The Cable Tow

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GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



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Grand Master's *Valedictory Message*

My year in the Grand East is about to come to a close. This has been a great year for your Sis. Gloria and me—and we do hope, for the brethren who have accompanied us in visiting various Districts and Lodges in our grand jurisdiction, and for those who have accompanied me in visiting several foreign grand jurisdictions.



We will always remember and cherish as one of the high points of our lives the many acts of kindness which you, dear brethren at all levels of our Fraternity, have extended to us during our twelve-month sojourn in the Grand East. We therefore extend to each and every one of you our sincerest thanks and gratitude for your support this year.

Thank you very much, dear chairman and members of the Board for General Purposes, for your wonderful support and wise guidance.

Thank you very much, MW Sirs who are not in the Board, for your encouraging words and sound suggestions.

Thank you very much, dear Grand Line Officers, both elected and appointed, including you, VW DDGMs and DGLs, for giving me the opportunity to work with you for the benefit of our Grand Lodge and the Craft. Many of you have willingly and ably filled in for me when my work at Napolcom does not permit me to attend important Masonic functions.

Thank you very much, members of the Board of Directors, as well as officers and members of the various Grand Lodge Committees, for so unselfishly serving our Grand Lodge and the Craft as to make my task as Grand Master much more facile and more pleasant.

Thank you very much, dear brethren in the various Districts and Lodges, both in the country and overseas, for warmly welcoming me and my party and for furnishing us with comfortable accommodations, sumptuous meals, convenient means of transportation and enjoyable Souths. You have manifested your all-out support and cooperation in implementing the long-standing programs of our Grand Lodge on membership, youth, senior members, widows and orphans, community projects, etc. You have, moreover, faithfully complied with the Edicts and Circulars your Grand Master has issued. By so doing, you have demonstrated the healthy attitude that no matter who the Grand Master is and whatever differences of opinion you may have with him, he is still your Grand Master, and you will serve him and serve your

Grand Lodge to the best of your ability. It is, therefore, **you,** the brethren who have permitted me to serve with you. who are the **real heartbeat of our gentle Fraternity.** Indeed, your diligent, tireless, and unselfish labor to advance the cause of Philippine Masonry has made your Grand Master's service seem so insignificant in comparison to yours.

On the basis of the foregoing, I can proudly say that we have, to a very great extent, played as one great team of players, no matter what positions we play, with the single purpose of winning the game of showing to all and sundry that Masonry is, indeed, a worthy way of life, precisely because we, its officers and members, are builders of better local and national communities as well as builders of a better world.

I must also express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the officers and members of our appendant and allied bodies for cordially receiving me, as Grand Master, into their grand annual communications, reunions, or assemblies and giving me the honor and privilege to say a few words on those special occasions. That, to me, is a prima-facie evidence that the various segments of the Masonic Family in our grand jurisdiction have *"dwelt together in unity"* as a team to accomplish the many worthwhile goals and objectives we have set before us. Thus, we have made great strides toward accomplishing our Masonic 2020 vision: **Masons build for God, for country, and for mankind.**

I want, in addition, to express my appreciation to the administrative and accounting staffs of our Grand Lodge, as well as to the editorial staff of **The Cabletow,** for their dedicated service to our Grand Lodge and the Craft. We are, as a small token of our appreciation, including in this issue a photo of these work forces in our Grand Lodge.

Certainly, I want to convey my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the dignitaries of the foreign Grand Lodges we have visited for extending to me and my party the hand of friendship and brotherly love. During those visits we have fraternized with Filipino Masons residing therein and have come up with solutions to their problems with Blue Lodges in our grand jurisdiction, specifically in regard to their desire to affiliate with foreign Lodges.

Be it known unto to you, my brethren, that we originally planned to print in this edition the Grand Master's Report, as well as to feature our Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, both of whom, by the way, celebrate their birthdays in March. But we decided to print, instead, the many events in our Districts and Lodges as well as in our Appendant and Allied Bodies, so that, somehow, you will feel that Philippine Masonry has experienced unity of purpose and pride in accomplishing things together. Anyway, the reinstallation of our Grand Treasurer as Grand Master of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay Philippines, is here published, and his historic meeting with DeMolay Hall of Famer Bill Clinton is here presented in another light—in the light of the art of finding or making time. Also reported in this issue is the MCCCI Awards Night. Our Grand Secretary, as you know very well, is the president of the MCCCI.

Finally, I fondly hope that every one of our Lodges will be represented in the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge at Tacloban in April. The reason for hoping so is set forth in the editorial that follows.

Editorial

WHY YOUR LODGE MUST BE REPRESENTED AT THE ANCOM IN TACLOBAN

We can set the course of Philippine Masonry only once a year—at the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge. We can do very little to change that course until the next Ancom a year later. If we do not act this year, we cannot act for twelve full months. The affairs of our Grand Lodge are so critically important to the future of Philippine Masonry that we cannot afford such a delay.

We will have the opportunity to take a closer look at the affairs of our Grand Lodge at the Ancom in Tacloban toward the end of April. To be represented at the Ancom, to take part in discussions, and to vote on the important matters that will arise is a duty incumbent on all Lodges. No Lodge shall disenfranchise itself by failing to send representatives to cast votes on the vital issues that will be brought up during the Ancom.

We may have the ability to solve our problems, the people needed to do the job, as well as the resources. But do we have the will to alter the course of Philippine Masonry? If our answer is affirmative, then we must grab the opportunity to do it at the Ancom in Tacloban. Otherwise, we will not have another chance for twelve months.

The Grand Lodge leadership needs the thinking of every Lodge in charting the course of Philippine Masonry for the Masonic year 1997-98. The Ancom in Tacloban may be the start of something great for Philippine Masonry, or it may be just another meeting which focuses more on social activities than on coming up with a plan of action needed to propel Philippine Masonry to still greater heights of achievement.

The presence and active participation of the representatives of your Lodge may spell the difference.

Editorial Comment

TOWARD EFFECTING CLOSER RELATION BETWEEN PEOPLE OF GOOD QUALITY AND THE GOVERNMENT

by VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, PSGL

The best tribute we can give to our Masonic forebears, both reformist and revolutionary, who led our people in advocating and fighting for our country's emancipation from foreign rule is, I submit, to so live and act in our day and time that our descendants may likewise have occasion to praise and honor us for our devotion and patriotism which added in bringing them peace and happiness, as well as the freedom to enjoy peace and happiness.

Toward this end, we may use as one of our guides the following statement from "The Indolence of the Filipinos," an essay of our most esteemed Brother, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the first centennial anniversary of whose martyrdom we celebrated last December 30.

"Peoples and government are correlated and complementary. A stupid government is an anomaly among a righteous people, just as a corrupt people cannot exist under just rulers and wise laws. Like people, like government, we will say, paraphrasing a popular adage."

The recent news that our country is among the most corrupt countries in the world is sufficient cause for concern. Many of our government agencies are graft and corruption-laden. Many of our government officials, sad to say, are not just—although, concededly, a good number are dedicated public servants. We have many wise laws, but a great many of them are not consistently implemented. A great percentage of our people, on the other hand, are not righteous.

In the face of this apparently dismal situation, we must do our share if we are to be true to our avowed purpose of working for the amelioration of humankind.

It is presupposed that we begin our labor in the family. The Code of Ethics of Masonry, clearly, urges us to be good family men, that is, devoted husbands and fathers; for the Code puts a high valuation to honoring womanhood, which definitely includes fidelity to our respective spouses, as well as to responsible fatherhood. Consider these precepts in the Code:

—Respect women. Never abuse them and die before dishonoring them.

—If the Grand Architect of the Universe gives you a son, thank Him, but tremble for the deposit He has entrusted to you because in future you will be for the child the image of the deity. Make sure he fears you until age 10, loves you until age 20, and respects you

until death. Until 10 be his teacher, until 20 his father, and until death his friend.

—Teach your children sound principles before fine manners. See that they owe you a clarified doctrine before a frivolous elegance, and that they prefer to be honorable rather than able men.

Consider, too, this other statement of Bro. Rizal: *"For the Filipino to progress, he must have a revolutionary spirit boiling in his veins because progress necessarily requires change, implies the overthrow of the past...the triumph of new ideas over the old and accepted ones."*

Decidedly, the Filipino referred to in the foregoing statement is the Filipino Freemason in particular.

We should help improve and develop our communities, helping the people therein to be righteous, to improve their minds, and to enhance their dignity by being truthful, just and hard-working. This is, to me, much better than doling out material things to them. As much as we reasonably can, we should involve our families in such a community service.

Furthermore, we can help the people in our local communities improve and progress by making sure that they live in an atmosphere of freedom to think, to plan, and to cooperate for their mutual benefit. Our brethren in the Armed Services are in a very good position to lead in this regard.

Those of us who are working in other agencies of the government must so conduct ourselves as to be exemplars of efficient and responsive public service, and those of us in the private sector can undertake projects designed to get government officials optimally perform their duties to the people. The improvement of the body politic, after all, is not politics; getting government officials to do their duties properly, honestly, and sincerely is not playing politics, either. Ill. Bro. Albert Pike, in fact, has clearly pointed out: *"The state, like the man, must use constant effort to stay in the path of virtue and manliness."* We must, then, help people in the employ of the government stay in the path of virtue and manliness. We must criticize those who are dishonest and inefficient and commend those who deserve our praise. If we contribute to sowing the seeds of efficient and effective government, we also contribute to restoring the people's faith in the government.

Yes, our Masonic forebears did expect us to be in the front of those who have advocated and have fought for the establishment of a veritable republic in this country—a republic both in name and in fact, one which would truly protect its citizens in the exercise of their God-given liberties, knowing very well that freedom is a prerequisite to human progress. By living up to the expectation of our Masonic forebears, we will be able to say to them, **"You have not died in vain!"**

CONVENTIONS

ZAMBOANGA CONVENTION

Masonic District 50 held its one-day annual convention at the Mount Apo Masonic Temple on Abelardo Murga Drive, Sta. Catalina, Zamboanga City, with Mount Apo No. 45 as lead Lodge. Other participating Lodges were Samboangan No. 310, Juan S. Alano Memorial No. 137, Bud Daho No. 102, and Bug Bongao No. 288.

Early in the morning the brethren conducted a floral offering at the monument of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal in the city plaza, led by VW Meinrod Yanga and VW Victor Ho, DDGM and DGL, respectively.

WM Mark Fernandez received the DDGM and the DGL into the convention hall. DDGM Yanga in turn welcomed the delegates and visitors.

VW Antonio Espinosa, PDDGM, lectured on Masonic decorum, admonishing the brethren to refrain from making any innovation in the ritual. VW Jose Luna, PDDGM, spoke on the Lost Master's Word; DGL Victor Ho on the proper handling of the rod; and WB Muhamed Bagis, PM, on the solemnity of our ritual.

The roll call revealed that there were 88 delegates present.

During the recess, lunch packs were distributed and the brethren were divided into various discussion groups for the purpose of coming up with resolutions to be presented in the plenary session.

While the resolutions were being discussed, this reporter and VW Victor Ho proceeded to the airport to meet RW Franklin Demonteverde, who later congratulated the district for staging a well-attended convention in spite of the inclement weather and considering that the delegates came from distant places. This shows, he said, that our fraternity is very much alive in this part of our country. He then explained the deeper meaning of each of the four cardinal virtues, admonishing the brethren to practice all of them outside of the Lodge.

Fellowship followed at the Lotus Restaurant of Astoria Hotel. WM Sabdani J. Hadrijul of Bud Bongao Lodge led the invocation—the Christian version first and then the Moslem version.

As is his wont, RW Demonteverde gave a succinct inspirational message. He urged the brethren to regularly attend Lodge meetings and district affairs, quoting his late father, MW Ruperto S. Demonteverde, who once said, *"To expect that Masonry will be of service to you, you must attend the meetings of your Lodge and contribute your mite to the welfare of the Fraternity. It is not necessary that you become a ritualist and devote a great deal of time to ritualistic endeavor in order to secure the benefits of the institution. It is only necessary that you show your willingness to be of assistance*

whenever you can because by so doing you will be putting funds in the Masonic bank subject to your withdrawal when most needed...."

Obviously, the brethren relished the mixture of Chinese delicacies, two *lechon baboy*, and *two lechon kambing.*

After dinner, each of the Lodges rendered either a song or jokes. The program was skillfully emceed by our Brother from PIA, Bro. Leon ("Leo" to the brethren) Omoso.

WB Rasdi N. Abubakar, vice mayor of Jolo and WM of Bud Daho Lodge No. 102, gave one of the most interesting and therefore most applauded jokes, entitled *"Meeting at the Celestial Lodge,"* which went this way:

God summoned all the world leaders to an important meeting. He started the meeting with this announcement: *"I have gathered all of you here to tell you the bad news that the earth would end in the year 2000."* Naturally, all present were sad to hear the bad news.

Subsequently, President Yeltsin reported to the Russians, *"Comrades, I have a couple of bad news to share with you. The first is that there is a God in heaven, and the other is that the earth will end in the year 2000."*

On his part, President Clinton reported to his fellow Americans: *"Countrymen, thank you again for reelecting me as your president. I have a good news and a bad news to tell you. The good news is that it is true that God exists, and the bad news is that the earth will come to an end in the year 2000."*

Finally, with a tobacco twice as large as the one he usually sports, President Ramos reported over the radio and on television: *"Mga kababayan, mayroon akong dalawang magandang balita para sa inyo. First, there is God. Second, the world will come to an end in the year 2000. That means, all our problems will then be solved."*

This reporter then whispered to RW Demonteverde: *"What would happen then to our Masonic Vision 2020?"—CHARLES G. AGAR (#82)*



⇑ Brethren of MD# 50, headed by DDGM Meinrod Yanga and JGL BVictor Ho, offer flowers at Rizal monument.



...M. Meinrod ... and IGD Victor Flo are received by W... Fernandez



⇑ *Discussion of resolutions*

⇓ *What resolution are we going to present?*





↑ Brethren of Juan S. Alano Lodge perform their part.



↑ From left to right: RW Demonteverde, DDGM Meinrod Yanga, Jcl. Victor Ho, and WM Fernandez.



↑ A Brod from Alano [illegible] renders a song.



⇑ *An inspirational talk from RW F. Demonteverde*



⇑ *Duet from two big brothers of Juan S. Alano Lodge and Mt. Apo Lodge.*



⇑ *VW Victor Ho and WM Fernandez of Mt. Apo listen attentively.*

If we are going to make non-Masons see us unified and proud Masons, we must accept the responsibility of living our Masonry and taking it out of the Lodge room into our homes, into the community, into the workplace. We must dedicate ourselves to that purpose. And we must have a deep commitment to accomplishing it.

SIXTH CENTRAL LUZON MULTI-DISTRICT CONVENTION

by eF.R.eN

District 23, under the leadership of VW Jose B. Montejo, Jr., DDGM, and VWBs Alfredo Roxas, Rogelio N. Fernando, and Gilbert B. Barroquillo, DGLs, hosted the 6th Central Luzon Multi-District Convention at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Constantino Park, Constantino Subdivision, Marilao, Bulacan, with Marcelo H. del Pilar Memorial No. 272 as lead Lodge.

The other participating Districts are 25, 27, 29, 33, and 35, led by the DDGMs: VW Rogelio Sq. Zulueta, Jr., VW Romeo P. Ramos, VW Juanito L. Bernardo, VW Alexander G. Coloma, and VW Jesus B. David, respectively.

Delegates from some 38 Lodges in the region attended the convention. Some of them, in fact, brought along their ladies and children, thereby helping make affair more enjoyable.

Dinner-Fellowship

A dinner-fellowship, emceed by WB Jaime R. Camino, Jr., capped the first day of activities. The guest of honor and speaker, VW Servando V. Lara, Grand Marshal, touched on such "controversial" points as the reputation of the Craft, the Fraternity vis-a-vis the changing times, and Masonic secrets. Besides urging the brethren to help create a more positive image of the Fraternity in their respective communities, the Grand Marshal suggested that the Grand Lodge create a sort of Public Information Office, one task of which is to answer criticisms against or misinformation about the Craft.

The Seabees provided the music, the brethren contributed musical numbers and jokes, Sis Carandang recited a poem a *la balagtasan,* and the daughters and ladies of the brethren regaled the delegates and guests with a dance number and songs. Beer and booze were aplenty.

Bro. Ernesto R. Carandang then announced the winners of the inter-district bowling tourney, as follows: *2nd runner-up,* District 33; *1st runner-up,* District 29; *champion,* District 27; and highest single scorer, Bro. Aber Santos.

Bro. Jesus Guerzon, on his part, announced the winners of the tennis competition, as follows: *singles champions:* VW Arthus Mabalay and SW Romy Grospe of Factoria, both of District 29; *doubles champions:* Bro. Fernando Garcia II of Cupang Lodge No. 295 and his partner (whose name we were, unfortunately, unable to get).

Courtesy Call, Floral Offering

Early morning of the second day the brethren, led by VW Montejo, VW Oscar Bunyi, and Bro. Santiago Y. Toledo, NBI Director, paid a courtesy call on Hon. Leoncio S. Duran, Jr., Mayor of Marilao, who later joined them in conducting a floral offering at the Rizal monument.

Reception of Dignitaries, Guests

After breakfast at the multi-purpose hall, the convention proper began. WM Alexander T. Bernardino of lead Lodge Marcelo H. del Pilar Memorial No. 272 received VW Montejo, VW Jun Crudo, VW Oscar Bunyi, and VW Gilbert Barroquillo. Then the DDGM received the DDGMs and DGLs of the other participating districts. Next, he received the guests of honor: Bro./Director Toledo, Governor Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, Vice-Governor Josefina M. dela Cruz, Congressman Angelito M. Sarmiento of the 4th District of Bulacan, and Marilao Mayor Duran.

VW Montejo expressed appreciation to the brethren and the guests for their painstaking effort to attend the convention nothwithstanding the distance and their busy schedules. He fondly hoped that the delegates would actively participate in the discussions. He also invited the non-Masons to see for themselves what Freemasons are and what they do, so that they would understand that Masonry is not a religion, but rather, a brotherhood of men who build for God, for country, and for mankind.

Mayor Duran, a cousin of VW Jun Crudo, said that Masonry is not yet known in his town, and that people there still have the misconception that Masonry is atheistic. Said he: ***"Ang Masonerya ay marangal, maayos, at makabayang kapatiran na dapat tangkilikin ng mga mamamayan."***

Bro. Toledo of Laong Laan Lodge No. 118 announced that the NBI would establish an office in Marilao. Then he challenged the brethren to be in the front of the campaign against drug abuse and addiction. *"We have been isolating ourselves,"* he said. *"We are aware of the gravity of the drug-abuse problem, but we are not doing much about it. Let us start at the Blue Lodge level, as small groups of combat until the fight against drug abuse and addiction becomes a nationwide movement."*

Vice-Governor dela Cruz, on her part, described Masonry as the producer of visionaries, great men, and great heroes. *"Because of its noble goals and achievements,"* she said, *"membership in your Fraternity should be more widely encouraged. Dumami pa sana ang mga Mason."*

Congressman Sarmiento focused on productivity as the essence of progress and high quality of life. *"Like you Masons,"* he said, *"we government officials of Bulacan have adopted unity and harmony as means to strengthen the various aspects of the life of the people in Bulacan. Just as Masonry develops its members into men of character and culture, we the leaders of Bulacan are unified in developing Bulaqueños into men of fine character because such men are our country's strength."*

Governor Pagdanganan started his message with this statement: *"Mabuhay and diwa na ipinaglaban nina Rizal, del Pilar, at mga ibang Mason!"* Next he challenged the brethren to continue leading in the campaign for positive change. He concluded by saying that decentralization of government or the promotion of local autonomy is the key to Philippine progress.

The convention was called from labor to refreshment.

Post-Meridiem Session

After lunch the different districts met at their designated areas, mainly for the purpose of nominating their incoming DDGMs. Then VW Moises Roque conducted the Masonic education session, focusing on certain aspects of the ritual of the MM degree.

The delegates presented several resolutions, with WB Teodoro A. Bay acting as moderator. The resolutions approved were as follows:

1. The Grand Lodge should reduce the assessment for Life Membership by Purchase back to the original sum.

2. The participating districts should establish a common Temple Building Fund to assist Lodges in constructing their respective temples. (This was approved subject to further study of its mechanics.)

3. District 23 will bid for the hosting of Ancom 1998 in Angeles City, and the other participating districts will support District 23's bid.

4. The brethren of Central Luzon will go as a caravan by land to Tacloban, Leyte. (Again, a committee will be organized to study the mechanics of the proposed project.)

Masonic District No. 25 (Bataan) will host the 7th Central Luzon Multi-District Convention.

Grand Master's Message

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, Grand Master, who had just come from the joint A&ASR-OKR symposium on Rizal, in which he delivered the welcome remarks, related to the brethren the highlights of his visit to the Grand Lodges of China, Japan, and California. Then he stressed the necessity of communicating to the brethren, particularly the "lost sheep" among us.

Emphatically, he said that we must make the amnesty program work, adding that he would closely examine how each of the Lodges had complied with the Edict.

Next he announced to the brethren that a 5-storey building, to be called Masonic Center, will soon be constructed on the Grand Lodge premises. The Masonic Center will house the Appendant and Allied Bodies, including the MCCCI.

Stated the Grand Master: *"We should expand our Masonic charities. We should take care not only of the crippled and burned children, but also of the street children, the abused children, the harelipped children, those with cleft palate, and other unfortunate youth."*

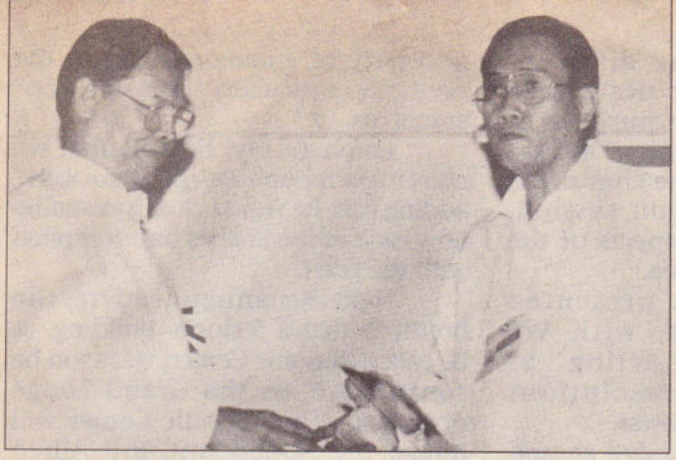
He also mentioned that we should now have a Philippine Shrine Temple after more than 50 years of hosting ceremonials in the country.

Finally, he dealt on the centennials of the Philippine Revolution. He said that 85% of the leaders of the Philippine Revolution were Masons.

"Let us examine our consciences as to what we can do for our country," MW Adiong told the delegates.

Finally, he mentioned the 1984 CBCP resolution lifting the excommunication of Catholic Masons. *"Let's not be angry with the bishops,"* he exhorted. *"Let us, instead, continue to be faithful to our respective churches."*

After the Grand Master had distributed his personal calling cards to the brethren, VW Montejo, together with several leaders and sisters of the host district, treated him to seafoods in a cozy restaurant at the outskirts of the town.



⇐ *VW Lara receives plaque from VW Montejo.*

Entertainment number by our Sisters
⇓





Courtesy call at Mayor's office



Floral offering at the statue of Bro./Dr. Jose P. Rizal



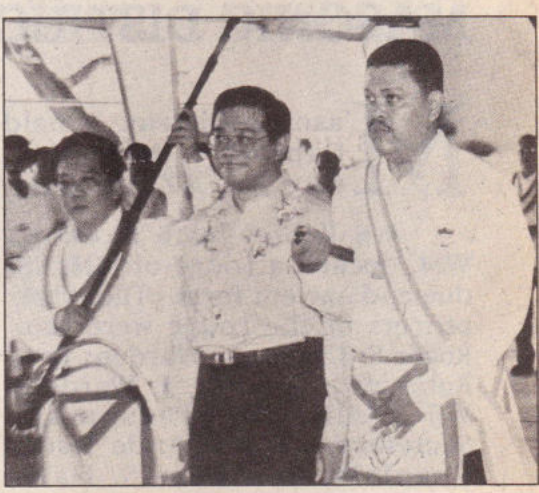
DDGM is received by WM.



Hon. Mayor Duran of Marilao



Hon. Bulacan Gov. Pagdanganan



Hon. Congressman Sarmiento of Bulacan



Hon. Vice Governor dela Cruz is received.



GM Adiong receives plaque of appreciation.

MASONIC DISTRICT 9 CONVENTION

Masonic District 9 held its one-day convention at the Capitol Masonic Temple, with Capitol City No. 174 as lead lodge.

WB Publio Justo E. Calip, **WM,** opened a Lodge of MMs in due and ancient form. The other officers of the Lodge were Bro. Roger S. Crudo, **S. Warden;** Bro. Roberto G. Gamboa, **J. Warden;** WB Pedro U. Pagunuran, **Secretary;** WB Jose B. de Jesus, **Chaplain;** Bro. Rene S. Mari, **Marshal;** Bro. Constante S. Uson, **S. Deacon;** Bro. Ronald L. Cortez, **J. Deacon;** Bro. Armando C. Borja, **S. Steward;** Bro. Jose Bernardo C. Santos, Jr., **J. Steward;** and WB Peping de Jesus, **Tyler.**

The Lodge accorded official reception to VW Justo Wayland M. Cabanban, DDGM, and VW Saul R. Exmundo, DGL.



next DDGM.

2. That the attention of the M.W. Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines be invited relative to the time of the election of the Grand Lodge officers: Election shall be transferred to morning session of the third day of the Ancom to afford all brethren in attendance to vote in the event of a runoff.



After the presentation of the flag and the singing of the national anthem and the Grand Lodge hymn, WB Raynor L. Taroy, District Chaplain, led the invocation.

WB Calip warmly welcomed all brethren to the annual district convention and the roll call of Lodges by District Secretary Jose B. de Jesus, P.M., revealed the presence of some 65 delegates, with the host Lodge having the most number of delegates, *viz.*, 17.

After the reports of the various Lodges, the following resolutions were adopted for recommendation to the GLP Resolutions Committee:

1. That WB Eleuderio Salvo be endorsed for appointment as



The guest speaker, Dr. Rafael B. Rodriguez, immediate Past President of Trinity College of Quezon City and a Board Member of St. Luke's Medical Center, as well as a newly reinstated Brother of Mencius Lodge No. 93 by availing of Edict No. 173, spoke on *"Happiness, Your Ego and You."*

The DDGM then spoke on the convention theme, *"One God, One Earth, One Nation"* and summed up his report, which may be divided into three major parts: (1) on the Grand Lodge,



(2) on the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines, and (3) on Masonic District No. 9. Next he thanked all present for their participation in the convention, especially the host Lodge. Finally, he requested VW Saul R. Exmundo, DGL, and VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., Grand Pursuivant, to give a short message each.

WB Jose B. de Jesus, assisted by WB Conrado C. Veneracion, emceed the fellowship program that followed the luncheon at Perlie's Garden Restaurant.

10TH JOINT CONVENTION OF DISTRICTS 16, 18 AND 24

by **WM Charles G. Agar** *(#82)*

Masonic Districts 16, 18 and 24, composed of Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol and Dumaguete, held their two-day 10th joint convention at the Casino Español de Cebu.

On the first day the brethren conducted a floral offering at the monument of Dr./Bro. Jose P. Rizal even as delegates began to register at the Cebu Masonic Temple. In the afternoon the bowling tournament took place, with six teams competing: two from Maktan Lodge, two from Dagohoy Lodge, one team each from Makabugwas and Tacloban Lodge. In the evening a welcome dinner was held at the White Gold Restaurant in downtown Cebu.

On the second day, WB Alex Go, Wor. Master of the lead Lodge, received VW Procorpio Trabajo II, DDGM of District 24, who in turn received RW Franklin DeMonteverde, JGW, who represented MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, Grand Master. Also received were VW Oscar Bunyi, Grand Chaplain; VW B.J. Torres, Asst. Grand Secretary. MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, was also received with full honors.

After the coffee break, the DDGMs gave their reports. WB Victor Domingo, Wor. Master of Tacloban Lodge, represented VW Jose Asturias, DDGM of MD #18, who was at the time in America undergoing medical treatment. VW Crisanto Afable of MD #16, on the other hand, was indisposed.

VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., SGL, conducted the Masonic Education session. He expounded on

such topics as Masonic protocol and etiquette and the lost Master's word.

After lunch, SGL Pascua resumed his Masonic-education lecture, followed by an open forum.

VW Oscar Bunyi, VW Samuel Morgia, JGL for Eastern Visayas, and WB Francis Lovero, Grand Secretary, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, urged the delegates to support the Order by joining the Supreme Council. Those who signified their intention to become Active Members, led by MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, were inducted by VW Oscar Bunyi.

The delegates passed only one resolution, namely, the revival of the holding of the Visayas Regional Convention.

Dumaguete will host the next tri-district convention, with Mount Kaladias No. 91 as lead Lodge.

RW Demonteverde congratulated the lead Lodge and host District for the successful holding of the tri-district convention and thanked the brethren for the warm reception. Then he focused on Masonic values and virtues, especially humility.

After the convention proper, a fraternal dinner was held at the Camp Lapu-lapu Officers Clubhouse. The brethren relished the buffet dinner while the combo played old favorites.

Twenty-two consolation prizes and three major prizes (mini-stereo component, a colored tv set, and a 9 cu.ft. refrigarator) were raffled out.

The following winners of the bowling tournament received their prizes: WB Carlos D. Ong of Maktan Lodge, *highest singles;* Bro. Jess Tirol, *highest pinning;* Maktan Lodge, *2nd and 1st runners-up;* Dagohoy Lodge, *champion.*

Because there were five dance instructors, the brethren enjoyed ballroom dancing, which was interrupted a few times to give way to jokes given by such brethren as VW Samuel Morgia and VW Oscar Bunyi. One of the jokes of the latter went this way:

"You know, we regular Masons are the most blessed people on earth. You know why? Because everyday many Lodges conduct their respective meetings, and toward the end of every meeting the Master says, 'May the blessing of heaven bless us all regular Masons.' So, brethren, pay your dues and attend Lodge meetings to have that blessing."

The program emceed by Bro. Melchie J. Cavdor having ended, the ballroom dancing continued...



⇐ *DDGM P. Trabajo II receives RW Demonteverde, while Worshipful Master Alex Go looks on.*

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⇑ *MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. is received with RW F. Demonteverde.*



⇑ *Oath-taking by new Active Members of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.*



⇑ *RW Demonteverde puts pin on MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr.*



⇑ *RW Demonteverde delivers his message.*

⇓ *The Eastern Visayas brethren with Grand Line officers. Seated from left to right: VW Oca Bunyi, MW Pablo C. Ko, RW F. Demonteverde, DDGM P. Trabajo II, WM Alex Go, VW BJ Torres, AGS, and VW Nanding Pascua, SGL.*



64th Annual Convention of Masonic District 2

Masonic District No. 2 (formerly 10) held its 64th convention in Noveleta, Cavite, with Bagong Ilaw 97 as lead Lodge.

At 6:30 a.m. the municipal plaza was already filled with brethren from the District's 14 Lodges and members of appendant, allied bodies. Led by District Deputy Grand Master Nick G. Ricafrente, Grand Chaplain Oscar Bunyi, and Past Grand Masters Rudyardo Bunda, Rosendo Herrera and Raymundo Beltran, the brethren paid Mayor & Bro. Dionisio Torres a courtesy call.

At 7:00 took place the welcome ceremonies. The Holy Cross Gospel Singers led the singing of the **pambansang awit**. After the **panunumpa sa watawat**, Rev. & Bro. Castro led us in the invocation and prayer for Mason heroes of the 1896 Revolution. VW Ricafrente acknowledged delegates, guests, and Grand Lodge dignitaries. Mayor & Bro. Torres extolled the heroes of Noveleta and thanked the Masons for being his partners in development and for being supportive of his administration. For and in behalf of MW JPL Adiong, MW Herrera, Grand Treasurer, urged the members of the Masonic Family in the province to remember anew our heroes who sacrificed themselves for freedom, justice, brotherly love, relief, and truth, as well as to give more support to the Masonic Youth Organizations, particularly the Order of DeMolay, so that the youth would realize that Masonry has noble, benevolent objectives. Then he briefly recounted how and why he and his group were able to meet with President Bill Clinton at the Quirino Grandstand in the Luneta for some 15 minutes.

Then came what District 2 is famous for: the **parade**, this time from the plaza circuitously to the temple of the host Lodge. Aside from delegates of the 14 Lodges, the folowing participated in the parade: Emmanuel Baja Chapter, Order of DeMolay; Mothers Club of DeMolay, E. Baja Chapter; Imus Assembly No. 10, IORG; Cavite Assembly No. 3, IORG; Thirteen Martyrs Chapter No. 6, Order of the Eastern Star; Ernesto Mangahis Chapter, Order of DeMolay; Mothers Club of DeMolay, Mangahis Chapter; Cadena de Amor Court 34, Order of the Amaranth; Bethel No. 8, Job's Daughter; Bukang Liwayway Chapter No. 19, OES; Tierra Alta Assembly No. 4; IORG; Tierra Luz Court No. 33, Order of the Amaranth; Ladies of Tagaytay Masonic Lodge No. 165; Emilio Aguinaldo Chapter, Order of DeMolay; Mothers Club of DeMolay, Aguinaldo Chapter; and Ilang-Ilang Court No. 20, Order of the Amaranth.

After taking some refreshments, the brethren went up to the convention hall. The Lodge was opened by the following ceremonial officers for the convention: WB Teodulo Cleofe, **Wor. Master;** WB Damian Perido, **S. Warden;** VW Virgilio Sarmiento, **J. Warden;** VW Federico Aquino, **Treasurer;** WB Eulogio Arnan, Jr.,

Secretary; WB Norberto Villamar, **Auditor;** WB Antolin Gemanil, **Chaplain;** WB Wiberto Famoso, **Marshal;** WB Nicasio Pagtakhan, **S. Deacon;** WB Eliani Camantigue, **J. Deacon;** WB Jesus Medina, **Orator;** WB Rolly Sarmiento, **Almoner;** WB Marciano Aquino, **Lecturer;** VW Ricardo Inocentes, **Custodian of Work;** VW Teodulo Jeciel, **St. Bearer;** WB Rejienaldo dela Cruz, **S. Steward;** WB Expedito Modesto, **J. Steward;** and WB Mario Ramirez, **Tyler.**

Among the highlights of the convention proper were the welcome address of WB Cleofe; address of VW Ricafrente, who reported the achievements of his administration and reminded the brethren to fullfill their collective duties to keep the Masonic light burning in the district and beyond; roll call of lodges; reading and approval of the minutes of the 1995 discon; summary of a six-month consolidated lodge and district report by District Secretary Eulogio Arnan, Jr.; report of District Treasurer Federico Aquino; and presentation of resolutions.

Among the resolutions presented were:

1. The district's number be reverted to 10.
2. A place in the Lodge be provided for the Auditor.
3. VW Alfonso Dualan be the district's nominee for the position of JGW.
4. WB Emilio Aguinaldo's birthday be made a national holiday.
5. Incapacitated brethren be exempt from paying annual dues.
6. The Filipino version of the pledge of allegiance be adopted in lieu of the present English version. The Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat is as follows: ***Ako ay Pilipino/ buong katapatang panunumpa/ sa watawat ng Pilipinas/ at sa bansang kanyang sinasagisag/ na may dangal, katarungan at kalayaan/ na pinakikilos ng sambayanang/ maka-Diyos, makakalikasan, maka-tao at makabansa.***

In his message, MW Adiong gave homage to the Cavite Masons, who were forerunners not only of Philippine Freemasonry but of the birth of our nation.

"To a great extent, to the people and Masons of Cavite," he stressed, *"we owe our country's independence."* He then urged the brethren to be in the front of the celebration of the centennials of our revolution and of our nationhood.

After reiterating his expression of gratitude to the Cavite Masons for his election as JGW four years ago, he emphasized the beneficiality of increasing the enrollment fee of Lodges in the Acacia mutual benefit system to P160 per member, the importance of Edict No. 173, the approved plan to build a five-storey Masonic Center at the Grand Lodge premises, and the need to build our own Shrine Temple.

He, moreover, mentioned that he tends to frown upon what is becoming a vogue in the American grand jurisdictions: the one-day Grand Master's conferrals—mainly because brethren initiated, passed and raised in that manner are not *"well-done".*

After the presentation of a plaque of appreciation to the Grand Master, MW Rody Herrera moved that the ACACIA enrollment fee be raised from P44 to P160 per Lodge member. Seconded, the motion was carried.

Luncheon at the fellowship site was, indeed, fraternally gratifying.

After the luncheon, accompanied by VW Lito Villarosa, the Grand Master left for Manila. The rest of us (RW Leon A.P. Bañez, Jr., VW BJ Torres, VW Oca Bunyi, VW Ben Brown, VW Emil Langomez, VW Bert Pagotan, VW Bert Barroquillo, WB Charles Agar, WB Pedro M. Cordova of Capiz, and this writer.) stayed behind to enjoy the South featuring special numbers from the brethren, the Eastern Stars, the Amaranths, the Rainbow Girls, the Jobies, and the DeMolays, as well as distribution of souvenirs.

The enjoyable South was highlighted by the presentation of certificates of completion in the continuing Masonic education program and awards to winners in the sports competitions.

As announced by Sportsfest '96 Chair Damian B. Perido, Group B, composed of Lodges 2, 17, and 269, emerged as CHAMPION; Group D, composed of Lodges 49, 115, 165, and Mendez Nuñez, UD, 1st runner-up; Group A, composed of Lodges 15, 51 and 61, 2nd runner-up; and Group C, composed of Lodges 31, 97, 238 and 300, 3rd runner-up.

After the fellowship at the premises of Bagong Ilaw, the brethren split into two groups; one went to the residence of Mayor and Bro. Torres and the other to the residence of MW Bunda.

We look forward to next year's convention to be hosted by Indang 115, and we wonder if any of the following nominees will be appointed DDGM: Ruperto Sangalang, Reynaldo Samonte, Camilo Guevarra.

—eF.R.eN



⇐ Grand Lodge dignitaries at Mayor & Bro. Dionisio Torres' office.



Panunumpa sa Watawat by the Masonic Family.



DDGM Ricarenia welcomes delegates.

⇒ *DDGM greets GM to the amusement of GL dignitaries.*





Amaranth dishing out entertaining dance number



⇐ *Cavite brethren and G.L. dignitaries after the fellowship in MW Rudy Bunda's residence.*

41st Mindanao Regional Masonic Convention

by **VW Oscar V. Bunyi, Gr. Chaplain**

The two-day 41st Mindanao Regional Masonic Convention was held in Dipolog City, with District 32 as host.

In the morning of the first day, MW Jose Percival L. Adiong arrived and was warmly welcomed at the Dipolog Airport by brethren led by VW Valentino D. Tiu, DDGM. Thirty minutes later this writer arrived and was likewise warmly welcomed by the brethren. Both the Grand Master and I were treated to lunch by the DDGM. After two hours of rest, the Grand Master and I played tennis with some of our Mindanao brethren. But before the match the Grand Master stressed "Edict No. 4," namely, "No Diplomatic Games". Hence, we lost the first set, but we won the second.

The delegates, meanwhile, were engaged in sports competitions: lawn tennis at the Dipolog Country Club in Mibang, basketball at the Cor Jesu Seminary basketball court also in Mibang, and shooting at the NBI Compound in Sta. Filomena. Coordinators of the competitions were VW Robert T. Lim, PDDGM, Bro. Chito Mendoza, and Bro. Oscar D. Tomarong, respectively.

The Grand Master's Night was very well attended. The Grand Master almost lost his voice after giving his speech, in which he emphasized the theme *"Masonic Vision 2020: Masons Build for God, for Country, and for Mankind."* He spiced his speech with bits of wit, such as *"The most beautiful women in the world are the wives of Masons."* The Grand Master's speech was followed immediately by ballroom dancing.

In the morning of the second day, the brethren conducted a floral offering at the monument of Dr./Bro. Jose Rizal in the city plaza. Afterwards, the Grand Master, this writer, and some Dipolog brethren paid a courtesy call on the City Mayor, a Brother, Hon. Roseller L. Barinaga, who was unfortunately not around. Nevertheless, we were entertained by the Vice Mayor, also a Brother.

During the convention proper the Grand Master and this writer were received with full honors. The Grand Master delivered his message for some 15 minutes. After bidding the brethren farewell, we took a flight back to Manila to join our brethren of Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 13 who were holding their multi-district convention on the same day.

The Grand Master and this writer assured our Mindanao brethren that, observably, their 41st regional convention was a veritable success.

As Masons, we must be catalysts for change. We must improve ourselves first and then spread the light of Masonic principles among those around us-- in our homes as model family men, in our communities as upright citizens, and in our country as exemplars of the new Filipino for the next millenium. Masonry counts on all of us to do our share, and I urge you to love Masonry and to practice it. ---MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM

M.D. NOS. 1,3,5,7,& 13 JOINT CONVENTION

UNITY AND BROTHERLY LOVE—that was the theme of the joint convention of Masonic Districts 1,3,5, 7 and 13 held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple and hosted by M.D. No.1.

The multi-district convention started with a Mass, followed by the laying of wreaths at the statue of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal.

WM Jeremias Custodio and VW Oca Bunyi's wife, Sis. Ester, assisted by brethren of Saigon Lodge, distributed to indigent families rice, canned goods and medicines.

A composite team of the Wor. Masters of the participating Lodges opened the Lodge. VW Alfonso Dualan, DDGM of the host district, received DDGMs, DGLs, dignitaries and guests with full honors. WM Jaime R. Bacho of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148 gave the invocation, and VW Dualan welcomed the brethren and guests.

VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., our SGL, and VW Vicente Hao Chin gave the brethren some doses of Masonic education. VW Dualan, assisted by VW Isagani Cruz, in turn, gave the lecturers appreciative plaques.

After the luncheon at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, the Masonic Assistance and Information Center (MAIC) was formally inaugurated. Representing the Grand Master, who was attending another convention in Zamboanga, RW Leon A.P. Bañez, Jr., DGM, officially cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The Grand Master arrived from Dipolog City, together with VW Oscar Bunyi, after the presentation of resolutions and nomination of DDGMs. Since he had developed a harsh voice, he gave a succinct closing message.

The brethren enjoyed the fraternal dinner at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall and the ensuing fellowship chaired by DDGMs Bert Pagotan (M.D. #13) and Emil Langomez (M.D. #5).—**WB C.G.Agar**



⇐ *Giving cheers for Christmas*

⇒ *I return this gavel and continue to govern the convention. ---RW Bañez*





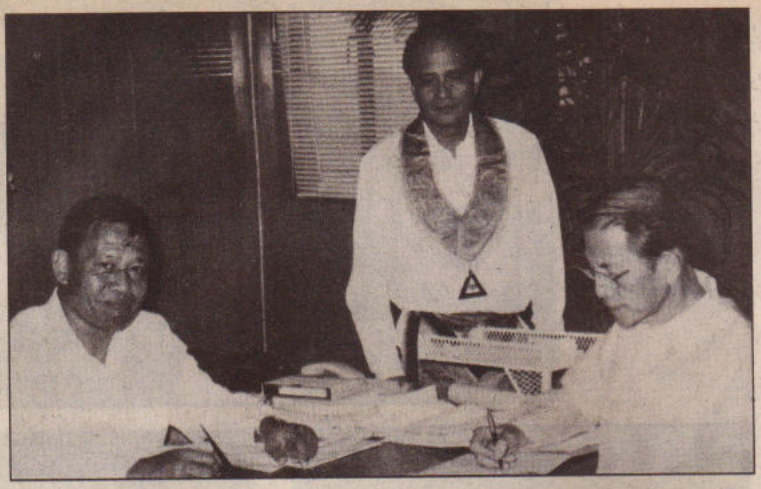
⇑ *VW Nanding Pascua delivers an inspirational message.*



⇑ *VW Vic Hao Chin receives appreciative plaque from VW Dualan.*



⇐ *RW Bañez, DGM, assisted by DDGMs, inaugurates MAIC office.*



⇒ *Grand Secretary, MW Beltran, PGM, signs a circular on MAIC and MASONS.*

SOUTHWESTERN LUZON TRI-DISTRICT CONVENTION

The joint convention of Masonic Districts 6,8 and 10, the theme of which was HIGIT SA LAHAT: PAGMAMAHALAN, PAG-UUNAWAAN AT PAGKAKAISA, was held at Sawali Restaurant in Batangas City.

As early as 6:00 a.m., the brethren, together with the DDGMs and the DGLs, Grand Chaplain Oscar Bunyi, and this reporter, converged at the Temple of Batangas Lodge No. 35 and then proceeded to the plaza of Batangas City to offer flowers at the monument of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal and at the monument of Bro. Apolinario Mabini.

The Lodge was opened in due form at Batangas Lodge, but the convention proper took place at the Sawali Restaurant. WM Darsi Fabella of host Lodge Halcon No. 109 received VW Antonio C. Bernal, Jr., as well as the DDGMs and DGLs of the participating districts. Next VW Bernal received the Grand Lodge party, headed by VW Nanding Pascua, SGL; VW B.J. Torres, AGS; VW Oscar Bunyi, Grand Chaplain; VW Ber Saplaco, Grand Pursuivant; and VW Bert Pagotan, DDGM (#13). VW Pascua was designated by the Grand Master as his official representative and therefore was received with full honors.

"Today," he remarked, *"I will be holding two personalities—one as your SGL to give you a Masonic lecture and the other as the official representative of the Grand Master."*

The roll call revealed the presence of some 72 delegates: 48 from District No. 10, 20 from District No. 8, and 4 from District No. 6.

After the reports of the

DDGMs, VW Pascua lectured on the philosophy of Masonry.

The brethren enjoyed the seafoods and local delicacies from Mindoro.

After the lunch break, the delegates were divided into three groups, each of which was to give an evaluative report during the plenary session.

VW Nanding Pascua was given a certificate of appreciation by the host District. Subsequently, he conveyed to the brethren the message of the Grand Master.

After the Lodge was closed in short form, the brethren had fraternal dinner in the same venue. Warm fraternalism prevailed.

— ***WB C.G. Agar (#82)***



⇐ *Wreath laying at Bro. Jose P. Rizal's monument*

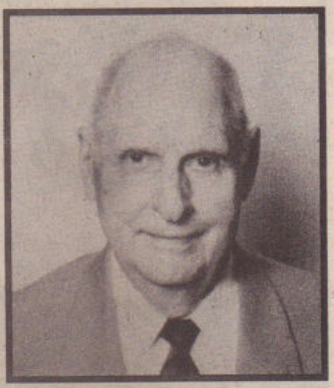
Wreath laying ceremony at Ill. Bro. Apolinario Mabini's monument. ⇒





⇐ *VW Fernando Pascua, Jr., SGL, the Grand Master's representative in the convention, expresses gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality.*

MW Wilmarth on Understanding Masonry



Why is it that when a Brother, including a Masonic leader, is asked to answer the question "What is Masonry?" he invariably feels that his answer does not completely satisfy the person asking?

"Perhaps Masonry is like electricity," MW Raymond E. Wilmarth, PGM, replied. *"Scientists cannot see nor describe electricity, but they can see the work it does. Similarly, we cannot see nor describe Masonry, but we most certainly can see the work that Masonry does."*

If we cannot see nor describe Masonry, how can we understand it?

Answered the PGM: *"One approach to understanding Masonry is to find out what produces it, just as the scientists found out that a closed wire cutting magnetic lines of force at a 90° angle produces electricity, or that two metals such as copper and zinc when placed in a solution of sulphuric acid produces a galvanic cell. Another approach is to examine the work Masonry can do and develop controls that will permit it to be used for the greatest benefit of man, as the scientists have put electricity to work in so many fields that our present-day life is relatively dependent upon it for its present existence."*

Can you give us a cross-section of mature Masonic thought on what Masonry really is?

"I like the definition of Masonry given by M.W. William C. Councell in his booklet FREEMASONRY: A WAY OF LIFE. Brother Councell says, 'Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another, and above all, reverence and love for God.' He defines Freemasonry as a moral discipline by which we members of the Craft learn to curb our passions, to harmonize our conflicting desires, and to cultivate life's finer traits and graces. But Brother Councell has not described Masonry itself, but what Masonry produces in the form of behavior of Masons."

Is Masonry a fraternal organization of men who have sought membership in it of their own free will and accord?

"No one can deny that Masonry is a fraternal organization of men," MW Wilmarth explained. *"But then again, there are Masonic Lodges of women in England, and a system of Co-Masonry was developed in*

France. Ill. Anne Bessant received the 33°, I.G.H. Of course, this violated a fundamental tenet of Masonry, and therefore such Lodges of women and the co-Masonic system in France were deemed clandestine. In regard to the second part of the question, I should say that to solicit membership in Masonry is unmasonic conduct, since every man to become a Mason must enter of his own free will and accord. Yet, how many friends appeal to others and in some cases even go so far as to pay their initiation fees? Is it any wonder that the newly-made Mason finds it difficult to understand just what he is now a member of?"

What is a Masonic initiate told about Masonry?

Answered MW Wilmarth: *"A Masonic initiate is told that the basic tenets of Masonry are truth, relief, and brotherly love—in other grand jurisdictions, liberty, fraternity, and equality. One of the first lessons taught the Masonic initiate is wisdom, strength, and beauty or harmony. As the initiate advances, he is taught faith, hope, and charity. Further along he is cautioned to be trustful, hopeful, and indulgent. Yes, Masonry is all of these and many more things, too."*

What, then, is our purpose in Masonry?

In response, MW Raymond Wilmarth cited what M.W. Macdougal wrote in the **Short Talk Bulletin** of the Masonic Service Association (MSA), as follows:

"Our purpose is to strive for the completion of a spiritual temple, a vision grand enough to have stood the passing years and strong enough to overcome whatever problems the future may bring. Freemasonry's spiritual temple is the moral and spiritual growth of the individual. A lack of faith in our ability to fulfill this aim and our failure to realize the Fraternity's important mission constitute our chief weakness in this age of dissolving beliefs and withering standards.

"To build a better and finer world according to God's plan is the task which is at once our duty and our happiness. The design for a spiritual temple built of strong and good men starts, not with the state, not with the Lodge, but with the individual.

"Two steps in this purpose are plain. The first is to mold the man as a builder; the second is to set the brethren to work. The individual Mason must first come to a belief in Freemasonry's purpose and then equip himself for his duty.

"No man actually becomes a Mason until he has obligated himself in his heart and mind never to cease in the perfection of his craft and to practice the Fraternity's tenets, which are brotherly love, relief, and truth. It is then that the light begins to break from the grandeur which lies ahead and toward which the brethren labor. It is doubtful that any one of us ever becomes a Master Mason in the sense that we have perfected our skills. It is in the striving for this attainment that our purpose lies. Let us not delude ourselves; the stakes are high. Upon our moral and spiritual achievement depends the survival of civilization itself.

"No man should dedicate a vital part of his life to Masonry without first asking himself a serious question: DOES MASONRY HAVE WITHIN ITS ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY A SCOPE AND DEPTH SUFFICIENT TO MAKE TRULY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MANKIND? In

our time, Brethren, we need an affirmation that Masonry has a destiny to fulfill. That affirmation must be made by individual Masons, through the lives that they lead in their own communities."

What, really, does Freemasonry offer the world?

Again, MW Wilmarth cited another Masonic scholar, Ill. Bro. Alphonse Cerza, whose paper on *"What Does Freemasonry Offer the World"* was also published in the MSA's **Short Talk Bulletin.** According to MW Wilmarth, Ill. Cerza listed the following concepts coming from Freemasonry which can help the world :

*"**First,** Freemasonry is not a 'mass medium'. It works with and through the individual member. In Freemasonry the individual is all important. We consider the individual member the most important thing in the world. Freemasonry offers to the world today the basic ideal that is being slowly forgotten: that each individual is important and that his personal welfare counts.*

*"**Second,** Freemasonry is among the agencies which offer the world the principle of the Fatherhood of God. In too many places, God is the forgotten element. Many of the prevailing 'isms' cast aside the idea of God as old-fashioned, superstitious, an opiate. Freemasonry has God as its sole foundation stone.*

*"**Third,** Freemasonry also offers the world the principle that follows logically from what has just been said— 'the Brotherhood of Men'. If we have a common Father, are we not all brothers? Today we hear too little about this ideal.*

*"**Fourth,** Freemasonry evolved from the builders' guilds of the Middle Ages, and therefore the word 'work' plays an important part in our philosophy and our ceremonies. Today there seems to be too much desire to get something for nothing.*

*"**Fifth,** Freemasonry offers the world an opportunity for social contacts and the development of friendships. The feeling of 'belonging' is a vital part of every man's being. No one can be an island unto himself. To be happy, we must belong to a family, a community, a country club, or a large number of associations. Freemasonry is the best group for this purpose because of its glorious past, the great men who have been Masons, the lessons it teaches to its members, and the opportunity it affords for service to mankind. The constant bringing together of its members in worthwhile activities helps to promote this feeling of 'belonging'.*

*"**Sixth,** Freemasonry offers the world a philosophy of life. The Masonic degrees are designed to teach each member certain basic moral truths. No man ever became a Mason without becoming a better man. The lessons are taught in a unique manner which makes the principles more effective. Sometimes we are presented with a pertinent question: If the lessons of Freemasonry are so beneficial, why are they taught behind closed doors? The answer lies in the nature of man himself. That which is open to constant view becomes commonplace and attracts no attention. That which is hidden is sought, is searched for, is attractive and creates interest. That is the sole purpose of the secrecy of the ritual: the element of anticipation of what is coming, an air of mystery, the feeling of possible surprise. All put the new member in a receptive*

frame of mind."

What, Most Worshipful Sir, do you think is the future of Masonry?

MW Wilmarth told us to read MW H. Dwight McAlister's address at the golden anniversary of the MSA on February 25, 1969, a part of which is as follows:

"Masonry in Action is a group of men at work, Godly men, seeking to overcome the spirit of Godlessness in the world; for the spirit of Masonry is a Spirit of Godliness. There is a need for this Spirit in the world today when God is being decisioned out of life. Masonry is not a religion, but it is made up of Godly men, men who have professed their faith, their belief in God.

"Masonry in Action is a group of men at work seeking to overcome the spirit of selfishness in the world. The spirit of Masonry is a spirit of friendship and brotherly love. Masonry is an organization in which we are taught, not only our duty to God, but also our duty to our fellowmen.

"When God measures a man, He's not going to put the tape around his wrist or his head but around his heart. When God measures a man, He's not going to measure him by the words he has spoken but by the deeds he has done.

*"As Mason we need to pray the prayer of Francis of Assisi: **Lord, make me the instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in the giving that we receive, it is in the pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in the dying that we are born to eternal life.***

"Masonry in Action is a group of men at work seeking to overcome the spirit of immorality in the world, for the Spirit of Masonry is a spirit of morality and virtue.

"As we follow the teachings of morality and virtue, we are better men and thereby we help to build a better world. It's a known fact that you cannot have a better world without better men.

*"**Your task is to build a better world, God said. But I answered, How? the world is such a large vast place, so complicated now, and I so small and useless am. There's nothing I can do. But God in all His wisdom said, Just build a better you. That's what Masonry is all about."***

In fine, MW Wilmarth said that Masonry is actually many things to many people. He agreed with MW Ruperto S. Demonteverde, our Grand Master in 1973, that many of our brethren take their duties and obligations with Freemasonry for granted, as may be seen from the fact that they seldom, if ever, attend meetings of their lodges, but expect much from the fraternity. He then directed us to read this paragraph written by the late MW Demonteverde:

"What Masonry is going to be worth to you depends wholly upon yourself. You are going to get out of the fraternity just what you put into it. Therefore if you put nothing in, you need not be disappointed if you get nothing out. Very often you will hear men say that Masonry never did them any good. Many of these men

carry dimits in their pockets or may have been suspended for non-payment of dues. The truth is that they went into the fraternity for purely selfish motives. They expected that Masonry would be helpful in business, society or politics and while they never did anything for the institution, they attempted to draw wages which they had not earned, and were disappointed. Merely because a man keeps his dues paid is no reason why he should expect to lay claims to the benefits of the fraternity. To expect that Masonry will be of service to you, you must attend the meetings of your Lodge and contribute your mite to the welfare of fraternity. It is not necessary that you become a ritualist and devote a great deal of time to ritualistic endeavor in order to secure the benefits of the institution. It is only necessary that you show your willingness to be of assistance wherever you can because by so doing you will be putting funds in the Masonic bank subject to your withdrawal when most needed... Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, when asked to name in a single word the whole duty of man, replied, 'Reciprocity'....Therefore, before you seek Masonic benefits, make sure that you have earned them, so that you will not be disappointed."

What final comment can you give us, Most Worshipful Sir?

"We all live in one world and all come from one source, and will one day go to one end. If there is something in this world that can make one man a little better than he was, and in turn he can pass this on to others, then whatever this something is, it must be pretty good! We call this something Masonry."

LADISLAO N. DIWA, 32°: A JEWEL AMONGST MEN AND MASONS

by **Bro. Adolfo D. Ebuen (#82)**

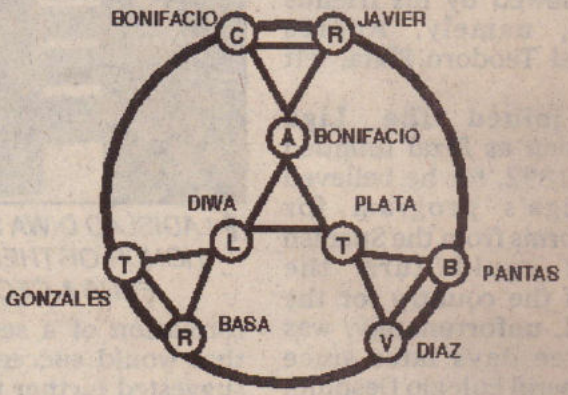
Editor's note: *The author of the article that follows is a grandson of Ladislao Diwa, the man who initiated the founding of the KKK. He is a member of High Twelve Lodge No. 82.*

Ladislao N. Diwa, 32nd-degree Mason and Past Master of Bagong Buhay Lodge No. 17, was more than a faithful husband and a devoted father. He stood steadfast to the principles of his Fraternity, particularly Brotherly Love, which teaches Freemasons to regard the whole human species as one family—the high and the low, the rich and the poor—who, as created by one Almighty Parent and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support and protect one another.

When MW Bro. Manuel L. Quezon, PGM, was President of the Senate, he once stepped down from the rostrum to greet a visitor. He bade the visitor to sit in the most exalted chair. Although he was greatly delighted by the gallant offer, the visitor graciously declined. Then, with all sincerity, President Quezon announced to the

august chamber: *"If it were not for this man, I would have never been President of the Senate!"*

The visitor was none other than Ladislao Diwa, the man who initiated the founding of the Katipunan, which in turn sparked the Philippine Revolution, which, in effect, changed the country's entire social and political structure and made possible the realization of everyone's dream: *a life of peace and freedom.*



PRESENTASYONG GRAPIKO NG UNANG HASIK NG KATIPUN

Ladislao Diwa y Nocon (Masonic name: BAGUIO) was born in San Roque, Cavite on June 27, 1863. He was the third of the children of Mariano Diwa and Cecilia Nocon, natives of San Francisco de Malabon (now Gen. Trias), Cavite.

A young boy of promise, Diwa was recommended by Fr. Perfecto Mañalac for admission as a *capista* to the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila, where he pursued a bachelor' degree and then theological studies toward becoming a priest. But after 14 years of preparing himself for the priesthood, he acceded to his father's request of giving up his ambition to be a priest. So, he enrolled in Law at the University of Santo Tomas. It was, according to many a historian, during his student days at the UST that he befriended Andres Bonifacio. He frequently met the latter at the gate of the University distributing prohibited propaganda materials. They became close friends. In fact, Diwa boarded with Bonifacio and Teodoro Plata, a brother-in-law of Bonifacio at Sagunto Street, where he got acquainted with other Filipino propagandists.

Since, in addition to what he had read, Spanish civil guards called him *mono*, meaning monkey, he learned to hate the Spanish government and officials of his time. During vacations, in return for the support he received from his uncle, Prudencio Diwa, a rich landowner and owner of a pharmacy on Calle San Fernando, Binondo, Manila, for his college education, Ladislao peddled his uncle's pharmaceutical products.

Leaving the pharmacy one day, he encountered a group of Spaniards coming along the narrow San Fernando sidewalk. A proud *indio*, he refused to step aside and give way. Because of the muddy street caused by the recent rains, the Spaniards did not step off the sidewalk. Maddened by Ladislao's apparent lack of courtesy, one of the Spaniards poked his cane into Ladislao's face and wounded him.

The wound left a scar on his lower left cheek, and this he carried with bitter memory to the end of his life.

At a convocation in Santo Tomas University, a Spaniard verbally attacked Filipino women, saying in part, *"The indio cohabits with his mother and sisters and dies without knowing what his real purpose in life is."* That angered Diwa so much that he rose from his seat and, followed by his friends and guests, namely, Andres Bonifacio and Teodoro Plata, left the hall.

Diwa joined the **Liga Filipina** as soon as Rizal founded it on July 3, 1892, for he believed that the Liga's program for obtaining reforms from the Spanish government could turn the conditions of the country for the better. Rizal, unfortunately, was arrested three days later since Governor General Eulogio Despujol could no longer ignore the friars' pressure on him to curtail Rizal's activities.

Diwa averred that he managed to visit Rizal on the day before the latter's arrest on July 6, 1892. During that visit he learned much about Rizal's thoughts and feelings. He urged Rizal to escape, pointing out that Filipinos could find some avenues of escape for him. Rizal, however, refused because he feared that escape would only bring harassment to his family and cause innocent blood to be spilled. At any rate, Diwa felt it his duty to relieve a distressed worthy Brother in his misfortunes, for he was linked with him by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection.

Very worried when he left Rizal, he returned to Tondo that same afternoon and immediately proposed to Bonifacio and Plata the



⇑ *LADISLAO DIWA SHRINE BUILT IN HONOR OF THEIR FATHER BY EDNA & CECILIA DIWA*

formation of a secret association that would succeed the Liga. He suggested further that it should be patterned after the *"Black Mask"* of Italy where members were grouped into threes or triangles, so that not one of the members would know more than three other members of the whole organization.

Bonifacio and Plata bought Diwa's proposal. Hence, that same night on 734 Elcano corner Azcarraga Street, they founded the Katipunan and took as co-founders Deodato Arrelano, Valentin Diaz and Jose Dizon.

Diwa formed the first triangle with Bonifacio and Plata. Then he set up his own adjoining triangle with Roman Basa, who later became president of the organization, and Teodoro Gonzales. Every one of the members was required to teach new applicants their duties toward alleviating the sufferings of their country and their countrymen.

Diwa was committed to the pursuit and defense of Truth. He

also urged his fellow Katipuneros to regulate their lives and actions by the dictates of goodness and truth, so that they would not deal with others, particularly fellow Katipuneros, with hypocrisy and deceit, but rather, with sincerity and fairness.

To effect the desired changes in the country, the Katipuneros, in October 1892 discarded the triangle system and adopted the Masonic procedure of getting in new members.

Diwa, by the way, was *curial de juzgado* or *oficial de mesa* (court employee) in Quiapo. He became treasurer, then fiscal, then counselor of the Supreme Council of the Katipunan.

His transfer to Pampanga as clerk of court in 1893 enabled him to engage in extensive recruitment and propaganda activities extensively in that province, as well as in Bulacan, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija. One of his better-known recruits in Tarlac was Gen.

THE MARKER IN FRONT OF THE SHRINE ⇓



Francisco Makabulos, a Mason like him.

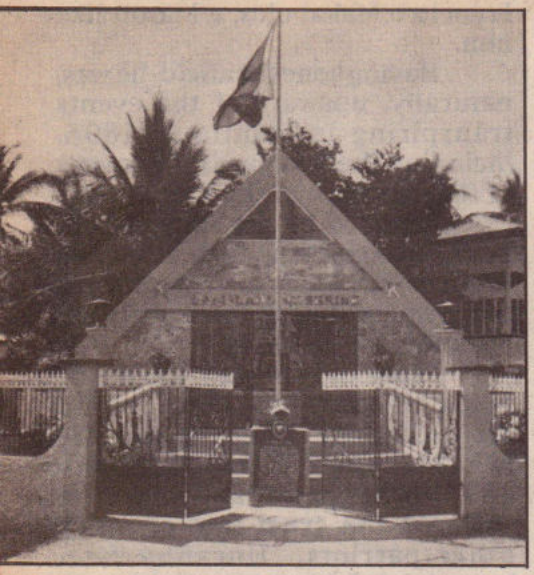
Having gone far afield, he was, naturally, unaware of the events transpiring in Manila in 1896, including the Spaniards' discovery of the existence of the Katipunan.

Arrested by the Spaniards in Betis, Bacolor, Pampanga, Diwa was taken to Fort Santiago, where he was tortured and where, to his surprise, Plata was his cellmate.

From day to day Diwa saw fellow prisoners bound and led out for execution. Then he saw the jailers take away Plata in February 1897 to Bagumbayan, where he suffered the cruel fate of many other patriots. Uncanny fate, however, left him alone in his cell. He was left there to die of thirst and hunger. For four days he suffered thus. But on the fifth day he was led away, not to be shot, but to be set free as a pawn in the exchange of prisoners between the Spaniards and the Filipinos. This was provided for in the Pact of Biak-na-bato.

Back in his home in Cavite, he was told that the Spaniards there were to re-arrest him. Disguised as a fisherman, he walked along the beach and waded at sea up to his nostrils so as to evade capture. Then he reached his fellow Katipuneros eight kilometers away. They took him to General Mariano Trias in San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias) in Cavite.

Free again, he worked for the revolution in Cavite. On May 29, 1898 he was instrumental in effecting the surrender of the Spanish forces under General Leopoldo Garcia y Peña, who had retreated to San Francisco de Malabon when Admiral Dewey's armada defeated the Spanish Navy off Cavite. For his feat, Diwa was promoted to the rank of Colonel.



⇐*THE SHRINE WITH THE LADISLAO DIWA'S HOUSE AS IT STANDS TODAY AT THE BACKGROUND*

When the Philippine Independence was proclaimed, he was elected first civil governor of Cavite, establishing the seat of his government in San Roque, Cavite, where he served as such for eight months.

Diwa returned to San Francisco de Malabon at the start of the second stage of the Revolution in order to serve as secretary to Gen. Mariano Trias, then in charge of operations in Southern Luzon. In August 1899, he re-established his provincial government in the convent of San Francisco de Malabon, but because of the continuous activities of the Americans in the area, his government was captured on October 10.

He re-established his provincial government once more. But the Americans hounded him from place to place until he was compelled to make his last flight from Naic to the highlands of Alfonso, Cavite.

The fleeing revolutionary learned one day from a trader that American troops were already in the next town, Indang, and would attack his new hiding place—a lonely and innocent-looking hut belonging to a farmer-tenant in Alfonso. The Americans, the trader told him, would march late that same day to effect his capture. Diwa, therefore, left his hut and, without informing anyone of what he was going to do, proceeded to the sitio of Palocpoc, Mendez and hid up a tree in the wooded area.

The Americans marched to the hut at the expected hour and encircled the site. A young son of the tenant peeped from the hut and moved out curiously when he saw the Americans. Believing him to be Diwa, the Americans mowed the boy down with rifle fire. They were surprised when they discovered that their "quarry" was but an innocent youth.

Returning to his hut that same night, Diwa learned what had happened. Gripped with remorse that the boy had to die on his account, he wept unashamedly. Then he realized the futility of continuing a run-and-hide battle against a strong force.

Two months later, in March 1901, while still haunted by the memory of the innocent boy's death, Diwa surrendered to the American commander in Indang, who in turn issued him a safe conduct pass to his hometown. Days later, he formally surrendered to the Americans, together with his chief, Gen. Mariano Trias.

The new American-established civil government, in a gesture of goodwill, offered him the position of clerk of court in the First

Instance of Cavite. He accepted it with a salary of P2,000 a year, which was later increased to P3,200.

Ladislao Diwa, thereafter, chose the life of a model, honest, peaceful and law-abiding citizen. He aided in the establishment of Ligaya College, a private college, in Cavite City, and was one of its professors. He acquired several tracts of land in Tagaytay and Mendez, which he planted to coconut and abaca.

He was married twice. His first wife was Delisa Dandan of Parañaque, by whom he had three children, two of whom survived: Mariano and Guadalupe. His second wife was Honorata Crescini by whom he had five children: Edna, Heraclito, Cecilia, Betis, and Alicia.

"Baguio" was a charter member of Bagong Buhay Lodge No. 17 and became its Worshipful Master in 1918. Then he became a 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Mason.

In his later years, WB Ladislao Diwa continued to help his country by giving assistance to the poor and needy around him. He apportioned his land in Alfonso, Cavite, near the boundary of Tagaytay, to comrades-in-arm. He did all this, not for aggrandizement, but rather, for God's greater glory. A victim of nephritis, he died on March 12, 1930.

There is no doubt that when his trembling soul stood alone and naked before the Great White Throne, there to receive judgment for the deeds done while in the body, it was WB Ladislao Diwa's portion to hear from the Judge Supreme the welcome words: **"WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD!"**

In his honor, the Caridad Elementary School in Cavite was renamed Ladislao Diwa Elementary School in November of 1964.

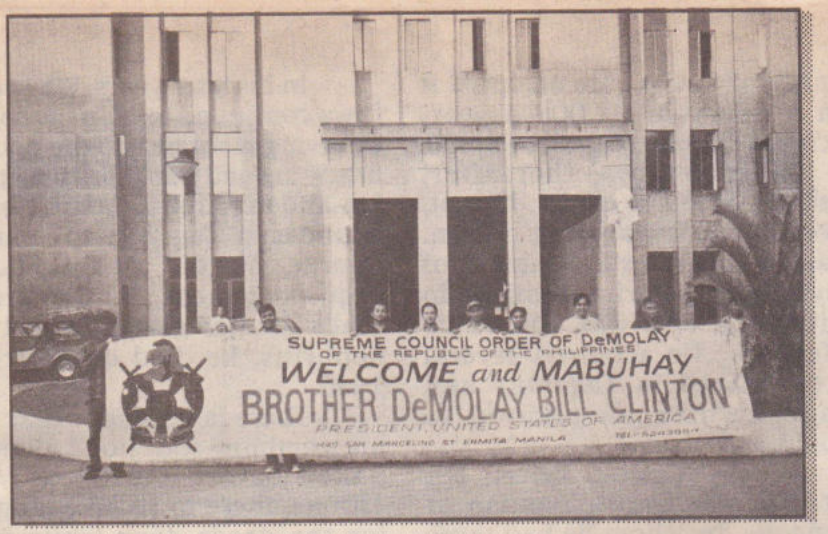
THE ART OF FINDING OR MAKING TIME

by **eF.R.eN**

Our Grand Lodge has been regularly receiving issues of the MASONIC LIGHT, official publication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina. In the November 1996 edition of the publication, MW Robert V. Pinkston, Grand Master, cites the following question raised in one of the works of Voltaire:

"What, of all things in the world, is the longest and the shortest, the swiftest and the slowest, the most divisible and the most extended, the most neglected and most regretted, without which nothing can be done, which devours all that is little, and enlivens all that is great?"

The answer, obviously, is TIME! For nothing is longer than time, which is the measure of eternity; nothing shorter, for it is insufficient for someone to



accomplish a project; nothing slower to someone who is expecting, and nothing faster to one who is enjoying. In greatness, time extends to infinity; in smallness, it is infinitely divisible. All men neglect time, regret the loss of it, and cannot do anything without it. Time consigns to oblivion whatever is unworthy of being transmitted to posterity; it immortalizes such actions as truly great. Time, in effect, is man's precious asset. The elapsed time is one of several things that don't come back, others being the sped arrow, the spoken word, and the neglected opportunity.

A true Mason, therefore, endeavors to make efficient use of the 24-inch gauge. He finds time to attend Lodge, to contribute to the improvement of it, and to join with his fellows in joyful fellowship as well as in carrying out extra-Lodge projects, such as family outings and community service.

The Assistant Grand Secretary, together with the Cabletow editorial staff and the Grand Lodge staff, likewise, find time to attend to visiting brethren from the provinces and from overseas; for, after all, these brethren extend the visiting Grand Lodge officers regal welcome, accommodation, and hospitality.

When, for instance, VW Warren A. Williams, DDGM, Grand Lodge of Vermont, paid our Grand Lodge a visit, we took time with him, gifting him with several copies of *The*



⇒ *Pres. Clinton is ushered by aides and security men towards the waiting party of DeMolay representatives.*

Cabletow, including the March-April 1993 edition featuring the Solidaridad Lectures, and two recent editions of the *Annual Proceedings*.

The appreciative DDGM from Vermont took opportune time to write us, informing us that he had found time to peruse the articles in *The Cabletow* as well as the *Proceedings*. He said he found the articles of the Philippine patriot-Masons to be excellent, that he believed they could be used for Masonic education and "Masonic moments" in meetings or Lodges of Instruction, and that he would enjoy keeping up with Philippine Masonry.



⇑The gracious and warm American leader engages Mrs. Esperanza S. Herrera, President of the Federation of Mothers' Clubs of the Philippines for DeMolay, in a pleasant exchange of information.

Likewise, one of the busiest men on this planet, US President William Jefferson Clinton, found time—more accurately, ordered his aides to make time for him to meet, even for several minutes, with a handful of his "brods" in DeMolay.

By now our readers must know that Deputy Chief of Mission G. Eugene Martin had informed DeMolay Grand Master Rosendo C. Herrera that Pres. Clinton would have no time to receive the Grand Master's Maltese Cross Award to be conferred on him *"in recognition for your being a great source of inspiration for the youth of the world, particularly the youth of DeMolay, and for being a best example of leadership."* Thus informed, MW Herrera took advantage of the APEC-related hiatus to take his family for a brief vacation in Baguio. But, hope springing eternal in his human breast, he cut short the vacation and returned to Manila.

His uncanny feeling came true; for on his way to the APEC Summit, President Clinton did not miss the streamer put up strategically by never-say-die DeMolays—specially: Alfonso A. Adan, Jr., Marcel A. Cruz, Ivan R. Galarosa, Ian Mark C. Tortugo, Manuel Veracruz, Jr., and Rodil A. Baldonado—all of Thomas Michael Sherry Priory; Federick Murillo, Archie Reyes, Michael Domingo, Aldin Tan Lu, Carlos delos Santos, Jr., Robert Murillo, and Alvin Cristobal of Jose Abad Santos Chapter; Sherwin Ramos of Mt. Makiling Chapter; Sha-halid-din Otto and Sha-hariyad Otto of Dionisio Gutierrez Chapter; and Jose A. I. Magbanua of James J. Wilson Chapter, overall supervisor of the streamer group and Asst. Grand Secretary, Supreme Council Order of DeMolay Philippines. VW Emil Langomez also found time to oversee the putting up of the

streamer. Hence, the US President instructed his aides thus: *"If there is no time, then make time for me to meet the DeMolays."*

Therefore, early afternoon, Nov. 25, Bro. Bob Robbins, Chair in the Philippines of Democrats overseas and a friend of Pres. Clinton, got a call from the US President's camp. He in turn called up Senior DeMolay Albert Tan, who called up the Herrera residence.

MW Rody Herrera, together with son "Tonton" and wife Ching, armed with APEC passes provided by MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, Grand Master, rushed to the DeMolay Office on San Marcelino St., Malate. But they found the door of the office locked. Hence, MW Herrera ordered the locks broken so as to retrieve the Grand Master's Maltese Cross Award and other souvenirs to give to Pres. Clinton. Then the group sped to the Manila Hotel.

Upon reaching Manila Hotel, they were informed by Presidential Liaison Officer Emy Stewart that they would meet Pres. Clinton at the Quirino Grandstand.

At about 5:00 p.m., four huge helicopters landed at the Luneta, followed seconds later by a fifth one, with Pres. Clinton on board. Wearing his special barong, the re-elected American President walked straight to the DeMolay group, shook hands with fellow DeMolay "Tonton" Herrera, talked with Senior DeMolay Albert Tan, and exchanged pleasantries with MW Rody and Sis Ching Herrera. Bro. Bob Robbins watched the proceedings with keen interest.

"President Clinton is a warm-hearted person who likes to chat intimately with people as he holds on firmly to your hand," MW Herrera told us later. *"After presenting to him the Grand Master's Maltese Cross Award, along with a medal and lapel pins of DeMolay Philippines, he intently read the citation and appeared very pleased. He obligingly autographed a copy of the letter I had sent him. After a few minutes of pleasant banter, I thanked him and he saluted to me, and I saluted back. He and his aides then took a limousine to the US Embassy nearby."*

For finding time to meet with the tiny DeMolay delegation at the Quirino Grandstand on that memorable November 25 afternoon,



Chatting with his "Dad", Noble Dodong Resos, must have reminded DeMolay Hall of Famer Bill Clinton of the Master Masons who found time to be with him and other DeMolays in the local Chapter in Arkansas many years ago. ⇒

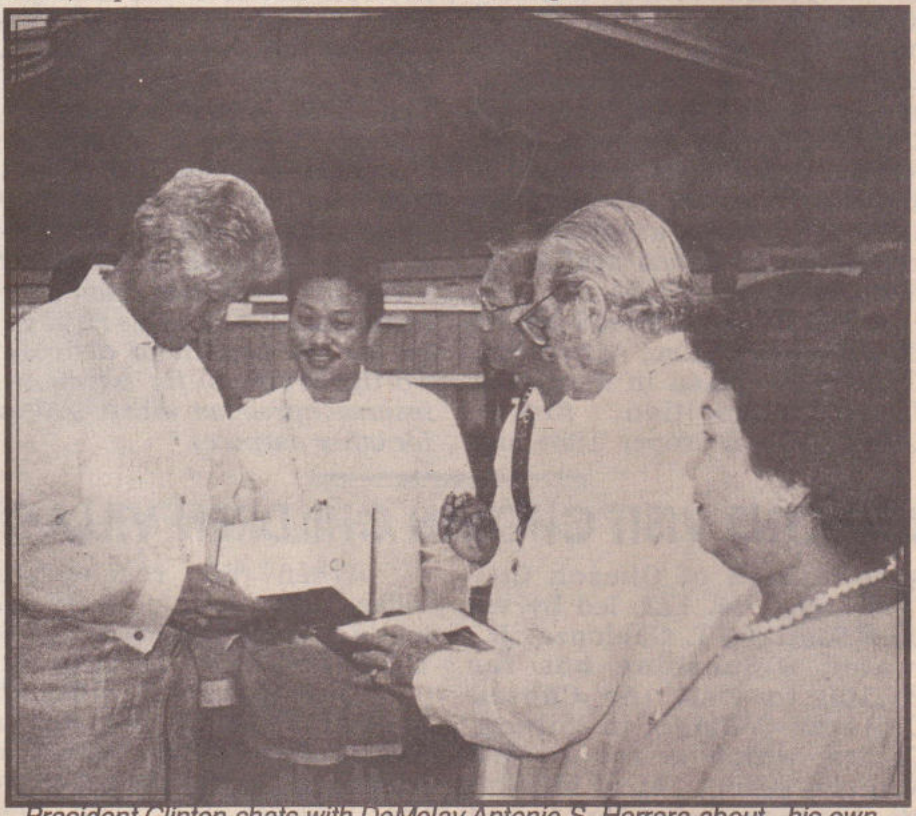
Pres. Clinton became the 11th to receive the Grand Master's Maltese Cross—a personal recognition by the Grand Master of those whom he desires to honor for their personal, consistent, and conspicuous loyalty and outstanding, exceptional service to the Supreme Council and in making the Order of DeMolay the greatest youth movement of its kind the world.

The other Grand Master's Maltese Cross Awardees are MW Desiderio Dalisay, PGM; VW Rene C. Damian, PDDGM; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM and Treasurer, GLP; MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM and Chairman, Board for General Purposes, GLP; WB Van Cornelius D. Luspo; Hon. Macario R. Ramos, Sr., PGM; Ill. Alberto C. Reyes, Secretary General, Supreme Council, A& ASR; Hon. Roberto C. Reyes, PGM; WB Modesto G. Rico and Sis. Esperanza S. Herrera.

These awardees have one thing in common: the efficient use of the 24-inch gauge or finding time, better still, making time, for Freemasonry in general and for DeMolay in particular.

Only few know that DeMolay Hall of Famer Bill Clinton also found time to share a few light moments with his "Dad", PNP Chief Supt. Dominador Resos, Jr., at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Bldg. during the APEC affair.

Elated by his historic meeting with the DeMolay Hall of Famer, MW Rody Herrera has found time to make preparations for the publication of a book on DeMolay Philippines. We look forward to making a review of that book.



President Clinton chats with DeMolay Antonio S. Herrera about his own youthful days as a DeMolay in Arkansas.

AROUND THE LODGES, DISTRICTS

LABONG SPONSORS LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION, FUND RAISING

Labong Lodge No. 59 sponsored a well-attended cardio-pulmonary resuscitation lecture-demonstration featuring Michael Sidayan, NCR champion in the recent First Aid Competition spearheaded by the Philippine Red Cross.

Seamen from Sea World Maritime Corporation, members of the Pasay Dental Society, dentistry students belonging to the Omega Delta Phi-Omega Delta Rho Confraternity of the University of the East, members of the Innerwheel Club of Caloocan, students of St. Stephen High School, personnel of the Grand Lodge, and brethren from different Lodges attended the lecture-demonstration held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple.

Mr. Sidayan covered topics like Emergency Scene Assessment, Steps to Be Taken in Analyzing Victim's Condition, Airway Clearance, and Proper Time and Application of CPR Technique.

The Lodge, meanwhile, has started a fund-raising campaign for the construction of a pair of Masonic columns in place of the broken lamp post at the San Marcelino entrance of our Plaridel Masonic Temple. The columns, which will be made of pre-cast concrete with steel reinforcement inside and painted bronze, will cost approximately P30,000. Brethren who have given their donations to the project include WB Salvador Diaz, WB Manuel Rodrigo Perez, WB Benito K. Tan, Bro. Zosimo Uy, and WB Antonio DF Joson, Jr.

Said WB Ben Tan: *"Should there be any leftover from the project, the amount will be set aside as Charity Fund, to be managed by a Charity Committee composed of three Past Masters. This Fund shall be for the benefit of distressed worthy Brothers, for payment of insurance premium with AMASI, and for other purposes."*

MASONS VISIT CHOSEN CHILDREN VILLAGE

Brethren of Quezon City Lodge No. 122, led by WB Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., rented a Sunshine bus for P5,500 to visit the Chosen Children Village in Silang, Cavite, which is run by WB Ron Fullerton, PM of Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1, and his wife

When they reached the Village, there awaiting them were brethren from Tagaytay Lodge No. 165, headed by VW Ver Sarmiento.

Given a tour of the Village, the brethren and their families were touched by what they saw. They felt compassion for the children of the Village who have been abandoned by or no longer have

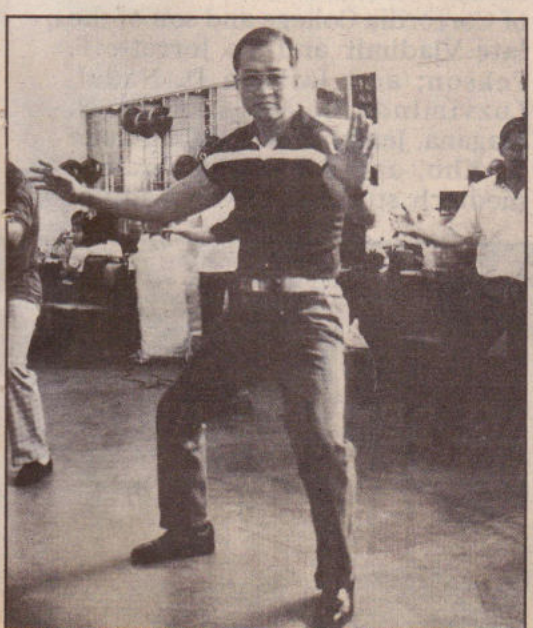
their biological parents. The Masons' own children played with the unfortunate *"Villagers,"* and some of the Masons' wives decided to adopt several of the *"Villagers."* That means a Mason's wife will shell out at least P2,400 a year to provide for the care of the adopted child. Quezon City 122, as was proposed by WB Santiago Gabionza, Jr., should adopt at least one child.

A fellowship luncheon took place at the Picnic Groove. Although the brethren of Quezon City Lodge No. 122 had their own *"balot,"* their counterparts from Tagaytay 165 treated them to variegated foods like lechon (courtesy of birthday celebrator Peping Lacuesta), thalami, tangoing, shrimps, and what have you. Naturally, the Masonic families based in Quezon City were profuse with gratitude to VW Ver and Sis Fely Sarmiento and the brethren of Tagaytay.

WB Gabionza gave credit to the brethren of his Lodge for the success of the trip, but particularly to WB James Donadilla, Charity and Relief Committee Chair. The Lodge, he said, will undertake similar projects in the coming years.

MENCIUS HONORS TAI CHI GRADUATES

Mencius Lodge No. 93 conducted graduation rites for the following brethren who finished successfully their lessons in Tai Chi: VW Benito Ang, VW Florencio Sy (Bagumbayan), WB Mariano Cleto, WB Antonio Tan Chiong, Bro. Andres Co Sy, WB Antonio Juco (Biak-na-Bato), RW Doming Chua, Bro. Eddie Chua (Biak-na-Bato), WB Roman Cariaga (Nilad), WI Jesus Remonte (St. John-Corregidor), WB Johnny Flaviano (St. John-Corregidor), and WB Ed Ramos.



Each of these brethren was given a printed gray t-shirt by Bro, Mike Lim Chee We, organizer and instructor of the tai chi class sponsored by the Lodge.

Present during the graduation ceremony was Mr. Chen Guo Rong, president of the China Wushu Association and member of the China National Sports Commission, who led a team of wushu enthusiasts from China who competed in the 4th Asian Wushu Championship held recently at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The graduates and guests were treated to a dinner at East Lake Food House, M. Adriatico, Malate, Manila.

⇐ *Tai Chi expert WB William Ong, president of the Chinese Tai Chi Chuan Association, shows his best form in Chinese martial art.*



⇐ ***The Tai Chi Enthusiasts.*** *Seated, from left: VW Doming Chua, Tai Chi Expert Bro. Michael Lim Chee We, Tai Chi Master Chen Guo Rong, WM Ed Ramos, and WB Johnny Flaviano. Standing, from left: WB Mariano Cleto, WI Jesus Remonte, VW Benito Ang, Bro. Eddie Chua, Bro. Andres Co Sy, and WB Antonio Juco.*

BICOL MASONS SPONSOR FOUR-IN-ONE "PAGLINGAP" AFFAIR

Camarines Norte 107, Daet 247, and the Bicol Bodies, A&ASR, jointly sponsored, for the 7th consecutive year, a four-in-one *"paglingap"* affair, this time in celebration of the first centennial anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal.

The brethren and their families offered fresh flowers at the first Rizal monument ever erected in the country and afterwards had a fraternal breakfast-conference.

The medical-dental "missionaries" went to work: Dr. Santiago Gaylord C. Ferrer IV, son of VW Santiago F. Ferrer, Jr.; Dr. Arlene Angeles-Intia, wife of Asst. Provincial Prosecutor and Bro. Leon L. Intia, Junior Warden of Daet 247; Iana Cristina and Donna Jessica P. Salma, registered nurses and daughters of the late Bro. Reynaldo F. and Sis Luz P. Salma; Enrique Armin F. Pekson II, student nurse of Corcordia College and son of the late Vladimir and Sis Jorrette F. Pekson; and Jashion D. Nadal, Luzviminda C. Asis, Lorelie N. Magana, Jennyfer Aceron, Jannette D. Kho, and Alexander Azana--medtech students of Our Lady of



AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS. *(L. to R): Bro. Leo L. Intia, JW (247); Bro. Juan Bailey, Jr.; VW Jose T. Seeping, Jr., DGL; DDGM Santiago M. Turingan; WB Aurelio R. Aguilar, WM (247); VW Santiago P. Ferrer, Jr., DGL; and Bro. Tito C. Collada, Jr., SW (247) pose with the wheelborrows and spades to be awarded to Bgy. VIII and Bgy. Bagasbas, Daet.* ⇒

Lourdes College Foundation.

Approximately 100 indigents were provided with free consultations and free medicines donated by brethren from Manila, medicines taken from the Family Drug owned by WB Tomas L. Ong, chargeable against the P1,000 donated by Bro. Jovito Y. Deauna for the purpose, and medicines (as well as medical supplies) solicited by WB Aurelio R. Aguilar, Master of Daet 247, from Grand Chaplain Oscar Bunyi.

In the afternoon VW Santiago M. Turingan, DDGM and overall coordinator of the project, who is himself a Regional State Prosecutor, lectured on the Witness Protection Program of the Justice Department.

Next Joselito "Jojo" Montemayor, who is gifted with extraordinary set of teeth, demonstrated his skill in removing husk with the use of his teeth.

The Bicol Masons donated wheelborrows and spades to Barangay VIII and Barangay Bagasbas in Daet, and they gave out more than 100 packages to indigents.--**VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PDGL**

CAMARINES NORTE FREEMASONS INITIATE CELEBRATION OF GEN. VICENTE R. LUKBAN'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Bro. Amable C. Ables, after accepting his election as WM of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, announced that he wanted February 11, 1997, the 137th birth anniversary of the late Gen. Vicente Lukban, revolutionary hero and Mason, to be celebrated with an appropriate ceremony.

VW Santiago M. Turingan, DDGM for Masonic District No. 12, endorsed the move. Said he: *"Gen. Vicente R. Lukban was forerunner of Freemasonry in the former Ambos Camarines and a Past Master of Kalilayan Lodge in Lucena, Quezon (formerly Tayabas) under the* ***Gran Consejo Regional****, which was, in turn, under the jurisdiction of the* ***Gran Oriente Español.****"*

Thus last Feb. 11 the Camarines Norte Freemasons and their ladies offered fresh flowers at the foot of the monument of the late Gen. & WB Vicente R. Lukban in the municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte.



⇑ Monument of WB Gen. Vicente R. Lukban erected in front of the municipal hall, Labo, Camarines Norte.

The mayor of the town, Hon..

Elpidio Tenorio, in his welcome address, said in part:

"I am a bit surprised that for the first time Freemasons of Camarines Norte are honoring the revolutionary hero incognito and their Brother in the Masonic fraternity with a floral offering and a short program."

The program was attended not only by municipal employees but also by citizens of the municipality.

Speaking in Filipino, Hon. Tenorio welcomed the move to celebrate yearly the birth anniversary of the hero and martyr, a native of his town, whose exploits in the 1896 Philippine revolution were heretofore unknown to his *kababayan*. He stressed: *"I will try my best to persuade the Sanguniang Bayan to adopt a resolution declaring February 11 of every year as a special public holiday to give the people of Labo the opportunity to honor Gen. Vicente R. Lukban."*

WB Eduardo S. Freyra, himself a member of the Sanguniang Panlalawigan, enumerated in detail the achievements of Gen. Lukban—as *juez de paz*, as *consejal municipal*, as governor of Tayabas, as trader and farmer, as a revolutionary leader.

"The exploits of Gen. & WB Vicente R. Lukban," he emphatically said, *"transcended those of his contemporaries in the Bicol Region, such as Bro. Jose Maria Panganiban and Gen. Simeon Ola, both heroes and patriots."*

WB Freyra also welcomed the plan to declare February 11 every year as a public holiday in the municipality of Labo, if not in the province of Camarines Norte.

Dr. Vicente Lukban, grandson and namesake of the revolutionary general, thanked the Freemasons of Camarines Norte and others for helping observe the 137th birth anniversaryof his grandfather; Hon. Tenorio for his inspiring message, specifically his promise to persuade the municipal council to declare Feb. 11 as a public holiday in Labo; and the citizens and officials of Labo for maintaining the monument of his late grandfather.

Besides WM-elect Ables and WB Freyra, the Freemasons present during the occasion were VW Ong Peng Lee, VW Jose Dy Ching, VW Felipe M. Jardinel, WB Godofredo O. Salagoste, WB Ernesto C. Chicombing, Bro. Fernando E. Peteza, Bro. Gaudioso F. Salvador, Bro. Regis C. Barra, and this writer.

—VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PDGL



***(L-R, front row):** WB Antonio T. Aberca, Jr., WM (107); Bro. Fernando L. Rabo, Venerable Master, Bicol Bodies, A. & A.S.R.; and WB Aurelio R. Aguilar, WM (247). **(L-R, 2nd row):** VW Ernesto C. Tabanao, Sis. Mely Aberca (partly hidden), Sis. Claudia V. Mabalot, and VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr. (L-R 3rd row): VW Felipe M. Jardinel, VW Mac Cheang Ga, Sis. Trinidad E. Peteza, Sis. Erlinda C. Turingan, and WB Eduardo S. Freyra. **(L-R, back row):** VW Santiago P. Ferrer, Jr., Bro. Regis C. Ibarra, VW Jose P. Tabios, Sr. (partly hidden), VW Jose T. Seeping, Jr.; VW Jose D. Ching, DDGM Santiago M. Turingan; WB Arthur Z. Elizes, Bro. Amamble C. Ables & Bro. Mauro O. Mangubat. (At back with eye glasses): Bro. Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr.*

MANILA-MT. LEBANON HOSTS 1ST SQUARE & COMPASS GOLF CLASSIC

Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1 hosted the 1st Square and Compass Golf Classic at the Villamor Golf Club last Jan. 21.

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, Grand Master, and MW Rody C. Herrera, PGM and Grand Treasurer, did the ceremonial tee-off.

The photos below reveal a couple of the features of the classic.



From left to right: VW Ernie Uy, VW Al Dualan, WB Eugenio C. Pua, JW Joel Felix Bernardo, VW Ver Castulo, MW JPL Adiong, MW Rody Herrera, VW Robert Pe Liao, and SW William Pe Liao.



‹ *VW Al Dualan, DDGM of M.D. #1, awards trophy and golf bag to VW Roy Chu.*

NOLI 148, PUPFAEAI GIVE CHILDREN CHEERS

The officers and members of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148 and those of the PUP Faculty and Administrative Employees Association, Inc. (PUPFAEAI) felt an inner flow of accomplishment when they and their families gave cheers to children of indigent families in the vicinity of the Grand Lodge premises. Not only did they give gifts to the children, but their own children played with their less fortunate counterparts.

Noli Me Tangere 148 not only is growing in number and in strength, but it has also succeeded in building up rapport and strong ties among the families of its officers and members. The Nolitarian Family is, indeed, getting bigger, more vigorous, more united! One of the programs of Noli is *Hatid-Sundo*. A Brother fetches a senior (i.e., elderly) Mason at his residence, drives him to Lodge, and after the fellowship takes him safely home. VW Marcelino Dy, Bro. Epigemio Magsambol, WB Francisco de los Santos, Sr., WB Ruben Reyes, and WB Ramon S. Lagbao, WB Generoso R. Cortez, are, indeed, happy to be back at Lodge because of the Lodge's *Hatid-Sundo* program.--**VW Rene C. Damian, PDDGM**



⇐
WB Bacho, SW E. Turla and VW Rene Damian distribute packages.



Noli brethren with families
⇒

Bro. Rizal, the Martyr, in Apron

Officers and members of Mendez-Nuñez Lodge U.D. actively participated in the activities held in Mendez, Cavite in celebration of the first centennial of the martyrdom of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal. At the town plaza, for instance, they offered fresh flowers at the monument of the martyred hero. To accentuate their pride that the martyred hero was their Fraternity Brother, they put an apron on his statue.



⇑ ***Kneeling*** *(l-r): Fernando Aure, Virgilio Perido, Ignacio Toledo (Sec.), Roxy Sarmiento.* ***Standing*** *(l-r): Edwin Moskito, Reynaldo Aure, Amelio Monzon, Manuel Madrazo, Rolly Sarmiento (WM), Angel Abelida (JW), Tomas Torneros, Jr., Primo Gatpandan and Ernie Madrazo.*

SAN PEDRO 292 HOLDS FELLOWSHIP GOLF TOURNEY, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

San Pedro Lodge No. 292 has been supporting the Sto. Rosario Parish Children's House for the last four years. This is a pre-school for streetchildren and offsprings of squatter-families living along the railroad tracks.

In the current school year (1996-97), there are 86 enrollees in the House—all coming from depressed areas around the Pacita Complex.



⇐ VW Totoy Manarin, PDGL, tees off at the opening of 2nd Annual Fellowship Golf Tournament.

This year's sporting event was chaired by Bro. Rolly Nuñez and ably managed by VW Serafin "Totoy" Manarin, PDGL.

The winners of the four categories are as follows:

Class "D": Mr. Villanueva, *2nd runner-up;* Mr. Bastose, *1st runner-up;* Avelino Sumague, *champion.*

Class "C": F. Buendia, *2nd runner-up;* Mr. Lim, *1st runner-up;* Dong Go, *champion.*

Class "B": Mr. Chavez, *2nd runner-up;* Rene Vaguit, *1st runner-up;* Rurik Santos, *champion.*

Class "A": J. Kojimoto, *2nd runner-up;* Mr. Ito, *1st runner-up;* Richie Bunquin, *champion.*

Overall champions were Art Ampaya (for low net) and Dong Bobis (for low gross). And to beginner G. Sanchez was given a special award for "the most number

Every year, for the last four years, the Lodge sends to the Pacita Central School the first ten best graduates of the House as scholars. The scholarship takes the form of tuition and other fees, books, notebooks, school uniforms, and other school supplies for the entire year, plus, occasionally, raincoats and umbrellas and t-shirts for their daily use.

This year, the Lodge is supporting 36 scholars because four of its scholars dropped out due to their parents' preference for them to either work at home or engage in vending flowers.

Two years ago the Lodge started a fund-generating fellowship golf tournament to augment its capability to support the scholarship program for the streetchildren. Not only brethren from the district, but also other interested brethren and some friends of Masons joined the tournament.

WB Tony Montenegro, incumbent Master, in ceremonial tee-off to officially open the tournament ⇒



of strokes" and for being a good sport.

Last March 2 the Lodge held very impressive public installation ceremonies at the Jardin de San Pedro Restaurant.

The ceremonies commenced with offering of flowers at the monument of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal. This was led by RW Enrique L. Locsin, JGW, guest of honor and speaker, and party; VW Cesar Dizon, DDGM, and district officers; WBs Lorenzo Diaz and Antonio Montenegro, outgoing and incoming Masters, respectively; and Bro. Celedonio Tayao, Vice Mayor.

From the town plaza the guests and the brethren walked in procession to the venue of the installation some 150 meters away.

Present as special guests were Gen. & VW Artemio Tadiar (AFP Ret.) and Hon. Calixto Cataquiz, municipal mayor. VW Raul Laman, PDDGM, and VW Mario Buenaventura, PGP, were installing officer and master of ceremonies, respectively.

Led by Sis Alice Diaz and Sis Fe Montenegro, the wives of the brethren of the Lodge composed the reception committee. The children of Masons were also at hand to assist in the affair.



WB Tony Montenegro presents special award to Mr. C. Sanchez. Looking on are VW Totoy Manarin and SW Ric Buendia. ⇒



Bro. & Vice Mayor Boy Tayao welcomes participants in the golf tournament. ⇐

MASONIC EDUCATION SEMINAR-WORKSHOP IN DISTRICT 45

VW Angel T. Bacoling, Jr., DDGM, spearheaded the conduct of a districtwide Masonic Education seminar-workshop held at the NIA Training Center in Echague, Isabela on Jan. 18, 1997. He was assisted by VW Dionicio C. Panajon, DGL, Chair of the Masonic Education Committee.

Attended by 120 brethren from different Lodges in the District, the programme started with lectures by VW Leonardo P. Chua, JGL for Northern Luzon, and VW Panajon on Edicts and Circulars and other related matters in the Masonic Law Book.

After a short break, VW Bacoling and WI Antonio C. Catembong, Jr. expounded on how to plan Lodge and District activities for the ensuing Masonic year. Next VW Dante E. Simon, PDGL, talked on financial management and membership growth and development.

After lunch, WB Gilbert Pagulayan discussed public awareness and community development, and VW Conrado U. Gabriel, Jr., DGL, clarified Masonic demeanor and proper decorum. VW Panajon and VW Chua, once more, elucidated on funeral rites and installation ceremonies, respectively.

The exemplification of the opening and closing ceremonies, the reception of dignitaries (private and public), and the reception of the flag by a team of incumbent and past district officers "left the brethren in awe and admiration." And know what? They even exemplified how to sing the Grand Lodge Hymn!

In fine, the DDGM challenged the brethren to apply the Masonic tenets in all their endeavors outside of the lodge room.—**R.C.P. Blanco**

DISTRICT 45 HOLDS MEDICAL MISSION

Masonic District No. 45 successfully conducted its first medical mission, aptly dubbed OPERATION THYROID AND HARELIP, at the Isabela Doctors General Hospital in Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela and at the Integrated Provincial Health Hospital on Feb. 13-16, 1997.

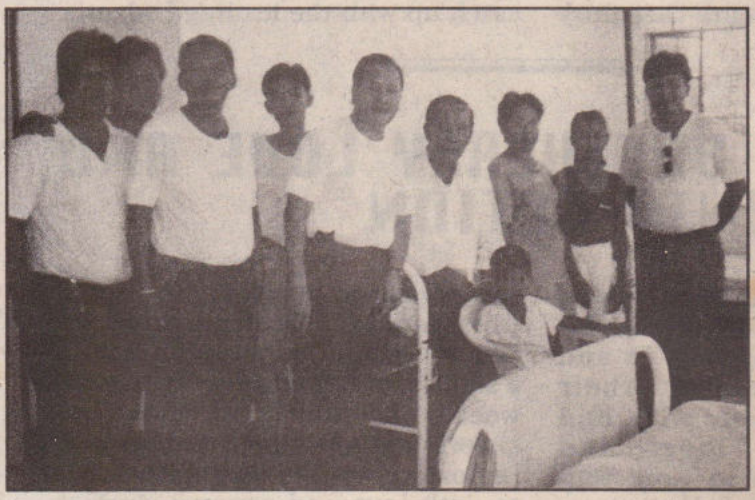
The indigent patients recommended by the different Lodges in the District were screened in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Committee on Health composed of VW Conrado U. Gabriel, Jr., M.D. and DGL, chairman; VW Dionicio C. Panajon, DGL, member; and VW Clemente S. Salvador, Jr., DGL, member. Of the patients screened, 13 were recommended for operation. Of the 13, 10 were operated on for chielo plasty or harelip repair, six for thyroid, one for breast mass, one for hernia, three for palatal prostheosis, and two for cataract.

The surgical teams were composed of Dr. Augusto S. Mina, OIC-PHO of Isabela; Bro. Roberto Z. Ochoa; Bro. Francisco Ricafort; Bro. Filemon S. Donato, Jr.; Bro. J. Alex

Castillo; Bro. Antonio C. Catembong, Jr.; Bro. Leonides Melendres; Sis Estrellita L. Gabriel; Dr. Jarvis Ramos; Dr. Fulton L. Ambatali; Dr. Estenely Chy; Dr. Glenn Matthew Baggao; and Dr. Nona Baggao.

Elated by the success of his pet project, VW Angel T. Bacoling, Jr., DDGM, expressed his gratitude to the Brethren of his district for their unwavering support for the project. He added that, by such projects, we could raise the people's awareness of what Masonry is and what we Masons are committed to do.

—**D.C. Panajon**



⇐ VW Angel T. Bacoling, Jr., DDGM, poses with one of the patients and brethren.

MASONIC DISTRICT 24 ACTIVITIES

The Grand Master, MW JPL Adiong, commended in a letter the committee chaired by VW Iluminado Nirza for getting articles on Freemasonry published in the two major daily newspapers of Cebu, *Sun Star* and *Freeman*. Such articles as "The Principal Tenets of Freemasonry" by JGL Samuel Morgia and "What Is Freemasonry?" by DGL Nirza are for the information of the general public.

Commended, too, was the DDGM, VW Bobbie Trabajo II, for putting into action his plan to make the Lights of the Lodges in the District more proficient.

The District requested that the editorial staff send copies of **The Cabletow** in bulk to the respective Lodge Secretaries for distribution to the brethren. **(If all districts would have a similar request, we would be saving the money used for mailing copies of our official publication to individual brethren. It is best that we institutionalize this practice.)**

There may soon be established a Lodge in the island province of Siquijor. There are already some ten prospective knockers, and WB Suceso Arcamo, Past Master of Dagohoy Lodge No. 84 in Tagbilaran City, offered his sala as temporary meeting place of the future Lodge. WB Arcamo was recently promoted from Asst. City Fiscal of Tagbilaran City to RTC Judge of Siquijor Province.

The Cebu Square and Compass Foundation has already planted

almost 30,000 mahogany and gemelina trees at a mountain area of Cebu City, at the back of Cebu Plaza Hotel. Bro. David Odilao is the president of the Foundation.

Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 in Dumaguete City and Dagohoy Lodge No. 84 in Tagbilaran City garnered very satisfactory rating in Lodge management. We are sure that Maktan Lodge No. 30, Cebu Lodge No. 128, and Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252 will exert effort to catch up with the leading Lodges.

PUTTING BROTHERLY LOVE AND RELIEF INTO ACTION

The officers and members of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, year in and year out, remember their departed brethren, who had led lives of love and compassion, faith in God, and generosity to fellowmen. This year, as they remembered their deceased brethren, VW Jaime L. Nabua urged the brethren: *"Let us pause for a moment to say a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of our departed brethren who have shown us how to live the Christian life. During their lifetime they touched so many lives.... Masonry has taught us that our fraternal bond with them cannot be severed by death, but rather, continue beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity. Let us, therefore, show our love and concern for the families they have left behind...."*

Our ALSM brethren also turned their attention to the elderly during the Senior Citizens Week. WB Roy V. Serrano, M.D., participated in the free medical clinic, dubbed *"Pasyal ni Lolo at Lola sa City Health Clinic,"* which was organized by VW Pedro Lopez, president of the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations. What a sight to behold during the whole week: our elderly brothers and sisters feeling happy, proud and important as they were attended to with love and concern during the clinic!

Our ALSM brethren have also taken turns in visiting brethren confined to their hospital beds mostly due to cardiac ailments.

Moreover, they have visited senior Masons of the Lodge, bringing cheers and gifts to the latter.

They also attended in full force the tri-discon in Laoag City to further cement fraternal ties with their brethren in other districts of Northern Luzon.

But, of course, they want to cement further their relationship among themselves and their families and with the brethren and families of other Lodges in their own district. That is why they have set aside one day in the year as family day. They invite widows and orphans of their departed brethren as *"special honorees"* during the whole-day affair.

BATONG BUHAY SUPPORTS ASSEMBLY NO. 17, IORG

Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 donated a low four-figure sum of money specifically to help Palma Assembly No. 17, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, defray the expenses to be incurred by delegates to the IORG Grand Assembly Session in Tagbilaran City.

In compliance with Edict No. 173, the Lodge has recommended that the following be granted amnesty so as to qualify them for Life Membership: WBs Carlito D. Blanco, Lauro F. Garcia, Jr., and Benjamin C. MacMurray, Jr. It also has recommended the grant of amnesty to the following: VW Tito F. Garcia, WB Jovencio M. Ramirez, Bro. Generoso A. Asuncion, and Bro. Ernesto Q. Llamas, Jr.

Besides continuing to sponsor the scholarship of poor but deserving students at Emiliano Tria Tirona Memorial High School in Kawit, Cavite, the Lodge has regularly conducted Masonic education and monitor reading.

MENCIUS SCHOLARSHIP FUND INCREASES FURTHER

To help Mencius Lodge No. 93 augment its scholarship fund, WB Rufino C. Co, PM, donated P10,000, and so did Bros. William H. Chua and Mario G. Lim. WB Danilo Ong and Bro. Benito Abarabar donated P500 each.

The Lodge, moreover, participated in the conduct of a free medical-dental civic action at Zone 54, Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila, which benefited more than 1,600 residents. For this effort, it received a commendation from Brig. Gen. Guillermo P. Enriquez, Jr., Commanding General,



Joint medical / dental mission

131st Reservist Infantry Division, P A .

Besides being active in their Mother Lodge, the following were elected officers of the Filipinas Shrine Club, Manila Chapter: WB Johnson Yu, *president;* WB Bernard Go, *treasurer;* VW Mariano Sih, *secretary;* WB William Co Dy, *auditor;* Bro. Benito Abarabar, *sgt.-at-arms;* WB Benito Ong, *p.r.o.;* and Bro. Philip Choco, *business manager.*

PANGASINAN 56 RENDERS ANOTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, led by project chairs Mario Meneses and Delfin Gubatan, Jr. and supported by the Sangguniang Kabataan, rendered another community service at Barangay Angio, San Fabian, Pangasinan. It extended help to more than 100 residents.

The project, a medical-dental mission, was a success, partly because of the donation of several boxes of assorted medicines by Senior Board Member Conrado P. Gubatan, elder brother of our Bro. Delfin.

The brethren who participated in the project included Flor Naniong, Conrado Gaerlan, Edgar Tacadena, Elybert Agor, Teddy Coquia, Rudy Carolino, Cesar Villamil, Peregrino Cornel, Jr. and Jimmy Nabua.

COTABATO MASONS CONTINUE THEIR LABORS AMID MUCH VIOLENCE AND DANGER

Last October 29 Sis Dey Wa Chua, sister of WB Manuel Hao and of Sis Siolan, wife of VW James Yap, was felled by treacherous bullets.

When they were having dinner at Natasha after the Lodge of Remembrance, the brethren asked Bro. Enrique Anastacio, new Comdiscom Chief, to sing. While he was singing, the news broke out: *"The city is burning!"* Commented Bro. Anastacio: *"This is a very bad pasalubong for me."*

These are two of the incidents which caused VW Rolando V. Sublay to write the following editorial in The Craft:

Cotabato City is an untamed and a very angry city caused by the long, unabated series of deadly crimes committed by he dreaded group of outlaws whose expertise consists in murder, kidnapping and exortion.... If the situation would not get better, some might pack up and go stay in a more comfortable, more peace-of-mind-giving place, and others who would sentimentally stay would not be free from fear and

anxiety.We should be more sympathetic to the lowly ones who are also targets of the deadly syndicate. Let us pray that the possibilities would not happen, and that the old, great, tamed Cotabato be resurrected.

To show their sympathy for the lowly, our brethren of Kutang Bato 110, with the participation of the local chapter of the Filipinas Shrine, the Amaranths and our brethren of Lodges Bantugan 223 and Shariff Kabunsuan 226, have pursued their *"Doktor sa Templo"* program. To demonstrate their nationalism, they celebrated Bonifacio Day, inviting VW Primitivo S. Bella, Jr. to give a talk on the Father of the Katipunan. The Lodges of Cotabato, moreover, jointly celebrated the first centennial of the martyrdom of Bro. Jose Rizal, with Bantugan 223 as lead Lodge.

Many Master Masons in Cotabato are joining the Scottish Rite. Perhaps to lessen the anxiety of the brethren in Cotabato, editor Sublay spices every issue of **The Craft** with humorous morsels. But, in the main, VW Sublay is earnest.

D'Trowel of Koronadal 209 is also Masonically earnest, with bits of humor. Editor Pol Hong, PM, urges the Sunshine Committee of the Lodge to do much more than it is doing. WB Rodolfo C. Soledad is concerned with keeping standards. *"If members are not prepared to carry out the great and underlying principles of our institution,"* he writes, *"then they should transfer their interest to less demanding institutions. They must not attempt to lower Freemasonry's standards.... It is better that the membership be reduced than that it becomes a second-rate institution."*

The newsletter contains many serious Masonic education articles like *"The Ancient Square"* and *"Point Within a Circle,"* but it also contains some humorous tidbits.

NO RIVER IS TOO WIDE TO CROSS

by Lolo Francisco C. Atienza

(The author is the president of the Elderly Rresidents Association of Luwalhati ng Maynila, or Home for the Aged, in the Boystown Complex, Parang, Marikina City. He is an orphan of a Brother in the Fraternity. He has been assisted by several Masons like Dr. Antonio Joson, Jr., General Roberto Lastimoso, WB Gregorio Mendoza and other officers and members of Marikina Lodge No. 119. Although he has verbally expressed his profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to his benefactors, he deeply feels it his duty to reciprocate the brethren's support and assistance to the abandoned, neglected and unattached elderly residents of the said welfare institution by writing this write-up.)

I wonder what the lives of the abandoned, neglected and unattached elderly of Luwalhati ng Maynila would be without the regular assistance of the MARIKINA LODGE NO. 119. These Masons, together with their wives and children,

greatly feel there is a need for them to reach out to the wards of the institution, not for publicity, but in a genuine spirit of generosity. They believe that not only Christian charity admonishes them to help the marginalized old folks but also their civic conscience compels them to help alleviate the deplorable condition of these "outcasts."

Over the years the MARIKINA LODGE people have consistently involved themselves in such humanitarian venture. Their assistance—material, moral and spiritual—has practically given comfort, encouragement, hope and upliftment to the underprivileged senior citizens in the forlorn stage of their twilight years. The project, which has become for the Lodge a commitment and a way of life, has become indispensable to the wards and to the institution. This remarkable undertaking brings into focus the Masons' concern for fellow human beings.

I bespeak the sentiment of the entire community in commending the MARIKINA MASONS, now under the able leadership of Mr. Gregorio Mendoza, for their unique and exemplary act. They expect no rewards, not even publicity, for their benevolent deed, which is just in keeping with the tenets of their fraternity.

We, the staff, workers and wards, have the unshaken conviction that these Masons' selfless service is a rare gift that only our Almighty God can bestow. We have nothing with which to requite their constant goodness, but we keep praying for our benefactors' well-being—that God will continue to guide and protect them and infuse into the heart of every member of this ancient and venerable Craft the self-sacrificing concern for the underprivileged.

Truly, there is no river too wide for the Masons to cross.

INSTITUTION OF SAN MATEO LODGE, UD RECALLED

RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr., DGM, presided over the institution of San Mateo Lodge U.D., the 12th Lodge in M.D. 45, at the NIA-MRISS Compound in San Mateo, Isabela.

VW Benjamin G. Brown served as Master of Ceremonies, and VW Roberto Q. Pagotan as Grand Chaplain. VW Angel T. Bacoling, Jr., DDGM, read the dispensation and delivered the charge, while VW Brown elaborated on the History of Warrant of Constitution. After reading MW Adiong's message, RW Bañez stressed the esoteric meaning of the three Degrees.

Installed officers of the Lodge were: Nicomedes P. Federizo, PM, *W. Master;* Benjamin G. Lucas, *S. Warden;* Camilo O. delos Trinos, *J.Warden;* Dominador M. Apaga, *Treasurer;* Francisco S. Bumagat, *Secretary;* Luciano M. Balisi, PM,

Auditor; Pablo M. Adduru, PM, *Chaplain;* Pedro O. Tangonan, *Marshal;* Rioni B. delos Trinos, *S. Deacon;* Eduardo R. Gines, *J. Deacon;* Wilfredo Palada, PM, *Orator;* Antonio R. Santos, PM, *Lecturer;* Antonio A. Ramos, *Asst. Lecturer;* Rodrigo M. Vicarme, PM, *Bible Bearer;* Luis I. Narcisa, *Historian;* Jolly P. Silverio, PM, *Master of Banquet;* Walton B. delos Trinos, *S. Steward;* Willy de Jesus, *J. Steward;* Raymond P. Espinol, *Organist;* Ricarte P. Adriano, Jr., *Almoner;* and Adolfo Z. Agsalda, PM, *Tyler.*

WM Federizo discussed the incidents that led to the organization of the Lodge and urged the brethren to continue their zeal in promoting Masonry's tenets.

Conspicuously present were VW Leonardo P. Chua, JGL; VW Mag Nuevo, PDDGM; VW Clemente Salvador, Jr., DGL; VW Diony C. Panajon, DGL; and VW Conrado U. Gabriel, Jr., DGL.

MASONS, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JOIN IN HONORING FOREMOST NATIONAL HERO

The Freemasons of Cebu, led by MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, and Bro. David Odilao, Jr., president of the Square & Compass Foundation and Filipinas Shrine Club, and the Knights of Columbus joined hands in wreath-laying ceremonies at the Rizal Park, Cebu City, in celebration of the first centennial anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. & Bro. Jose P. Rizal.



GROWING TOGETHER IN MASONRY AND REACHING OUT TO MANKIND

by: Ill. Reynato S. Puno, PGM & PSGC

The theme, "Growing Together in Masonry and Reaching Out to Mankind," is a great theme because it speaks a thousand thoughts. But due to constraints of time, I will limit my thoughts on our theme to a selected few.



Let me start with the emphasis of our theme on **growing.** If we give a serious look at Masonry, we will discover it is all about growing. Masonry is about growing because it is based on the unalterable premise that man is imperfect. If man were not imperfect, there would have been no need to establish Masonry, no need to keep Masonry alive. I cannot overemphasize the importance of Masonry's recognition of man's imperfection. History informs us that it is man's failure to recognize the implications of his imperfection that has brought about most, if not all, of the miseries of mankind. I wish to repeat that simple submission: *man's failure to recognize his imperfections has caused most, if not all, of the miseries of mankind.*

Allow me to validate that submission by relating it to some of the virtues we espouse as Masons—the virtues of Truth, Faith, Wisdom and Charity. These are timeless virtues, virtues sought by man since time immemorial. Unfortunately, they have eluded man, then and now. Man has conquered the outer space, but he has not captured and imbibed in his heart these virtues. And so, to date, the holiest of men preach without being weary of the need to be truthful, to be faithful, to be wise and to be charitable.

Perhaps it is time to pause and ponder why man continues to be untruthful. Why can he not find the **Truth,** Truth with a capital T? Is it not because of the imperfection of his senses and extra-senses? Worse, is it not because of his arrogance to admit his imperfections? We know the lesson underlined by the past—that those who do not admit they are imperfect soon claimed perfection and they who claimed perfection soon claimed absolute powers and we are familiar with the abuses committed under the cover of infallibility.

Next, consider the virtue of **Faith** which a writer defined as *that which sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.* Again, why has man failed to develop the capacity for Faith? Is it not because he will not concede that his senses are incapable of knowing all? The disciple Thomas, dubbed as the

doubting Thomas, would not believe the resurrection of Christ until he could touch the wounds of Christ. Even then, the resurrection of Christ did not become a reality because of the tactile impressions of Thomas.

Or consider the virtue of **Wisdom,** which is *"that something that enables us to use knowledge rightly."* Again, why is it that through the ages, man seems to have gained more and more knowledge but less and less wisdom? Why did man gain the knowledge to split the atom but not the wisdom to use it for peaceful purposes alone? Again, is this not because of the imperfections of our values and priorities? Many think of themselves as repositories of knowledge, forgetting the adage that the person who knows everything has a lot to learn.

Or consider our value of **Charity,** which should not be understood as mere almsgiving but as near synonymous to what the disciple John called *"love made perfect."* Why is the relationship between man and man, between nation and nation characterized not by the law of charity but of cruelty? Again, is it not because of lack of appreciation of our own imperfections? If we appreciate our imperfections, we will not be uncharitable to others who are as imperfect as ourselves.

I began by submitting the thesis *that Masonry started from the premise that man is imperfect.* Let me add that from this premise *Masonry makes the promise to make good men better in this life.* For this reason, the best definition of Masonry says it is a progressive science for it teaches its members to progress, to grow morally and spiritually. For this reason also, all of us were treated as rough ashlars when we started our journey in the world of Masonry. We were like crude stones, fresh from the quarry and waiting to be cut and transformed to perfect ashlars.

Yes, the virtues taught us in the first degree of Masonry relate to our youth, starting from the age of innocence. How appropriate, for youth is the age of pliancy, the time when you can contain him in the cup of righteousness, the time when you can cut the rough corners of his character, the kind of character that can stand the tempest and temptations of men!

Secondly, I am glad that our theme stresses that we must **grow together.** No man is an island, and he who isolates himself hinders the fullfillment of his potential. For the truism is that man may succeed but it is with others that he can find fulfillment of his self. Isolation is a form of destruction, for it prevents one from gaining from the wisdom of others, it leads to intellectual atrophy and, inevitably, to extinction because in the cruel world of competition, it is the wise who will win. All these lessons are emphasized in Masonry. From the time you knocked at the door of Masonry, you were together with a brother. In your sojourn to all the cardinal directions inside the Lodge, you were together with brethren; brethren served as your guide when you were blindfolded or in a state of darkness; brethren showed to you the greater and lesser lights of Masonry. In other words, you can never progress in Masonry except together with the brethren. And there can never be any meaningful Masonry without the togetherness of brethren. That is the reason why politics and religion are taboos in our Lodges, for they can threaten

to rend asunder this togetherness. Togetherness is the Masonic epoxy; hence, in opening and closing our Lodges, whether in the first, second or third degree, the Worshipful Master always directs us to give the due guard and sign with the counsel *"Together, Brethren."*

But togetherness in Masonry is more than physical togetherness. It means more than the coziness that comes from fireside meetings or the intimacy fueled by beer, scotch or brandy. For one, the distinct chemistry of our togetherness leads to a greater understanding by a Mason of his own self, especially his finer, undiscovered self. In Masonry, togetherness means oneness, oneness with the GAOTU. The consciousness of this oneness is a key Masonic lesson. It is this oneness that can break all prejudices by man against his fellowmen, including those accretions of prejudices due to political ideology and prejudices due to religious arrogance. It is oneness that emphasizes man's interdependence with man, interdependence with nature, yes, harmony with the entire universe and its laws. Such an appreciation of interdependence or total oneness is well stressed by Albert Pyke, a Scottish Rite philosopher, when he warned man to abjure selfishness because selfishness is contrary to man's oneness with his fellow man and with nature. I quote him:

...Man should not live for himself alone; for he is a member of one great family or brotherhood, each member of which derives his support and sustenance from the whole and is therefore a dependent being. This dependence of parts is true of all created matter and is beautifully exemplified in all the works of the Sovereign Architect of the Universe as proclaimed in the dignity, peace and harmony of nature. The animal world breathes out gases for the vegetable kingdom and in turn exhales or stores up those elements that are essential to animal health and vigor. Every mountain slope supports its own herbage and from the gentle rains which fall from heaven to moisten their surface, the little rill is formed which blows into the vale below and feeds the herbage there—thence it flows onward, and still on, until it reaches the boundless ocean, whose waves wash every shore and upon whose bosom is carried the commerce of man... Thus we find, that by the oneness of creation, selfishness is condemned.

To be sure, it is this critical oneness, this important unity, this desirable harmony, this wholesome interdependence that mothered the golden rule *"Do unto others what you would want others do unto you."* If we are one, we will not harm others, for we do not want to injure ourselves. If we are one with nature, we will not neglect our environment, for we do not want to prejudice ourselves. No religion has preached a higher ethics than this rule and the greatest of religious leaders taught its essence. As a great mystic declared: *"He who has realized this unitary consciousness has simultaneously realized that it is the duty of the strong to assist*

the weak, of the advanced to help the backward, of the saintly to guide the sinful, of the wealthy to lighten the burden of the destitute and of the wise to enlighten the ignorant."

Finally, our theme exhorts us to **reach out to mankind.** I said in the beginning that the cause of Masonry is the imperfection of man. Let me now submit that the effect of Masonry is reaching out to mankind. Masonry prepares our inner selves for service to the outer world. The synonym of Masonry is **service**--service to God, service to our family, service to our fellowmen, service to our country. Our principal tenets are brotherly love, relief and truth. We seek truth; for we seek to serve God, who is a God of Truth, for He Himself proclaimed, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."* We use the trowel to serve our fellowmen. With it, we spread brotherly love and affection. We pledged relief or charity to the needy, for the essence of the Craft is kindness.

I am sure we all concede that the answer to a lot of problems besetting the world is to reach out to mankind. But before the answer is the problem—the problem why we withhold our hands and do not reach out to mankind. A man in possession of the Truth, a man obsessed by love, a man driven by charity, a real Mason will surely reach out to mankind. Conversely, a man who has not been touched by these virtues will find it difficult to reach out to mankind. Let me now go to that one factor that can cancel brotherly love, relief, and truth in the heart of a Mason and that is greed or covetousness, more appropriately described in the Book of Life as the *"...spirit which is always wanting more."*

I like you to join me in focusing on **greed**; for if you come to think of it, the major problems of life are greed-related. Graft and corruption are rooted on greed. Lust for flesh is rooted on covetousness. Crimes have economic etiology, that goes all the way to the spirit which is always wanting. Greed or covetousness should therefore be a special Masonic concern, for it poisons the well-spring of every worthwhile virtue in our hearts.

First, the virus of greed causes our amnesia of other men's needs. It also blocks our sight of others' needs. Greed is the steel that supports the vertical pronoun, I, I, and I, which dominates most of our selves. The world of a man ruled by greed is bounded on the North, the South, the West and the East by the vertical pronoun I. A Mason can never grow without levelling the vertical pronoun I.

Secondly, greed or covetousness makes a man forget that a man is more than his possessions. It is a tragic error when we forget the distinction of what a man has and what a man is. A man may be happy when his house is full of goods but he ought to be happiest when he finds his life full of good deeds. A good Mason should also consider the empty barnes of the less fortunate. As St. Ambrose reminds the rich, *"You cannot complain of lack of barnes. You have barnes everywhere--you can find them in the bosom of the needy, the homes of widows, the mouths of orphans and the lips of infants."*

Thirdly, greed or covetousness gives a man a wrong sense of security. It leads him to an erroneous valuation of what matters in life. It causes him to give more significance to property more than

to the spirit that gives life, more importance to the body than to the soul. The result is always a tragedy, for he who does so will ultimately lose both body and soul. In fine, greed renders naught the Masonic teaching that it is the soul and not the body that is immortal, that the good ought to preoccupy us as Masons; for we are builders of temples not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

Fourth and **lastly**, greed or covetousness blurs our sense of time and if there is one thing that is forever lost it is time. Greed makes us forget the Masonic lesson imparted by the 24-inch gauge--that of wisely dividing our time for work, for refreshment and for sleep. As Masons we ought to know that we live on borrowed time; that today can't be tomorrow; that now may not be followed by next time; that life is not a series of commas and semicolons but can be abruptly ended by a period. The hour glass, a Masonic symbol, reminds us that our earthly existence has an end, that our life is not forever.

As parting thought and most importantly, our theme teaches us how to attain the royal secret imparted to us in our 32°: *that by knowing our imperfections, correcting them with Masonic virtues, nurturing these virtues together with the brethren and sharing them with others by reaching mankind, we will achieve that peace that passeth understanding.* The inevitable result of our theme is the attainment of the **royal secret of harmony:** harmony with our fellowmen and, ultimately, harmony with God.

Allied, Appendant Bodies

MW HERRERA REINSTALLED DEMOLAY GRAND MASTER

by **WB Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr., PM**

MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of F. A. Ms. of the Philippines, as if taking the cue from Pres. William Jefferson Clinton, who was reinstalled President of the United States of America, was reinstalled Grand Master of DeMolays last Jan. 24 during the 9th public installation of Grand Line Officers at the historic Manila Hotel.

Also reistalled were: VW Evaristo A. Leviste, *Deputy Grand Master;* RW Leon A.P. Bañez, Jr., *Grand Senior Councilor;* VW Albert K. Tan, *Grand Junior Councilor;* Ill. Victorino Q. Juico, *Grand Treasurer;* WB Francisco M. Lovero, *Grand Secretary;* and the various appointed Grand Line and other executive officers in the whole jurisdiction.

The awesome task of Grand Installing Officer fell on the able shoulders of Ill. Alberto C. Reyes, 33°, Grand Secretary General of the Thirty-third and Last Degree, A & ASR, Republic of the Philippines. He



⇑ Ill. Alberto C. Reyes, 33°, Grand Installing Officer, leading MW Herrera in reciting obligation at the altar as Bro. Ivan R. Galarosa watches from the sideline.

was assisted by Active DeMolay Ivan R. Galarosa, PMC, KT, who performed the role of Grand Installing Marshal.

Four PGMs of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines were on hand to witness the auspicious event. They were MW Reynato S. Puno, MW Raymundo N. Beltran, MW Agustin V. Mateo, and MW Danilo D. Angeles.

Apparently caught in the monstrous traffic jam that usually engulfs downtown Manila on late Friday afternoons, MW John L. Choa managed to join the evening's fellowship at the Champagne Room of the hotel.

MW Theodore Way, PGM of the Grand Lodge of China, together with his charming spouse, also graced the event, as did Bro. Douglas Kao with his ever-ready camera in his hands. Present, likewise, was Bro. Robert Robbins, a Senior DeMolay and the Chairman of the Democrats abroad, who was instrumental in arranging the historic meeting between Pres. Clinton and the representatives of his fraternal brods in the Philippines after the November APEC meeting.

The reinstalled Grand Master of DeMolay, in his speech, cited the gains his previous administration had achieved in strengthening the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay of the Republic of the Philippines, as well as the close coordination he had made with MW Danilo D. Angeles relative to inclusion in the appointment of Grand Lodge Officers of Senior DeMolays who have already distinguished themselves as Masons. He stressed that these DeMolay-Masons assure the Craft of committed brethren who will steadfastly hold on to the tenets of the Fraternity in view of their excellent training as DeMolay young boys whose idealism the Fraternity sorely needs. And with the positive response of these DeMolay-Masons



Sis. Esperanza S. Herrera investing the Grand Master's Jewel on MW Rosendo C. Herrera as Bro. Ivan R. Galarosa watches. At foreground is Bro. Douglas Kao with his camera. ⇒

who graciously accepted executive positions, MW Herrera felt confident that the achievements of the Supreme Council for the coming years would still rise way above his bold expectations.



Bro. Ivan R. Galarosa prepares to invest Jewel on VW Albert K. Tan after investing Jewel on RW Leon A. Bañez, Jr. ⇓



⇑ *MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, delivers his speech. Listening attentively at the presidential table are MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM; Ill. Alberto C. Reyes, 33°, Grand Secretary General; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM; and MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM.*

PUBLIC INVESTITURE OF DESERVING ACTIVE MEMBERS OF DEMOLAY SUPREME COUNCIL

For their distinguished services for and exceptional dedication to the DeMolay movement, certain Active members of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay of the Republic of the Philippines, were given due recognition in fitting ceremonies held at the Conrado Benitez Hall, Scottish Rite Temple, Taft Ave., Manila.

Jose R. Dizon and Romeo P. Ramos were invested with the Legion of Honor (Active), while the following were invested with the Legion of Honor (Honorary): Floro Domingo, Salvador L. Laya, Wilfredo S. Wy, Eduardo G. Escano, Tomas Leyva, and Alipio Ykalina II.

Invested with the Chevalier Degree were Samuel A. Alapan, Romel

C. Bulseo, Patrick R. Casao, Jr., Rene I. Culasino, Alfredo J. dela Paz, Jose Francis Stevens M. Dizon, Manuel V. Estilloro, Jr., Reynaldo S. Gongora, Tito S. Lubiano, Edwin Victorino B. Peralta, Rodolfo I. Velasco, Aris G. Banigued, Aristotle U. Cabigao, Santiago Y. Cortes III, Jerry A. Dadap, Reuben A. Ganaden, Darius H. Garcia, Ramoncito P. Javier, and Rey M. Reyes.

Oscar V. Bunyi, Gil R. Melegrito, Jovito G. Tamayo, Van D. Luspo, and Rosalio A. Quirante were invested with the Cross of Honor.

The Thomas Michael Sherry Priory, Order of Knighthood, formally received the honorees, Master Masons, DeMolays, and guests.

VW Oscar V. Bunyi, Bro. Ramoncito P. Javier, and Legionaire Romeo P. Ramos delivered responses in behalf of their co-honorees.

The closing message by MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, was followed by a fellowship dinner at the Dreemhaus Restaurant nearby.

-- **WB C.G. Agar(#82)**

MISS INTERNATIONAL JOB'S DAUGHTER MARION JAIMEE UY WRITES, SUBMIT REPORT TO MW JPL ADIONG

The Letter

98 N. County Way
Fruit Heights, UT 84037-2236

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines
1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila, Philippines

Dear Dad Adiong:

Hi! How are you? My year as Miss International Job's Daughter is almost halfway over. I have learned more about Job's Daughters in three months than I thought would be possible, and I believe the various groups I have met now know more about the Philippines and about the Filipino Bethels. All this I would not have been able to do without your help, without the help of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Thank you so much for your support. I have traveled to 10 States within U.S. Next month will be even busier for us as we travel. I wrote a report of my travels. It would mean so much to me if the Dads in the Philippines will read this report, so they know what I've been up to and where I've been.

Again, thank you for the support you give for the Masonic youth of the Philippines.

Very respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) MARION JAIMEE UY
Ms. International Job's Daughter 1996-97



The Report

Start of My Journey

My journey began on April 13, 1996 when I was chosen as the first Miss Philippines Job's Daughters during the Jurisdictional Rally in Baguio. I was told that I was to represent the Jobies of the Philippines in the International Pageant in Queensland, Australia.

From August 3 to 10, 1996, I attended the Supreme Session Down Under with our Bethel Guardian, Mom Rosalinda Sanchez. I was also with Mom Pat Limkimso, a Past Bethel Guardian, and Judy Gail Limkimso, PHQ, who received the Degree of Royal Purple, the highest award any Jobie can receive.

With 29 other contestants from all over the Job's Daughter World, I underwent a written test, ritual recitation, a personal interview, and pageant night. **Never** in my wildest dreams did I think I would hear my contestant number and my name in the same sentence with "THE NEW MISS INTERNATIONAL JOB'S DAUGHTER". Judging from the look on the Filipino delegation's faces, I knew they felt the same way.

In the next few days I felt like I was floating!

I came home on the 12th of August. As I went through the motions of taking mid-term exams and analyzing case studies, I pushed the idea of contemplating the ramifications of being Ms. International Job's Daughter to the back of my mind. Eventually I decided to delay my senior year in college so as to play my new role in the Order. When will an opportunity like this ever come to me again? **Probably not in a thousand years!**

After hurdling educational challenges and visa requirements, I left for the U.S. to fullfill my duty.

Oct. 19-21, Virginia

My Mom and I were met at the airport by the Jobies of Bethel #46, Norfolk, VA. This is an all-Filipino Bethel and I was so happy to know that; it surely made my first official visit easier.

I met with the Supreme Guardian, Mom Brenda Hansel; the Associate Supreme Guardian, Dad Bruce Haubrich; and the Supreme Bethel Honored Queen, Kelle Fine. The Jobies from Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland were also there to witness the Jobie Ruby Ceremony that was put on. It was very *exiciting* to meet all these people. It was even *more exiciting* to visit the Masonic Memorial for George Washington, D.C. We got a tour of the beautiful building and its different rooms in honor of Masonic traditions.

Oct. 22-Nov.3, Utah

This is where the Supreme Guardian is from. We attended her

Supreme Reception, as well as other functions like a halloween dance, a bethel birthday party, some sleepovers, bethel meetings.

I was able to help the Grand Bethel of Utah earn some money by helping serve dinner to the Grand Lodge.

On the day of Halloween, I was brought to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Utah, where I met kids from as far as Bosnia! I helped the Shriner clowns paint the kids' faces. It was a fun day.

Nov.4-12, Idaho

I could not go to Brazil nor to British Colombia with the SG and the ASG because of the limited visa. So, I went to Idaho to meet with Mom Peggy Garvin, the chairperson of the Miss International Job's Daughter Pageant for this year. I was able to attend a beautiful Installation ceremony and protem in a bethel meeting as Librarian.

Nov.13, Utah

I went back to Utah, where all my clothes were, to repack.

Nov. 14-22, Pennsylvania

The first night I was in Pennsylvania, they invited me to attend a Homecoming for the Order of Eastern Star. After that, we proceeded to the Masonic Convention Center-Patten Campus to attend the Grand Bethel Weekend. The Center is huge and very beautiful, with dormitories, an auditorium, a catered cafeteria, a ballroom, acres of land, and so much more. I didn't exactly feel like hiking for H.I.K.E. (HearingImpaired Kids Endownment), the IOJD philanthrophic project, that morning. We had to walk halfway through the whole campus in the cold!!! But we did raise money for H.I.K.E.

Nov. 23-28, Kentucky

I attended a bethel meeting and met with the chairperson of the Kentucky Pageant Committee to help them with their plans. And I was so excited to be at my first Thanksgiving dinner, *but there is nothing like our Noche Buena.*

Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Utah

Went back to Utah to wind down, wash clothes, and repack.

Dec. 2-7, Reno & Carson City, Nevada

Of the two bethel meetings we attended, I was asked to protem as Second Messenger in an initiation. I hadn't done Second Messenger part in an initiation since April, and I wasn't even given time to prepare because they asked me 10 minutes before the meeting! So, this is the "tension-building" part of the duties of Ms. IJD. Anyway, one of the Jobies brought me to her high school, so that I could spend a day there and find out what's different. And I did learn a few insights that day.

Dec. 7-9, Las Vegas, Nevada

What can I say? There is no place like Las Vegas! They took me on the strip and I saw a lot of lights that Las Vegas is famous for. We also had quite an adventure when some of the Jobies and DeMolays went rock climbing while we were on a picnic. One of the DeMolays got stuck on a ledge, and we had to help the rangers rescue him!!!

Dec. 10-12, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The weather here was so nice and warm—and very pretty. We were able to attend a joint bethel

meeting and meet more people.

Dec. 13-16, Colorado

Back to the cold. The Grand Bethel Meeting was well attended. It was good to see the sidelines full. On the day we were to leave for the airport, there was a blizzard, we could see cars spinning on the icy roads. I thought that was very scary.

Dec. 19-Jan.2, Idaho

Christmas and New Year break...

Jan. 3-5, Montana

Mom Brenda, Dad Kelly, and I drove up to Montana through Yellowstone Park in whiteout (we couldn't see through the snow). But we got there safely. They also conducted a very beautiful meeting with sidelines full. I attended a Grand Guardian Council meeting, where they asked me to talk about the Philippines.

Jan. 7-20, Wyoming

I took the train to Wyoming to visit with Erin Geroge, the Miss International who crowned me twice, first as Ms. Philippines, then as Ms. International. It is very isolated there—and quite cold. We also attended their ski weekend, although I didn't ski. We were also asked to give a talk about Job's Daughters during a Kiwanis Club meeting. It was fun explaining Job's Daughters and Masonry to them.

In Fine

During all this I believe I've spoken to over a thousand Job's Daughters and to an equal number of adults. All this would not have been possible without everyone's support. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you in April for our Grand Rally in Davao.

MCCCI FETES BENEVOLENT GROUPS, INDIVIDUALS

The Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI) feted its benefactors, groups and individuals alike, with a program-cum-dinner, emceed by VW Lucas Ty, Board Secretary, at the Scottish Rite Temple on Taft Ave. In his welcome remarks following the invocation led by Ms. Bituin Hernandez and the singing of the national anthem by Asst. Medical Director Michael Rivera, MCCCI President Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and Grand Secretary of the GLP, stated:

"It is but proper that we remember and honor those who have been helping us, through the years, in carrying on our project for the care, operation, and rehabilitation of crippled children."

The MCCCI President described the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children as "the biggest charitable activity of our Grand Lodge," to which all Masons in our grand jurisdiction contribute through annual assessments. He added:

"Through this project, we find meaning and expression of our principal tenet: RELIEF.... To see a young boy or girl walk again,



⇐ *Beneficiaries entertain audience with dance on wheels.*

through our help, gives us more than enough consolation and reward for all our efforts and for all our time spent for their care and rehabilitation."

After the *"simple"* dinner, the audience watched with keen interest the slides presented by Bro. Manuel T. Rivera, MCCCI Medical Director, and the dance on wheel performed by Cherry Lou Layosa, Ruth Maragrag, Josel Balatucan and Marlon Nacita. They were, moreover, entertained with a vocal solo by Jerry Tumbo.

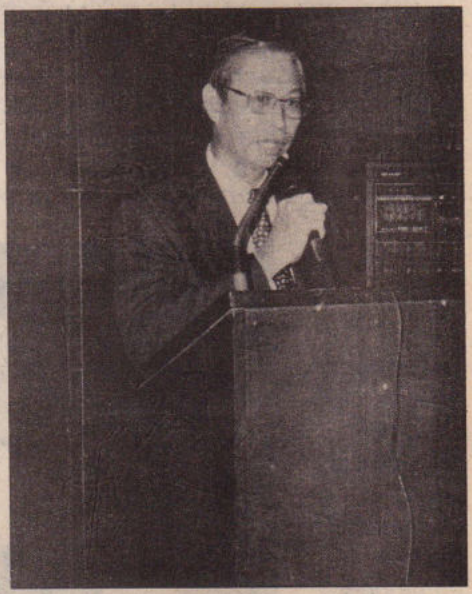
VW Alfred T. Li, MCCCI 1st Vice President, presented to the magnanimous benefactors Plaques of Appreciation *"as a simple but meaningful expression of our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for their continuous support."*

The groups that received awards were: **Bamboo Shrine Oasis, AAONMS; Manila Bodies, AASR; Dalisay Lodge No. 14, F&AM; Perla Assembly No. 1, IORG; Royal Order of Scotland, Provincial Grand Lodge of the Philippines.**

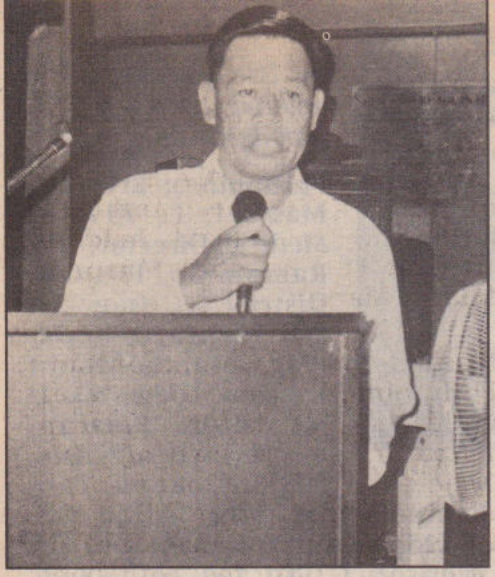
Presented with appreciative plaques were the following individuals: **MW Rosendo C. Herrera**, PGM and Grand Treasurer, GLP, and Grand Master, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay Philippines; **Bro./Dr. Manuel T. Rivera**, Medical Director; **VW Ramon Go**, PDDGM, District 1-C (now 7); **WB Manfred Rode**, PM, Manila-Mount Lebanon Lodge No. 1; Ms. **Ruth Beltran**, teacher, Special School, DECS;, **Joseph Tan**, businessman; **Mrs. Alice Co-David**, bussinesswoman; and **Dr. Johnson J. Tan Yee**, orthopedic surgeon, Baguio City.

To the awardees the MCCCI Board of Trustees could only say, *"May you have the consolation in the thought that a good deed or a kindly act done for another, specially for the unfortunate children, is recorded in heaven by an angel of love."*

For and in behalf of the other



⇑ *MW Rody C. Herrera gives response on behalf of the awardees.*



⇑ *"You, dear awardees, are Eliabs in your own right." -- GM Adiong*

awardees, PGM and Grand Treasurer Rody C. Herrera gave a sincere, appreciative response. Together with the other awardees, he and his family find it a joy to help unfortunate children, specially the crippled ones. He expressed hope that more groups and individuals would help the MCCCI carry on its great and laudable philanthropic activity. He gave the assurance that he and his family, as well as the other awardees, would continue giving support to the MCCCI; for *"crippled children's smiles make it all worthwhile."*

Esperanza Esperanzate regaled the audience with a vocal solo, and Cherry Lou Layosa, Ruth Maragrag, and Bituin Hernandez rendered an entertaining musical number.

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, who, in his capacity as Grand Master of the GLP, is the ex-officio chairman of the MCCCI, conveyed his warm fraternal greetings and felicitations to the MCCCI officers and members. He stated:

"It is but fitting and proper that the benefactors of the noble projects of the MCCCI be given recognition and feted for their generous contribution to the cause of the crippled and handicapped children. And as long as there are people and entities who give their support to the humanitarian endeavors of the MCCCI, more children deformed by illness or accidents will be benefited."

MW Adiong reiterated his sincere commendation to the MCCCI officers and members for their voluntary service to serve the youth who need our society's support.

A closing prayer led by Miss Maragrag fittingly punctuated the touching and therefore memorable affair.—**eF.R.eN**



Awardees with MCCCI President Ray Beltran, PGM. Youngsters look on admiringly. ⇒

JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON RIZAL

The Supreme COuncil, 33rd degree, A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry, Republic of the Philippines and the Supreme Council, Order of the Knights of Rizal, held a joint symposium on Rizal recently at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino Street, Malate, Manila.

The program started with the entry of colors (the Philippine Flag, the Supreme Council Standard, and the Flag of the Knights of Rizal), escorted by contingents from the Western Police and the DeMolay.

Sir Sonny Razon led the Tribute to the Flag; a choral group, directed by Sir Cris Cornejo, led the singing of the Philippine National Anthem; Sir/Brother Alberto C. Reyes recited the Pledge of Allegiance; Sir Rogelio M. Quiambao, KGCR, Supreme Commander, Order of Knights of Rizal, gave the opening remarks; and MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines, gave the welcome remarks.

Sir/Judge Juan C. Nabong, Jr. introduced the guest of honor and keynote speaker, the Honorable Justice Reynato S. Puno, who delivered his address on *"Rizal and the Justice System."*

The open forum was followed by musical numbers by the Choral Group.

After the luncheon, Sir Ambassador Edmundo Libid introduced another guest, former U.P. President, Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz, who spoke on *"Rizal's Visions of the Filipino: Prospects and Retrospects."* An open forum ensued.

The lecturers during the symposium/workshop were Hon. Manuel L. Morato, Chairman, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, who spoke on *"Rizal in Education: Revisiting His Teachings, Visions, and Social Philosophy"*;Hon. Ricardo T. Gloria, DECS Secretary, and Hon. Angel C. Alcala, CHED Chairman, who spoke on the *"Rizal Law"* (R.A 1425); Atty. Reynaldo S. Fajardo, Chief, Public Attorney's Office, Department of Justice, who spoke on *"Rizal and the So-Called Retraction Issue: A Critical Examination"*; and the Honorable Justice Justo P. Torres, who spoke on *"Rizal's Universality: His Visions Compared with His Contemporaries."*

After the coffee break and musical numbers, the following served as workshop panel of moderators during the open forum: Sir Angel Ricardo R. Paez, Deputy Supreme Commander, Knights of Rizal; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, Grand Lodge of the Philippines; and Sir Ambassador Edmundo Libid, Department of Foreign Affairs.

Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, Sovereign Grand Commander, and Sir Rogelio M. Quiambao, Supreme Commander, Order of the Knights of Rizal, presented awards,

Ill. Bunda gave the closing remarks.

The joint symposium on Rizal was emceed by Sir Chito Villegas.

Let's have more of this!

A MASONIC COUNTRY CLUB IS BORN

by VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PDGL

To strengthen family ties and to provide continuity of interaction among Masons, VW Santiago M. Turingan, DDGM for Masonic District No. 12, organized the MASONIC FAMILY COUNTRY CLUB, INC. during the District Council's regular meeting at the Bagasbas Beach Resort. Membership is, as of now, exclusively limited to brethren of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 and Daet Lodge No. 247 and their ladies.

DDGM Turingan underscored the need to organize an elite society different and distinct from the ancient and venerable fraternity and service clubs in the community. Designed to enable the families of Masons to enhance camaraderie in an atmosphere of unity, the Club will adhere to the principal tenets of Freemasonry—Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth—as its guiding principle of governance.

The following MMs of good standing were elected officers for Masonic year 1997-98; VW Turingan, *president;* WB Miguel H. Ferrer, Jr., PM, *vice president;* this writer, *secretary* ; VW Jose Dy Ching, PDGL, *treasurer;* WB Aurelio R. Aguilar, WM (247), *auditor;* VW Jose P. Tabios, Sr., PDDGM and VW Mac Cheang Ga, PDDGM—*advisers.*

The members of the board of directors are: VW Santiago P. Ferrer, Jr., DGL; VW Jose T. Seeping, Jr., DGL; Bro. Tito C. Collada, SW (247); Bro. Amable C. Ables, SW (107); VW Ong Peng Lee, PDDGM; WB Ernesto C. Chicombing, PM; VW Ernesto C. Tananao, PDDGM; WB Tomas L. Ong, PM; Bro. Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr.; Bro. Jovito F. Falado; and Bro. Leo L. Intia.

The Masonic Country Club, Inc. is a non-stock corporation with a Board of Directors that will elect its chairman, vice chairman, and board secretary from among themselves. The Board is the policy-making and governing body of the corporation. It shall, for instance, promulgate guidelines admission of members.

The Club shall meet on the first Saturday of every month. Majority of its members may call for a special meeting. The Club's permanent venue shall be the Bagasbas Beach Resort, Daet, unless changed by the majority of the members for the purpose of bringing it to the doorstep of a member desiring to host a meeting.

PSA OFFICERS INSTALLED

The following Nobles were installed officers of the Philippine Shrine Association (PSA) at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple: Emil P. Langomez, Jr., *president;* Ed Sweeney, *1st vice-president;* Albert Tan, *2nd vice-president;* Al D. Dualan, *treasurer;* Raffy Roxas, PP, *secretary;* Cesar Mendoza, *auditor;* Robert M. Robbins, *chaplain;* Renato Bartolome, p.r.o; and Severo Castulo, PP, *marshal.*

Emceed by Noble Heneage Mitchell, High Shereef of Maginoo Shrine Oasis, the program started with an invocation by Noble Bob Robbins. Noble Willie Rañaga gave recognition to the outgoing officers, and Noble Ver Castulo, outgoing president, welcomed the guests.

Representing MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, who was abroad at the time, RW Leon P. Bañez, Jr., DGM, installed the officers and later gave an inspirational speech. Noble Bob Robbins then led the closing prayer.

Dinner, fellowship, and ballroom dancing ensued. The music was provided by the ISAFP Band, compliments of Maharlika Shrine Oasis.

The other Shrine Oases in the Philippines are Bamboo, Cavite, Cordillera, Mabuhay, Maginoo, Makati, Mt. Arayat, and Saigon.

Some Nobles in the installation ceremony (l-r): R. Llamas, W. Hernandez, R. Tan, E. Langomez, Jun Ebdane, F. Mariano & F. Pineda. ⇓



SQUARE & COMPASS GOLFERS CLUB TOURNAMENT & OFFICERS

The Square & Compass Golfers Club recently held a tournament and its fellowship/election at the Aguinaldo Golf & Country Club Golf Course, with more than 50 members and guests participating, led by then club president "Ver" Castulo.

Bro. Ben Panganiban and Bro. Cris Dinopol registered the lowest gross and lowest net, respectively.

The following were winners in the various categories:

"A": Bro. Ed Zafra, *2nd runner-up;* Mr. Jack Roa Yu, *1st runner-up;* Mr. Rolly Ramos, *champion.*

"B": Bro. Jun Cayari, *2nd runner-up;* VW Roy Chu, *1st runner-up;* Bro. Tambunting, *champion.*

"C": Bro. A. de Castro, *2nd runner-up;* Bro. Johnny Pronaci, *1st runner-up;* and Mr. Hishinoto, a guest, *champion.*

Bro. Cris Dinopol submitted the *longest drive* (H-7) and Mr. Mike Maglague the *nearest-to-pin* (H-5) performance.

During the dinner-fellowship at the Trellis Restaurant the winners received their prizes. Besides, there was an exchange of gifts among the participants and a raffle of various items, such as a washing machine, electric fans, oven toasters, etc., which were donated or bought from cash donations of members and

friends of the Club.

Capping the fellowship was the election of the officers for the golfing year 1997, as follows: VW Roy Chu (#174), *club master;* WB Jay del Rosario (#169), *deputy club master;* VW Ernie A. Uy (#1), *club treasurer;* VW Ben A. Madarang (#19), *club secretary;* Bro. Ben Panganiban (#22), *tournament warden;* Bro. Ed Zafra (#57), *fellowship warden;* WB Jun Iñigo (#4), *membership warden;* Bro. Jing Rahon (#305), *project warden;* Bro. Manny Pascual (#174), *p.r.o.;* VW Al Dualan (#1), *auditor;* and WB "Ver Castulo (#122), *immediate past club master.*

—**VW Ben A. Madarang.**



⇑ ***The New Set of SCGC Officers*** *(l-r): Bro. Ed Zafra, VW Ben Madarang, Bro. Ben Panganiban, WB Jay del Rosario, WB Ver Castulo, VW Roy Chu, VW Al Dualan, VW Ernie Uy, Bro. Manny Pascual, WB Jun Iñigo, and Bro. Jing Rahon.*

PNP SQUARE & COMPASS CLUB OFFICERS INDUCTED

Representing the Grand Master, VW Lito Villarosa inducted officers of the PNP Square & Compass Club at the poolside, Camp Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila. The officers are P/C Supt Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr., *president;* P/Supt Jose C. Bandong, Jr., *vice president;* P/CInsp Cipriano E. Querol, Jr., *secretary;* P/SSupt Enrique Cuadra, *treasurer;* P/CSupt Dominador C. Resos, Jr., *auditor;* and P/SSupt Arturo C. Lumibao, *p.r.o.* Outgoing president Alex de Guzman, PM, expressed optimism that the Club would attain greater heights under WB Ebdane's leadership. *(More details next issue)*





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Bro. Lou Managuelod urges members to cooperate with officers.



Rock is my tyler... You are welcome to Bicutan.--WB Jun Ebdane



VW Villarosa conveys GM's challenged to the new set of officers.



The newly inducted Club president with the Grand Chaplain, the Cabletow editorial staff and other brethren--all friends of the Club.

THE WORK FORCES OF OUR GRAND LODGE



THE LADIES AND THE BOSSES...
(L-R): ATTY. MABINI G. HERNANDEZ (AAGM), GERALDINE S. BALAQUIAO, CONSUELO T. MORILLO, MS. NANCY C. QUE HANKO, MS. ELEANOR E. MOLDEZ, MARIFE R. LIM, JOSEFINA V. SEMBRANO, MA. THERESA D. CALIXTO, AND BENJAMIN J. TORRES (AGS).



AND THE GENTLEMEN
(SEATED L-R): RUBEN O. BAUTISTA, DARIO M. BORJA, NESTOR C. CELEDONIO, ATTY. MABINI C. HERNANDEZ (AAGM), MARCIAL M. SALAS, & JOEL CALIAT. *(STANDING):* PEDRO C. VINLUAN, SERVANDO S. REYES, JR., RICARDO VINLUAN, CELSO M. EXCONDE, AND FIDEL V. REYES, JR.

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE 1440 SAN MARCELINO ST., ERMITA, MANILA, PHILIPPINES D-2801



1994 & BEFORE





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