let me thank, likewise, all visiting brethren who came to witness the draw of winning tickets. Their presence added to the joy and warmth of the fellowship dinner."

Due to the successful fund-raising campaign, the construction of the Lodge's temple is now in full swing. But, as was pointed out by the Wor. Master, "Our funds for this purpose are depleted and therefore we need to intensify our collection of pledges and donations from the brethren. We should also think of alternative methods of raising funds

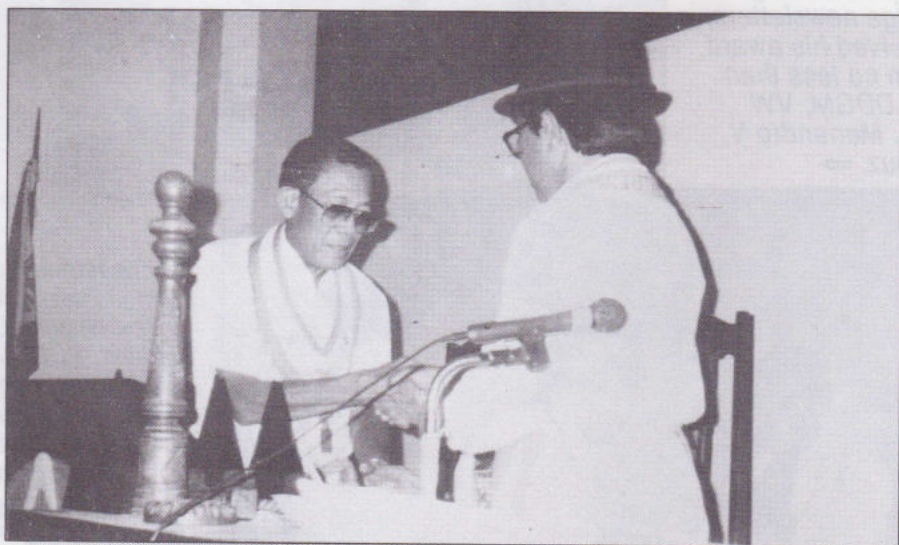
for the same purpose."

Echoed VW Jaime L. Nabua, editor-in-chief of THE LEVEL: "We have a long way to go to meet the construction cost of our Lodge Temple. New and innovative approaches to raising funds are needed in order to finish our project. Hence, we would like to sound the clarion call to all our brethren to help us think of ways to raise the much-needed funds for our Lodge Temple. Remember, Brethren, we are all in this together."

RW Nava donated additional P50,000 for the Building Fund.

DESERVING BRETHREN RECEIVE PLAQUES OF RECOGNITION

Koronadal Lodge No. 209, led by WB Geroncio D. Loyola, recently presented deserving officers and members with Plaques of Recognition.



Bro. Federico P. Togonon, Jr. was recognized for perfect attendance in all meetings of the Lodge, as well as for consistently contributing to the Lodge's newsletter, D'TROWEL.



Another who
received a
token in
recognition
of his perfect
attendance
in Lodge
meetings is
WB Antonio
E. Sarrosa,
PM.



WB Leopoldo C.
Hong, PM,
Outstanding
Secretary for MY
1996-97 and editor
of D'TROWEL,
which was
adjudged one of
the outstanding
Lodge newsletters,
received his award
from no less than
the DDGM, VW
Bro. Menandro V.
Lapuz. ⇒



The immediate
Past Master, V.W.
Bro. Rodolfo C.
Soledad, PDDGM,
who led the Lodge
to be recognized
by the Grand
Lodge as
Outstanding,
certainly, deserved
a plaque of
recognition!



LINGAYEN 161 FAMILY OUTING

Officers and members of Lingayen Lodge No. 161 and their families took a respite from their humdrum activities to celebrate their 37th anniversary as a Lodge at Barangay Portic in Bugallon, Pangasinan. The resort is owned by Bro. Dick Primicias. They were joined by brethren from other

Lodges and friends of Freemasonry.

At the resort practically everybody enjoyed the games and amusements prepared by the Lodge brethren and their Ladies.

The Lingayen 161 brethren, moreover, commemorated the births of the Philippine Republic and Dr./Bro. Jose P. Rizal.

(L-R) Bro. Rene Cacho, VWB Roy V. Serrano (DDGM), WB Marcelo Espinosa, VWB Jose M. Santos (PDDGM), Bro. Rodolfo Cabanilla, WB Gerardo E. Padilla, Bro. Marlito Ocampo, RWB Clemente M. Nava, VWB Alberto Reyes (PDDGM), VWB Romulo D. Estrada (PDDGM), WB Jose Ban Ramos, and VWB Manuel Misa (DGL) pose at the Rizal monument after floral offering.



DISTRICT 5 INITIATES TRUST BLOOD DEPOSIT

by VW Charles G. Agar, DGL

Masonic District No. 5, led by VW Jaime Y. Gonzales (DDGM), VW Sonny K. Wang (DGL), VW Felix S. Ko (DGL), VW Robert C. Ocampo (DGL), VW Pedro L. Wong (District Treasurer), VW Pablo Elauria (District Secretary), and VW Adrian Valle (District Auditor),

conducted a blood-letting project at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Metro Manila last October 11.

The project was spearheaded by a committee chaired by WM Eric P. Belen of Luzon Lodge No. 57. WB Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr., WM of Dapitan Lodge No. 21 and PNP-NCR Commander, was vice-chairman; Bro. Jaime C. Canatoy, SW of



The brethren with the PNP recruits for processing. ↑

Sinukuan Lodge No. 6 and PNRC Governor, treasurer; VW Pablo Elauria, secretary; Bro. Cipriano Querol, Jr., p.r.o.; WMs Johnny J. Tan, Blas O. Causapin, Eliseo C. Miranda, George T. Dy Pay, Ignacio Q. Angeles III and Hercules S. Loa, members.

The brethren of the district convened at the Grand Lodge premises as early as 6:00 a.m. From there they motored to the venue of the project, where they found waiting staff members of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and several other brethren.

Later the following guests arrived, one after the other: RW Enrique L. Locsin, DGM; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, Grand Sec.; and Ms. Rosa Rosal of the PNRC, guest of honor and speaker.

While waiting for the program to commence, the PNRC staff members started processing and screening the blood donors, namely, the new PNP recruits (02-97). T-shirts were distributed and early snacks served. The PNP Band, meanwhile, provided background music.

Ably emceed by VW Adam "Big Cabletow" — 24

Boy" Sim, the program started with an invocation led by VW Reuben Abenojar.

After the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the Grand Lodge Hymn, WB Ebdane gave

Ms. Rosa Rosal delivers inspirational speech. ↓



his welcome remarks. He said in part, *"Nobody will be allowed to go out of this camp without giving something to this noble cause. If you can't bleed because you did not qualify, then bleed your pocket!"*

Execom Chair Eric P. Belen thanked all concerned for their all-out support and cooperation. He revealed that the project was the start of what had been envisioned as national in scope; that is to say, each Masonic District, in collaboration with the PNR, will conduct its blood-letting project. The blood solicited will then be deposited in trust with the PNR,

but the distribution of the blood among Masons and members of their families will have to be determined by a Board of Trustees to be created by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Introduced by Bro. Canatoy, Ms. Rosa Rosal talked about the significance of the project. Introduced by VW Sonny K. Wang, RW Locsin gave an inspirational speech for and in behalf of the Grand Master, who was at the time in the United States.

Ms. Isabel Reyes tendered several songs, which she dedicated to the blood donors.

Assisted by WB Belen and MW Beltran, VW Wang distributed plaques of appreciation to Ms. Rosa Rosal, RW Locsin and the blood donors.

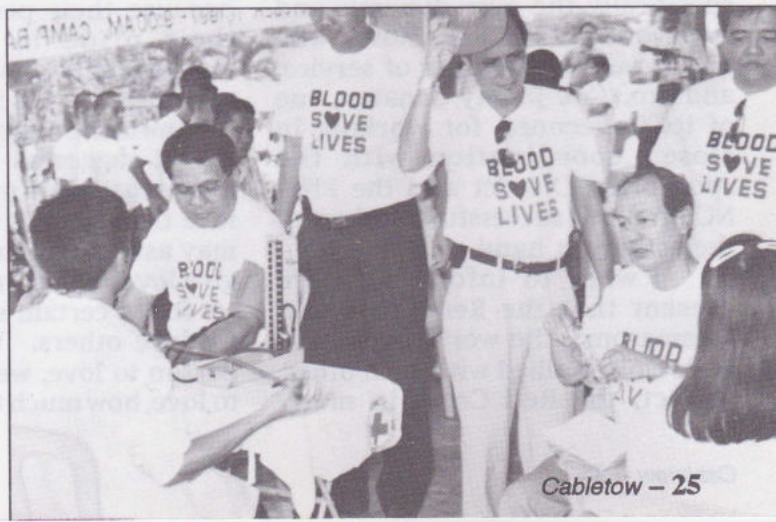
Ensued lunch, the main dish of which was *lechon baka*.

Following is the text of the talk RW Locsin gave.



Plaque of appreciation to Ms. Rosa Rosal is given by RW Locsin, assisted by WB Jun Ebdane. ↑

RW Locsin shows sadness at knowing he would not qualify as blood donor. At left is WB Jun Ebdane.



BLOOD LETTING : NOBLE, HEROIC ACTIVITY

by RW Bro. Enrique L. Locsin, DGM

The leadership of the Grand Lodge of Masons in this jurisdiction considers the activity at hand very significant for several reasons.

I must, therefore, commend Masonic District No. 5, led by its dynamic, soft-spoken but much-accomplished business executive, VW Jaime Y. Gonzales, DDGM, and his equally dedicated officers for spearheading this life-giving project fittingly dubbed "Dugo Ko, Buhay Mo," for and in behalf of our Grand Lodge.

I must also commend the Philippine National Police-National Capital Region, headed by Wor. Bro. /Gen. Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Regional Director, for providing this venue and other facilities. This only indicates that, like Freemasonry, the PNP is an "other-oriented" organization, the officers and members of which generally have been trained to love and serve the people.

I must, certainly, commend the Philippine National Red Cross, specifically the ever dynamic and ever youthful Ms. Rosa Rosal, who has served as exemplar of service, and Bro./Col. Jimmy Canatoy, one of its Governors, for working in close coordination with the sponsoring District and the PNP-NCR for the successful conduct of the activity at hand.

I want to inform all here present that the Red Cross and Freemasonry the world over have been closely allied with each other. In fact, the Red Cross in many

countries was organized by Masons. In our own country, many of the founders and organizers of the Red Cross were members of the Craft.

We should also recall that in 1996-97, during the term of MW Danilo D. Angeles, through our Grand Lodge, the United Grand Lodge of England donated to the PNRC 20,000 pounds, equivalent to P796,400, giving the PNRC blanket authority to spend the money wherever and whenever it sees fit. I am sure the PNRC and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines will continue to walk arm in arm, working together for the benefit of our less fortunate countrymen.

I must, of course, commend the donors of blood; for, to me and other Grand Lodge Officers, real charity consists in giving of ourselves, and giving one's own blood to enable other persons to live is giving of oneself.

I must, in addition, commend the brethren here present, particularly those who do not belong to the sponsoring District, because their presence indicates their pride in their Masonic membership, as well as their readiness to lend support to the worthwhile projects of the Craft.

I suggested earlier that it is much easier for most of us to give love than to receive it. Why?, you may ask. And I answer: When we give love, we are in control; in fact, we feel a certain superiority when we love others. We can pick the person to love, we can decide how to love, how much to love, and when

to love.

But the donors of their own blood cannot pick whom to love because they do not possibly know the persons to whom their blood will be given. Herein, then, lies the significance of this project.

When, on the other hand, we receive love, we are no longer in control. We have to let the other person decide to love or not, or how much to love. All we can do is accept the love that is offered. To a certain extent we are helpless and that is much, much harder.

On that basis, then, to give our own blood for the benefit of others yet unknown or yet undetermined is very beautiful, but at the same time very hard.

To one and all who have participated in this significant because life-giving activity, therefore, the Grand Lodge extends its sincerest congratulations and appreciation for the successful conduct of this unselfish, charitable project. The Grand Lodge extends its warmest fraternal, congratulatory grip especially to the donors of their own blood because these donors are, to a great extent, true lovers since they have given of themselves without knowing who the recipients will be.

I want you, dear non-Masons who are present, to know that Freemasonry is not a benefit society, but it does seek to alleviate human suffering. Freemasonry assists not only its members and their relatives, but also people not associated with the Masonic Family. We Freemasons are not primarily philosophers; we are doers. We will act to assist those who are

hungry, distressed, desperate. As a Fraternity, we firmly believe that the true essence of living is how well one has lived for the betterment of others.

I want, finally, to let you, dear Brethren here present, know that you are, in your own measure, veritable heroes. You do not carry weapons nor crucifixes, but you wear the Square & Compasses honorably. Your heroic deed consists in knowing the true meaning of the value of service and with that understanding, you go about your profane and Masonic duties with heart and soul, and when the opportunity like this one knocks, without fanfare you share what you have and even what you are with others less fortunate.

That is why I now say:

**Viva el Distrito
Masonico Numero Cinco y la
Masoneria en Filipinas!**

Long live the Philippine
National Police and the
Philippine National Red Cross.

**Mabuhay ang mga
kababayan natin na tatanggap ng
dugo na inalay natin, bilang tanda
ng pagmamahal natin sa kanila,
sapagkat and Mason ay naniniwala
sa sinabi ni Panginoong Jesucristo:
"WHATEVER YOU DO TO THE
LEAST OF MY BRETHREN, YOU
DO IT UNTO ME."**

**Magandang umaga sa
inyong lahat!** Let's go forth
from here, determined to do
more worthwhile projects as well
for God's greater glory as the
welfare of our fellowmen,
particularly those less fortunate
than ourselves. *So mote it be.*

GLP COMMENDS INTER-LODGE VISITATIONS, JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

The leadership of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines fraternally commended those Lodges that had pursued such worthwhile programs as inter-Lodge visitations and joint community service.

Our Grand Master, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., cited as example the exchange of visits among three Sister Lodges: Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial 158, Lam-Ang 164 and Laoag 71.

"Such inter-Lodge visitations," the Grand Master pointed out, "make the Lodges closer to each other and usually results in increased knowledge on how to manage the operations of a Lodge."

The Grand Master also commended those Districts and Lodges that had spearheaded community outreach programs jointly with other fraternal, civic and religious organizations.

"A case in point," he said, "is the medical-dental mission that

ALSM 158 and Lingayen 161 conducted in Barangay Anolid, Mangaldan, Pangasinan, with the cooperation of the following groups: Knights of Columbus, St. Therese Council No. 9116; Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas Aquinas Council No. 6940; Philippine Academy of Family Physicians, Pangasinan Chapter; Rural Health Unit I of Mangaldan; and the Council of the venue of the project, headed by Barangay Captain Maximo Fernandez. Another is the blood-letting project spearheaded by Masonic District No. 5, headed by DDGM Jaime Y. Gonzales, with the collaboration of the Philippine National Red Cross, led by Ms. Rosa Rosal, the Philippine National Police-NCR, headed by WB 'Jun' Ebdane, and other groups."

The Grand Master said he felt confident that many other Lodges and Districts were carrying out similar programs, but these remained unreported or were not yet conveyed to him.

MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION IN BALUTO, CONCEPCION, TARLAC

by Bro. Antonio M. Mariano

A total of 160 persons—12 from Labong 59 (lead Lodge), 30 from Isagani 96, 2 from F.D. Roosevelt 81, 6 from Mandaluyong City 277,

10 from Maynila Lingkod Bayan Lions Club, District 301-A, 30 from the Fil-Chinese Caloocan Charity Clinic, 21 from the Bureau of Jail

Management and Penology, 15 from the Bureau of Fire Protection, and 34 composing the Light Armor Brigade Medical Team—participated in the medical-dental mission held in the remote, depressed and neglected barrio of Baluto in Concepcion, Tarlac last September 21. Approximately 4,000 residents were given proper medical and dental services with free medicines.

Early in the morning of that day, of the brethren of Labong and F.D. Roosevelt who had agreed to assemble at the main gate of the North Cemetery in Manila, the first to arrive were WB Roy G. Azarcon, Bro. Tuzcano, Bro. Noma Acuña, Bro. Sherwin Bugarin, Bro. Winston Chingkiat, and WB Dado R. Melegrito, who was accompanied by Sis. Daisy.

It was decided that WM Melegrito (together with Sis. Daisy, of course), WM Azarcon, and Bro. Acuña would go ahead to Tarlac. They brought along with them five boxes of assorted medicines donated by Senate President Ernesto M. Maceda.

Later Bro. Peter Sy and Bro.

David Ong arrived at the assembly point, with five more boxes of assorted medicines, courtesy of the AFP Mapping Center in Camp Aguinaldo, which is headed by our dynamic Brother, Benjamin Benjamin.

The five brethren proceeded to the residence of Bro. Jimmy Ocampo on 7th Avenue in Caloocan City, where the Filipino-Chinese Caloocan Charity Clinic group were waiting.

At the tollgate, North Diversion Road, Balintawak, Caloocan City, the Maynila Lingkod Bayan group, headed by Dr. Conrado V. Triguero, waited for the arrival of the Mandaluyong City Lodge 277 group, headed by WB Kim Villanueva and VW Roger Flores, who also brought with them another five boxes of assorted medicines.

The "missionaries" arrived at Brgy. Baluto at around 10 a.m. They found Bro. Tony Joson, assisted by Sis. Lita, treating several patients, as well as WB Lito Chan and other Isagani 96 brethren busy attending to the needs of the medical teams from the Bureau of Fire Protection under the able

**Fil.-Chinese
Caloocan
Charity**

Clinic group:

Bro. Manny
Martinez, WM
Lito Chan
Isagani, Bro.
Peter Sy and
WM Dado
Melegrito of
Labong
Lodge # 59.





Philippine Army, Light Armor Brigade, Camp O' Donnell, Capas, Tarlac group with Sis./Dr. Namett O. Buayan.

leadership of Col. Jun Ocampo, Asst. Regional Director; the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under Col. Cesar O. de Guzman; and the Light Armor Brigade Medical Team under WB Felix Mendoza. The participation of the BFP and the BJMP in the mission was made possible through the efforts of Bro. Alvin G. Dans, Undersecretary of the DILG.

The Filipino-Chinese Caloocan Charity Clinic, led by Bro. Sun Ching Kim, arrived a bit late—at 11 a.m. But they went to work right away.

Mention should be made of the wholehearted support of Bros. Manny, Gerry and Tibs Ibasco, as well as the cooperation of all the

barangay officials, headed by Punong Barangay Ed Mariano.

At 3:00 p.m. the "missionaries" were called from the labor to refreshment.

Our brethren of Isagani 96, assisted by their ladies and by the teachers of Barangay Baluto Elem. School, led by Bro. Frankie Yu, school principal, took charge not only of the lunch, but also of the merienda. WB Tony Joson gave 10 boxes of juice while Bro. Sherwin Bugarin gave out sandwiches.

The barangay, which is known to be NPA-infested, was well secured by the Light Armor Brigade, Region III, thanks to WB Felix Mendoza, Bro. George Manaog and VW Saclolo, PNP Asst. Prov. Director, Tarlac, Tarlac.

The "missionaries" worked up to late afternoon.

WM Diosdado R. Melegrito of lead Lodge Labong 59 wants to extend sincerest thanks to all participants in the mission for their all-out support and cooperation.

VW Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, DDGM of MD No. 3, is proud of all brethren from his district who joined this noble undertaking.



Patients line up for medical check-up.

BERNARDO A. NERI MEMORIAL 214 PASSES RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE DAAROLS

Bernardo A. Neri Memorial Lodge No. 214 requested VW Bro. Al Haj Trans Daarol and his loving wife, Sis. Ma. Paz, who are widely known for their deep concern for the Masonic fraternity's welfare and well-being, to donate a public address system, which is frequently used in the Lodge's functions.

The couple immediately responded. In fact, they personally delivered a new Sharp Home Party

Karaoke System as their donation to the Lodge.

Profoundly grateful, the officers and members of the Lodge passed a Resolution of Thanks to the Daarols.

The Lodge furnished copies of the Resolution to the MW Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, the District Deputy Grand Master, and **The Cabletow**, so that "all may know of this exemplary act of charity."

-Ericson T. Jumalon, Secretary

OF DISTRICT 11'S TWO-DAY MASONIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY IN LIPA CITY

A tiresome but fruitful project!

That was how V.W. Bro. B.J. Torres, erstwhile Asst. Grand Secretary and Cabletow Exchange Editor/Circulation Manager, described the two-day Masonic education activity which Masonic District No. 11, headed by V.W. Bro. Fred Espino, DDGM, held in Lipa City a couple of months ago.

What, we asked V.W. B.J. Torres, were the "fruits" of the activity?

The fruits, he said, are as follows:

1. The fraternal ties among the District and Lodge Officers were further cemented. The Worshipful Masters, the Wardens and the Grand Lodge Inspectors of the following

Lodges participated in the activity: Silanganan 19, Marikina 119, T.M. Kalaw 136, J. Sumulong 169, and Mandaluyong 277.

2. The open forum that followed the lectures of the following Masonic leaders was enthusiastic:

—VW Nani Cruz, DGL, on Investigation, Balloting on Petitions and Orientation of Candidates;

—VW Rey Banaag, DGL, on Conferral of Degrees and Floor Works (Reception, Flag Ceremony, Opening & Closing of the Lodge);

—VW Froilan T. Madriñan, Jr., PDDGM, on Masonic Demeanor & Proper Decorum, and on The Meaning of Masonry;

—VW Manuel Crudo, Jr., PDDGM, on Lodge Officers and Members: Their Powers, Duties and

Responsibilities; and

—VW B.J. Torres, PAGS, on Lodge Management, Budget Making, Programming & Reporting.

3. Certain “gray areas” in the Monitor were identified. These were to be submitted either to the Senior Grand Lecturer or to the Committee on Works, or both, for further clarification.

4. It was decided that, in addition to the regular Masonic education conducted every Stated meeting, the District would schedule another forum similar to the one at hand.

5. Lodges in the District agreed that they would schedule

rehearsals before every conferral in the presence of at least one DGL and the GLI.

6. The DDGM, the DGLs and the GLI should be invited by every Lodge to conferrals of degrees.

7. The Senior Grand Lecturer, VW Roberto Q. Pagotan, graced the activity with his presence. He gave a brief but meaningful inspirational talk at the start of the activity. In his closing remarks, besides congratulating the District’s Lodge officers, exhorted them to practice and disseminate to others all they had learned during the two-day out-of-town Masonic education.

DISTRICT 10 CONVENTION

by VW C.G. Agar & WB Exequiel Tamayo

District 10, which is composed of Lodges Batangas No. 35, Tamaraw No. 65, Sixto Lopez Batulao No. 129, Mindoro No. 157, Mabini Kalaw No. 195 and Halcon No. 249, held its convention at the Batangas

Masonic Building in Batangas City last October 18. Batangas No. 35 served as lead Lodge, and the theme was MATAPAT NA PAGKABIGKIS LALONG MATAMIS, which is in line with our Grand Master’s motto, TOGETHER IS BETTER.



*Courtesy call:
Hon. Eduardo
B. Dimacuja
and his
courtesy
callers. At his
right are RW
Demonteverde,
VW Bihis and
VW Aguba; at
his left, RW
Bunyi, VW
Malabanan
and VW
Casao.*



*RW
Demonteverde
and RW Bunyi
are received
by DDGM
Casao, Sr.*



The Lodge was duly opened in private form. Then the brethren proceeded to the Batangas City plaza for the floral offering at the statues of Bros. Jose P. Rizal and Apolinario Mabini. Next they paid City Mayor Eduardo B. Dimacuha a courtesy call at his office.

Breakfast consisted of delicious local delicacies like *puto* and *suman*.

The labors of the convention were resumed at 9:30 a.m. WM Joel Boongaling received VW Patrick Casao, Sr. and VW Roque Bihis,

DDGM and DGL, respectively. Then DDGM Casao received Senior and Junior Grand Wardens Franklin J. Demonteverde and Oscar V. Bunyi and other visiting brethren.

After the usual flag ceremony and the singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn, VW Celso Sarmiento, District Secretary, called the roll of Lodges and announced that all Lodges were adequately represented.

RW Bunyi thanked the brethren for their warm reception and for giving him the opportunity to serve our Grand Lodge. (Please

*RW Franklin J.
Demonteverde
is welcomed
with a corsage
by Mrs. Casao,
wife of VW
Casao, Sr.*



see subsequent pages for the full text of RW Bunyi's speech.)

After the disposition of resolutions, all the Lodges gave their respective reports of accomplishments and problems encountered. Sixto Lopez Batulao 129, for instance, donated Philippine Flags to all schools in Batangas, extended scholarships to deserving poor students, and announced that the laying of the cornerstone of its future building would take place on December 13, 1997.

Mabini Kalaw 195 conducted a medical outreach project, which benefited hundreds of patients.

Introduced by VW Ireneo Goce, RW Franklin Demonteverde,

SGW, commended the district officers for the successful conduct of the convention.

"Had the invitation reached me early," he told the brethren, "I should have joined you last night in the Calatagan Beach Resort." Then he proceeded to give an inspiring speech on the convention theme.

Lunch at the social hall of the Batangas Masonic Bldg. was fraternally enjoyable. The fellowship was a demonstration of the sincere affection that exists among Brother Masons; it was, decidedly, marked by sincerity and plain dealing—and much jollity!



Grand Lodge dignitaries with Masonic District #10 brethren. Seated left to right: VW Carlos Aguba, RW Franklin Demonteverde, VW Patrick Casao, Sr., RW Oscar Bunyi, VW Ernesto H. Malabanan and VW Roque Bihis.

UNITED IN PURPOSE, PROUD OF ACCOMPLISHING THINGS TOGETHER

by RW Oscar V. Bunyi, JGW

NOTE: THIS IS AN EXCERPT OF THE KEYNOTE SPEECH OUR JGW DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF DISTRICT NO. 10 IN BATANGAS CITY.

For and in behalf of our Grand Master, who is still in the United States pursuing our Grand Lodge's internationalization or globalization program, and other Grand Lodge Officers, I extend warmest congratulations and commendation to the dynamic officers of this vibrant Masonic District, including the hard-working officers and members of the lead Lodge, for working together in close harmony and in proper coordination, as well as with much pride, toward making this Masonic event truly enjoyable, fruitful and therefore meaningful for all the participants thereof.

I feel confident that you, Brethren, will stay throughout the convention as a manifestation of your spirit of unity with the officers of your District, thereby showing your appreciation of those officers' hard Masonic labor and demonstrating your pride in belonging to the District.

On Your Theme

You could not have chosen a better, more appropriate theme for your convention. Your theme strikes at the very heart or essence of Freemasonry, namely, Brotherly Love and Fellowship. Freemasonry, after all, is not only a worldwide fraternity, but a global family. Indeed, throughout our Ritual, great

emphasis is given to Unity and Harmony among the Craft. It is, therefore, desirable that we members of Craft Masonry " *dwell together in unity* " with members of the appendant bodies and orders, as one great team, the better to achieve the many worthwhile goals we have set before us. As members of the big Masonic Family, we believe that "*Hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.*"

In my speeches during Masonic assemblies like this one, I have always emphasized the necessity of working together in close harmony. Doing things together, accomplishing things together with genuine pride, sharing together in sincere love and fellowship, working together in fraternal unity—this, to me, is the essence of Freemasonry. If we lose that, we have lost it all.

Unity and Pride

Yes, Brethren, the leadership of the Grand Lodge considers it at once its duty and happiness to get the various segments of our widespread Masonic Family to demonstrate unity of purpose and their pride in Masonry, both to the public and to one another.

When, God willing and with the

brethren's suffrage, I will reach the Grand Orient by the year 2000, one of the prongs of the administrative program of our Grand Lodge will be to establish a very strong, vibrant Masonic Family in this jurisdiction; for I feel so strongly in my heart that unity and pride are the keys to our survival and growth. I am convinced that **Unity and Pride** will help us restore our Fraternity's vigor and growth.

There are, of course, some other words that must go along with **Unity and Pride**. They include **Dedication, Responsibility and Commitment**. If we are going to be unified and proud members of the Masonic Family, we have to be dedicated to fulfilling our Masonic obligations. We have to accept our responsibility of living our Masonry and taking it out of the lodge room into the family, the community, the workplace, everywhere we go. As our beloved Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Pablo C. Ko, Jr., used to say: *"We must keep the flame of Masonic principles ever aglow in our hearts, so that we will contaminate everyone we come in contact with."* And, we must have a deep commitment to accomplishing that purpose.

If we don't demonstrate unity of purpose and pride in Masonry, how can we expect intelligent young men in the community to think we are an organization worth their time, effort and money in today's hectic, fast-changing world?

If we cannot practice Masonic principles within our own house by working in close harmony with everyone in the Masonic Family, how can we expect to stem the continuing drop in the membership of our Blue Lodges and of the appendant bodies and orders?

On Having Fun

Many of our brethren do not attend Lodge because Lodge to them is a drudgery.

As Masonic leaders, then, we have got to infuse fun into Masonic functions; we have got to make Masonry something to enjoy.

But, by fun I do not mean undignified tomfoolery or **kalokohan**, or what we often refer to as **pilyoship**. By fun I mean, rather, enjoying one another's company and fellowship in a dignified way and at the same time giving due consideration to what we came here to do, namely, to improve ourselves in Masonry.

I suggest, therefore, that we recapture the spirit of our founding fathers. They designed Freemasonry to be fun. For this purpose, they instituted what they called "*Table Lodges*." While dining and wining together, they shared with one another philosophical values in such a way that everyone left the fellowship with a sense of well-being. While having fellowship in cheer and jollity, they seriously considered how they could achieve together the long-term goal of the Fraternity, namely, the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Let us emulate the example of our founding fathers, who stimulated members of the Craft to fulfill their obligations with inflexible fidelity and never to tarnish the reputation of the Craft, but rather, to safeguard it even more than they safeguarded their own honor, but at the same time to grow together, enjoy fellowship with one another, and reach out to mankind.

Down the centuries, Masons have endeavored to become men of high moral standards and to

contribute their share to the building up of their communities, sharing what they have and even what they are with those less fortunate than they are.

The Masons of yesterday brought warmth and fellowship into their homes, their jobs, their churches and their communities. Because they lived their Masonry, they were looked up to in the community with much respect, with much admiration, and with much esteem. As a result, intelligent young men sought out Freemasonry; for, like Masons, they wanted to be men of high moral standards and leaders, as well as benefactors, of the community.

I submit that intelligent young men will seek us still if and when we work together in close harmony and with much pride live our Masonry.

The time has come, Brethren, for all of us to stand up and be counted. What are we willing to do? What is Freemasonry worth to each one of us?

Importance and Relevance of Masonry

We are living in an age of declining morality. People today tend to use their humanity, or *pagkatao*, to excuse their ethical or moral failings. We have often heard fellow Filipinos say, "*Nagkamali ako sapagkat ako ay tao lamang.*" But the true Mason does not say that. He says instead: "*I did a good job because I am a man, a human being. Nakagawa ako ng mabuti sapagkat ako ay tao.*"

That is what Masonry teaches us. Indeed, as was pointed out ten years ago by Ill. Bro. Francis G. Paul, 33°, former Sovereign Grand Commander, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the American

Northern Jurisdiction, "*the genius of Freemasonry rests in the picture it paints of greater possibilities. It constantly confronts us with the demand for self-improvement. It tells us to stop making excuses for ourselves and get busy raising our ethical horizons. That's the unceasing message of the Ashlars.*"

This, Brethren, is also the message of our Craft for our society. I agree with Ill. Bro. Paul that the real problem is not a decline in morality, but rather, a failure to realize that we, as human beings made in God's image, can walk in more noble paths and live by higher and higher standards.

Herein lies the importance and relevance of Freemasonry. Freemasonry will always be important and relevant because it gives us a vision of morality at its best, because it forces us to face the fact that we have not reached our full potential. Freemasonry, in short, is a reminder of what we can become if we work at it.

Let's Renew Our Resolve

Let us, then, take every Masonic convention like this one as an opportunity for us to resolve that, more than ever, we will improve ourselves in Masonry and take the message of Masonry into the world.

Our job as Masons, particularly as Masonic leaders, is harder in today's hectic, fast-changing world. It will, definitely, be much harder in the next millennium. But I believe **our** Masonry is worth our effort.

I urge you, dear Brethren, to exert effort at becoming effective, constructive Masonic leaders. A Masonic leader must be willing to sacrifice his time, effort or even money for the benefit of the Craft, and expects nothing in return. A

Masonic leader must be a servant of all, forgetting his personal pleasure and convenience. He will have to overlook the jeers of the cynics and shirkers and those who are critical of all who truly work. A Masonic leader knows that there will be no financial reward for him, but the Master's Wages earned will be without comparison. To be "*worthy of respect*" or, as we put it, to be "*Worshipful*" should be the goal of every Master Mason, particularly leaders in the Craft.

As I said earlier, the challenges for Masonic leadership will be much greater by the time I assume the Grand Oriental Chair, in the year 2000. It is not premature for me to invite you, dear Brethren, to give me suggestions as to how we can build up the Temple of Philippine Masonry into a more beautiful, sturdier edifice—one that is looked up to by non-Masons with much respect, admiration and esteem; one that can contribute much to the improvement of our local and national communities.

Task at Hand

In the meantime, I invite you to continue pursuing the thrusts of the present leadership of our Grand Lodge. I invite you, moreover, to come together for the main purpose of planning how our Masonic District will join in the celebration of the centennial of the Declaration of Philippine Independence. This is one special project in which you can show Unity of Purpose and Pride in Accomplishing Things Together; for, after all, our Fraternal Brethren were in the forefront of the Philippine Libertarian Movement. Those Fraternal Brethren have passed on the torch of the continuing revolution to us. Let us roll up our sleeves and work hard in the quarries

to show that we are worthy of the heritage they have passed on to us.

Important Questions

I want, finally, to share with you some thoughts for your meditation.

1. What are the six most important words? They are : "*I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE.*" It takes courage, indeed, to admit one's own mistake. But a true Mason demonstrates he can learn from his mistakes.

2. What are the five most important words? They are : "*YOU DID A GOOD JOB.*" A good manager always gives credit where credit is due. He always praises a job well done and, as much as practicable, manifests sympathy for a subordinate's failure to do a job well. To paraphrase Solon, the wisest of Greek lawmakers, "*Praise your subordinate, particularly a Brother, in public; reprimand him in private.*"

3. What are the four most important words? They are : "*WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?*" A constructive Masonic leader takes problems in stride; he looks forward to solving them; he initiates action without the fear of failure. Once he is given a job to do, he wants to be left alone to accomplish the task. He seeks advice, but will weigh that advice before using it. The constructive Masonic leader will continually adjust to the reality of every situation.

4. What are the three most important words? They are: "*IF YOU PLEASE.*" The constructive Masonic leader is always "*other-oriented*"; he considers the feelings of a fellow human being, particularly a Brother Mason. He makes his Brethren see that he enjoys what he does; that he can, to use the words of Masonic writer Conrad Hahn, "*radiate the joy of wisdom*"; he says, "*If you please,*

demonstrate that there's fun in being a Freemason by doing this or that."

5. What are the **two** most important words? They are: "THANK YOU." That is why, I now say, "Thank you for giving me this great honor of addressing you in this convention. Thank you for working so hard for the benefit of the Craft. Thank you for the warm welcome and kind accommodation. Thank you for giving me your attentive ears."

6. What is the **most** important word? It is: "WE." That is why the theme of your convention, as I said earlier, is very appropriate. We are the Blue Lodge. We are the Masonic District. We are Grand Lodge. We are, indeed, Freemasonry.

7. What is the **least** important word? It is "I." The true Master Mason, particularly a leader of the Craft, prefers the interests of the Fraternity over his own vested interests; for, to paraphrase our late illustrious Brother, Apolinario "Katabay" Mabini, "Strive for the happiness of Masonry by making it a Brotherhood for Peace, Unity and Human Progress because if your Fraternity is happy, you, as well as your family, will be happy, too."

Or, to cite M.W. Bro. James L. D'Acosta, a Past Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, a true Mason, particularly a leader of the Craft, is "a man of character and good will... as well as a builder, a constructive force for good, who works toward the relief of human suffering. He is a practical man, demonstrating by example that to live by the square is not to be chided as old-fashioned, but rather, to be admired and applauded as unfortunately too rare an example of what man, at his finest, can achieve. A true Mason believes in freedom—freedom of thought and speech... He believes in freedom with responsibility,

respecting the laws of his country and the rights of others, as well as believes in peaceful revolution, rather than violent revolution. The true Mason, finally, believes in brotherly love; not just a close friendship for his fellow Masons, but the broader expressions of compassion, companionship and charity for all mankind. He makes no distinction of religion or race, but believes and tries to practice the meaning of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God."

Or, to quote M.W. Bro. Donald G. Ingalls, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California, the Mother of our Grand Lodge, the true Mason says to himself, "I will do more than belong—I will participate. I will do more than care—I will help. I will do more than believe—I will practice. I will do more than be fair—I will be kind. I will do more than forgive—I will forget. I will do more than dream—I will work. I will do more than teach—I will inspire. I will do more than earn—I will enrich. I will do more than give—I will serve. I will do more than live—I will grow. I will do more than be a citizen—I will be a patriot."

And, lastly, to paraphrase Ill. Bro. Albert Pike, the true Mason "endeavors so to live that when he comes to die, even the undertaker will be sorry."

A Final Word

It is the fond hope and fervent prayer of the Grand Lodge Officers that God shower you and your families with more graces and blessings, so that you will the better be able to show that, as Lodges and Districts, you are united in purpose and proud to be members of the greatest fraternity that has ever graced the annals of the world's history.

"IPAUBAYA SA PANGINOON"

**HINIHILING KO ANG AKING KALUSUGAN
UPANG MAKAMTAN KO ANG LAHAT NG BAGAY
MAHINANG PANGANGATAWAN ANG IPINAGKALOOB
SA AKIN, UPANG AKO'Y MATUTONG SUMUNOD.**

**HINIHILING KO ANG KARANGYAAN
UPANG AKO'Y LUMIGAYA.
KAHIRAPAN ANG IPINAGKALOOB SA AKIN
UPANG AKO'Y MAGING MATALINO SA PAGHARAP SA BUHAY.**

**HINIHILING KO ANG KAPANGYARIHAN
UPANG AKO'Y KAGULATAN,
PAGPAKUMBABA ANG IPINAGKALOOB SA AKIN
UPANG AKO'Y MATUTONG MANALANGIN.**

**LAHAT NG KAHILINGAN AY DI KO NAKAMTAN
NGUNIT NG AKING MAPAGTANTO
HIGIT PALA AKONG IPINAGPALA SA LAHAT NG IPINAGPALA.**

SALAMAT PO, PANGINOON!

**BRO. EMA
DAPITAN LODGE #21**

PANGASINAN 56 REACHES OUT TO BRGY. BUGAYONG

The Grand Master's motto, "Together Is Better," contributed to the success of the community outreach project of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 in Bugayong, Binalonan, Pangasinan.

Together with Bros. Reynaldo Buan, Virgilio R. Bautista, Rodrigo Z. Tada and Rene Buhain, WM Danilo C. Uy donated an ample supply of medicines.

The brethren of the Lodge joined hands in registering patients, packing medicines, and ushering patients in

an orderly fashion.

WB/Dr. Mario G. de Guzman and JW Conrado B. Gaerlan cooperatively manned the pharmacy section.

The DDGM, VWB Roy V. Serrano, together with his wife, Sis/Dr. Agnes P. Serrano, and Dr. Carlos Gramata took care of the medical section.

Dr. Mirla Gonzales, Dr. Cita Ladines, and Mr. Roy Abril took charge of the dental department.

VWB George Chua Cham contributed his inspiring presence.

WM Danny and Sis. Myrna, who celebrated the anniversary of their piggery business, gave the brethren and "co-operators" a sumptuous lunch.

In fine, the "missionaries" were able to serve 164 patients (112 medical and 52 dental), all of whom received free medicines.

What to do with the ample supply of medicines left?

The brethren decided to hold another medical-dental clinic preferably in a depressed community within the 4th District of the province.

JOY, SORROW VISIT LTP 220

Omnia tempus habent. So says Ecclesiastes. Accordingly, L.T. Pañares Lodge No. 220 in Cagayan de Oro City enjoyed a successful monthly fellowship at Mar Villa Beach Resort in Opol last Sept. 21. Present were 21 blue-blooded members of the Lodge, 12 sisters, "countless" kids, and some friends of Masons. But the Lodge also lost one of its Past Masters, WB Tony Dagaes.

As requested by the wife, Sister Helen, the Lodge rendered a lodge of sorrow, which was well-attended by

brethren, who paid their last respects to a fallen brother.

Then LTP 200 in particular and Districts 28 and 30 in general lost their "Mommie": **MRS. AURORA P. PAÑARES**, widow of the late RW Leonardo T. Pañares, in whose memory the Lodge was renamed, and the mother of WB Bing Pañares and Sis. Bebel P. Fuentes, wife of WB Ogie Fuentes. After a lingering illness, she died last Sept. 27 at the Cagayan de Oro Medical Center.

Comments *The Eagle*, Oct. '97: "Mommie was active in the DeMolay movement, the Order of the Eastern Star, and other Masonic-affiliated groups. Her presence was always felt in every activity of the LTP Lodge, especially during fund-raising activities for the Lodge."

TALAVERA 273 SPONSORS SEMINAR- WORKSHOP FOR OFFICERS OF FARMERS' COOPERATIVE

by WB Daniel M. Ferrer

When this writer, as Worshipful Master of Talavera Lodge No. 273, tasked the Chairman of the Committee on Community Services to come up with a project that would be different from the traditional endeavors of some Lodges, Bro. Sid

Villaflor, head of the Provincial Cooperative and Entrepreneurship Development Office of the Nueva Ecija Provincial Government (PCEDO-NEPC), proposed that the Lodge sponsor a seminar-workshop on accounting and bookkeeping for officers of farmers' cooperatives.

Said Bro. Villafior: *"My office shall provide the technical expertise, while the Lodge shall shoulder the expenses for seminar kits, snacks and food for two days, as well as coordinate with local farmers' cooperatives in regard to participation."*

The rest of the brethren bought Bro. Villafior's idea. Subsequently, Bro. Ambet Miranda, the Extension Officer of the Department of Agriculture for Talavera, went around to solicit participation in the seminar-workshop. Twenty-four officers representing 14 barangays assured him they would participate.

This writer, meanwhile, conferred with Mayor Manolito V. Fausto regarding the use of the Municipal Session Hall, including chairs and tables and public address system, as well as his participation in the affair. The Mayor was, indeed, accommodating and enthusiastic.

Lodge Secretary Bodjie Doctor and Lodge Treasurer Ely Mendoza went to work. But they were able to collect only P3,050 as voluntary contribution from the brethren. So, as Worshipful Master, this writer had to shell out some amount to make the collection at least P5,000. (*Didn't the late Ill. Allen Earl Roberts say that a Masonic leader must be willing and ready to spend time, effort and even money for the benefit of the Craft without expecting anything in return?*)

In any case, the seminar-workshop was set on September 3 and 4, 1997.

JW Fely Hierco took charge of distributing the kits to the 24 participants. Bro. Ambet Miranda was in charge of snacks and lunch for two days; he also supervised the proceedings.

This writer expounded on Masonic charity and the timeliness of the seminar-workshop, while Mayor Fausto exhorted the participants to make the most of the seminar-workshop, so that they would acquire knowledge and skills that would enable them to serve as more effective catalysts for the progress of their respective barangays.

The PCEDO-NEPG officers—Sr. Coop. Dev't Specialist Antonina P. Dela Cruz, Financial Analyst III Nelia R. Guillermo, Financial Analyst II

Eulalia I. Ligon, Cashier Gloria B. Luciano, Bookkeeper Luisa C. Hora, Bookkeeper Cairon S. Mandangan, and Clerk Il Loma A. Ferry—gave informative lectures and effectively served as facilitators, lucidly answering the questions of the participants.

In the end, Mayor Fausto, assisted by this writer, presented the participants with Certificates of Training. Besides congratulating them, he challenged them to apply what they had learned to help ignite development in the rural areas. He also extended his gratitude to the Freemasons, particularly the members of Talavera Lodge No. 273, for sponsoring worthwhile activities like the just-concluded seminar-workshop.

Eduardo Zamora, General Manager of the Pinagbuklod Magbubukid Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, expressed his appreciation to the Freemasons. *"The seminar-workshop is certainly a big help to the participants,"* he said. *"With the knowledge and skills they have learned, I fondly hope they will present the true picture of the financial status of their respective cooperatives."*

The appreciative participants expressed their desire to attend another seminar that would focus on Management and Feasibility Study Preparation.

This writer promised he would convey that desire to the brethren of Talavera Lodge No. 273.

All in all, the seminar-workshop signaled *"the birth of a new beginning"* for local farmers' cooperative.

Seminarists on Accounting and Bookkeeping "Batch '97" pose with mentors, Mayor Lito V. Fausto and WB Daniel M. Ferrer.



Election, Installation, Meeting of District 12's Past Masters Guild Officers

by Bro. Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr., SW (107)



(L to R) WB Jonathan F. Navarrete, WB Tito C. Collada, Jr., VW Eugene L. Ong, VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., VW Dy Ching, VW Carlos S. Briones, WB Amador D. Cuvin, WB Hargun K. Ramchand, VW George S. Yorobe and VW Godofredo O. Salagoste (partly hidden) when DDGM Luciano M. Maggay (back to camera) installed them to their respective positions.

The Guild of Past Masters of Masonic District No. 12 held its annual meeting during the District's joint convention with Masonic District No. 14 at the Seven Diamonds Restaurant in Legaspi City. VW Luciano M. Maggay, DDGM-12, for and in behalf of VW Nicasio V. Villareal, who at the time had a defective vocal cord, presided over the election of guild officers for 1997-2000.

Elected officers were the following: VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., JGL, **president**; VW Eugene L. Ong, PDDGM, **vice president**; WB Tito C. Collada, Jr., **treasurer**; VW Jose Dy Ching, PDGL, **secretary**; VW George S. Yorobe, **chaplain**; WB Amador D. Cuvin, **marshal**; VW Carlos S. Briones, **auditor**; WB Jonathan F. Navarrete, **inner guard**; and VW Godofredo O. Salagoste, DGI, **outer guard**.

VW Maggay, without much ado, installed the aforementioned officers.

New Guild President Peteza presided over the ensuing meeting. VW Salagoste moved that an initial fund

be created, with each Past Master contributing P100 and with the Philippine National Bank serving as official depository. Seconded by VW Santiago M. Turingan, PDDGM, the motion was unanimously approved by the body.

Guild Vice President Eugene L. Ong moved that the guild adopt a program of activities and an annual budget to serve as guides in the implementation of the guild's policies and programs. Duly seconded by WB Elmo P. Pilapil, the motion was likewise unanimously approved.

Guild President Peteza then appointed the following as chairmen of various committees: VW Turingan, Sunshine; WB Thomas Enrile, Benevolence; WB Eduardo S. Freyra, Special Projects; WB Amable C. Ables, Scholarship; WB Benito S. Ngo, Ways and Means; WB Dante C. Banaban, Fellowship; and WB Felix Repuyan, Jr., Past Masters Night.

Announced the Guild President: "I'll call a special meeting to discuss matters that will redound to the members' and welfare, to

refine the program of activities drafted, and to approve the annual budget proposed. The committee chairmen will also give progress reports during that meeting."

He closed the meeting with a call

on all Past Masters of Masonic District No. 12 wheresoever dispersed to keep in touch as soon as possible with VW Ching and/or WB Collado, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, and remit their contributions.

DISTRICT 24 BRETHREN ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE CEBU CITY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COMMISSION

The Masons of District 24 have been involved by Mayor Alvin Garcia of Cebu City in meetings of the Cebu City Historical and Cultural Commission relative to preparations for the forthcoming celebration of the centennial anniversary of Philippine Independence from Spain.

Meanwhile, as was reported by VW Bobbie Trabajo, Mt. Kaladias brethren

joined Bro./Sr. Supt. Danilo Flores, Jr. Warden of Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277. during his installation as PNP Director for Region VII.

Moreover, WB Vicente Racho, PM, Asst. Director, is new president of the reorganized NFA Square and Compass Club. WB Edgar Bentulan, WM of Camilo Osias Lodge No. 253 in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Asst. Regional Director, is vice president of the Club for the Visayas.

TAMARAW 65 HOLDS LODGE OF REMEMBRANCE

Tamaraw Lodge No. 65 in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, led by its Wor. Master, VW Carlos G. Aguba, held a Lodge of Remembrance last Nov. 8.

WB Roberto Paras, PM, presided over the Lodge of Remembrance, which was attended by more than 40 members of the Lodge. Also present were VW Pablo Elauria of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 and Dapitan Lodge, Bro. Joseph Corsino of Baguio Lodge No. 67, Bro.

Mark Comia of Halcon Lodge No. 249, members of the Job's Daughter Bethel and of the Sesinando Bugarin Chapter of DeMolay, wives of Masons, and other friends of Masonry.

Seventeen representatives of our departed brethren received checks of P500 each and other gifts.

Refreshments followed the Lodge of Remembrance. Then the brethren and guests proceeded to White Gold Restaurant for "Part Two."



VW C.G. Aguba gives gift check to WB Felipe Mañebo's widow. At left is VW Arnold Cacha.

PAST MASTERS HONORED

Tamaraw Lodge No. 65 honored its 22 Past Masters last Nov. 22 at the Star Cafe Restaurant in Lumang Bayan, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. Of the 22, 11 were present, two were sick, two were in the United States, and seven were out of town. Ninety persons attended the affair.

VW Carlos G. Aguba, Wor. Master, gave all of the 22 Past

Masters Certificates of Recognition. WB Edgardo Acheron gave a response in behalf of the honorees. Guest speaker was Hon. Dindo Morente, first Wor. Master of the Lodge. And VW Jaime Concepcion, PDDGM, gave the closing remarks.

The brown-out notwithstanding, the affair, which was ably emceed by WB Manolo Brotonel, was a big success.



(Front row, l-r)-- VW Aguba, WB Romulo Davalos (with only one leg), WB Manuel Olympia. (Standing, l-r)-- WB Herminio Tolentino, WB Ruben G. Medina, WB Antonio Catibog II, VW Jaime Concepcion, VW Arnaldo Cacha, WB Edgar Acheron, WB Nataniel Lao and WB Manolo Brotonel.

URDANETA FREEMASON IS BORN

Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 in Urdaneta, Pangasinan came out with the maiden issue of its official newsletter, the *Urdaneta Freemason*, which is edited by WB Ramil San Juan. The project is, of course, the brainchild of WB Roderick Mina, current Wor. Master.

Writes Editor-in-Chief San Juan: "Come visit our home page at <http://www.mozcom.com/~urdfam> and view with delight the high-tech and high-touch fruit of our all-too-human efforts. Here, finally, by the wonders of technology, is a new and most exciting working tool for us Masons as we continue to build our temples in the hearts of men and among nations." WB Mina states that the Lodge is now on-line at the Internet due to the efforts

of Bro. Rommel Cardinoza, the appointed Lodge Webmaster, District Webmaster, and now also the Vice President of the Philippine Chapter of International Guild of Masonic Webmasters (IGMW).

Continues WB Mina: "As of now, our Lodge is host of the Masonic webpage of District No. 37 and we are offering to host the webpages of other Lodges in the District until such time that they could have their respective Internet accounts. Bro. Rommel would be more than willing to help them in the development of their webpages."

(Congratulations to Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 for coming out with an interesting maiden issue. Keep it up! The eighth social sin that leads to violence is, I think, starting a beautiful project without persistently pursuing it to the end.)—eF.R.eN

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY— OUR MISSION

by VW Jaime L. Nabua

Together is better! That is the key to the success of the free medical-dental mission we, the officers and members of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, conducted at Barangay Angio, San Fabian, Pangasinan, jointly with the Sangguniang Kabataan of the said barangay last October 26.

We, as well as our friends, donated an ample supply of medicines so that all the 126 medical and dental patients received free medicines. WB Rodolfo Carolino was instrumental

in getting medicines and vitamins for the project from the office of Gov. Oscar M. Orbos. Bros. Mario Meneses and Delfin Gubatan, Jr., both doctors and residents of San Fabian laid the coordinating ground work for the successful conduct of the mission.

Our District Officers, too, led by VW/Dr. Roy V. Serrano, our DDGM, and VWBs Edgar C. Tacadena and Jesus Manuel Misa, DGLs, were very supportive. Besides being present during the project, they also contributed their services.

The officers and members of the Sangguniang Barangay, led by SK Chairman Alvin Chan, prepared the project site so that there would be an orderly flow of patients during the mission.

The dental team was housed in a separate building, while the medical and pharmacy section was located in a wider area, complete with improvised shelter, tables and chairs. Waiting patients were provided with chairs so as not to crowd the workers.

WM Danilo C. Uy acted as "barker"; that is, he called out

names of patients to be served next, as listed by the registration section. The other brethren present served as guides/ushers to the patients for the orderly conduct of the mission.

Dr. Eranio Garcia, Dr. Leonardo Estrada and Dr. Armando Hiquiana manned the dental department; on the other hand, together with Drs. Raul Rabago, Leopoldo Manalo and Jose Quiros, the following doctors among the brethren manned the medical section: VW Serrano, Bro. Meneses and Bro. Gubatan.

CARAVAN OF REMEMBRANCE, VISITING WIDOWS/ORPHANS

by WB Danilo C. Uy

October 30 and 31, 1997 saw the officers and some members of our Lodge go on a "Caravan of Remembrance and Fraternal Visitation to Widows and Orphans," our annual project of remembering our departed brethren and paying fraternal visit to their widows and orphans.

I was not able to join the Caravan on the first day. Thanks to JW Conrado B. Gaerlan, who acted as leader and driver, and to VW Mariano Garanoza, Bro. Marcos Perez, Jr., VW Edgar C. Tacadena, WB Teodoro E. Coquia, and Bro. Jaime L. Nabua, our Lodge Secretary, for taking charge on the first day of the Caravan. This team covered the western part of

Pangasinan and Dagupan City, and they went as far as Bani and Lucap, Alaminos, Pangasinan, to distribute "Memorial Candles" and some goodies to widows and orphans.

On the second day, I joined the team and acted as the driver, together with the ever reliable WB Teodoro E. Coquia and Bro. Jaime Nabua. We covered the eastern part of the province, going as far as Pozorrubio, San Jacinto, Sta. Barbara and Calasiao.

To be welcomed and received warmly by our Lodge's widows and orphans was, indeed, a touching experience. Our act of remembering their loved ones caused some of them to shed tears of joy. Grateful they were for our thoughtfulness.

JACQUES DeMolay MEMORIAL LODGE NO. 305 HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ORPHANAGE



We, the brethren of Jacques DeMolay Memorial Lodge No. 305, as well as our spouses and children, led by Worshipful Master Gigi Ancajas, celebrated our annual Christmas party by sharing our blessings with the orphaned children of the Settlement House last December 7, 1997. This is at Pres. Quirino Avenue and managed by the Asociacion de Damas de Filipinas. It is home to children until age seven who are provided with food, clothing, shelter and pre-school education.

The affair dubbed as "Christmas Joy Through the Eyes of a Child" kicked off at 2:30 p.m. with Bro. Manny Agulto gently breaking the ice by asking the children what Christmas meant to them. Then he led the opening prayer and invoked the blessings of the Almighty. A short message from the Worshipful Master elicited a response from the

orphanage Directress, Ms. Precy Ledesma, who thanked everyone for choosing their institution as beneficiary. A touching program presented by the children did not fail to warm everyone's heart.

The highlight of the program was the Lodge's guest, ten-year-old C.J. De Silva, a gifted child who started drawing at the age of one! CJ drew on the spot an angel cuddling a sleeping child. She explained to the children that even though they were orphaned at an early age, their guardian angel was always there to watch over them. This brought tears to the eyes of some of the older orphans. She capped her performance with a moving song.

Refreshments and games followed, courtesy of Ms. Nelly Era, manager of Shakey's West Avenue. The kids screamed with delight and their eyes lit up when Capt. Shakey's "graced" the affair. WB Heneage Mitchell rendered a few magic tricks with VW Boyet Delmo assisting. Our children distributed gifts to the

orphans after the games. We in turn presented boxes of school items, rubber slippers, feeding bottles, milk, and two sacks of rice to the orphanage officials.

We, the officers and members of the Lodge, would like to thank all those countless Masons, their spouses

and friends of Masonry who made this affair possible. We also would like to thank the ever present VW Andy Lim who was there to grace the affair. The brethren look forward to practicing again the great lesson of charity towards all mankind.

—Jojo P. Javier

SPECIAL FEATURES

ONE OF A MASTER MASON'S WAGES

BY VW BENJAMIN S. GELI, PSGL

In many instances, during Masonic Education, I have been asked what the wages of a Master Mason are. The following incident will illustrate one of the fringe benefits we derive from membership.

In the afternoon of September 28, a Sunday, we received a call from our elder daughter in Manila that our younger daughter had been admitted at St. Luke's Hospital. Her platelet blood count had suddenly dropped to 15,000, way below the normal 150,000. She had to undergo immediate blood transfusion, and we felt that my wife had to be there.

Posthaste, we drove to the airport for my wife to get a ticket. There was only one flight left and it was fully booked. The best we could do was to take a chance as wait-listed passenger. I went inside the office of Bro. Art Balaga, PAL Airport Manager, but he was already off. On my way out, I saw a group of crew members waiting for their flight. On

one traveling bag was emblazoned a Square and Compass sticker. It belonged to **Capt. Billy Samuya**, pilot of the Airbus plane bound for Cebu. He is a member of Cosmos Lodge No. 8.

I explained to Bro. Samuya our predicament and begged for his assistance. Forthwith, he went inside the office of the Airport Officer-in-Charge. In a few minutes he gave me the assurance that my wife could take the flight. She was, indeed, able to fly to Manila that night to be with our stricken daughter—thanks to **Bro. Billy Samuya**.

It is, undoubtedly, extremely difficult to capture in words the wages we will receive from our Masonic labors. One has to be an actual recipient of the warm fellowship, the wise and timely counsels, the comforting words of fellow Brothers to feel the impact of the privileges of membership.

The full value of benefits we will receive, however, will only be commensurate to the labors we have put into our fraternal order.

MW FAJARDO RECEIVES HIGHEST GRAND LODGE AWARD

MW Reynold Smith Fajardo, PGM, was awarded the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor last October 30 in a simple but impressive ceremony, which formed

part of the program held in his honor as retiring Chief Public Attorney at the Social Hall of the Public Assistance Office (PAO), DOJ Agencies Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City.



Sis. Ciony invests highest Grand Lodge award on her beloved husband.

1/2-inch-wide collar made of purple velvet material.

MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. informed the assembly that the Grand Lodge of the Philippines had convened in Special Communication to confer upon MW Fajardo the highest

The Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor is circular in shape, struck in at least 14K gold, the size of the Philippine peso coin, 1972 series. The obverse side bears the Great Seal of the MW Grand Lodge, minus what appears in the first quarter (upper left) and second quarter (upper right) of the Seal. Instead, the inscription "MEDAL OF HONOR" is placed in raised letters centered in both upper (left and right) quarters of the oval shield. The reverse side of the Medal bears this engraved inscription: "Awarded to — for outstanding services (or achievements) in Masonry." Below the inscription is engraved the date expressed in Arabic numbers.

The Medal is suspended from 1

award within its capacity to give for exceptionally meritorious services rendered to, as well as outstanding achievements in, Freemasonry: the GRAND LODGE GOLD MEDAL OF HONOR. Said he: "I consider it an honor and a privilege to preside at this first conferral of the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor to the first recipient of this award.... The ceremony you are about to witness is as symbolic and profound in significance as the conferral by the President of the Republic of the Philippines of the highest honor that may be conferred upon a citizen."

VW Alberto C. Reyes, who acted as Grand Chaplain, escorted the awardee into the "Lodge" and presented him to MW



*Assisted by MW Gus Mateo, PGM and RW Henry L. Locsin, Grand Master Bañez stresses that it's an honor and a privilege for him to preside at the first conferral of the GLGM to the first awardee: **MW Fajardo.***

Bañez thus: "MW Grand Master, I have the greatest pleasure and honor to present to you MW Reynold Smith Fajardo, PGM, who was unanimously elected by the Board of Directors and the Board for General Purposes of the MW Grand Lodge in their joint meeting on March 6, 1997 to receive the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor."

The Grand Master told the

awardee that his intensive research work on Philippine Masonry and the lives and activities of Mason heroes has contributed in large measure to the recognition of the role that Philippine Masonry and Masonic brethren had played in the struggle for our country's independence.

The Grand Master then requested MW Agustin V. Mateo, PGM, to read the

Grand Lodge Gold Medal Awardee takes obligation of service at the Altar.



citation accompanying the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor.

RW Enrique L. Locsin, Deputy Grand Master, said that the services MW Fajardo had rendered for the Craft in this grand jurisdiction could not be measured by the standards of mere mortal men.

Grand Chaplain Reyes then invoked the blessings of God thus: "Great Architect of the Universe, whose watchful eye is over all Thy children, we humbly pay homage to Thy Holy Name, and thank Thee for the goodness Thou hast bestowed on this our Brother whom we rejoice to honor today, and for the many years that Thou hast granted him, for life, for health and strength of mind and body. May he continue to find in Thee rest from every burden and grace to meet every need. In the bliss of retirement, let him find light and peace, and may the increase of years bring also increase of Faith, Hope and Love. So may he continue to live that when it shall be Thy pleasure to call him hence, he may enter in Thy presence and hear the words of commendation: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter now into the joy of Thy Lord.' Amen."

This writer, who acted as Grand Marshal, conducted the honoree before the Altar to assume the obligation of service, as follows:

"In the presence of God and these witnesses, I do solemnly promise and vow, on my honor as a man and a Mason, that

I shall faithfully perform all the duties and obligations that I have previously assumed when I was initiated an Entered Apprentice, passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason (including those of Grand Master of the MW Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines) and will, to the best of my ability, continue to dedicate and consecrate myself to the service of God and humanity, and above all, conduct myself as a worthy recipient of the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor. So help me God. Amen."

MW Bañez, assisted by Sis. Asuncion Fajardo, then invested MW Reynold S. Fajardo with the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor and handed to him the Citation. Visibly touched, MW Fajardo gave his speech of acceptance.

The awarding ceremony was witnessed by the officers of the Department of Justice headed by no less than the Hon. Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr., Secretary of Justice, who awarded MW & Chief Public Attorney Fajardo with a Plaque of Recognition. Also present were MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, PGM; MW John L. Choa, PGM; VW Mabini G. Hernandez, Building Administrator, GLP; Cabletow Editor-in-Chief J. Flor R. Nicolas; Mrs. Conchita Ramos; and the Grand Lodge Staff.

Dinner and fellowship capped the auspicious occasion.

—by **VW BJ Torres, PAGS**

Appendant Bodies, Allied Organizations

LIPA CHAPTER (UD), O.E.S.

by **Sis. Estelita P. Goce**

August 21, 1997 was a Masonically historic date in Lipa City, the hometown of the first father-son

t a n d e m, MW Teodoro M. Kalaw, Sr. and MW Teodoro V. Kalaw, Jr., who had made it to the Grand Oriental

Chair of the MW Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines; for on that day Lipa Chapter (UD), Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted, under the sponsorship of Mabini-Kalaw Lodge No. 195.

Most elated was VW Patrick M. Casao, Sr., DDGM for Masonic District No. 10, who, together with his wife, was a special guest during the public installation ceremony. He profusely congratulated the Masons in Lipa City for having worked out the organization of Lipa Chapter, OES.

Installed Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, respectively, were Sister Corazon U. Crelencia (the Melchora Aquino of Lipa City) and WB Alfredo M. del Castillo, PM.

Sis. Evelyn I. Palacio and WB Edgar R. Roca, PM, were installed Associate Matron and Associate Patron, respectively.

My humble self was installed Secretary; Sis. Corazon L. Silva, Treasurer; Sis. Joselyn T. Tuazon, Conductress; Bro. Vicente H. Palacio III, Chaplain; Bro. Jaime M. Tolentino, Marshal; Bro. Hilario T. Andes, Organist; Sis. Rosalia S. Gabriel, Adah; Sis. Consolacion B. Mendoza, Ruth; Sis. Ferlie C. Ancheta, Ester; Sis. Leonora C.

Racelis, Martha; Bro. Celso B. Sarmiento Warder; Bro. Benedicto P. Parumog, Sentinel.

The following are the Trustees of the Chapter; Sis. Araceli G. del Castillo (1 Yr.), Sis. Zenaida S. Pasion (2 yrs.), and Sis. Glenita G. Marasigan (3 yrs and Chair of Trustees).

Sis. Fe Abarquez Suaco, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Patron, OES in the Philippines, was instituting officer, assisted by Sis. Nieves G. Amagna, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron, as RW Associate Grand Matron; Sir. Esperanza V. del Castillo, PM (1), as RW Grand Conductress; Sis. Grace Crudo Maravilla, PM (3), as WG Chaplain; Sis. Nena Alviola, PM (23), as WB Marshal; Sis. Belen G. Pangilinan, AC (3), as WG Organist; Bro. Jose Redor, PP (9), as WG Warder; and Bro. Samuel O. Flores, Sr., PP (3), as RWG Sentinel.

In the installation ceremony, DMWGP Fe A. Suaco was assisted by Bro. Pascasio P. del Castillo, PP (3) as Worthy Patron and presiding officer, with Sis. Esperanza V. del Castillo as installing Marshal, Sis. Delia Mariano as installing Chaplain, Sis. Belen G. Pangilinan as Organist, and Sis. Teresita Ignacio as Secretary.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

HM AMBASSADOR THORPE IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR MASONS' SYMPATHY

"THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER EXPRESSING YOUR CONDOLENCES ON THE SAD DEATH OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES.

"THIS DREADFUL EVENT HAS COME AS A GREAT SHOCK TO THE PRINCESS' MANY ADMIRERS, IN BRITAIN AND AROUND THE WORLD.

"WHAT HAPPENED IS A TRAGIC LOSS AT A YOUNG AGE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS SHOWN GREAT COURAGE AND COMMITMENT."

Thus wrote HM Ambassador Adrian Thorpe to MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine grand jurisdiction, in his letter dated September 18, 1997.

GLP HAS INVADED CYBER SPACE!

That's the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Use the search engine, type the word "freemasonry," and don't be surprised if within the 1 to 10 options you'll read the phrase "Freemasonry in the Philippines."

Why have we gone this far? Why have we invaded the world of modern technological information—the Internet?

The project was initiated during the term of MW Jose Percival L. Adiong. Bro. Pieter Nootenboom, who belongs to Sierra Madre Lodge No. 181 in Paete, Laguna and is staying in Hongkong, together with VW Emil P. Langomez, Jr., then DDGM of Masonic District No. 5 and now Asst. Grand Secretary, brought MW Adiong's vision to realization. Then Deputy Grand Master and now Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. gave his all-out support to the project.

Now the Grand Lodge of the

Philippines has the capability to communicate and exchange ideas with practically anybody anywhere in the world. Now brethren who are knowledgeable in using the information superhighway can communicate with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines without going through the problem of using ordinary mail service, fax modem or long distance calls.

Our website, <http://www.chaumont.com/freemasonry.html>, contains the homepages of the different appendant bodies under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Blue Lodges have started constructing their own homepages. All this is totally "free of charge," courtesy of Bro. Pieter Nootenboom.

We have also created a Forum, in which brethren can express opinions or exchange ideas with, as well as relay information to, other members of the Craft.

Check it out, and see the wonders it does!

GRAND MASTER BAÑEZ VISITS 89-YEAR-OLD PAST MASTER



GM Bañez, WB Fortich, PM, WM Emmanuel Mende and Bro. Roland Chiu, SW of High Twelve Lodge No. 82.

MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., accompanied by WB Emmanuel B. Mende, Wor. Master of Dagohoy Lodge No. 84, SW Rolando Chiu of High Twelve Lodge No. 82 and other brethren, recently visited WB Arturo Fortich, 89-year-old Past Master of Dagohoy Lodge, who is already bedridden, at his residence in GSIS Village, Quezon City.

WB Fortich showed much elation when the Grand Master pinned on him the Grand Master's Pin.

MW Bañez expressed his hope that brethren of the various

Lodges also visit senior Masons who are already old, particularly the bedridden, and reach out to those who are no longer attending Lodge due to advance age.

ON THE GRAND MASTER'S U.S. TRIP

WARM WELCOME IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW JERSEY

MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., our Grand Master, together with VW Simeon L. Torralba (with wife and daughter), VW Lorenzo C. Diaz (and wife), VW Amado L. Sadsad, VW Alfredo B. Espino, VW Noel Bañez, WB Paulino Lim, WB Victor Tan Tek Sian and Bro. Benjie Bañez, departed from Manila on October 2, 1997, via Flight No. KE 622, to San Francisco, California, where they were eagerly awaited and warmly welcomed by Filipino-American brethren and their families, led by Wor. Master Alex V. Sousa of Pittsburgh Lodge No. 429.

From San Francisco the Grand Master and his party took a flight for Newark, New Jersey, where our brethren and their families, led by Bro. Rosauro

J. Rosales and Bro. Manuel M. Mandap, extended to them another warm welcome. Among the welcomers was VW Bert Q. Pagotan, SGL, who had gone

MW Gerald H.
Grosskopf,
MW Leon
Angel P.
Bañez, Jr., MW
Stuart M.
Cowan, WB
Ros Rosales at
Enterprise
Lodge No. 31,
New Jersey
City.

to the United States ahead of the Grand Master and party.

ENTERPRISE 31 HOSTS 3 GRAND MASTERS

On October 3, together with MW Gerald H. Grosskopf, Grand Master of New Jersey, and MW Stuart M. Cowan, Grand Master of Hawaii, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. was received with Grand Honors by Enterprise Lodge No. 31 in New Jersey City.

MW Grosskopf, who was accompanied by RW Ferris O. Tyron and RW Robert F. Wallace, Junior Grand Warden and DDGM, respectively, was received first. He announced the recognition of the Philippine Masonic Association of New Jersey, which, through its president, WB W. Constantino (Tom) Buno, arranged for the visitation and program. Upon hearing the announcement, WB Buno and other officers of the Philippine Masonic Association of New Jersey were patently near tears.

MW Cowan, a New Jersey native whose Mother Lodge is Masada Lodge No. 51 in Union, was on the mainland for other Masonic events. But when he was informed that MW Bañez, whose installation as Grand Master in Tacloban City he had attended together with RW Randy Chang, he accepted the invitation of the Lodge for him to attend, too.

Bro. Ros Rosales, Senior Warden of the Lodge, acted as Worshipful Master for the evening. He gratefully acknowledged the presence of officers and members of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, who travelled all the way from

New York City to attend the occasion.

In his message, MW Bañez expounded on the meaning of fellowship and brotherly love. He urged his auditors, "Let us not only practice fellowship and brotherly love among ourselves in the Masonic family, but also extend it to non-Masons; for, as one cosmopolite said, 'Happy and fortunate is a group of men who can act as one man for the good of other men.' Let us do just that. *Mabuhay, masayang gabi sa inyong lahat*, and as the Americans put it, 'Hang in there!'"



RW Stewart C. McCloud, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the State of New York, hands over to GM Bañez Plaque of Appreciation. Worshipful Master Euternio A. Colarte of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172 looks on with interest. ↑

The three Grand Masters closed the Lodge together!

A sumptuous buffet followed the meeting. MW Bañez, who gifted MW Grosskopf and Sis. Ingrid with Philippine "memorabilia," was surprised by the hosts, who presented him with a birthday cake and sang him birthday songs.

JRL 1172 RECEPTION

On Oct. 5 the brethren of Jose Rizal Lodge (JRL) No. 1172 warmly welcomed and hospitably accommodated the Grand Master and his party.

The following day, together with their ladies, the brethren of the Lodge, led by WB Eutemio A. Colarte, Wor. Master, and RW Crisanto N. Jorda, Secretary, who were all arrayed in Filipino Barong, tendered a welcome reception for MW Bañez and party.

A buffet dinner took place at the Banquet Room, 19th floor, Masonic Temple, New York City. Again, MW Bañez was presented with a birthday cake and greeted with birthday songs.

Then the brethren and their ladies, as well as the guests, proceeded to the American Room on the same floor.

After the reception of dignitaries, WB Carlo H. Almira, Chaplain, led the invocation. Manhattan Post 4, Masonic War Veterans, presented the American and Philippine colors. WM Colarte welcomed dignitaries and guests, and the following conveyed fraternal greetings: WB Nimuel S. Ornillo, Master, Pyramid Lodge #490; WB Cornelio M. Medina, Master, Park Lodge #516; WB Eduardo M. Olvina, Master, Gramercy Lodge #537; WB Gerardo B. Quinto, President, Square Club, 4th Manhattan District; RW Victor Stewart, President, Past District Deputies Assn., same district; and Grand Representatives.

RW Macario B. Perez, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and RW George H. Avgerakis, DDGM, 4th Manhattan District, gave their felicitations.

WB Edward U. Usita introduced the guest of honor, MW Bañez, who said in part, *"I am not here to join a demonstration to agitate with my fellow old Filipino veterans of World War II for*

back pay and pensions for our wartime services rendered as members of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFPE) from 1941 to 1946. I am, however, with them with all my heart—with fond remembrance of those who died in the battlefields of our beloved Islands and those who passed away since then....Brethren, please, I ask you, see what you can do for the old Filipino Veterans...."

MW Bañez finally thanked the brethren for the warm, cordial reception and sincere fellowship and brotherly love.

MW Gary A. Henningsen, PGM, Grand Secretary, and RW Stewart C. McCloud, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the State of New York, expressed their desire to establish closer fraternal ties with the Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines and their praise for the Filipino-Americans in New York for their enthusiastic services to the Craft.

After the benediction led by WB Almira, fellowship, with Philippine style of entertainment, followed at the Banquet Room.

TWO ENJOYABLE DAYS IN D.C.

Upon invitation of the Travellers Association of Washington DC, led by its President, RW Miguel P. Banagan, Jr., W. Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Lodge of Maryland, the Grand Master and party went to Washington DC on Oct. 7. They were met by WB Rey Ibañez, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Secret Service who, together with two other Filipino-American Masons who are members of the USSS, facilitated their entry into the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, dedicated to the memory of George

Washington—Patriot, President, Mason—as an expression of the Masonic Fraternity's faith in the principles of civil and religious liberty and orderly government, which were portrayed in the life and character of the first President of the United States.

The visiting Filipino Masons and their companions enjoyed the guided tour of the Memorial. They viewed with admiration the George Washington Museum, Library, Grotto Archives Room, Royal Arch Room, Cryptic Room, the Knights Templar Chapel, and Tall Cedars Room with the enclosed Observation platform surrounding it.

The Filipino-American Masons and their families also tendered MW Bañez and party festive receptions.

RECEPTION FOR MW BAÑEZ & PARTY; INDUCTION OF ACACIA CRAFTSMEN OFFICERS

Filipino Masons in Southern California and their families warmly welcomed MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, last October 11 at the Torrance Masonic Center on Cabrillo Ave., Torrance, California, with Torrance-University Lodge #394 as host.

Sis. Juliet Martin led the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and the Pambansang Awit, while WB Leo de Castro gave the invocation.

The sumptuous dinner was capped by the induction of the first set of officers of the Acacia Craftsmen by MW Bañez. The officers were: WB Sid Pongco, PM, Chairman; WB Jim Rodrigo, PM, First Vice President and Board Member; WB Efren Garica, Second Vice President and Board Member; VWB "Toddy" A. Eusebio, PGS, Ambassador;

WB Leo de Castro, Chaplain; WM Bob Howe, Treasurer; and Bro. Jonathan B. Briones, Secretary.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman Sid Pongco stated that it was, indeed, very significant and in some respect historic that the highest man of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines was the one who inducted the first set of officers of Acacia Craftsmen. Said he: *"We are very proud of our heritage, but what makes us very proud is having in our midst an illustrious man whom we could identify with in the realm of Masonry."* He assured MW Bañez and his party that the Filipino Masons in Southern California would exert every effort to make their stay very pleasant and memorable. He also congratulated his fellow founders of Acacia Craftsmen. *"Because of your zeal and dedication,"* he said, *"we now have an association in Southern California that we could be very proud of and that can make our Masonic bonds even stronger."* He promised to endeavor very hard to be worthy of the members' trust.

After some musical numbers, MW Bañez gave his inspirational remarks. He expressed confidence that under the dynamic leadership of WB Sid Pongco, the Acacia Craftsmen would serve as a venue for strengthening the mystic bond that indissolubly links Masons in sincere affection, as well as conveyed his sincerest thanks to the brethren of Southern California and their families for the very warm reception and hospitality.

Bro. Jonathan B. Briones, Secretary, together with Chairman Sid Pongco, presented the Grand Master with a plaque of appreciation and other memorabilia.

In a message he sent to VW Emil Langomez, AGS, through e-mail, Chairman Sid Pongco said in part:

"I am happy to report to you that the GM's reception at the Torrance University was a huge success. We had

a great turnout for this event. Grand Reception was followed by Dinner/Dance. A big birthday cake with the GM's logo was presented to him after the birthday song. I do believe the GM enjoyed the dancing. A lot of pretty Filipino women showed up. He is very smooth and accomplished dancer. I think he wanted to stay a little longer but Brother Noel (Bañez) asked him to leave for the hotel by midnight.

The dinner upon their arrival (Friday) was also successful. I purposely set it up for a small crowd (about 27 people). Councilman George Nakano presented him a certificate and welcomed him to the city of Torrance. The Philippine Consul General also welcomed him to Los Angeles on behalf of almost two million Filipino living in LA basin.

The following day (Saturday), they were treated to Filipino lunch by Brother Elito Santarina in Casa Filipino in Carson. In the evening, MW Bañez was received by WM Max Iglesias of Torrance University Lodge No. 394, with WM Frank Bustamante of Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass Lodge in the West and WM Robert Howe of Sunrise Lodge NO. 840 in the South. He was escorted to the East by Bro. Marcelino Pantaleon, a member of West Gate Lodge. MW Bañez was presented a Life Member Certificate by WM Iglesias.

The Grand Reception was an open lodge. MW Bañez's talk was inspirational. He had great stage presence and the audience was captivated by his great sense of humor....

After the ceremonies, we moved to the adjacent dining room and held the induction of officers of Acacia Craftsmen. It was a historic moment, and at the same time impressive, for everyone witnessed me and Bro. Jonathan Briones receive the Hiram Award."

A FRUITFUL, MEMORABLE WEEK IN WESTERN U.S.A.

After a fruitful, memorable sojourn in Los Angeles, California, the Grand Master and his party proceeded to San Francisco on Oct. 12. The following day they attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge that sired and reared our Grand Lodge in its infancy. Although he was not chosen to be the spokesman of the foreign Grand Lodges, MW Bañez somehow managed to inform the officers of the Grand Lodge of California about the state of Philippine Masonry.

From the Grand Lodge of California the Grand Master and his co-travelers hied to Crocker Lodge No. 212 on Hillcrest Drive in Daly City, where they were warmly welcomed and treated to a luncheon by the Filipino Masons of the Bay Area, led by WBs Walter A. Ancheta, Danilo Mones and Alex V. Sousa, WMs of Crocker Lodge No. 212, Sublime Benicia Lodge No. 5, and Pittsburgh Lodge No. 429, respectively, who composed the Reception Committee for MW Bañez's Visit.

The reception was very enthusiastic because "this is the first time that the Grand Master of the Philippines included the Bay Area in his official visit in the United States."

VW Pascual "Don" Escalnea, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Lodge of F. & A. Ms. of California, stated, "...With much pleasure and on behalf of the Filipino Masons of the Bay Area, I extend sincerest welcome to MW Bro. Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. on his historic visit in sunny Northern California." He commended the Coordinating Committee for "laboring mightily



**Recipients of
Plaques of
Appreciation.**
L-R: VW Simeon
Torralba, WB Vic
Tan, MW Bañez,
VW Amado
Sadsad, WB
Paulino Lim, and
Bro. Benjie Bañez
received Plaques
of Appreciation
from Wor. Master
Alex Sousa of
Pittsburgh Lodge
No. 429 (at
center).

for the comfort and enjoyment of GM Bañez and his party."

VW Arturo O. Cabrera, Grand Representative to the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth to the Philippines, Grand Court of California, expressed the fervent wish that GM Bañez and his party would enjoy *"this auspicious occasion with us."* After congratulating the officers of the Filipino Masons of the Bay Area, he said, *"I hope this occurrence will be the beginning of the close relationship between the Masons of California and the Philippines."*

MW Bañez thanked the brethren and the hermanas, as well as friends of Philippine Masonry, for their very warm reception. Said he: *"If you want to know more about Masonry in the Philippines, I invite you to subscribe to THE CABLETOW"* Then he added, *"We hope our visit with you will strengthen your ties with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and with your respective Lodges and Districts in the Philippines. It's now very easy to communicate with our Grand Lodge because we now have an official Web Site in the Internet....Please communicate with us through the Internet."* Finally he informed his audience of the state of Philippine

Masonry.

On Oct. 14 and 15, the Grand Master and his party were treated to certain functions by other Masonic Bodies like the International Order of DeMolay Philippines and the International Order of the Amaranth.

On Oct. 16, MW Bañez and his party were impressed by the proficient performance of the Past Masters' team that conferred the MM degree at Crocker Lodge No. 212, Daly City. The fellowship social that followed the conferral was, to say the least, sincerely affectionate.

On Oct. 17, MW Bañez and his party were duly received by Pittsburgh Lodge No. 429. Like his counterpart in Crocker Lodge No. 212, WM Walter Ancheta, WM Alex Sousa extended cordial welcome to GM Bañez and his party, commended the labors of the Reception/Coordinating Committee, expressed confidence that the leaders of the Filipino Masons of the Bay Area would continue working together in close coordination, and thanked Bro. Fred McCaw, Jr. of Palmdale, California for assisting him in preparing for the GM's visit....

Again, the post-meeting fellowship social was fraternally warm. Naturally, our brethren and sisters were

nostalgic for their native land....

On Oct. 18, after witnessing the impressive conferral of the MM degree by a team of Past Masters at Sublime Benicia Lodge No. 5 in Benicia, CA, the GM and his party were treated to a Grand Reception at the Patio Español on Alemany Blvd. in San Francisco, CA. The dinner was capped by a cultural program emceed and coordinated by the tandem of Andy and Mary Ann Villanueva.

Dance! Dance! Dance!... The Grand Master showed his prowess in dancing. In his message, he stimulated the Filipino Masons of the Bay Area and their families to continue dwelling together in unity.

He said, among other things, "We invite you to come, visit our Grand Lodge and its constituent Districts and Lodges to see for yourselves that Philippine Masonry is alive and kicking. We invite you to join us in the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in the last week of April 1998 to be held in Manila. This Ancom is especially significant because it precedes the celebration of the centennial celebration of our declaration of independence from foreign rule, which will take place on June 12, 1998."

GM Bañez then expressed his fond hope that "You, our Brethren in the United States, and your families, as well as other Filipinos, will carry out projects in celebration of that milestone in Philippine history. We know you are all proud to be of Filipino descent. We feel confident that you will continue working together in close harmony to promote mutual benefits and the

interests of the Craft. We know your Lodge, as well as the other Lodges we have visited, are eager to provide, as much as practicable, reception, entertainment, accommodation and close communication with visiting dignitaries and brethren under the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge. We will



Left to right: WM Frank Mones of Sublime Benicia Lodge No. 5, MW Bañez, WM Walter Ancheta of Crocker Lodge No. 212, WB Fred McCaw, Jr., WM Alex Sousa of Pittsburgh Lodge No. 429. ↑

return that favor...."

After answering curious questions from his audience, he concluded, "Again, thank you very much for all the kindness and warm hospitality you have afforded me and my party. **Mabuhay po kayong lahat!** It's our sincere prayer that the GAOTU shower on you and your families His manifold blessings, so that you will the better be enabled to contribute your share in the achievement of the Masonic ideal of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God...."

WM Sousa then acknowledged the help of the members of the

various committees... Finally, for and in behalf of the Filipino Masons of the Bay Area, he said, "...We wish you MABUHAY and safe trip home and hope that you take with you lasting memories of the time spent in the beautiful surroundings of the Bay Area....."

GM Bañez and WM Mones with Jobies ⇒



Square and Compass Club (Bay Area)

Presentation of Distinguished Service Award to MW Bro. Leon P. Bañez, Jr. at the Best Western Hotel, Concord, CA.

Left to right (standing): WB Bayani Mendoza, VW Johnny Mendoza, Bro. Danny Dayan (Pres.), Bro. Reggie Baldonado, MW Bañez, WB Frank Bolos, Bro. Lito San Pedro (Vice Pres.), Bro. Benny Macatiag, WB Rupert Policarpio (Sec.), and VW Amado Sadsad. Seated: Bro. Froilan Ancheta.

←



⇒ Square and Compass Club (Bay Area)

L-R: Bro. Danny Dayan, President; Grand Master Bañez; Bro. Lito San Pedro, Vice President.



GEN./BRO. ARTEMIO "VIBORA" GARCIA RICARTE

Was he a hero or a collaborator?

Answered Lt. Gen. Clemente P. Mariano, AFP, Wor. Master of Gen. Artemio Ricarte Lodge (UD) in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City: "He was an indomitable patriot and a worthy Brother Mason, who exemplified the valued tenets of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and therefore deserves to be always remembered by us."

Birth, Schooling, Teaching Career.

He was born to hardy Ilocano parents, Esteban Ricarte and Bonifacia Garcia, on October 20, 1866 in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

At 18, after finishing his elementary schooling in his home town, he was enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila, where several years later he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree.

He got employed as an elementary school teacher in San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias), Cavite. As a teacher, he was fully aware of the increasing ferment among the Filipinos, who agitated for the amelioration of the socio-economic and political status of the country.

He Enters Masonry, Joins Katipunan

He was aware, likewise, of the establishment of Masonic Lodges in the Philippines in the early 1890s. Masonry, he was told, could help unify the Filipinos and imbue them with a sense of nationhood. As a universal protest against the ambition of tyrants and as a manifestation of democracy, he was further told, Masonry could transform the Philippines from a downtrodden Spanish colony, poor and sickly, without rights and liberties, into a dignified, free and

prosperous nation. Hence, he joined Masonry, adopting "Vibora," meaning Viper, as his Masonic code name.

But soon after the deportation of Dr./Bro. Jose P. Rizal to Dapitan in July 1892, which signified the futility of peaceful means for attaining the country's libertarian aspirations, he joined the Katipunan, which, he knew, had been founded by fellow Masons. Specifically, he joined the Magdiwang Council of the Katipunan, which was then led by Mariano Alvarez, another Mason. (The other Council of the Katipunan in Cavite was the Magdalo, which was also led by fellow Masons.)

He was designated Treasurer of the "Balangay ng mga Anak-Bayang Mapagitiis" and one of the two brigadier generals (Taga-Usig Digma) of the Magdiwang Council. To him, too, was entrusted the delicate task of making incisions in the forearms of new Katipunan recruits during initiation rites.

He Becomes a Viper to the Enemy

On August 31, 1896, a few days after the Cry of Balintawak, he led one of the earliest recorded skirmishes between the Filipino and Spanish forces in Cavite.

On November 9, that year, Governor-General Ramon Blanco launched simultaneous offensives on

Binakayan and Noveleta. Seeing the superior strength of the enemy, Ricarte and other revolutionary leaders thought it judicious to make a temporary retreat. The next day they launched a counter-attack and put the Spanish soldiers to flight. Brigadier Generals Artemio Ricarte and Mariano Alvarez, as a result of this victory, were promoted to the rank of Major General.

Sending reinforcements from San Francisco de Malabon to the trenches of Noveleta, Gen. Ricarte to a great extent was responsible for the victory of the Filipino revolutionists in a major attack against the enemy.

Birth of the Philippine Army

On March 22, 1897, the Magdalo and Magdiwang Councils of the Katipunan convened at the **convento** in Tejeros to settle their differences. They decided to put up a Revolutionary Government. Elected officers were the following: Emilio Aguinaldo, President; Mariano Trias, Vice-President; Artemio Ricarte, Captain General; Emiliano Riego de Dios, Minister of War; and Andres Bonifacio, Minister of Interior. Gen. Ricarte, in effect, became the first Commanding General of the Philippine Army.

The following day, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo took his oath of office as President of the Revolutionary Government.

On April 17, he revamped his Cabinet. He retained Trias, Ricarte and Riego de Dios as Vice-President, Captain General and Minister of War, respectively. He appointed Pascual Alvarez Minister of Interior; Jacinto Lumbreras, Minister of State; Baldomero Aguinaldo, Minister of Finance; Mariano Alvarez, Minister of Commerce; and Severino de las Alas, Minister of Justice.

More Attacks on Enemy Garrisons

Pres. Aguinaldo, by dint of a manifesto, called on the brave sons of the country *"to shift to guerrilla warfare so that the Filipino forces could, for an indefinite period, defy Spain, exhaust her resources and oblige her to surrender due to poverty."* Hence, in the first week of August 1897 Generals Ricarte, Riego de Dios, De las Alas, Baldomero Aguinaldo *et al.* led their forces in attacking enemy garrisons. Not all of those attacks were, however, successful. The one launched in San Rafael, Bulacan on August 5 by a strong force of 2,000 guerrillas was repulsed by the enemy.

Pact of Biak-na-Bato

In compliance with the terms of the "Pact of Biak-na-Bato," which was signed on December 20, 1897, Pres. Aguinaldo and other revolutionary leaders went on voluntary exile to Hongkong. When he received information that the voluntary exiles had arrived safely in Hongkong, Gen. Ricarte ordered the lowering of the revolutionary flag, which signified the termination of Filipino resistance against Spain.

Uneasy peace ensued...

Resumption of Hostilities

The truce was short-lived, however; for, sooner than expected, clashes between the Spanish army and the Filipino forces broke out. The clashes intensified by mid-February 1898.

On May 31, together with Gen. Pio del Pilar *et al.*, Gen. Ricarte led the Filipino troops in harassing Manila at all points. By June 3, the Spanish garrison at Caloocan was driven back, and Spanish outposts in the towns along the Pasig River were forced to concentrate in Sta. Ana. Led by

Commanding Officer Ricarte, the Filipino forces attacked the first line of defense running from Balintawak, through San Juan and Sta. Ana, to Las Piñas. They had surrounded practically the whole Manila.

But Gen. Ricarte was suspicious of America's intentions in helping the Filipinos against Spain. Hence, as the commanding officer of Filipino forces around Manila, he felt duty-bound to warn Pres. Aguinaldo *"to be careful because it seems that the Americans want to fool us."*

His premonition of an impending clash with the Americans came true when the shooting occurred at San Juan Bridge on February 5, 1899.

Resistance, Capture, Exile, Return

Indomitable, Gen. Ricarte issued a circular calling for contributions to carry on operations against the American forces. In June 1900, however, the Americans occupied Manila.

On July 1, Gen. Ricarte and a group of Filipino soldiers launched an attack on Paco, then the bastion of American forces. But they were surprised at the foot of Paco Bridge.

Captured and taken prisoner, Gen. Ricarte was requested to sign an oath of allegiance to the new regime. Adamantly, however, he refused.

On January 15, 1901, together with other "irreconcilables" like Apolinario Mabini, Mariano Llanera and Maximino Hizon, Ricarte was exiled to Guam aboard the transport "Resecrant."

Two years later, the deportees were again requested to swear allegiance to the American government. Feeling very ill and not wishing to die in a foreign land, Mabini took the oath. But Ricarte remained steadfast. Hence, he was transferred to the ship "Gallic" and

sent to Hongkong. Still he refused to swear allegiance to the American government.

Toward the end of 1903, he returned, as a stow-away, to his native land. Immediately upon his return, he distributed "seditious" pamphlets and proclamations, calling on his former comrades-in-arms to resume the war against the Americans. To his dismay, he found them to be no longer interested in his cause, having been conveniently accommodated within the American system.

Captured, Imprisoned, Released, Exiled Once More

Because the military authorities placed a P2,500 reward for his capture, the indomitable first Commanding General of the Philippine Army, adopting the alias Jose Garcia, went to Mariveles, Bataan, where he got employed as a clerk. But he was denounced to the constabulary authorities, who captured him on May 29, 1904.

Imprisoned, he was held *incomunicado*. Stated the General in his *Memoirs*: *"I had nobody to talk to except the ants and cockroaches."* The only one permitted into his cell during his solitary confinement was William B. Watson, a British journalist, who persuaded him to write down his recollections of the Revolution. These recollections were compiled later into a volume, *Apuntes Historicos de la Insurreccion* (Historical Notes on the Insurrection).

During his six-year imprisonment, attempts to persuade him to embrace the American government proved inutile. This prompted the American authorities to deport him again to Hongkong, this time with first-class accommodation.

While in Hongkong, according to Prof. S.A. Ranes, a Spanish biographer, Ricarte refused to dine

with the others, mainly because his clothes were old and disfigured.

Later he took up residence in Lamah, an island north of Hongkong, where he published *El Grito del Presente*, a fortnightly nationalistic paper.

Not long after, together with his common-law wife, Agueda Esteban, he secured a passage for Moji, Japan. They resided in Aicheken until 1921. Then they moved to Tokyo, where he taught Spanish in *Kaigai Shokumi Gakko*, a private school.

In April 1923, Ricarte and his family transferred to Yokohama, where they found a certain degree of permanence and peace. All this time, Ricarte continued to write articles and small books on the Filipinos' campaigns against foreign domination.

He Pins Hope on Japan

Due to the American government's failure to fulfill its promises, Ricarte pinned his hopes on Japan for the realization of the libertarian aspirations of the Filipinos.

Return to the Philippines

Ricarte, according to his former aide, Col. Kanachiro Ita, landed in Aparri, Cagayan on December 19, 1941 together with the Japanese imperial forces. *"Beloved brothers,"* he addressed his countrymen upon his return, *"every act of this American government, no matter how good its form, is to me no more than a delusion, nicely covered with attractive clothes."* He tried to persuade his countrymen to accept the Japanese as allies, as well as promoted the Japanese regime through radio talks over KZRH. On certain occasions he also delivered speeches. Reportedly, in a meeting in General Trias on the first Sunday of April 1941, which was attended by

more than 5,000 people, he delivered a speech in Tagalog, in which he praised the new Japanese set-up. Likewise, on June 11, he appealed to all Filipino forces, saying in part: *"You already know that in the present war between America and Japan, it is not America but our country that is suffering from its consequences...It is imperative that you surrender yourselves to the Imperial Japanese forces."*

Japan Betrays His Trust and Confidence

In November 1944, with the approval of then President Jose P. Laurel, Gen. Ricarte formed a volunteer corps, with the main objective of safeguarding the Philippines, especially Manila. This Peace Army was referred to as the *Makapili*. The Japanese, however, would convert the *Makapili* into an army of reprisals. This was much hated in the last months of the Japanese occupation.

Tide of War Changes

In January 1945, the tide of war turned against Japan. Ricarte, together with his aide, left for Northern Luzon.

In his Article *"I Talked With Ricarte Before He Died,"* the late Joe Quirino said that the general confided the following to him: *"If my companions had only known the loneliness and frustrations that I felt during the years, they would not have talked so much against me."*

Situation Becomes More Desperate

The Japanese military top brass decided to send high-ranking officials of the Philippine government like Dr. Jose P. Laurel and Jorge Vargas to Japan. But Ricarte refused to be evacuated, saying: *"I cannot take*

refuge in Japan at this critical moment when my people are in actual distress. I will stay in my motherland to the last."

When he was in the jungles of the Mt. Province, he suffered from dysentery. Due to lack of food his ailment worsened.

The first Commanding General of the Philippine Army wrote in his *Memoirs*: "My people, the only desire of my life is to elevate you to the pinnacle of happiness, to make you free and great, in order that other countries may see that you are not inferior....I will abandon everything, I will forget all sense of suffering and

will reject sweet promises from those who are now your dominators, in the conviction that, in the midst of so many evils the sacred right of all races to live freely and independently will triumph in the end."

He Drops His Working Tools

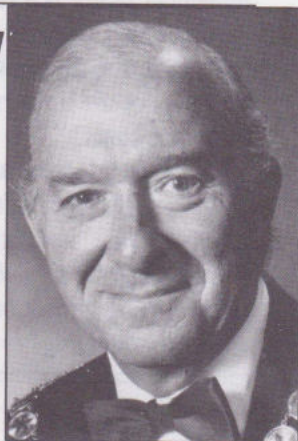
On July 31, 1945, while at Barrio Nagparaon, Kalinga, General Ricarte, who had exemplified **pagkabayani** or total dedication to the cause of Philippine Independence, dropped forever the working tools of life.

—E.F.R. & CGA (BASED ON MATERIALS PROVIDED BY ARTEMIO RICARTE LODGE U.D.)

A PHILOSOPHICAL OVERVIEW OF LIFE AND DEATH

by WB David Kane, PM

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THE AUTHOR OF THIS ARTICLE IS A PAST MASTER OF HARMONY LODGE No. 18 IN NEW JERSEY, USA. HE AND SIS. JULIE WERE FEATURED IN THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1995 ISSUE OF THIS PERIODICAL IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR SHOW OF CONCERN FOR DISADVANTAGED FILIPINO YOUNGSTERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE PARIAN DROP-IN CENTER IN CEBU. WB KANE SINCERELY DEDICATES THIS ARTICLE, PREPARED FROM A RABBINIC POINT OF VIEW, TO ALL OF OUR BRETHREN WHO HAVE GONE ON TO THAT "HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS.")



How are we supposed to go through life? I quote Stephen Grellet (1773-1855): "I expect to pass through this world but once; and any good thing therefore I can do, or any kindness that I can show, let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Now, brethren, what is death? We may, perhaps, come forth with a thousand different answers. But this much I can say: No one knows, nor can one comprehend or feel, the suffering experienced by somebody else who mourns the loss of a loved one. But we can offer him, in time of great need, our love in the form of a kind

word, a smile, a pleasant glance, a calming touch and the like.

We all ask in sad desperation, "Where, where are our dearly loved departed?" I suggest, brethren, that our loved ones are wherever they made an impact on life, wherever their words made an impression.

The purpose of life, brethren, is not to accumulate time, but to give hope and caring to those who may need them. The more good our loved ones did while upon this earth, the more we may be certain that they are still alive in this world.

Stated Elizabeth Jubler-Ross: "Death

is simply a shedding of the physical body, like the butterfly coming out of a cocoon. — It is a transition into a higher state of consciousness, where you can continue to perceive, to understand, to laugh, to be able to grow and the only thing you lose is something that you don't need anymore: your physical body."

No one wants to **die**. All of us struggle, struggle to live. But when life lacks hope or loses all dignity, suffering becomes unbearable. Such a life is really not worth living.

While we must do everything possible to sustain life, we must always remember that it is a **Power**, much greater than we, that brought us together in the first place. It is that Power, **GOD**, the Grand Architect of the Universe, that will take us when it is time.

Averred Abraham Ibn Ezra (1092-1164): *"The soul that GOD gave man is unique. When it is first placed in the body, it is like a tablet set before a scribe. When God's writing is inscribed upon this tablet, then the soul clings to GOD, both while it*

is yet in man and later after it leaves the human body."

But life, life does not end at death. Death is merely a change of dwelling places. Life is stronger than the grave. **Life, life is the sum total of the body and the soul together.** This world is but a passage into the world to come. Pain and pleasure, death and birth are all part of the **mystery of life**.

At death we need to ask about our loved ones, *"Were they themselves the best that they could be?"* If the answer is positive, then, indeed, they had accomplished much.

Those of us who mourn and whose pain seems unbearable ought to realize that the extent to which we mourn is an indication of the extent to which we appreciate the value of life.

Therefore, my brothers, **GOD** treasures the tears of the broken-hearted, especially those who mourn for the dead, because **HE** knows how dearly they hold life and how much they value the miracle of **HIS** presence in every human being...

In Memoriam Fratrum Nostrorum

LISTED BELOW ARE OUR BRETHREN WHOM THE GRIM REAPER HAS REMOVED FROM THIS WORLD'S CARES AND TROUBLES. THEY WERE VERITABLE BROTHERS AND FRIENDS TO US. TO THEM FITTINGLY APPLIES THE PASSAGE THAT FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY.

One by one we miss the voices
We loved so much to hear;
One by one their kindly faces
Into darkness disappear;
No one sees the Door that opens
Through which they pass beyond recall;
Softer than the leaves of roses,
One by one our loved ones fall.

Name	Lodge	Date of Death
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REPORTED IN JANUARY 1997

WB Antonio N. Vidal	Aguinaldo Mem. #31	11-20-96
Bro. Roberto F. Alvarez	Bagong Ilaw #97	12-30-96
Bro. Carl M. Tanaka	Okinawa #118	03-16-92
Bro. Douglas A. McRae	Lincoln #34	10-12-96
Bro. Donald M. Kelly	Lincoln #34	07-03-96
Bro. Edwards S. Meridith	Lincoln #34	06-26-96
Bro. Theodore R. Bartlett	Lincoln #34	12-30-95
Bro. Benjamin P. De Guzman	Lincoln #34	12-14-96
Bro. Merrill L. Dennis	Lincoln #34	12-16-96
Bro. Febe Caronongan	Biak-na-Bato #7	08-96
WB Santiago T. Razon	Pampanga #48	01-24-96
Bro. Rodolfo D. Rimando	Capitol City #174	11-29-96

REPORTED IN February 1997

VW Julio G. Agana	Primera-Luz-Filipina #69	01-97
WB Benedicto C. Menguito	Manuel Tinio #167	04-29-96
Bro. Sofronio Barawid	Manuel Tinio #167	07-21-96
WB Dalmacio S. Miranda	Urdaneta #302	01-03-97
WB Rodolfo G. Paredes	Bulusan #38	07-28-96
WB Sotero F. Escador, Sr.	Bulusan #38	04-26-96
WB Eleuterio H. Ativo	Bulusan #38	01-01-96
WB MacArthur Choachuy	Mt. Moriah #252	07-20-96
Bro. Hans Georg Jockusch	Okinawa #118	01-19-96
Bro. Patricio O. Ramos	Cagayan Valley #133	08-23-96
WB Vicente Lee	Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. #158	01-97
Bro. Benito Tan	Alfonso Lee Sin Mem. #158	01-97
WB Remigio A. Tabones	Andres Bonifacio #199	01-18-97

REPORTED IN March 1997

WB Tu Boh Cheong	Mt. Apo #45	02-02-96
Bro. Hadji Tuttoh J. Sarapuddin	Mt. Apo #45	02-20-96
Bro. Antonio W. Bangayan	Mt. Apo #45	03-12-96
Bro. Angel Ganac	Mt. Mainam #49	02-15-96
WB Antonio B. Vargas	Mati Aurora #191	11-13-96
WB Marcial B. Dela Cruz	Lincoln #34	01-02-97
Bro. Benito Lit	Makiling #72	03-01-97
Bro. Dionisio Galimpin	Bagumbayan # 4	03-12-97

REPORTED IN April 1997

WB Jose T. Tacal	Angalo #63	12-02-96
Bro. Mario G. Cabrera	Talavera #273	09-12-96
Bro. Felix S. Baes	Indang #115	03-28-97

WB Levi B. Mariano
WB Zoe R. Lopez

Silanganan #19
Mt. Kaladias #91

04-13-97
11-03-97

REPORTED IN May 1997

Bro. Danton S. Brinas	Malinaw #25	04-06-97
WB Cayetano P. Zantua	Isarog #33	03-28-97
WB Manuel D. Garcia	Lincoln #34	04-02-97
Bro. Procopio Ledina, Jr.	Lincoln #34	04-02-97
WB Tulsiram C. Sharma	Baguio # 67	04-28-97
Bro. William J. Holocher	Baguio # 67	12-19-96
WB Eduardo Q. Santos	Davao #149	04-03-97
-Cuyugan, Sr.		
WB William E. Berry	MacArthur #183	09-30-96
Bro. Crisanto D. Maniwang	Tagum #204	01-13-97
Bro. Leodegario F. Diaz, Sr.,	Koronadal #209	04-21-97
Bro. Lino B. Cespedes	Narra #171	05-09-97
Bro. Antonio T. Gavino	Rio Chico #182	04-06-97
Bro. Segundo S. Sta. Maria	Manticao #243	04-24-97
Bro. Lloyd R. Padua	Kitanglay #256	04-10-97
WB Wendell M. Tan	Margosatubig #275	05-08-97

REPORTED IN June 1997

VW Rudolph Littleton, Sr.	Leonard Wood #105	05-17-97
VW Marcelino P. Dysangco	Pampanga #48	06-10-97
Bro. Wilfredo U. Elardo	Mt. Moriah #252	04-26-97
WB Antonio G. Montenegro	San Pedro #292	05-06-97

REPORTED IN July 1997

Bro. Jaime M. Magcalas	Pinagsabitan #26	06-08-97
WB Sergio Castillo	Mt. Huraw #98	06-15-97
Bro. Ceferino M. Inciong	Sixto Lopez #129	06-12-97
WB Catalino M. Rañada	Salinas #163	04-09-97
WB Alejandro M. Diwa	Pampanga #48	07-08-97
Bro. Orlando C. Dulay	Andres Bonifacio #199	06-02-97

REPORTED IN August 1997

WB Elias E. Honrado	Silanganan #19	06-23-97
WB Jesus Deduque	Mt. Huraw #98	07-11-97
Bro. Mateo G. Alba	Sixto Lopez #129	07-21-97
Bro. Arsenio S. Tomas	Apolinario Mabini #235	07-14-97
Bro. Gerry P. Gatchalian	Kapitan Pepe #293	06-12-97
Bro. Ernesto C. Del Rosario	Pilar #15	07-07-97
Bro. Manuel G. Lee	Mt. Apo #45	06-13-97
Bro. Ong Tion Biong	Mt. Apo #45	07-10-97
WB Juanito V. Guevarra	Bataan #104	06-04-97

WB James B. Copanut
 Bro. Hiong Ping Onglu
 WB Stanley D. Philips
 Bro. Jose R. Filio
 Bro. Timoteo Ong Uy, Jr.

Bontoc #140
 Bañtugan #223
 Manila-Mt. Lebanon #1
 Pintong Bato #51
 Mt. Malindang #130

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 07-30-97
 07-01-97

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Bro. Eusebio Custodio
 Bro. Choa Chiu
 Bro. Cornelio V. Regalado
 Bro. Paulino Chan Lin Hio
 VW Bienvenido G. Ongkiko, PAGS
 Bro. Desiderio L. Boyles
 Bro. Jose C. Sermonia
 Bro. Idelfonso C. Tadiar
 WB Antero H. Dirige
 WB Jesus O. Angeles

Cabanatuan #53
 Kanlaon #64
 Kanlaon #64
 Mencius #93
 Capitol City #174
 Mati Aurora #190
 Nilad #12
 Union #70
 Cagayan Valley #133
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 08-26-97
 07-31-97
 07-01-97

REPORTED IN October 1997

Bro. Calixto Abrogena

Zosimo Montemayor #212

09-18-97

ERRATUM

We erroneously reported in the July-August 1997 issue of this publication that WB Hernan Miguel C. Mapua of Saigon Lodge No. 188 is the son of the late WB Tomas Mapua, owner and founder of MAPua Institute of Technology. WB Hernan is the grandson of WB Tomas Mapua.



EXTENDING THE CABLETOW TO OUR BROTHERS' FAMILIES

Masons are the keepers not only of their Brothers but also of their Brothers' families, particularly their widows and orphans. The accomplishment of this duty does, indeed, justify the space we occupy on this earth.

That is the essence of the letter of Dr. Douglas N. Cairns, Ph.D., Inspector of the 293rd Masonic District and a Junior Past Assistant Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of California, to our Grand Lodge through the office of our Grand Secretary.

1. Extending Assistance to a Widow's Son's Widow

Armed with a letter of introduction from our Grand Master, Mrs. Conchita R. Ramos, a widow of a Mason, contacted Dr. Cairns through one of his Lodges: Las Palmas/Ponderosa No. 366. Subsequently, together with her son, she visited Dr. Cairns in his home and presented him and his wife with personal gifts.

Toward the close of the visit, she requested Dr. Cairns to assist her in locating a long-lost brother from whom she had not heard in 12 years.

Later, Dr. Cairns transmitted all the information he had gathered from Mrs. Ramos to the Masonic Service Bureau, San Francisco Office, which in turn assigned one of its members to investigate.

Five days latter, the Bureau member, a Brother, contacted Dr. Cairns, informing him that he had located Mrs. Ramos' brother's address by using great amounts of perseverance and much leg work. Apparently, Mrs. Ramos' brother was doing very well

financially since he was living in a guarded condominium.

Our Brother, the Bureau member, contacted the office staff and guards. But none of those he contacted would confirm or deny that Mrs. Ramos' brother lived there. Our Brother returned many times to talk to the guard. Finally he found one on duty who was a Mason, who in turn gave a Post Office Box address where Mrs. Ramos could write to her brother.

Mrs. Ramos has already written to her long-lost brother and eagerly awaiting his reply.

Dr. Cairns and his wife hosted Mrs. Ramos and her family at several of the Lodge Stated Meeting dinners and at a dinner in one of the better restaurants in Fresno...

2. Expeditionary Action on the Information Request of a Deceased Brother's Daughter

A daughter of a former member of a Masonic Lodge in Guam contacted Dr. Cairns regarding her father's status at the time of his death. She needed the information since she was applying for initiation to Concordia Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Dr. Cairns at once relayed the information request to Dr. John Cooper, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of California, who in turn wrote to our Grand Secretary.

The office of our Grand Secretary replied quickly and graciously, stating that the inquirer's father had been in good standing at the time of his death. This timely effort enabled the daughter of our deceased Brother to become a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

TO : ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS, DDGMs, DGLs, OFFICERS AND
MEMBERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES IN THIS GRAND
JURISDICTION

SUBJECT: COVER STORY OF PHILIPPINE GRAPHIC
November 24, 1997 Issue

Be it known unto you, Brethren, that MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, is featured in the cover of the November 24, 1997 issue of the **Philippine Graphic**. The decision of the Supreme Court penned by our Past Grand Master, Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, appears on pp. 16-18, 20-21, 36-37 and 45, and a biographical sketch of his on p. 19.

The leadership of our Grand Lodge urges you, Brethren, to secure for yourselves copies of the said issue of **Philippine Graphic**. We should take pride that a Past Grand Master of Masons in the Philippines penned the decision of the Supreme Court that Republic Act No. 8180, or the Oil Deregulation Act, is unconstitutional. The decision carries "a surpassing importance on the life of every Filipino."

This Circular shall take effect immediately upon receipt thereof and shall be read in open Lodge at the Stated Meeting next following its receipt and duly recorded in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the City of Manila this 26th day of November 1997.

LEON ANGEL P. BANEZ, JR.
Grand Master

Attest:

RAYMUNDO N. BELTRAN, PGM
Grand Secretary

FINANCING
HOMES

NOVEMBER 24, 1997

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HERNANDEZ
and HIGG

Philippine GRAPHIC

P20
in Metro Manila

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SAVE
ON WATER



Politics
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By Manuel F. Almario

El Niño
**THREATENING
MARINE RESOURCES**

By Noel K. de Jesus

Philpost
FLAGSHIP OF CORRUPTION?

By Yara S. Singh

Supreme Court
**STRIKING DOWN
THE OIL MONOPOLY**

By EMILIE V. ABADILLA and JUANITO ARCELANA

IF UNDELIVERED, PLEASE RETURN TO:



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PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE 1440 SAN MARCELINO ST., ERMITA, MANILA, PHILIPPINES D-2801

