

The Cable Ford



Vol. 74 No. 6

March-April 1998

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



MW REYNATO S. PUNO
Past Grand Master

CONGRATULATIONS, EXEMPLARS OF EXCELLENCE

- **Narra Lodge #171** *Most Outstanding Local Lodge*
- **Okinawa Lodge #118** *Most Outstanding Overseas Lodge*
- **WB Voltaire A. Francisco** (Narra Lodge #171) *Most Outstanding Worshipful Master*
- **WB Napoleon A. Sison** (Okinawa Lodge #118) *Most Outstanding Worshipful Master Overseas*
- **WB Telesforo G. Sapinoso** (Pilar Lodge #15) *Most Outstanding Secretary*
- **VW George K. Miller** (Okinawa Lodge #118) *Most Outstanding Secretary Overseas*
- **Masonic Districts 3 & 29**, ... *Most Outstanding Districts*
- **VW Marlowe S. Pedregosa** (MD #3) &
- **VW Leonardo T. Ting** (MD #29) *Most Outstanding Deputy District Grand Masters*
- **VW Andres Merlin N. Bernardo** (MD #29) ... *Most Outstanding Grand Lecturer*
- **WI Bernardo A. Espino** (Nueva Ecija Lodge #73). *Most Outstanding Grand Lodge Inspector*
- **Bro. Eugene Jack Galbreath** (Dagohoy Lodge #84) *Most Outstanding Master Mason*
- **Trestle Board** (Saranggani #50) &
- **Lee Sin Times** (Alfonso Lee Sin #158) *Most Outstanding Newsletters*
- **The Level** (Pangasinan #56) &
- **D'Trowel** (Koronadal #209) *Outstanding Lodge Newsletters*
- **WB Clemente P. Mariano** (Primera Luz Lodge #69) *Special Awardee*
- **Cabanatuan Lodge #53 &**
- **WB Eugenio P. Enriquez** (Makiling Lodge #72) *Special Recognition Awardees*

MOST OUTSTANDING MASTER MASONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ENDEAVORS

MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM
VW Jaime Gonzales
Bro. Benjamin N. Libarnes
Bro. Avelino I. Razon, Jr.
WB Herminio M. Pava
VW Henry C. Dy
Bro. Benjamin T. Dy
WB Hernani T. Barrios
VW Jaime D. Austria

- *Medicine*
 - *Bus. Mgt.*
 - *Military*
 - *Law Enforcement*
 - *Education*
 - *Civil Leadership*
 - *Local Government*
 - *Gov't. Prosecutor*
 - *Agro Business*

CONTENTS

• Grand Master's Message	2
• Editorial	3
• Ill. Puno, Grand Cross Awardee, Delivers Main Message in 48th Annual Session of Philippine Scottish Rite Masons	6
• Proclamation, Ratification of Philippine Independence	16
• La Marcha Nacional Filipina	20
• History or Legend?--Gov. Duque: A Descendant of Limahong	21
• Philippine Lodge of Research Reorganizes	22
• Around the Districts, Lodges	23
• Appendant Bodies, Allied Organizations	56
• More News, Updates...	63
• From Your Brethren for Your Further Masonic Education	70

Our Cover:

MW & Ill. Bro. REYNATO S. PUNO, PGM, Grand Lodge of F & AMs of the Philippines, PSGC and Active Member, Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, A & ASR, of the Republic of the Philippines, and Chairman of the Board for General Purposes of the GLP, is this year's recipient of the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor and the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor, the highest awards that can be bestowed to a Freemason in this grand jurisdiction. He has also been chosen by the UPAA Board of Directors as the **1998 Outstanding Professional Awardee in the Field of Law**. He will receive the award during the annual homecoming and reunion program to be held at the "Ang Bahay ng Alumni," UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City on June 20, 1998. For his many accomplishments and services to the Craft, he is fondly referred to by his brethren as "a Mason's Mason."

His speech of acceptance of the Grand Cross is given on p. 6 and following pages of this edition, and his detailed biography will appear in a subsequent issue.



THE CABLETOW is published bimonthly by the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines with principal office at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1440 San Marcelino St., Metro Manila, D 2801.

Any of the articles appearing in this publication may be reprinted in full or excerpts thereof reproduced without prior permission as long as proper attribution to the author is made and the source given due credit. THE CABLETOW office should also be furnished a courtesy copy of the reprinted material.

EDITORIAL STAFF

J. Flor R. Nicolas
Editor-in-Chief

Robert Q. Pagotan
Associate Editor

Charles G. Agar
Managing Editor

CONSULTANTS

MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM

RW Enrique L. Locsin, DGM

VW Samuel P. Fernandez, PSGS

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



MY 12 MONTHS IN THE GRAND EAST HAVE SLIPPED AWAY QUITE RAPIDLY. IT SEEMS BUT WEEKS AGO THAT YOU ELEVATED ME TO THE MOST HONORED OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER OF ALL MASONS IN THE PHILIPPINE GRAND JURISDICTION. THERE IN TACLOBAN CITY I PLEDGED THAT I WOULD NOT PERMIT THE LUSTER OF THE GRAND MASTER'S JEWEL, SYMBOL OF YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, TO BE DIMMED BY ANY UNWORTHY ACT OF MY HUMBLE PERSON. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT I HAVE FULFILLED THAT PLEDGE, AND THAT I HAVE TRIED MY LEVEL BEST TO SERVE AND LEAD YOU, INCLUDING YOUR FAMILIES.

I hope to see you during the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge here in Manila, during which I will give a report of my acts and deeds as your Grand Master for your consideration and judgment. History alone must judge the value of those acts and deeds to our Grand Lodge.

This being the last edition of *The Cabletow* during my term, I must write my valedictory message. as I do so, my whole being is suffused with the predominant emotion of gratitude for and appreciation of the various expressions of unity you have demonstrated during my term.

My deep and abiding gratitude go to my fellow Officers in the Grand Lodge, both elected and appointed, for their all-out cooperation and support, their spirit of disinterested service to the Craft, and, to borrow a phrase the late MW Mariano Q. Tinio, PGM, was fond of using, *"their willingness to go to the second mile."*

My thanks also go to the office and administrative personnel of the Grand Lodge and to the editorial staff of *The Cabletow*, as well as to the consultants thereof, for their demonstrated devotion to duty and unselfish cooperation, without which we could have been less effective in carrying out the various prongs of our administrative program.

My thanks certainly go to all the brethren in the whole grand jurisdiction, who have not only willingly implemented our Grand Lodge's suggestions and directives, but have also involved their families in Masonic affairs.

My thanks go, moreover, to the officers and members of the various appendant bodies and orders of our grand jurisdiction for extending laudable and helpful cooperation to us.

As long as we continue *"dwelling together in unity"* as a team to accomplish the many worthwhile goals and objectives we have set before us, we have reason to believe that we will yet build Philippine Masonry into what it should be, as envisioned by the Mason heroes who fought for and eventually declared the independence of the Filipino nation from foreign domination, namely, a brotherhood for unity, progress and peace.

Happy reading, and see you at the Ancom.

Fraternally,

LEON ANGEL P. BANEZ, JR.
Grand Master

EXCELLENCE: ANTIDOTE TO ANTI-MASONRY

ONE OF THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF OUR GRAND LODGE IS THE GIVING OF AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING MASONIC DISTRICTS, BLUE LODGES, AND INDIVIDUAL MASONS, WHO MAY SERVE AS MODELS AND INSPIRATION TO US AND TO THOSE WHO WILL COME THIS WAY AFTER US. THESE AWARDEES HAVE SHOWN THE COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE AN ORGANIZATION OF EXCELLENCE, AND THAT WHAT WE MASONS DO COUNTS FOR SOMETHING. INSTEAD OF DIMINISHING THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR MASONRY, JUST TO SATISFY THE NARROW WORLD VIEW OF SOME FUNDAMENTALIST RELIGIOUS GROUPS WHO BELIEVE THEY HAVE A MONOPOLY OF TRUTH, THEY HAVE PERSISTED IN CARRYING OUT VALUABLE GOOD WORKS IN SERVICE TO BOTH CRAFT AND FELLOWMEN—ALL FOR GOD'S GREATER GLORY.

Preeminent among the awardees is MW and Ill. Bro. Reynato S. Puno, who has the singular distinction of being the youngest to have become Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, Grand Master of the MW Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines, and Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, A & ASR, of the Republic of the Philippines. He is this year's recipient of two very prestigious

Masonic awards: the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor and the Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor.

He decidedly deserves the awards, the highest within the power of our Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite to bestow; for, undeniably, he has consistently endeavored "*to imitate the GMHA in his truly exalted and exemplary character, in his unfeigned piety to God, and in his inflexible fidelity to his trust.*"

In accepting the award of the Grand Cross, he expressed concern over the renewal of anti-Masonic initiatives by extremists, particularly those in the majority church in the Philippines. He exhorted Masonic leaders to give due importance to continuing Masonic education and strongly suggested that, individually and collectively, we must renew, if not deepen, our commitment to "*learn the simple lessons of practical morality and the sublime teachings of religious philosophy*" and to "*live them,*" so that "*our light may so shine before men that they will continue to desire our fellowship and join in our assemblies.*" Clearly, if and when we keep the

flame of our Masonic principles ever aglow in our hearts, we will contaminate the people we come in contact with. We will, in effect, make Freemasonry *"an institution of moral leadership, educational attainment and philanthropic endeavors"* and avoid the prospect of degenerating into *"merely a social club with empty titles and vain pretensions."*

Let us, then, emulate MW and Ill. Bro. Puno and other dedicated leaders of the Craft, who have given much of their time to improving themselves through persistent Masonic education and have courageously demonstrated their commitment to Freemasonry, standing tall for the Craft in the face of renewed attacks resuscitating dead issues.

Thus, like President, General and Brother George Washington, we will be able to tell with the utmost confidence any anti-Mason who confronts us, *"So far as I am acquainted with the principles of Freemasonry, I perceive them to be founded upon benevolence and to be exercised only for the good of mankind. I do not, therefore, upon this ground, withdraw my approbation from it."*

During the Ancom, correlatively, our Grand Secretary will report on whether the number of Masons in our grand jurisdiction has grown or dwindled.

Whether our membership has increased or declined, the fact remains that *"A chain is as strong*

as its weakest link." We must, therefore, equate the strength of our Craft, not with quantity, but with quality.

We can, indeed, make Philippine Masonry stronger, more vigorous, more vibrant, not by attracting more members into the Craft, but by first satisfying the needs and aspirations of our Fraternity's present constituency.

Our venerable Past Grand Master, MW Bro. Raymond E. Wilmarth, himself a Jose Abad Santos gold medal awardee, hit the nail on the head when he candidly remarked, *"It is much, much better to have in the roll of our Grand Lodge 2,000 active and resourceful Freemasons rather than to boast of 20,000 members who are dormant."*

Continued MW Bro. Wilmarth: *"The FEW who involve themselves with the view of getting desirable results far outperform the MANY who crave for results but do not even endeavor to contribute to the realization of such results. These are the men in Masonry who are ACTIVE IN WORDS< BUT LACKING IN DEEDS. They are the 20,000 who are mere spectators and are contented that their names are in the list."*

These are, as MW and Ill. Bro. Puno implied in his speech of acceptance of the Grand Cross Award, the Masons who would easily fall prey to anti-Masonic influences.

—cf. R. CH



Upper Photo

Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, A & ASR, of the Republic of the Philippines, reads the citation for the award of the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor to the awardee, Ill. Reynato S. Puno, Past Sovereign Grand Commander and Active Member of the same Council, while brethren and sisters look on with admiration.



Lower Photo

In behalf of Ill. Bunda, SGC, and the Supreme Council, Sis. Luz Puno pins Grand Cross of the Court of Honor on her husband-awardee, Ill. Rey.

ILL. PUNO, GRAND CROSS AWARDEE, DELIVERS MAIN MESSAGE IN 48TH ANNUAL SESSION OF PHILIPPINE SCOTTISH RITE MASONS

Most Wor. and Ill. Reynato S. Puno, 33°, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F & AM of the Philippines and Past Sovereign Grand Commander and Active Member of the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Republic of the Philippines, was awarded the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor in solemn ceremonies held at the Westin Philippine Plaza on March 14, 1998.

Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, assisted by Ill. Alberto Reyes and Ill. Agerico Amagna, presided over the awarding ceremonies. All attendees—other members of the Supreme Council, officers of the Grand Lodge, other Scottish Rite Masons, and several ladies of Masons—were of the consensus that Ill. Puno was well worthy of the highest award that can be earned by a Scottish Rite Mason in this jurisdiction.

EXPRESSION OF AMBIVALENT FEELINGS

The youngest-ever Grand Cross Awardee started his speech of acceptance by expressing profound gratitude to the Supreme Council, especially Sovereign Grand Commander Bunda.

"I am scared of accepting honors," he confessed, "for honors create a delicate trust and carry moral obligations. The trust of tonight's award is to scatter the light of Scottish Rite Freemasonry by reflecting it on your daily life. This is a difficult trust, which I can hope to fulfill only with God's grace."

RW LOCSIN RESCUED HIM FROM INDECISION

Ill. Puno was the one who suggested the theme of the 48th Annual Session, namely, "1898: Legacy for a Masonic Philippines," but when he considered several topics in preparation to writing the main message in the Session, none excited his adrenalin.

"Rt. W. Henry Locsin may not know it," he revealed, "but he rescued me from my indecision."

He then explained that two weeks before, Rt. W. Locsin called him up to brief him about his preparations for our April Annual Communication. In the course of their conversation, Rt. W. Locsin informed him that last February 4, he received a letter from Mrs. Grace S. Brosas, Program Director, Private Sector Affairs Committee of the Philippine Centennial Commission. Mrs. Brosas informed Rt. W. Locsin that the Masons' participation in the centennial celebration of our independence would be "...as attendees instead of direct participants."

Rt. W. Locsin was frothing in the mouth when Ill. Puno asked him how he

responded. He said he sent the following letter of protest to Mrs. Brosas.

...We are requesting merely a place in the centennial parade commensurate with the dominant intellectual role played by Masonry in the commemorated event—the declaration of Philippine Independence and the struggle that led to it...

Without Masonry, there would have been no revolution and no independence... If Masonry is not allowed representation in the celebration, we cannot imagine what should be allowed. ...Masonry was proscribed by the Japanese as it was persecuted by the Spaniards. The symbols—triangle, sun and stars—of the very flag we now salute are those of Masonry.

We hope your committee will reconsider its decision to exclude the dominant influence on historic events at the turn of the century and allow the Free Masons of the Philippines to assume in their commemoration the important part they deserve.

Rt. W. Locsin sent another letter to Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor, Chairperson, 1998 Centennial Parade, which reads in part as follows:

...I specifically asked if the Masonic fraternity could, at its own expense, contribute a float to the centennial parade since it is Masonry that inspired the revolution, dictated the emblems, and continued to inform the independence movement of the Philippines until the United States granted it in 1946. The historical case for the preeminent role of Masonry is known to everybody but the most ignorant...

I hope you will help in making

the centennial officials see what everybody does—that Masonry...was responsible for the independence whose centennial the country is set to honor.

Commented Ill. Puno:

"The temper flare of Rt. W. Locsin compelled our centennial officials to see the light. They agreed to allow the Grand Lodge to participate in the centennial opening with a float, which will depict the Propaganda Movement.

"I have taken pains to narrate this incident to brightline the sad fact that our people, even the intellectual elite, appear to underplay, if not negate, the stellar role of Masons in our 1896 struggle for independence."

TWO GREAT EVENTS IN OUR HISTORY

Ill. Puno described 1896 and 1986 as two great events in our history, but chasmic in significance. Said he:

"What people power brought down in EDSA 1986 was an authoritarian regime of 14 years. What the Masons brought down in 1896 was a dictatorship of more than 300 years. What people power ended in 1986 was a homegrown authoritarianism. What the Masons terminated in 1896 was the strongest, the most dangerous dictatorship ever known to mankind—the dictatorship that proceeds from the union of church and state. Yet, the contribution of Masonry to the history of this country is written in the wind while the contributions of others are memorialized in marble."

RESURGENCE OF SPITE AGAINST THE CRAFT

Continued the Grand Cross Awardee:

"It is bad enough that Masonry is being buried in the dustbin of history. What is worse is that Masonry is once again being badmouthed as the epitome of evil. The telltale signs are all over our landscape. There is the sudden

resurgence of anti-Masonic literature. There is the vigorous drive to show that the leading heroes of our 1896 revolution renounced their belief in Masonry before they crossed the Great Beyond. In the last meeting of the Grand Lodge Board for General Purposes, MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM, replayed to us a tape where we heard a past DDGM spreading lies against Masonry from pulpit to pulpit.

"A lot of brethren have asked me to respond to the resurgence of spite against the Craft. It is truly a cause of concern that there appears a cultivated effort to pit against each other Masonry and the majority church. Tonight, I wish to contribute my humble thoughts on this growing problem. My simple thesis is that all attempts to bring down the wrath of the majority church against Masonry will fail, for Masonry is not anti-religion. It is specially not against the majority church, for our best members come from the majority church. We had proven this thesis before, and we are ready to prove it again and again."

EVIDENCE OF RECENT HISTORY

To prove his "simple thesis," Ill. Puno took his auditors back to recent history since "a page of history is worth a volume of logic."

MW QUASHA AND CARDINAL BEA. In 1959, MW William H. Quasha, PGM, went to the Vatican City to try to get the majority church to reconsider its condemnation of Freemasonry in the Philippines. MW Quasha conferred several times with His Eminence, Agustin Cardinal Bea, then the President of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. MW Quasha relayed the desire of Filipino Masons for a harmonious relationship with the majority church. This move is well documented by several pro memoria letters of MW Quasha addressed to Cardinal Bea....

MW QUASHA'S PRO MEMORIA LETTER OF MARCH 18, 1963

This is a Pro Memoria covering the subject of our delightful discussion which was attended by His Excellency Benigno Toda y Toledo, Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See, and Fr. Stefano Schmidt, S.J., Your Eminence's Secretary.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines is most desirous of establishing harmonious relations with the Roman Catholic Church and toward this and would appreciate a reexamination of the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church to Masonry in our jurisdiction.

We believe that the world urgently requires the cooperative efforts of all people who believe in one God Almighty, Father of all men, Maker of heaven and earth, and that in the furtherance of His will, we must find bases for bridging the hiatus which now exists between the Roman Catholic Church and Freemasonry in our jurisdiction.

Seeing Cardinal Bea's delight in his efforts, MW Quasha ecstatically wrote the letter given below.

MW QUASHA'S LETTER OF MARCH 13, 1968

I was pleased to receive the letter from Fr. Schmidt dated March 4, 1968 to the effect that you would be willing to see me when I come to Rome next May.

In yesterday's and today's newspapers a UPI report emanating from Vatican City states that "The Vatican has virtually scrapped an old church law excommunicating Catholics who join the Order of Freemasons...Catholics now are free to join the Masons in the United States, Britain and most other countries of the world. But the European Grand Orient Lodge

form of Masonry, established primarily in Italy and France, is still considered anti-Catholic or atheistic...."

That this has come to pass makes me very happy indeed. When I first had the honor of having an audience with you on January 31, 1963, you estimated it would take about five years to settle this matter. It turned out to be almost exactly five years.

This action on the part of His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, I sincerely believe, will herald an entirely new era of harmony and of ecumenicity amongst those who believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of men. It also affords me great satisfaction that our efforts have contributed to such a monumental result.

MW WILMARTH'S FOLLOW-UP INITIATIVE.

MW Raymond E. Wilmarth, upon assumption of the Grand Oriental Chair in 1967, endeavored to follow up his worthy predecessor's initiative. He recommended the creation of a committee that would coordinate our activities with the Catholic Church.

MW Kalaw and the CBCP. MW Teodoro Kalaw, Jr.'s effort to bridge the gap between Philippine Freemasonry and the Catholic Church. In his May 3, 1968 letter to Msgr. Benjamin L. Marino, MW Kalaw proposed a dialogue between officials of Freemasonry and the Catholic Church. Msgr. Marino forwarded the letter of MW Kalaw to the late Rufino Cardinal Santos, who in turn referred it to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for appropriate action.

The CBCP, through its then Secretary General, Bishop Mariano G. Gaviola, S.J., wrote MW Kalaw an encouraging letter, a part of which is reproduced below.

CBCP'S LETTER

June 5, 1968

Dear Mr. Kalaw:

I am pleased to inform you that at the recent meeting of the Administrative Board of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Most Reverend Members were happy to endorse your proposal. For this purpose, the undersigned was instructed to form our own group composed of the following: Bishop Cornelius de Wit, Member of the Episcopal Commission on Ecumenism, Rev. Fr. Pedro Salgado, O.P., and Rev. Fr. Vicente A. San Juan, S.J.

We kindly propose that our first meeting be held on June 22, 1968, at 6:30 p.m., at the place of your choice, for your convenience....

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Sgd) MARIANO G. GAVIOLA, S.J.

Titular Bishop of Girba

Secretary General

Member, Secretariat for

Promoting Christian Unity

Upon receipt of Bishop Gaviola's letter, the Grand Lodge formed its own panel, which was composed of stalwarts of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. MW Wilmarth, PGM, was chair of the panel, with the following as members: Ill. Conrado Benitez, 33°, Ill. Teofilo Abejo, 33°, Ill. Macario Navia, 33°, and Ill. Aurelio Corcuera, 33°. Later Ill. Domingo Bascara, 33°, replaced Ill. Benitez.

Pointed out the Grand Cross Awardee: "The two panels met regularly, once or twice a month, for about two

years. In these meetings, Philippine Masonry and its interstices were probed by the majority church. We revealed everything to the majority church. In an unprecedented move which some brethren protested, we even provided them with a clear text of our Monitor."

Questions propounded by the Catholic panel of experts. The Catholic panel of experts propounded to its Masonic counterpart such questions as the following:

1. Is Freemasonry anti-Catholic?
2. Do Freemasons in the Philippines believe in God and the immortality of the soul?
3. Does Freemasonry oppose the teachings of the Catholic Church and its religious instructions in the schools?
4. What about the Masonic oath? It is immoral?

The Catholic panel's report and recommendation. Ill. Puno remarked that after dialoguing with its Masonic counterpart for approximately two years, the Catholic panel submitted a report and recommendation favorable to Philippine Masonry.

CATHOLIC PANEL'S CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE CBCP

The Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines have in writing given in to all the demands presented by the Catholic panel, —that they would not oppose religious instructions in schools as provided for by law, nor try to separate Catholic members from the religion of their choice, nor teach anything contrary to the official teachings of the Church. In fact, they said they are more than willing to cooperate with the Roman Catholic Church, especially in its social endeavors.

It is the Catholic panel's belief that Freemasonry as such is

compatible with Catholicism. It is only when the leaders interpret it badly that Freemasonry becomes anti-religious and anti-Catholic. Otherwise, it can coexist with the Catholic religion.

Freemasonry's intrinsic compatibility with Catholicism rests on the following fact: in religious matters, Freemasonry requires three things from its members, namely, belief in God, the immortality of the soul and the moral life. Now, there is certainly nothing wrong in these. The error comes when the leaders twist these to their own purposes, proclaiming them to be the only worthwhile religious truths. In this way, Freemasonry becomes either naturalistic, believing only in these truths that can be known by natural reason, or indifferentist, considering all religions to be equal, as long as they accept the above truths.

The Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines is not of the Grand Orient type of lodges, lodges that are known for their anti-clericalism. Much of the anti-clericalism the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines had manifested in the past was, in our opinion, due more to the state of friction that existed between Masonry and the Catholic Church, especially with the excommunication matter, than to any other thing. These lodges are more for fraternal and social purposes.

Times have altered, people have changed. The Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines want a new era of mutual cooperation. It would be unkind to accuse them of ulterior motives.

The Catholic panel does believe that a change of the old condemnatory attitude toward the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines be adopted. It thinks it is good and opportune that the Catholic Hierarchy of the Philippines requests the Vatican for the lifting of excommunication from Filipino Catholic members of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

Remarked the Grand Cross Awardee: "The recommendation of the Catholic experts had to hurdle the approval of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. In the Bishops' annual meeting held on January 19 to 25, 1970 the recommendation of the Catholic experts was endorsed to the Episcopal Commission of the Doctrine of the Faith for further study. Again, after a most exacting historical and theological study, the Episcopal Commission of the Doctrine of the Faith agreed with the recommendation of the Catholic experts. The Commission's conformity cleared the last impediment for the imprimatur of the CBCP. On March 31, 1970, Archbishop Teopisto Alberto, then the President of the CBCP, wrote an unprecedented letter to Rev. Carmine Rocco, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, where the CBCP formally petitioned the Holy See to exempt the provision of Canon 2335 of the Code of Canon Law all Catholics 'who in the judgment of their Local Ordinaries are members in good faith of the Grand Lodge of the Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines.' As there was no immediate reply, Bishop Mariano G. Gaviola, Titular Bishop of Girba, made a follow-up letter to the Most Rev. Bruno Torpigliani, who in the meanwhile became the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines."

**TORPIGLIANI'S REPLY TO BISHOP GAVIOLA
AUGUST 7, 1975**

This Nunciature immediately forwarded your request to the Holy See and in reply, His Eminence Eracio Cardinal Seper with letter No. 272/74 of July 25, 1975 states the following:

In accordance with the circular dated July 18, 1974 which recalls a strict interpretation of Canon 2335, the excommunication

applies only to the persons who are members of associations that militate against the church. It is on the basis of this principle that the position of the members of the different groups must be judged in each particular case.

How does one interpret this reply? Ill. Puno cited the article of Fr. Florencio Testera, O.P., "The Catholic Church and Philippine Masonry," which appeared in the Boletín Ecclesiastica de Filipinas, Vol. LIX, Nov.-Dec. 1983. Fr. Testera, as was pointed out by Ill. Puno, made this interpretation:

"Obviously, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, by declaring to take a definite stand on a local issue, told our bishops that they are the ones in a position to determine whether Philippine Masonry is anti-Catholic or not."

New Code of Canon Law. Continued the Grand Cross Awardee: "All these developments were capped by the promulgation of a new Code of Canon Law in 1983. The previous Canon No. 2335, which provides 'Those who join a Masonic or other sect and conspire against the Church and lawful civil authority are subject to the major canonical penalty,' was deleted from the new Code of Canon Law. The New Code simply provides in Canon No. 1374 that 'whoever accepts membership in an association hostile to the Church shall be liable to a just penalty; he who promotes or directs such an association shall be punished with an interdict.' "

Ill. Puno then cited Fr. Testera's opinion on the significance of the change in the New Code of Canon Law, as follows:

"The term 'Masonry' is altogether dropped from the New Code. Masons,

as well as members of other organizations hostile to the church, no longer incur an automatic excommunication. This does not mean, however, that all Masons must be admitted into the Church unconditionally. A Mason can still be subjected to certain penalties once it is proven beyond doubt that he has accepted membership in a lodge which is truly hostile to the Church."

Effect of the New Code of Canon Law. Stated Ill. Puno: "The New Code of Canon Law accelerated the new wind of ecumenism blowing from the direction of the Vatican. It offered fresh hope that the misunderstanding that has separated the majority church from other churches and institutions like Masonry would soon vanish. For a number of years, Freemasonry in the Philippines benefited from this thawing of hostilities. Indeed, our relationship with the majority church warmed up. Church dignitaries graced Masonic gatherings. When (for instance) Ill. Macario Navia, a member of the Masonic panel, died, no less than Bishop Mariano Gaviola, Secretary General of the CBCP, repaired to the J. Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple to bless his earthly remains."

"Unfortunately," he added, "this happy state was not to perpetuate itself. Starting in 1983, we read news releases coming from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect for the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, that Catholics who join Masonry commit 'serious sin' and may not receive the Eucharist. The situation got worse when the CBCP issued in 1990 certain guidelines defining the relationship of the church with the Craft. Since then, we are witness to the off-and-on criticism and condemnation of the Craft from certain sectors of the majority church. Abroad, especially in the southern United States, the criticism has been echoed by some mainline

Protestant religions and born-again preachers."

DEALING WITH RENEWED ATTACKS AGAINST THE CRAFT

Having been asked by a lot of brethren as to how to deal with such renewed attacks against the Craft which come from both main-stream and off-stream religions, the Grand Cross Awardee offered this wise counsel:

"We should deal with them with the lesson taught us in our 32nd degree—with love and with an understanding of the greatest latitude. Masonry holds no contention against any religion, and Masons are apostles of freedom of religion. Indeed, the strength of Masonry lies in its teachings taken mainly from the universal teachings of the major religions of the world. We are also committed to the dispersal of harmony among all men and this objective will elude us if we do not build bridges of understanding with our fellowmen, including our critics and detractors."

"Let us not be shackled by the fear that Philippine Masonry suffer an irreversible setback because of these recycled criticisms. These criticisms are not new. They are premised on age-old misconceptions about Masonry, which arose when organized ignorance ruled the hearts and minds of men. Superstitions and ignorance no longer hold sway over our people. In this age of exploding knowledge, our people can easily discriminate between truth and falsehood. The CBCP has cleared Masonry from these misconceptions after a thorough examination of our philosophy and practices."

To substantiate his statement, the Grand Cross Awardee quoted a portion of an address His Eminence, Julio Cardinal Rosales had delivered before an assembly of Masons, which is given below.

EXCERPTS FROM CARDINAL ROSALES' ADDRESS

But if you ask me now, wherein lies the basis for cordial relations and reconciliation, I believe it can be found in the changed attitudes and conditions in both Freemasonry and the Catholic Church in many parts of the world. For one thing, the irritants in the olden times that accounted so much for the antagonism between the two groups do not seem to exist at least these last years in our country. For, as we know, the Holy Fathers denounced Freemasonry on three principal grounds: its attacks on the Catholic Church, its subversive activities against legitimate civil authority, and its naturalism on religious beliefs. Permit me to cite some words from Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical on Freemasonry, *Humanum Genus*:

"Now the Masonic sect produces fruits that are pernicious and of the bitterest savor. For from what we have above most clearly shown, that which is their ultimate purpose forces itself into view—namely, the utter overthrow of that whole religious and political order of the world which the Christian teaching has produced, and the substitution of a new state of things in accordance with their ideas, of which the foundations and laws shall be drawn from mere Naturalism (No. 10).

"Nor do they think it enough to disregard the Church—the best of guides—unless they also injure it by their hostility. Indeed, with them it is lawful to attack with impunity the very foundations of the Catholic religion, in speech, in writing, and in teaching; and even the rites of the Church are not spared, and the offices with which it is divinely invested are not safe (No. 14).

"Having, by these artifices, insured their own safety and audacity, they have begun to exercise great weight in the government of States; but nevertheless they are prepared to shake the foundations of empires, to harass the rulers of the State, to accuse, and to cast them out, as often as they appear to govern otherwise than they themselves could have wished (No. 28)."

Leo XIII was talking about continental Freemasonry.

Now, are the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines the same as the Freemasonry of the earlier century denounced by the *Humanum Genus*? Is there no hope for rapport between Catholicism and Philippine Freemasonry, i.e., the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines?

Frankly speaking, I would not be here today, had I believed the cordial relations with the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines were impossible. The Catholic panel has assured us that much of those things that aroused so much Pope Leo's indignation are, to a large extent at least, nonexistent today in our country.

To say, for example, that the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines are subversives and seditious is of course absurd. The members of this association are distinguished Filipinos who have always been known for their law-abiding spirit. They have never been run after by the Philippine government for trying to overthrow the republic. In fact, very many hold high government positions, bolstering and strengthening the solidity of the nation.

To say, likewise, that the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines have no aim but that of attacking and annihilating, if possible, the Catholic Church—a thing bewailed by Pope Leo XIII—is, I believe, neither true now. For

indeed who is the Mason today maliciously attacking the catholic Church? What one sees instead is the effort of Freemasonry towards friendship, initiating Masonic-Catholic dialogue, creating joint social projects, inviting even the highest Catholic leaders to its celebrations.

Again Leo XIII censured Freemasonry for naturalism, in its religious beliefs. Is this valid, too, for the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines?

There are religious truths which every Mason is bound to believe, namely, the existence of God, the necessity for a good moral life, the immortality of the soul, and reward for the good and punishment for the bad in an after-life.

Interpreted in one way, these truths can indeed form that naturalism in religion which Pope Leo lamented in his Encyclical. For there had in fact been Freemasons in the past who said that in all religious beliefs the above-mentioned truths are the only truths of religion worth caring for; for these are the truths in which all men agree. Freemasonry is to be esteemed and praised for teaching its members to refrain from quarreling among themselves about their particular beliefs. Freemasonry holds those beliefs of which there is no dispute. Why respect religions when what they do is simply to propose truths over which everybody quarrels and disputes? This kind of interpretation is of course unacceptable to Catholicism; for, among other things, it destroys revelation and the other supernatural truths that go with it.

Interpreted in another way, however, these truths could hold no obstacle for mutual understanding. For, in the first place, there really is nothing wrong in believing in the existence of God, good moral life, the immortality of the soul, the reward or punishment after death. It is good—nay, obligatory—to

believe these things. The error lies in the saying that they are the only truths worth believing....

III. Puno's Conclusions

On the basis of the historical background he had recounted, Ill. Puno submitted several conclusions, as follows:

"The message is clear, and the message is that Masonry can withstand the strictest of scrutiny, including the scrutiny of unbelievers. All that Masonry needs to fight falsehoods is a fair hearing for truth is on our side. Given a fair hearing, Filipino Freemasonry will acquit itself from every false charge in any forum. The CBCP cleared Masonry from these calumnies after two years of microscopic examination of our landmarks, laws, rules and rituals. There is no reason to change that well-considered judgment. Filipino Freemasonry cannot be good in 1896 and bad in 1998 when nothing has changed in Masonry.

"I like to think that Masonry is like tea—its best comes out in hot water. Harassments and persecutions will not toll the bell for Masonry. They will only weed out from our ranks the unworthy Masons—those who do not comprehend Masonry; those who understand Masonry but will compromise its teachings due to social, political or religious convenience; and those who are in Masonry for what they can get and not for what they can give for the good of their fellowmen.

"Like our senior brethren in the Craft, I like to resound the clarion call for a more honest-to-goodness Masonic education. I have always believed that unless we immerse ourselves in our landmarks, laws, ancient rules, rituals, traditions and practices, we will never be able to defend the Craft. Our best shield against libel and calumny is knowledge of Masonry; our best defense against falsehood is the offense provided

by unarmed truth, but let us remember that truth will hold only he who actively seeks for the truth. Truth does not show itself to the slothful. Truth comes to the seeker. It is discovered. Seek and ye shall find. More than anytime, we should seek more light in Masonry.

"Let me end with the fearless statement that Freemasonry in the Philippines is here to stay. The foundation of this country was built by Masons and the mightiest of men

cannot obliterate the goodness of Masonry. Masonry has survived and will continue to succeed, for no institution that rests on the pillars of brotherly love, relief and truth will ever fall. There is only one thing that Masonry will not survive and that is the lack of Masonry among Masons. The future of Masonry lies in our own hands and not in the hands of others."

The Grand Cross Awardee having spoken, the assembly gave him a standing ovation.—eF.R.eN

SELECTED SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS

*The Roman Catholic would find nothing incompatible in Masonry, which only asks for liberty, equality and fraternity for every individual of mankind.—ILL. MARCELO H. DEL PILAR

*A good Mason is made even more faithful to the tenets of his faith by his membership in the Lodge.—REV./DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

*Once a Catholic becomes a Mason, we only ask that, in addition to being a good Mason, he be a better Catholic, so that the world may know he has benefited from his Masonic way of life.—MW & ILL. RAYMOND F. WILMARTH, PCM & PSCC

*Our Masonic forebears did things together in sincere love and fellowship, worked together in unity, and showed pride in their Masonic membership. United in purpose and proud of being Master Masons, they responded to our country's destiny. They became a vital force in the upliftment of our country.—MW JPL ADJONG, PCM

*We must take 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.—MW PABLO C. KO, JR., PCM

*The worldwide Masonic movement is an eloquent testimony to universal brotherhood which transcends barriers of geography, culture and race. Filipino Masons in particular are by themselves one unified force of committed and responsible citizens adding their just share to the cause of a united and progressive Philippines resting on solid ground.—PRES. FIDEL V. RAMOS

*While we refrain from contention and partisan politics, we Masons cannot become fence-sitters or mere observers of the social scene. Our commitment to the service of mankind cannot but compel us to join, as all organized groups do, to help combat the rampant evils of our time. We must, in other words, find our place in our society and be counted among the other elements therein in the solution of national problems.—MW & ILL. CONRADO BENITEZ, PCM & PSCC

PROCLAMATION, RATIFICATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

BY J. FLOR R. NICOLAS (148)

WHILE WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE *USS McCULLOUGH*, OUR WOR. BRO. "COLON", GEN. EMILIO FAMY AGUINALDO, DISCUSSED WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HONGKONG JUNTA THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SPAIN. SOME, PARTICULARLY TEODORO SANDIKO, SUGGESTED THAT THEY ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM THE AMERICANS AND THEN FIGHT THEM; FOR, AFTER ALL, EVERYTHING IS FAIR IN WAR. BUT WB "COLON" TOOK THE SIMPLE GROUND THAT SUCH CONDUCT WOULD BE DISHONORABLE.

This shows that WB "Colon" was possessed with high ideals. In fact, all through the struggle in the field, he endeavored to prevent the outbreak of his men's natural ferocity and to treat prisoners with a semblance of respect for the rules of civilized warfare.

EVENTS LEADING TO DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On May 19, 1898, WB "Colon" returned to this country from Hongkong. Right away he resumed the revolution against Spain. American forces, as was agreed upon, joined the Filipino revolutionists in the fight against Spain.

On May 24, WB "Colon" set up a Dictatorial Government. Then, on June 5, to secure the identity of the Dictatorial Government, he issued a decree fixing June 12 for the proclamation of the independence of the Philippines; he commissioned Julian Felipe to compose a national march.



President /Bro. Emilio F. Aguinaldo

PROCLAMATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

In "Our New Possessions," American journalist Trumbul White wrote that June 12, 1898 was a Sunday. In the afternoon of that day a crowd of between five and six thousand gathered around the Aguinaldo home in Cavite el Viejo (now Kawit), Cavite. In the crowd were representatives of the eight Luzon provinces that had rejoined the revolution, as well as about a thousand insurgent soldiers.

The main street was "gay with triumphal arches" and extemporized Filipino flags. Bands were playing and marching. Then exultant Filipinos carried an American, L.M. Johnson, on

their shoulders as the symbol of the Filipino-American cooperation. The American, according to White, was actually in command of the ordnance of the insurgent forces. Later, however, the American was described by some as "one of those colonel-for-one-day officers representing nobody in particular."

In any case, the news that Admiral Dewey might grace the occasion with his presence spread through the crowd like a telegram. In the end, however, the Filipinos were disappointed because, through his secretary, the Admiral excused himself from attending.

But the program proceeded according to plan. The proclamation document, penned by Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista, another Mason, was read before the big crowd.

The document mentioned the reasons that impelled the revolutionary leaders to declare the independence of their people and the end of their oppression by Spain. It stressed that the Filipinos had become "weary of bearing the onerous yoke of Spanish domination." It cited the "arbitrary arrests and harsh treatment practiced by the Civil Guards," "shooting of prisoners," "unjust deportations," and other acts of cruelty "more execrable than the Inquisition."

The document also outlined how the land of Lapu-lapu, Sikatuna, Sulayman, Lakandula and others fell into the hands of Magallanes, Legaspi, et al.

It described, moreover, the military triumphs of the revolutionists after the Hongkong interlude as "truly marvelous and unparalleled in the history of colonial revolutions."

It cited, furthermore, the execution of Filipino secular priests Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora, as well as the labors

and martyrdom of Jose P. Rizal and other Filipino patriots. Finally it stated:

"The Supreme Judge of the Universe can witness the rectitude of our intentions; we repose from confidence in the protection of Divine Providence. We pledge for the support of this declaration our lives, our fortunes and our most precious possession, which is our honor."

"We proclaim and solemnly declare, in the name of and by the authority of the inhabitants of these Philippine Islands, that they were released from all obedience to the crown of Spain;... every political tie between the two is and must be completely severed and annulled."

The entire document having been read, the Philippine flag was officially raised to the accompaniment of the "*Marcha Nacional Filipina*" composed by Julian Felipe.

"In the years to come," Trumbul White wrote down in his work already cited, *"the 12th of June will be an occasion of rejoicing and jubilee. It will be to the natives of these islands what the Fourth of July is to Americans. The declaration of independence will be read to the school children, every house will be gay with Filipino flags, and the sounds of parading bands will share honors with the noisy firecrackers and the soaring skyrocket. It will become such an institution that the daily papers will speak of it as the 'Glorious Twelfth'; and on the morning of the 13th will be a great deal of fine news."*

White's prediction, clearly, has come to pass....

INTERVENING EVENTS

On June 18-20, WB "Colon" issued decrees (penned by Ill. Apolinario "Katabay" Mabini) for the organization of the local governments and the convocation of a revolutionary congress.

On June 23, he changed the dictatorial government to revolutionary and assumed the new title of President.

On July 4, Pres. Emilio Aguinaldo issued a decree creating El Herado de la Revolucion and making it the sole clearing house of all revolutionary pronouncements.

On July 15, he appointed his brother Baldomero Secretary of War and Public Works; Leandro Ibarra, Secretary of Interior; and Mariano Trias, Secretary of the Treasury. He temporarily handled the Secretaryship of Foreign Affairs.

On August 3, he delivered a speech in Kawit, pleading to the local officials for union, peace and upright conduct.

On August 6, he issued a memorandum to foreign powers, appealing to them, particularly to the United States, to recognize the belligerence and independence of the Philippines.

On August 13, the Americans captured Manila with the help of the Filipino troops. But the latter were not permitted to enter the captured city.

On August 22, Pres. Aguinaldo issued a decree ordering his men to prepare for the transfer of the seat of power from Bacoor, Cavite to Malolos, Bulacan.

Wrote O.K. Davis: "When Aguinaldo transferred his headquarters from Bakor (Bacoor) to Malolos, he moved out from a strategically impossible position to one that was strategically sound. In doing so he declined to come through Manila, but rode around the outskirts of the City, from Bakoor (Bacoor) to Caloocan, rather than put himself, even for such a moment, apparently in the hands of

the Americans. That afternoon he drove into Malolos in a carriage drawn by four white horses, surrounded by officers of his staff, to receive the cheers and acclamations of his people, and he was hailed as the Washington of the Filipinos....."

On September 15, Pres. Aguinaldo opened the inaugural session of the Revolutionary Congress in the Church of Barasoain in Malolos.

Again, he urged the Filipino people to be ready to sacrifice blood and fortune in the face of the great and transcendental problems of peace. He

stressed the paramount importance of the task of the Congress to compose a Constitution "expressive of the high aspiration of our people"—one that would enable us, in time of peace, to forge a brighter political destiny for our country.

Congress President Pedro A. Paterno, in response, assured the President the delegates would do their level best to be equal to the task. He expressed the fervent wish and prayer that the President live long so that, under his leadership, the Filipinos would enjoy an era of glorious peace, liberty and long-lasting prosperity.

RATIFICATION OF THE 'ACT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE'

On September 29, the Revolutionary Congress solemnly ratified the "Act of the Declaration of Independence" local presidents had done in Kawit.

Congress President Paterno said in part: "The object of our current fight is to emancipate the Philippines. We do not want any other domination than that of liberty. Neither do we want any nation to be subject to another. What

**Just as we love our
independence, we
respect the inde-
pendence of other
nations.**

we want, rather, is that all are brothers and equal in rights."

Paterno said, furthermore, that Just as we love our independence, we respect the independence of other nations. Then he continued:

"Filipinos: today begins a new era....the political resurrection of our Nation! From among the obscurities of yesterday, from among the tombs of our heroes and martyrs, from among the ruins of the past rises and resplendently stands the genius of liberty, embracing all the islands and uniting all Filipinos with the bonds of sacred brotherhood.

"Liberty, in fine, is the ideal of our earthly existence; it is the condition of all life and all progress.

"Individual liberty and national independence—these are the foundations of the present Filipino society.

"Today marks the new political foundation of our nation.....It separates our yesterday and our tomorrow. Yesterday, the era of cruelty, of falsehood, and of slavery, has ended. Let us renew the history of the Philippines. Today we begin a new page. The golden age, as all of you know very well, has not passed; it is not behind, but rather, ahead, in our tomorrow.

"Oh rich and fortunate future of our beloved country, I greet you! Omnipotent Providence, goods, multiplying the productions of genius and of the arts, as well as populating our rivers and our seas with fleets from Asia, from America, from Europe—nay, from all regions, in search of metals and precious stones that abound in our fertile valleys and our virgin forests!

"The Filipino Nation's sovereignty will eclipse the despotism of the colonizers; reason and truth will replace lies and deceptions.

"Every nation has its destiny in its own hands; it must so labor as to

forge a bright destiny for itself. We must, therefore, help ourselves, if we want God to help us. Only at this price will we realize our country's liberty and good fortune.

"Forward, Filipinos! Without vacillation, without retreating, let us walk through the path of justice, love, concord and charity. Let us, with generous and humanitarian acts, incline the suffrages of universal public opinion toward ourselves, and let us write, in the Lord's presence, in the Supreme Being's presence, the oath of our independence.

"If we must die in order to consolidate it, then let us die! Let us go to the sacrifice singing the hymn of liberty.

"Progress is realized through suffering and sorrow; it moves us to live through our political will. Let us, then, raise high and firmly our tri-colored banner of **Unity, Liberty and Nationality**, bound by the ties of universal brotherhood. Let us maintain our rights with inflexible fidelity; they are true and therefore will triumph!

"Do not ever doubt. Do not for a moment vacillate. Ours is victory. Let us be united in only one thought. Long live free and independent Philippines! Long live Aguinaldo, liberator of the Country! Long live the unconquered Philippine Army!"

Paterno having spoken, Pres. Aguinaldo rose from his seat. He gave the assembly a smile. Then he began speaking in softly modulated tones, thereby revealing his engaging personality. Haltingly, in his characteristic low voice, he uttered some Spanish phrases and then conveyed his eloquent message in Tagalog. He urged the entire Filipino nation to protect the newly regained independence of our country, to demonstrate our allegiance to the Filipino Flag, and to defend our Country and our Flag to the last drop of our blood....

"LA MARCHA NACIONAL FILIPINA"

Himno Nacional

Letra por José Palma Música de Julián Felipe

Tie - rra a-do - ra - da hi - ja del sol de O - rien - te
 en - tre - go acor - de an ti la - tim - do en - tí.
 Tie - rra de a-mo - res del ho - me - se - no en - ra
 les in - va - so - res no te hulla - rán je - nés. En el an - fi
 cie - - lo en tus so - ras en tus mon - tes en tu mar
 op - len - da y la - ta al pe - o - no de tu a - ma - da

li - ber - tad! Tu pa - bi - lión que en las li - ber - tad vi -
 to - ria li - bi - ná no va - rá men - es a - pa - ga -
 dos pes es - tre - llas ni en sol. Tie - rra de di - cho, de sol
 y a - mo - res en tu re - ga - so del co - so vi -
 vir, En un a - glo - ria pa - ra las hi -
 jos oom - do te o - fen - des por ti de - rre.

JOSE PALMA PENNED THE SPANISH LYRICS, ENTITLED "FILIPINAS," ADOPTED TO THE "MARCHA NACIONAL FILIPINA" IN 1899. MW CAMILO OSIAS, PGM, AND LANE WROTE THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM IN THE EARLY DECADES OF THIS CENTURY. THAT VERSION STARTS WITH "LAND OF THE MORNING." TODAY, WE SING THE SAME

HISTORIC TUNE IN FILIPINO, STARTING WITH THE WORDS "BAYANG MAGILIW."

In 1918 an International Contest of National Anthems was held in Boston. The national anthem of France romped away with the first prize, and ours with the second prize.

Given above is the "Marcha Nacional Filipina" with the Spanish lyrics.

GOVERNOR DUQUE: A DESCENDANT OF LIMAHONG

BY BRO. RESITITO BASA (#56)

REMEMBER LIMAHONG, THE CHINESE CORSAIR WHO VIRTUALLY RULED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN THE 16TH CENTURY AND WHO AMASSED A FORTUNE MAINLY BY VICTIMIZING MERCHANTS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES? FROM HIM DESCENDED THE LATE GOV. & BRO. FRANCISCO QUIMSON DUQUE, THE THIRD MASON TO RULE PANGASINAN AS GOVERNOR, THE OTHERS BEING DANIEL MARAMBA AND JUAN DE G. RODRIGUEZ, BOTH OF WHOM WERE FEATURED IN PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

Limahong's Exploits: a Review

Because the merchants had lodged strong protests against Limahong's nefarious acts before him, the Chinese emperor declared him degenerate and ordered his arrest and execution. Limahong, however, was able to escape to the Philippines, where he planned to establish his own kingdom.

He built his naval fort at Domalandan in Lingayen, Pangasinan, the chieftain of which was Anak-banwa, whose daughter Kabontatala, as may be learned from *The Limahong Invasion* (1979) by Cesar V. Callanta, had a romantic affair with Limahong and eventually got pregnant by him.

On November 30, 1574, Limahong attempted to capture Manila from Spanish hands, but he failed. On December 2, he again attacked Manila, but Captain Juan de Salcedo ably defended the city. Wounded, Limahong retreated back to Pangasinan, arriving

at the Lingayen Gulf on December 8. At his Domalandan fort he hoped to recuperate and regain strength.

A few months later, Captain Salcedo tried to gain entry into Limahong's fort—to no avail. He and Limahong engaged in minor hit-and-run skirmishes for four months. The latter had to leave Domalandan to evade capture by the Spanish forces.

Kabontatala pleaded that Limahong take her with him. But due to the uncertainty of what was in store for him, Limahong decided to leave Kabontatala under her parents' care.

He dug a channel from Domalandan to Balococ. From Balococ he sailed up the Agno River toward Tumar and Basing in southern Lingayen. From Basing he sailed to Manat in Binmaley. Then from Manat he entered Dagupan between Lucao and Carael and finally out into the China Sea—again through the Agano River delta in Bonuan Sanangan, Dagupan—and finally to freedom.

Gov. & Bro. Duque's revelation

In 1956, when I was a member of his staff in the governor's office, Gov. and Bro. Francisco Quimson Duque revealed to me that his mother, Genoveva Quimson, a native of Domalandan, was a great great granddaughter of Quimson, the son of Limahong and Kabontatala.

Quimson, by the way, is a Chinese word meaning "my precious child."

His Accomplishments

During his term as governor, Bro. Duque constructed a temporary wooden bridge across the cut-off, flood control channel between Baay and Domalandan, thereby linking Domalandan and the poblacion of Lingayen.

Revealed the late Governor and Brother Duque: *"I had the bridge constructed in fulfillment of my pledge to the Quimsons of Domalandan, who I recognized are my fellow descendants from Limahong and Kabontatala."*

In 1964, he started the celebration of Pistay Dayat along Lingayen Gulf.

Since then the celebration takes place every first day of May. It has promoted tourism in the province.

His professional services as a physician, as well as his investments as an entrepreneur, have benefited Dagupan City the most. It was in Dagupan where he built his hospital, the Dagupan Polyclinic. This served as the nucleus of the school which he later founded, the Lyceum-Northwestern, the school that triggered the rapid development of the western section of Dagupan into an educational and commercial center.

PHILIPPINE LODGE OF RESEARCH REORGANIZES

IN 1990 MW JUAN C. NABONG, JR., THEN GRAND MASTER OF THE MW GRAND LODGE OF F&AM OF THE PHILIPPINES, ISSUED EDICT No. 109, IN WHICH HE DECREED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINE LODGE OF RESEARCH COMPOSED OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF BRETHREN. THE EDICT SAID IN PART:

"The dream of forming a Lodge of Research for the Philippine Masonic Jurisdiction has been a see-saw season of resurging intensity at one time and moments of hiatus of apathy and timidity. A few of the brethren, however, pursued the noble craft of keeping aflame the Light of Wisdom, Truth and Enlightenment good for the Fraternity and its brethren. There is no dearth of Maosnic researchers, historians, or writers in this Grand Jurisdiction! The vault of research still

remains greatly unopened.

"Several of our brethren, men of devotion and dedication to the written craft seek to rekindle once again the fame and joy and the love of Maosnic research and study."

He also issued Edict No. 109-A, in which he designated the first officers of the Philippine Lodge of Research, as follows: Master—MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM; Senior Warden—VW Abelardo P. Mojica, PM; Junior Warden—VW Vicente Hao Chin, Jr.; Treasurer—RW Vicente N. Ongtengco, PDDGM; Secretary—VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., PDDGM.

Last January 7, MW Fajardo called for a meeting of the Philippine Lodge of Research, in which the following brethren were elected; VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., Master; VW Vicente Hao Chin, Jr., Senior Warden; VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM, Junior Warden; VW Emil Langomez, AGS, Treasurer; VW Johnny Mendoza, Secretary; and WB Flor R. Nicolas, Asst. Secretary.

Also present during the meeting, which was attended by Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., in addition to MW Fajardo, PGM, were: WB Eufemio N. Dela Cruz, VW Conrado Sanga, WB Tato Faustman, VW Benny Ty, VW Benny Ang,

and VW Sammy P. Fernandez.

Other old members of the Philippine Lodge of Research who were not present were: MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM; MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM; VW Samuel K. Morgia, PDGL; VW Juliano N. Chiu, GMDL; VW Jesus M. Elbinias; VW George K. Clark, Jr.

Other brethren who were designated members of the Lodge were: MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM; VW Mon Nuñez; and Bro. Restituto Basa.

Old members of the Lodge who are at present abroad, such as VW Abelardo P. Mojica and VW Vicente N. Ongtenco, PDDGM, were retained as correspondent members.

VW Benny Ty, WB Tato Faustman and WB Flor R. Nicolas were assigned to

draft the Constitution and By-Laws of the Lodge. VW Emil Langomez volunteered to chair the Publications Committee. The Lodge's Treasurer and Secretary were designated to chair the Committees on Ways and Means and Foreign Relations, respectively. And MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, was unanimously chosen to be the editor emeritus of the Lodge's journal.

The Lodge will have its own logo and its officers and members will have their own IDs.

MW Fajardo suggested as initial project of the Lodge translation of documents from Spanish to English.

VW Sanga and VW Fernandez, meanwhile, were assigned to take charge of the installation of the officers of the Lodge...*ef.r.e*

AROUND THE DISTRICTS, LODGES

GRAND STANDARD BEARER VISITS BUD DAHO AND JUAN S. ALANO LODGES

Left to right: Bro. Sattal H. Jajurie, Bro. Luis Go, Jr., Bro. Ismael H. Horarlo, VW Leonardo T. Chua, GSB, VW Pablo Tan, Bro. Virgilio Young, VW Anthony Lao, and WB Rashdi N. Abubakar, Master of Bud Daho Lodge No. 102 and Vice Mayor of Jolo.



AFTER ATTENDING THE 42ND MINDANAO REGIONAL CONVENTION IN BANGAO, TAWI-TAWI, VW LEONARDO T. CHUA, GRAND STANDARD BEARER, WENT TO JOLO, SULU AND VISITED BUD DAHO LODGE No. 102. THEN HE PROCEEDED TO ISABELA, BASILAN AND VISITED JUAN S. ALANO LODGE No. 137.



Left to right; Bro. Oligario M. Luna, Senior Warden; WB Rogelio L. Igot, Secretary; Bro. Roberto M. Luna, Senior Warden; VW Leonardo T. Chua, GSB; VW Louis W. Alano, Master; Bro. Virgilio Young.

FROM TORONTO WITH LOVE

BY JW ERNESTO R. CARANDANG, 32° MRS

Place him at the altar to take the solemn vow as a brother in our ancient craft by causing him to place his hands on the Holy Scriptures (as all brothers and fellows have gone who have gone this way before)."

Thus the Master orders the Senior Warden....

Aware that the Volume of the Sacred Law is the rule and guide of every Mason's faith and the unerring standard of truth and morality, WB Rogelio Jose, Past Master of York Lodge No. 156 perpetuating Oakwood Lodge No. 553, F & AM, Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario and a member of Lincoln Lodge No. 34, F & AM, in Olongapo, Zambales, donated to Marcelo H. del Pilar Memorial Lodge No. 272 in Meycauayan, Bulacan a beautiful Masonic Bible he had brought in from Canada as a replacement for the old Bible that has been used on the Lodge's altar for many years.

The brethren of M.H. del Pilar Memorial Lodge No. 272, led by WB Nicanor H. Marcos, WM Resty de Leon, SW Ernesto R.



VW Bros. Sadsad and Leuterio, DDGMs and other brethren witness WB Rogelio Jose donate Masonic Bible. WB Nicanor H. Marcos accepts the gift on behalf of the Lodge.

Carandang, were very appreciative of WB Jose's noble gesture of concern. The donation was witnessed by visiting dignitaries, such as VW Amado Sadsad, DDGM; VW Juan Valbuena, DGL; VW Alex Bernardino, DGL; VW Ricardo J. Leuterio, DDGM of District No. 25; and brethren from other Lodges in District No. 23.

WB Jose will endeavor to recommend that M. H. del Pilar Memorial Lodge No. 272 be made a sister Lodge of York Lodge No. 156 in Toronto. Such a relationship may redound to the benefit of both Lodges.

NATIONAL SCI-ART AWARDEE IS A MASON'S SON

JEAN PAUL B. PETEZA, 12, SIXTH GRADER IN THE CAMARINES NORTE STATE COLLEGE LABORATORY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SON OF BRO. & SIS. GODOFREDO E. PETEZA, JR. AND GRANDSON OF VW & SIS. GODOFREDO O. PETEZA, SR., WAS ADJUDGED NATIONAL SCI-ART WINNER DURING THE NATIONAL SCI-ART COMPETITION HELD AT THE ABELARDO HALL IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY ON JAN. 26-29, 1998.

Representing Region V (Bicol Region), he won over other regional representatives. His winning piece is now displayed at the Malacañang Museum.

Proudly reported his grandmother, Sis. Trinidad Esturas Peteza: "Jeff was invited by no less than President Fidel V. Ramos for a tour of the Malacañang Palace and shown various collections of rare paintings on display at the museum."

While he was painting his "obra maestra," the judges were amazed by the way he handled his paint brush—as if he was a professional painter. He also performed creditably during the interview. Hence, he was unanimously declared national sci-art grand awardee.

At the closing ceremonies, he received a gold medal, a trophy, and a cash prize of P30,000, in addition to a tour to South Korea offered by the joint sponsors of the competition: DOST, PNOC, PFST and DECS. He also received, in behalf of his Alma Mater, a set of Compound Microscope and Science Laboratory Kit and Plaque of Recognition.



Jean Paul B. Peteza, immediately after the awarding ceremonies, displays his winning masterpiece, the gold medal, trophy and envelope containing P30,000.

On his return home, he was welcomed a hero by the Camarines Norte State College. He was immediately interviewed at his residence over Radio DZVX. The interview was aired throughout the province.

A parade was held by the CNSC in honor of the second son of now Wor. Master Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr. of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107.

The Sangguniang Bayan of Daet and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Camarines Norte will sponsor resolutions recognizing and congratulating Jean Paul for bringing home a rare honor.

Jean Paul plans to enroll at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling, Laguna—and much, much later, take up civil engineering and architecture.

(The whole Masonic Family in this grand jurisdiction extends warmest congratulations to Jean Paul B. Peteza.)

...You will never hesitate to go on foot and out of your way to assist a distressed worthy Brother...

A CASE OF MASONIC RELIEF

IN MAY 1997 WB ONOFRE S. PANDELA, PAST MASTER OF RAFAEL PALMA LODGE NO. 147 AND AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE QUEZON CITY BODIES, SUFFERED RUPTURED ANEURYSM AND STROKE. HE HAD TO BE CONFINED AT THE PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER AND, AFTER 33 DAYS, WAS BROUGHT TO ST. LUKE'S

HOSPITAL FOR HIS HEAD SURGERY. SINCE IN BOTH HOSPITALS, HE STAYED AT THE ICU, HIS BILL AT THE PHC AMOUNTED TO P281,000 AND AT ST. LUKE'S P242,000.

In her letter of appeal to Brother Masons, dated June 26, 1997, Sis. Myrna A. Pandela said in part:

With the help of some friends and relatives, we were able to deposit P80,000 at the PHC and borrowed the remaining amount just so my husband would be discharged. At the St. Luke's, since we were able to make arrangements with the Social Services, they asked us to pay P85,000. Before leaving the hospital, we were able to deposit P35,000 and wrote a promisory note to pay P50,000 on or before July 21.

With all the prayers you made for my husband and our family, and with the grace of the Lord, my husband is now home, still half paralyzed and cannot recognize us, but is having therapy everyday to help him become well. We thank you for all the prayers which made us strong to surpass all the difficulties and best of all made my husband survive his operation.

But at this time, we are financially unstable and might not be able to pay our debts to the hospitals.... And so I am writing to appeal to you and ask for financial help. There is nobody our family can run to except my husband's fellow masons, who, according to him, will never leave a brother in times of crisis.

Our family knows you will never turn us down, for we know a Mason "knows how to sympathize with men, even in their sins—knowing that each man fights many odds, and still believe in them when they do not believe in themselves...when he has learned how to give himself...and to live with thanksgiving." Please be very kind to extend your hands to us. We are not capable of repaying your goodness but the Lord will do the blessing in your lives in return....

Venerable Master James K. Donodilla of Quezon City Bodies, A. & A.S.R., together with VW Rey Banaag, Secretary, and VW Peter Uy Purunganan, Junior Warden, appealed to brethren of Blue Lodges in Districts 9 and 11.

The brethren of the following

Lodges forthwith stretched forth their helping hands: Quezon City Lodge No. 122, Silanganan Lodge No. 19, Capitol City Lodge No. 174, Marikina Lodge No. 119, Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277, Andres Bonofacio Lodge No. 199, and Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147.

The other Masonic bodies that extended financial aid to the Pandelas were: the MW Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines, under the leadership of MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., the Herrera Charities Foundation, Inc., under the leadership of MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM; the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, A & ASR, Republic of the Philippines, under the leadership of the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, 33°; and the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines, under the leadership of MW John L. Choa, PGM.

WB Onofre, Sis. Myrna and their children subsequently wrote a grateful letter, saying in part: "We would like to thank all the members of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Philippines and other Masonic Bodies who, in one way or the other, have extended and have been continually extending their unselfish financial support to our family."

Sis. Myrna and her children (Marilyn, Mira and Oliver) later sent "Brods" and "Dads" the following appreciative lines:



WB Onofre and Sis Myrna are happy over fast improvement of the former—like before the stroke!

We were to survive the toughest combat...

He (WB Onofre) was able to surpass the greatest risk...
...because YOU were there.

Thank you for being the wind beneath our wings.

CHEQUE FOR THE IMPRISONED



THE BRETHREN OF TAMARAW LODGE No. 65, KNOWING HOW LONESOME IT IS TO BE IN JAIL PARTICULARLY DURING THE YULETIDE SEASON, GAVE A CHEQUE AMOUNTING TO A MODEST SUM AS THEIR SHARE IN BRINGING CHEERS TO THE PRISONERS IN THE PROVINCIAL JAIL OF ORIENTAL MINDORO.

VW Carlos G. Aguba, Master of Tamaraw Lodge No. 65, hands over a cheque to Mr. Elmer Asi for the benefit of the prisoners. With the WM is WB Manolo Brotonel. (Bro. Jay Gutierrez, Junior Warden, is not in the picture.)

CAPITOL 174's SUNSHINE COMMITTEE AT WORK!!!

THE BRETHREN OF CAPITOL CITY LODGE No. 174, LED BY THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE, VISITED WB RAMON S. ALVIOLA, PM, LAST DECEMBER 22 AT HIS RESIDENCE IN SN FRANCISCO DEL MONTE, QUEZON CITY AND BRO. REYNALDO I. BERROYA AT HIS HEADQUARTERS IN MUNTINLUPA BILIBID PRISON PRIOR TO HIS ACQUITTAL.

The Lodge's Sunshine Committee was headed by then Senior Warden (now Wor. Master) Joselito P. Sevilla and co-chaired by Bro. Ronald L. Cortez.

Others present during the visitations were VW Wayland Cabanban, VW Roy Chu, WB Ben Villanueva and Bro. Arman Borja.

The visitors presented WB Alviola and Sis Estrella a copy of the latest issue of *The Cabletow*.

Although WB Alviola could no longer verbally express himself, he was, as shown in his facial expression, very happy. In fact, as narrated by Sister Estrella, he looks forward to such visits, which somehow strengthen his will to be strong and to live longer. WB Alviola turned 85 last October 27.



PHILIPPINE CENTENNIAL MOVEMENT, ALBAY CHAPTER, MAYON LODGE NO. 61 ET ALL SPONSOR KASAYSAYANG BARANGAYAN, A SYMPOSIUM



L-R (front row): WB Romeo B. Ronquillo, Mr. Mel N. Noya (representative of the governor), VW Samuel P. Fernandez (resource speaker), Mr. Jose Maria Clemente S. Salceda (resource speaker), WB Florante F. Equipado (WM, Mayon 61). **L-R (second row):** Bro. Cesar Padre, JW; Bro. Demosthenes F. Rodriguez, Lodge Secretary; Bro. Oscar Santillan; WB Tito Collada, Jr., WM, Daet Lodge No. 247; WB Edwin C. Cortes, PDDGM; Bro. Michaelangelo M. Yanson; VW Leopoldo D. Andal, PDDGM; and VW Francisco L. Yap, PDDGM.

THE PHILIPPINE CENTENNIAL MOVEMENT, ALBAY CHAPTER, AND THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF MAYON LODGE NO. 61, TOGETHER WITH THE ALBAY/LEGAZPI CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE BICOL UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL STUDIES (ICCS) SPONSORED A SYMPOSIUM, TITLED "KASAYSAYANG BARANGAYAN: THE LIVES OF RIZAL, BONIFACIO AND OTHER NATIONAL HEROES AND THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY," LAST NOVEMBER 12 AT THE BICOL UNIVERSITY AMPHITHEATER, LEGAZPI CITY.

The ICCS Singing Group intoned the invocation and led the singing of the

national anthem. Worshipful Master Florante F. Equipado of Mayon Lodge No. 61, F. & A.M., gave the opening remarks and Bicol University President Lylia Corporal-Sena, Ph.D., the welcome address.

Legazpi City Mayor Imelda Crisol-Roces and Albay Governor Al Francis C. Bichara conveyed warm greetings to the sponsors and participants alike.

Bicol University ICCS Director Ramona Bustamante-Rañeses, Ph.D., presented the participants in the symposium, consisting of more than 300 selected students from several colleges and universities, professionals,

government workers, private sector employees and businessmen.

VW Leopoldo D. Andal, PDDGM, introduced VW Samuel P. Fernandez, Chair Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), who spoke on the lives of Jose P. Rizal, Andres Bonifacio and other national heroes.

Another PDDGM, VW Francisco L. Yap, introduced the second speaker: Economist Jose Maria Clemente S. Salceda,

who gave a scholarly disquisition on the topic "Are We Economically Independent After Our independence?"

VW Edwin C. Cortes and Bro. Cesar M. Padre served as moderators during the enthusiastic open forum.

Mr. Mel N. Noya, Executive Secretary of the Phil. Centennial Movement, Albay Chapter, delivered the closing remarks.

The program was ably emceed by WB Romeo B. Ronquillo.

TWO OF OUR LAST PROJECTS IN 1997

BY BROS. SIMON D. BROWN & NELSON S. VIDAL

We, the brethren of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, gave joy to the residents of the "Abong na Panangaro," which is run by the Missionaries of Charity, in Lucao District, Dagupan city.

The event was marked with fun galore—dancing and singing and laughing, plus a host of parlor games.

The residents, the nuns and we, the visitors, enjoyed the magic tricks of the couple of clowns, Ed and Rebecca, who came all the way from La Union.

All obviously also relished the snacks prepared by Sis. Mita Brown, wife of the Community Service Committee Chair.

The event was capped by distribution by the brethren and their ladies of gifts to 41 children, 18 helpers, 28 adult orphans and six nuns.

We, together with the officers and members of Pangasinan lodge No. 56, furthermore, joined our fellow-Dagupeños in commemorating the 101st anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr./Brother Jose P. Rizal.

The occasion started with the ringing of church bells at 5:30 a.m., followed by religious services in different churches in the city. At approximately 7:00 a.m., representatives of government offices, non-government organizations, and other sectors of our society, as well as some "balikbayan," having gathered at the city plaza, WB Leon L. Palaganas, Jr. of Pangasinan Lodge No. 156 led the ceremonial raising of the national flag, the Masonic way. After the singing of the national anthem, city officials, led by Bro. Alipio Fernandez, Jr., Dagupan City Mayor, raised the national flag, with the Knights of Columbus Honor Guards and the Freemasons of Dagupan assisting.

Other highlights of the occasion were the **Panunumpa sa Watawat**; releasing of balloons by city officials and other dignitaries; offering of flowers in honor of the martyr-hero and speech by Dr. Perla Elinzano Legazpi, Vice Chancellor for Administration of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon city.

Teachers and students of various schools in Dagupan provided the intermission numbers.

After the affair, we, the brethren of both Lodges, partook of a late yet nourishing breakfast at the Jolibee before going back to our respective places of abode.

ROUND-UP OF DISTRICT 44 EVENTS

BY EFREN D. MARQUEZ
District Correspondent

Digos 198 Celebrates Charter Day with a Bang!

TO CELEBRATE THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF DIGOS MASONIC LODGE NO. 198, THE ONLY LODGE IN DISTRICT 44 SITUATED OUTSIDE OF DAVAO CITY, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS THEREOF, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DAVAO DEL SUR DENTAL SOCIETY, THE MT. APO REACT, AND THE BARANGAY OFFICIALS OF COGON, LAUNCHED A "SURGICAL-DENTAL OUTREACH MISSION" IN THE SITIO OF PUNTA BIAO, BARANGAY COGON, DIGOS, UTILIZING THE PUNTA BIAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS AS "CLINICS."

Led by WB Manuel K. Gonzales and his wife, Sis Emy, both of whom are doctors, as well as by WB Dondon Suizo, also a doctor, the group performed various minor operations to over a hundred patients, broken down as follows: dental extractions—92; minor surgical operation—24 (lipoma, 4; sebaceous cyst, 13; and circumcision, 7).

The place was virtually transformed into a mini-hospital, and a



Digos Masonic Lodge, Maranan-Gonzales Hospital Staff and Mt. Apo React.

makeshift stall was converted into a mini-pharmacy, where free medicines were distributed to the patients.

The other brethren who participated in this noble endeavor were WBs Ruben Mejorada, Bonifacio Diagbel and Riorito Cagas; Bros. Ray Sealana, Roderick Milana, William Remonde, Ben Magdamo, Alex Mepico, Felizardo Esguerra, Ruel Paras, Joel Laserna, Manolito Lagrada, Jr., and William Gragat (EAM). A petitioner, Edwin Cabungcal, also gave an assisting hand.

VW Nestor C. Purugganan, DDGM, and VW Chin Bon T. Lu, DGL, were also there and assisted the master workmen.

The memorable event made many non-Masons in the community realize that Masonry is also Charity!



WM Manny Gonzales and Sis. Emy Maranan-Gonzales in slicing spree! at the improvised operating room.



Toril 208 Conducts Blood Letting, Family Enhancement; Celebrates 22nd Anniversary

TWO OF THE PLANNED PROJECTS OF TORIL LODGE No. 208 THAT CAME INTO FRUITION RECENTLY WERE THE BLOOD-LETTING DRIVE AT THE DAVAO MEDICAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC. IN DAVAO CITY AND A FAMILY ENHANCEMENT AND FELLOWSHIP AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THE RESIDENCE OF DR. ESPIRIDION REYES, WOR. MASTER.

The blood letting was in coordination with the Phil. National Red Cross, the Davao Volunteer Fire Brigade, and the New City Commercial Center (NCCC).

Among the blood donors were some brethren and several NCCC employees. DDGM Purunganan was a very willing donor, too.

The Lodge was able to collect some 39 bags of various blood types, which it turned over to the PNRG.

The Family Enhancement and Fellowship fostered closer ties not only among the brethren but more importantly among members of their respective families. There was sharing of experiences, notably on loving, caring, providing and security for the family.

A guest, reputed to be a psychic, spoke about family relationships.

The session, which was lauded by DDGM Puruganan and DGL Lu, manifested that Masonry is, indeed, also for the Family.

The brethren of the Lodge celebrated the 22nd charter anniversary of their Lodge first by planting about 150 hardwood seedlings at the Davao Masonic Park, specifically along the borders of the cemetery and along the sloping areas to prevent erosion. Hence, not only did they beautify the resting place of their departed brethren and rela-



WM Espiridion Reyes handling over Toril Lodge's donation to the Missionaries of Charity, the home for the abandoned and dying. Other brethren from left: JW Alberto Belen, Bro. Joselito Sevilla and Sec. Ben Sur.

relatives, but also contributed, somehow, to the government's environment awareness programs.

At noon, the brethren and their families had lunch and fellowship at the Ladislawa Country Club, where they were joined by brethren from other Lodges. During the program the Lodge's Past Masters were also honored.

But what brought the house down was the short talk given by the wife of every member of the Lodge, sincerely explaining why she loved her Mason husband. In their talks, some Sisters mentioned what Masonry had done to their husbands and families.

Memories of the Lodge's 22nd charter anniversary celebration, certainly, will forever be etched in everyone's heart and mind.

Datu Bago's 11th Annual Oratorical Contest

DATU BAGO LODGE No. 197 HELD ITS 11TH ANNUAL ORATORICAL CONTEST LAST NOV. 28 AT THE DAVAO MASONIC CENTER. THIS ANNUAL CONTEST,

WHICH IS OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DAVAO CITY, AIMS TO INSTILL IN YOUNG FILIPINOS' MINDS THAT THE FILIPINO NATION IS INDEBTED TO AND THEREFORE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED TO LIBERATE THE COUNTRY FROM ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION, PARTICULARLY THE MASON HEROES. THE SUBJECT HERO OF THE 11TH ANNUAL ORATORICAL CONTEST WAS GENERAL ANTONIO LUNA. EACH OF THE 13 CONTESTANTS DELIVERED HIS/HER PIECE IN FILIPINO, THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

In the end, Ms. Jennifer Ivy Togonon of Brokenshire High School copped first place, thereby meriting the champion's trophy, a medallion and the P3,000 cash prize. Mrs. Dina B. Ceballo was her trainor and mentor.

Ms. Sara Jane Lopez of the Davao Central High School, who was coached by Ms. Melody B. Bumatay, garnered 1st runner-up honors. She received a trophy, a medallion and P2,000 cash.

Mr. Jarell M. Serencio of the Davao City High School, whose coach was Ms. Leticia C. Camado, received a trophy, a medallion and P1,000 cash for capturing the 2nd runner-

up position.

The 3rd runner-up honors went to Ms. Harlyn Salazar of the Assumption School of Davao. Trained by Mr. Alvin Luque, she won a trophy, a medallion and P750 cash.

The rest of the contestants received certificates and a cash prize of P250 each.

Trainors of the four finalists were given P500 each, and those of the non-finalists P250 each.

A huge wooden trophy donated by VW Nestor C. Purugganan, DDGM, was awarded to the champion school. This roving trophy can, however, be possessed by the school only if it wins three consecutive times.

The prizes for

the champion were donated by Bro. Lorenzo A. Te, Jr; those for the 1st runner-up, by Jardine Davis, Inc.; and those for the 2nd runner-up, by DGL Chin Bon T. Lu.

The Board of Judges consisted of the following: Mrs. Milagros Flores, Principal, Kapitan Tomas Monteverde Central Elementary School, **chairperson**; Mrs. Lourdes I. Monteagudo, a retired Chief of the Elementary Education Division of the DECS Regional Office, **member**; and Mrs. Constanca Soriano, a Master Teacher II of the San Roque Central School, **member**.

First row: The oratorical contest winners and their trainors. **2nd row:** WB Rodolfo Reyes, Chairman, Committee on Invitation; WM Benjamin F. Aquino; and VW Nestor C. Purugganan, DDGM, District No. 44.



Paskuhan sa Distrito Bilang 44

THE PASKUHAN SA DISTRITO BILANG 44, WHICH WAS SPEARHEADED BY THE DDGM AND THE DGL, VW NESTOR C. PURUGGANAN AND VW CHIN BON T. LU, RESPECTIVELY, GATHERED TOGETHER MASONS OF THE DISTRICT AND THEIR CHILDREN AS WELL AS CHILDREN FROM NEIGHBORING FAMILIES, MOST OF WHOM WERE POOR.

There was, to be sure, fun and

laughter all around, especially when the Masons' children and the indigent children competitively played with one another during the parlor games. The young ones showed unfeigned delight when foods were served and gifts distributed.

The joy the event brought to a lot of hearts and the message it conveyed to the community impelled the brethren of the district to make the Paskuhan a yearly affair.



VW Chin Bon T. Lu intently watches the children as they queue up for their gifts while VW Ferdinand P. Subido at left busies himself pacifying the others. Sister Celia Lu also watches at the sidelines.

2nd Lodge Leadership Seminar

THE LEADERSHIP OF DISTRICT 44 SLATED THE 2ND LODGE LEADERSHIP TRAINING ON DECEMBER 27, 1997 AT THE DAVAO MASONIC CENTER. THE MORNING OF THAT DAY WAS RAINY, BUT INCOMING OFFICERS OF THE DIFFERENT LODGES IN THE DISTRICT SHOWED UP.

DGL Chin Bon T. Lu welcomed the participants, while PGJD Jose Canlas gave the introductory remarks.

VW Benjamin S. Geli, PSGL, in his capacity as representative of the DMCFI Management Committee (Mancom), the body overseeing and running the affairs of the Center, recited and clarified the implementing rules and regulations of the Center.

On his part, VW Ferdinand

Subido, PDGL, emphasized the importance of planning ahead so as to put the Lodge into action. He even encouraged the new Junior Wardens to plan this early to run their respective Lodges effectively and efficiently in two years time.

VW Roberto C. Reyes, PDDGM, shared different strategies on how to manage and divide effectively a very busy and tight schedule.

WB Renato Sarenas, PM, addressed himself to the Secretaries-elect, giving stress on proper documentation and preparation of various paper works.

MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM, talked on adapting and implementing Masonic teachings in one's own life, urging every Mason to diligently follow the various charges given him.

DGL Chin Bon Lu delved into the various flaws and wrongdoings of Lodges in the rituals and degree works.

The open forum, moderated by VW Subido, was very lively and interesting.

MW Aportadera enlightened everyone on how to react properly to various critics of Freemasonry.

Suggestions for improvement having been noted down and other topics reserved to be raised in the Ancom in Manila, VW Nestor C. Purugganan, DDGM, gave his closing remarks.

After nourishing their minds during the seminar, the trainees, as well as the trainers, partook of a sumptuous lunch at the social hall.

Blessing of New Flagpole Erected by District 44

A NEW FLAGPOLE IN FRONT OF THE DAVAO MASONIC CENTER BUILDING, DONATED BY "A BROTHER" AND DESIGNED/CONSTRUCTED BY WOR. BRO./ENGR. CESAR S. VILLAGOMEZA, JR., MASTER OF PODOMO LODGE No. 294, WAS BLESSED ON JANUARY 24, 1998, JUST BEFORE THE SCHEDULED JOINT INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF

LODGES DAVAO 149, DATU BAGO 197, TORIL 208, BEACON 213, AND PODOMO 294.

The blessing ceremony was officiated by Rev. Bro. Palpito Dumanig, Executive Pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and Chaplain of Datu Bago Lodge No. 197.

The ceremony was witnessed by MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM; RW Enrique L. Locsin, DGM (who, incidentally, was also to serve as Installing Officer of the joint installation); VW Nestor C. Purugganan, DDGM; VW Chin Bon T. Lu, DGL; VW Feliciano M. Iñigo, PDDGM; VW Ramon G. Nuñez of Mandaluyong Lodge No. 277 and WB Karl U. Megerle, PM of Jacobo Zobel; and a host of District 44 brethren.

Both MW Aportadera and RW Locsin raised the new flag to its rightful place, with the latter delivering the dedication.

The Philippine flag is now proudly waving in its loft, atop the new

steel pole erected in a sturdy and impressive ceramic-tiled base. In its background are smaller flags in their various stages of development.



From left: VW Purugganan, RW Locsin, MW Aportadera and VW Lu sing with pride and dignity the National Anthem.

28 Brethren Granted Life Membership

The following brethren of Sarangani Lodge No. 50 were granted Life Membership by Longevity (LML) for having served their Lodge in particular and the

Craft in general for 25 years: Pedro D. Durano; Salvador E. Ledesma, Joseph Y. Uy, Nicasio D. Aportadera, Johann Ludwig C. Aseoche, Salvador L. Quindoy, Cesar S. Mitra, Sr., Alberto V. Ongchangco, Felixberto B. Dagatan;

William C. Wong, Antonio K. Alvarez, Tomas Y. Ang, Alejandro V. Carpio (PM), Solomon T. Carpio,

Rene Q. Gallo, Alex Y. Gonzales, gregorio T. Hao, Laureto S. Kong;

Manuel C. Iñigo (PM), Cresenciano H. Mosot, rufino A. Simon, Jr. (PM), Greg T. Tan, Carlos T. yap (PM), Napoleon E. Octor, James E. Hannen, Virgilio C. Magno,

Tito F. Garcia, and Wenceslao E. Ibabao.

The foregoing brethren received their Certificates from the Grand Lodge from Wor. Master Art O. Tan during the Lodge's stated meeting last January 10.

DMCFI To Embark on Fund-Raising Project

"THE DAVAO MASONIC CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. (DMCFI) IS SET TO CONDUCT ITS PLANNED FUND-RAISING PROJECT TO BENEFIT THE PHILIPPINE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION AND THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECTS OF EACH MEMBER-LODGE."

Thus states the February '98 edition of The Trestle Board.

From the same source we learn that six lodges, the OES, the Amaranth, and the SFOSA will form a consortium to run the "Unified

Fund-Raising Project," under the DMCFI's auspices, of course.

The raffle draw is scheduled on July 12, 1998. To be given away to lucky donors to the project are three major prizes (a brand-new Toyota RAV4, an Isuzu Highlander Special Edition, and a Honda City car) and 30 consolation prizes (mostly appliances).

A part of this fund-raising campaign is a golf tournament to be organized by the Sports Foundation of sint Andrew (SFOSA).

Venue for the raffle draw will be the Lanang Golf and Country Club, where all the prizes will be displayed.

GRAND MASTER HERRERA INDUCTS 47 TO SUPREME COUNCIL



FORTY-SEVEN MASTER MASONS TOOK THEIR OATH AS MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, ORDER OF DeMOLAY, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN A FITTING CEREMONY DURING THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS OF SARANGANI LODGE No. 50.

MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM and Grand Master of the Supreme Council of DeMolay Phils., administered the

oath.

The ceremony was highlighted by a grand collaring of the new members, where they were presented with their jewels.

The members vowed to help in the development of the youth to become better sons, good citizens and able leaders of tomorrow, under the program of the Order of DeMolay.

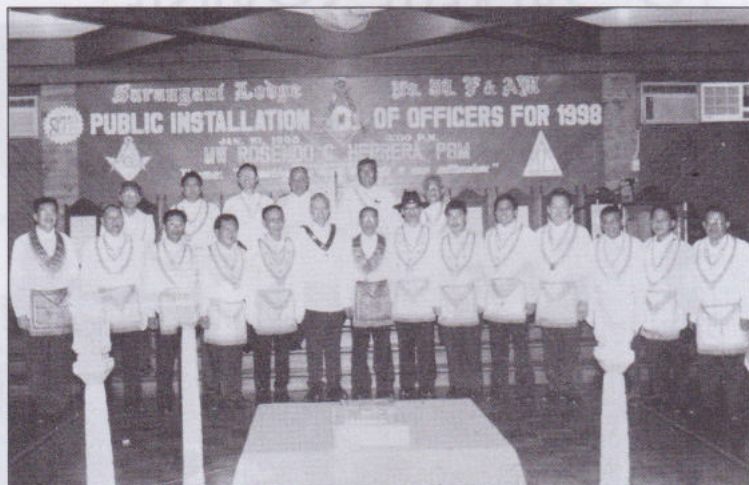
OFFICERS OF SARANGANI 50 POSE WITH DIGNITARIES

AFTER THEIR INSTALLATION ON JANUARY 10, 1998 AT THE DAVAO MASONIC CENTER, THE OFFICERS OF SARANGANI LODGE No. 50, OLDEST MASONIC LODGE IN DAVAO CITY POSED FOR PROSPERITY.

The brethren in the front row (from left) are VW Chin Bon Lu, DGL; Rolando C. Lu, Jr., Steward; Ildefonso B. Berdan, S. Deacon; Teofilo T.

Bermudez II, Treasurer; Severo L. Ma, S. Warden; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, Installing Officer; VW Nestor C. Purugganan, DDGM; WM Datukan M. Guiani; Odilon Marlo L. Gaviola, J. Warden; Efren D. Marquez, Secretary; Manolo T. Fanlo, Sr., Chaplain; Richmond E. Alejo, Organist; Luisito B. Fortich, Almoner; and Romeo L. Sabio.

At the back row are (from left): Eugene G. Fernando, Jr., Lecturer; Noel G. Gutierrez, J. Deacon; WB Art O. Tan, PM, Tyler; VW Benjamin S. Geli, PSGL, Master of Ceremonies; Isidro A. Gatmaitan, Jr., Jr. Marshal; and Felixberto B. Dagatan, Orator.



AFP CHIEF OF STAFF— IS MASTER OF A LODGE—AGAIN!

Audience intently watch as the General's beloved wife, Sister Corazon, upon request of the Installing Officer, invests the Master with the jewel of his office.



Last year WB Clemente P. Mariano, AFP Chief of Staff, was Charter Master of Artemio Ricarte Lodge. Now he is Worshipful Master of Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69. He was installed as such on December 30, 1997.

I SAW MY FATHER INSTALLED BY MY GRANDFATHER

BY GODOFREDO 'BUTZ' PETEZA III

My father, Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr., used to bring us along with him to attend the installation of Lodge officers. But I thought his own installation as Master of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 last March 9 unique in that he was installed by his own father and my grandfather, Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., in solemn ceremonies held at the Masonic Center.

When my father was told to face the audience as if to test his credibility,

I held my breath. I heard the installing officer, my own grandfather, say, "Brethren of Camarines Lodge No. 107, you now behold before you Bro. Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr., who has been duly elected to serve this Lodge as Worshipful Master, and who is now about to be installed. If any of you has any reason to urge why he should not be installed, you will now make it known or forever after hold your peace." For a moment I nervously thought to myself, "What if somebody in the audience objected? Will my father be installed? If he would not be installed, what would be the repercussion?"

But when nobody objected, I sighed with much relief.

As a second year high school student of the Camarines Norte State College, I could easily grasp every bit of the solemn ceremony.

I did listen attentively to the

inspiring words of the Honorable Jose 'Pet' Español, the guest of honor and speaker. He started his speech in the following manner:

"Your installation of officers for Masonic year 1998 is significant in many respects. First, it signals a milestone in a family of free thinkers. In 1991, my friend, Godofredo Peteza, Sr., was installed as Worshipful Master of this Lodge. A proud young man stood in the audience and said, 'He is my father.' Today, seven years after that event, another friend, Godofredo Peteza, jr., is installed Worshipful Master of this same great Lodge. And here, in this assembly is his father. I could hear him say to himself, with equal pride: 'He is my son.' Could the number of your Lodge 107 have anything to do with this?..."

I felt pride welling up in my whole being.... During that memorable occasion I resolved to myself that after my graduation from college I would follow footsteps of my father and my grandfather. Who knows, I, too, will become Worshipful Master of the Lodge of my grandfather and my own father!

But, of course, I have yet withstand the test of time....

KASILAWAN 77 JOINS INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNEY

BY WB JOSELITO P. TAMARAY

THE BRETHREN OF KASILAWAN LODGE No. 77 ARE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ONGOING NGO INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, WHICH COMMENCED LAST FEBRUARY 18 AT THE RIDGEWOOD PARK BASKETBALL COURT IN LUCENA CITY. THE OTHER PARTICIPATING

TEAMS ARE THE ROTARY CLUB OF LUCENA SOUTH, THE ROTARY CLUB OF LUCENA CENTRAL, THE LUCENA JAYCEES INCORPORATED, THE EMPLOYEES VILLAGE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, THE KILUSANG 609 RADIO GROUP, THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS, AND THE DANCE INSTRUCTORS TEAM, INCORPORATED.

Our opponents may have the advantage of youth, but we have experience in the arsenal of our physical prowess.

My humble self made the ceremonial toss during the opening ceremonies and declared the tournament open. Observably, the other brethren welcomed the opportunity to display their innate talents in the game.

My teammates are Bro. Marvin Llamas, team captain; Bros. Eric Elardo, Alex Cariaga, Raul Ibal, Werner Decena; VWBs Ramon D. Borja (playing coach), Louie Vizcocho, Willy Frondoza; and DeMolays Jefferson Tamaray and Ramil Suarez. Team managers are WB Reynaldo O. Calayan, Jr., VW Ricardo T. Tan, and Bro. Pete Alcalá. Bro. Cesar T. Tan volunteered to the team masseur.

Last Feb. 26, our team clobbered the Kilusang 609 with the score of 91-80, to the chagrin of the radio group. Once again we were able to prove our versatility in the game—jumping, slamming and dunking the ball.

NOTE: THE AUTHOR OF THE FOREGOING ARTICLE WAS INSTALLED WM OF THE BY VW ROMEO L. VILLANUEVA, PDDGM, ASSISTED BY VWBs RAMON D. BORJA AND RICARDO T. TAN, LAST VALENTINE'S DAY. THE GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER, A CATHOLIC PRIEST FROM THE COTTA PARISH IN LUCENA CITY (THE FIRST-EVER PRIEST ASSIGNED IN THE CITY TO BE INVITED AS SUCH), WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE SOLEMNITY OF THE RITUALS AND ANCIENT CHARGES. THE PARTY THAT FOLLOWED THE INSTALLATION CEREMONIES WAS CAPPED BY ENTERTAINING NUMBERS FROM THE BRETHREN'S SPOUSES. WM TAMARAY, BY THE WAY, IS THE 3RD ASST. CITY PROSECUTOR OF LUCENA. HE HAILS FROM TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN. SICK IN HIS CHILDHOOD, HE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY HIS PHYSICIAN, DR. LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR., OUR CURRENT GRAND MASTER. E.F.R.E.N

A MASTER'S CONCEPT OF MASONRY

BY WM JUAN D. ZERRUDO (194)

MASONRY IS A BROTHERHOOD OF MEN UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD. BECAUSE WE ARE ALL CREATURES OF ONE ALMIGHTY FATHER, THEN WE ARE BROTHERS AND, AS SUCH, DUTY-BOUND TO LOVE, SUPPORT AND PROTECT ONE ANOTHER. WE JOIN TOGETHER IN PROMOTING ONE ANOTHER'S WELFARE AND WE REJOICE IN ONE ANOTHER'S SUCCESS BECAUSE WE ARE BROTHERS WHO CARE AND SHARE, BOUND TOGETHER AS WE ARE BY THAT INDISSOLUBLE CHAIN OF SINCERE AFFECTION. THIS, OUR COHESIVENESS, OUR TOGETHERNESS, OUR ONENESS OR UNITY, DISTINGUISHES US AS MASONS.

Masonry is non-religious and non-political. But we must have faith in God as prerequisite to our admission into the Craft; for, clearly, no atheist can ever be made a Mason. Political and religious discussions are not allowed in the Lodge since they are divisive and may produce enmity, thus destroying harmony among brethren.

Masonry is not a secret society, either, for we have no secrets to hide. But, of course, like other societies, we do have "trade secrets."

Masonry is a progressive moral science, in which we learn the duties we owe to God, our country, our neighbors and ourselves. It is, therefore, for the moral growth and development of man; its aim is to produce better men who will make this

world a better place to live in.

It is an institution whose principal tenets are brotherly love, relief and truth. These are our Masonic lights, and it is our duty to keep their flame ever burning in our hearts and to share that flame with our families, with our neighbors and with the public at large. We must, in other words, practice these tenets in our daily lives, in our several stations in life. We must be Masons both in words and in deeds; for we have been charged to convince the world by our actions that, upon becoming Master Masons, we have become better men—men who possess that goodness of heart, that purity of intention, and that love of virtue. We have to involve ourselves in community activities, such as clean-and-green projects, crusade against drug abuse, sports activities, scholarship program, tree planting, free medical-dental clinic, and other charitable works.

Our world today is in chaos, in turmoil. Science and technology have produced frightful weapons ready to erase human life from the earth. Meanwhile, social evils like immorality, crimes, violence, and poverty, as well as sickness and diseases, stalk us in an accelerated pace. Yes, they are spreading like wildfire, for in our



struggle for existence we follow the law of the jungle, where might is right and necessity knows no law, where only the fit will survive and where the weak are devoured by the strong and powerful. In our quest for wealth and power we brush everybody aside from our path, unmindful of their human rights. Our attitude, generally, is woe to those who are on my way, for they will be trampled upon. And when we attain power, we crave for more because it is the thirst or quest for it is unquenchable, intoxicating, addictive, aphrodisiac.

We have, nevertheless, an ever Living God, a God of Love and Compassion, of Justice and Mercy. Also, we have men who have faith in God, men with fearless convictions, ready to fight evil for good wherever it may be, men who love by divine and human laws, men who regulate their actions by the divine precepts contained in the

Volume of the Sacred Law, men who are their brothers' keepers, men who care and share and spread the cement of brotherly love and affection—"the cement that unites us Masons into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree." Such men are force that can unite all nations and make this world a wonderful haven of peace and harmony, of happiness and joy, of progress and plenty. Such men form a brotherhood for peace, unity and progress. This brotherhood is Masonry.

NOTE: THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE ABOVE IS THE WOR. MASTER OF GRACIANO LOPEZ JAENA LODGE No. 194 IN SARA, ILOILO. IN THE PHOTO GIVEN ABOVE WE SEE HIM BEING CONDUCTED TO THE EAST BY THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES, VW ELI CONLU OF MAKAWIWILI LODGE No. 55 IN ROXAS CITY.—E.F.R.EN

PAPAL CHAMBERMAID IS GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER IN INSTALLATION OF M.H. DEL PILAR LODGE OFFICERS

MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM, IN FLUENT FILIPINO, INSTALLED THE OFFICERS OF M.H. DEL PILAR MEMORIAL LODGE No. 272 IN PANDAYAN, MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN LAST DEC. 27. HE WAS ASSISTED BY VW RODOLFO BELTRAN, PDDGM.

Present during the occasion were VW Amado Sadsad, DDGM; VW Juan Valbuena and VW Alexander Bernardino, DGLs; and WB Antonio Marollano, GLL.

In his inaugural address, WM Resty de Leon urged the brethren to participate in Lodge activities, to

continue the program of the past administration, and to follow Masonic customs with propriety and decorum. He said he would give due stress to Masonic education.

MW Angeles exhorted the brethren to live by the Masonic tenets and virtues. He then explained why Masonry uses allegories and symbols.

The guest of honor and speaker, Msgr. Jaime Garcia, a Papal Chambermaid, is the parish priest of Sta. Maria Bulacan. He revealed that when he was a student, there was a negative

impression on the Fraternity. He later noticed, however, that the Fraternity was undertaking worthwhile projects for the good of society. He said that to advocate brotherhood, which is the basis of everything, is a great sacrifice. God, our Father, wants us to attain peace and not to destroy man to pieces.

Man should not seek the position, he said. It is the position that seeks the man. To be assigned to the position of Tyler after one has served as Worshipful Master, he added, is a test of one's humility. With humility we are prepared to do everything in accordance with God's will.

Outgoing Master Nicanor Marcos, in accepting the Past Master's Jewel, Apron and Diploma, said that now that he is the Tyler, the brethren had better be proficient and in proper attire; otherwise, he would deny them admission.



Papal Chambermaid Jaime Garcia urges his auditor to lay stress on humble service to fellowmen for God's greater glory.

MASONIC DISTRICT 29 JOINS RALLY AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS

BY VW JUAN S. NEPOMUCENO



All but Masons. Seated are: Judges R. Annang, Dysangco, PD Billiones, WB Carlos Versula and PNP Masons.

MASONS OF NUEVA ECIJA JOINED A RECENT RALLY AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS. THE RALLY, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CABANATUAN CITY, WAS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIC CLUBS AND THE LOCAL PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE.

The district's streamer, which read "Masonic District No. 29 Katulong sa Pagbagsak ng Malupit at Maruming Bisyo ng Droga," was strategically placed in front of the entrance to the Freedom Park, thereby attracting the public's attention.

Officers of Lodges in the District

subsequently attended the ECIJA AID (Enchanced Cooperation and Inspired Joint Action Against Illegal Drugs). This was a symposium and workshop that focused on combating the problem of illegal drugs. Coordinator of the symposium-workshop was Bro. Antonio P. Billones, Provincial Director for Nueva Ecija. The ECIJA AID resulted in the submission by the participants of recommendations on how to combat, counteract and prevent the increasing vice of illegal drugs and related problems.



Known personalities from religious, government non-government sectors, all but one in rally against illegal drugs.

DISTRICT 29 BOWLFEET & SHOOTFEET

To promote stronger ties among the members of its Lodges, as well as their families, Masonic District No. 29, under the stewardship of VW Leonardo T. Ting, DDGM, sponsored a bowling tournament, which took place for eight consecutive Sundays.

Kapitan Pepe Lodge No. 293, which emerged as champion, received

P7,000 plus trophy; Kapatiran 228, 1st runner-up, P5,000 with trophy; and General Llanera Lodge No. 168 and Factoria Lodge No. 311, P2,000 cum trophy each.

VW Leopoldo Organiza, the current president of the Past Masters Guild, meanwhile, promised to equal, if not surpass, the accomplishments of his predecessor, VW Manuel Collado.

The brethren also competed with one another in the shootfest. VW Ting



The vigilant and ever supportive Ladies Amaranth take time to pose before a hearty lunch at NFA compound.

was himself a participant.

In the end Bro. Luis Esteban emerged as overall champion. Runners-up were Noel Magbitang and WB Pol Organiza.

Among the Masons' children, Rommel Manayao, son of VW P. Manayao, PDGL and PM of Kapitan Pepe Lodge No. 290, captured the championship trophy.—JUAN S. NEPOMUCENO, Dist. Secretary



VWD. Rivera, PDDGM, analyses his second ball as Bro. W. Kahigting prepares for a spare.

The Court of Amaranth versus Santa Rosa Lodge No. 297. Will it be the boys or the girls?



WB Cris Carlos of Cab. Lodge No. 53 in a jubilant mood for the cash prize of highest single.

MASONIC DISTRICT NO. 5 HOSTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

MASONIC District No. 5 held an INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, ITS SECOND THIS YEAR, LAST MARCH 23 AT THE CAMP AGUINALDO GOLF COURSE.

The successful tournament attracted 72 golfers and 18 hole sponsors, each of whom paid P10,000.

Among the players were RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Junior Grand Warden; VW Alfonso Dualan, PDDGM, MD #1; and VW Peter Chua, PDDGM, MD #5

VW Sonny Wang, DGL (and

incoming DDGM of MD #5), Chairman of the District's Committee on Special Events, and WB Vicente Que, PM of Kasilawan Lodge No. 77 and Chairman of the District Golf Committee, organized the golf tournament.

The sponsoring district gave away a lot of raffle prizes, aside from the trophies that were awarded to the winners in Classes A, B, and C.

A total of 90 brethren and guests were present during the awarding ceremonies.

In his speech, VW Jaime Y. Gonzales, DDGM of MD #5, said that income from this tournament would fund the various projects of the district. VW Sonny Wang, on his part, announced that a 3rd Invitational Golf Tournament would be held sooner than expected. Both outgoing and incoming DDGMs expressed their hope that this tournament would be a yearly affair of the district.



VW Gonzales and VW Wang congratulate each other.



VW Jimmy Gonzales extends congratulatory grip to VW Alfonso Dualan, while VW Wang and Bro. Joey Ang watch with interest.

MICRONESIA LODGE NO. 173 OFFICERS

THE OFFICERS, BOTH ELECTED AND APPOINTED, OF MICRONESIA LODGE NO. 173 WERE INSTALLED BY VW VINCENT A. CASTRO, PDDGM, MASONIC DISTRICT NO. 15, ASSISTED BY VW DIONISIO P. GAMBOA, PDGL AND VW ANGEL C. BALDEMOR, PM, MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND ASST. MASTER OF CEREMONIES, RESPECTIVELY, IN SOLEMN RITES HELD AT THE SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE, AGANA HEIGHTS, GUAM, LAST JANUARY 24.

Installed were the following: Napoleon B. Bigalbal, PM, Wor. Master; Michael S. Camaganacan, S. Warden; Fred Muli, J. Warden; Doroteo Camaganacan, PM, Treasurer; Casiano M. Bostre, PM, Secretary; Sergio Agahan, PM, Auditor; Ernesto Dizon, Chaplain; Rod Baybayan, Marshal; Reggie Agahan, S. Deacon; Neil Camaganacan, J. Deacon; Wilfredo Pizarro, Orator; Fernando Sarga, S. Steward; Eduardo H. Talato, J. Steward; Rock Torres, Almoner; Romy Marquez, Organist; and Benjamin N.

Apuyan, Tyler.

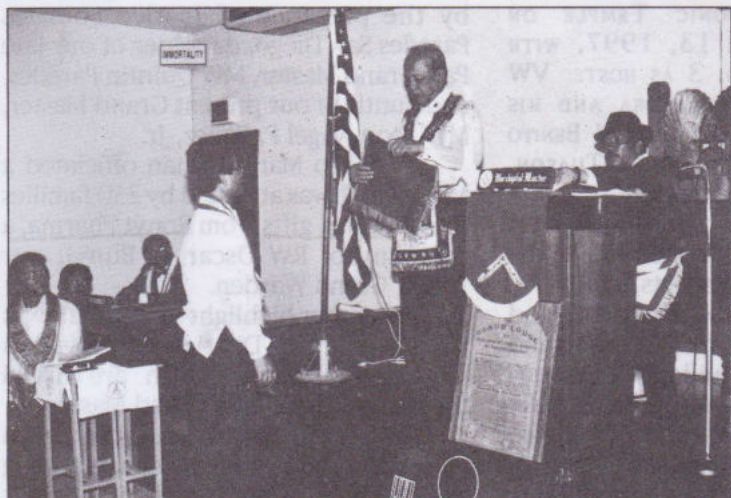
WM Nap Bigalbal having given his acceptance speech, WB Bostre, PDGL, presented the Past Master's Jewel to WB Benjamin N. Apuyan, PM.

VW Celso S. Gianchand recognized distinguished guests and officers, while VW Arthur D. Chan, Jr., DDGM, Masonic District No. 15, introduced the guest speaker, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., who in turn stressed the necessity of unity and working together in harmony to accomplish common objectives. He urged the brethren to practice the motto "Together Is Better."

Reception immediately followed at Onward beach resort.

NOTE: THE GRAND MASTER BELIEVES HIS TRIP TO GUAM WAS WORTH IT BECAUSE HE WAS ABLE TO PATCH UP SOME DIFFERENCES THAT HAD EXISTED AMONG THE BRETHREN THERE. NOW PEACE, UNITY, AND HARMONY PREVAIL AMONG OUR BRETHREN IN GUAM.

—E.F.R.E.N



MW Bañez, Grand Master, presents the Past Master's Jewel to IPM Benjamin N. Apuyan. Looking on are WM Bigalbal and other district lodge officers.



Lodge and district officers pose with Grand Master Bañez after the installation.

NCR MULTI-DISTRICT CONVENTION

THE NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION, COMPOSED OF MASONIC DISTRICTS 1, 3, 5, 7 AND 13, CONVENED AT THE PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1997, WITH MASONIC DISTRICT NO. 3 AS HOST. VW JOSE MARLOWE S. PEDREGOSA AND HIS DGLs, VW RUDY L. ONG, VW BENITO K. TAN AND VW ANTONIO A. TUASON, WAS OVERSEER OF THE EVENT.

The convention was a success because of the support extended by the officers of the other districts, led by VW William Webb, DDGM of District 1, and his DGLs, VWBs Teodoro B. Gonzales and VW Mariano J. Remoquillo; VW Jaime Y. Gonzales and DGLs Sonny K. Wang, Felix S. Ko and Robert C. Ocampo; VW Mateo V. Bawagan and DGLs Emiliano C. Dalican and Charles G. Agar; and VW Hernani B. Lopez and his DGLs, VWBs Wilfredo N. Deloso and Melvin Jurisprudencia, and

of course the officers and members of the participating Lodges.

The convention was highlighted by the presence of Justice Lourdes Paredes San Diego, daughter of our late Past Grand Master, MW Quintin Paredes, and auntie of our present Grand Master, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr.

Fr. Leo Maria Usman officiated a Mass, which was attended by 250 families that received gifts from Ronyt Pharma, a company of RW Oscar V. Bunyi, our Junior Grand Warden.

Another highlight of the affair was the unveiling of District 3's project, a huge narra frame on which are carved the names of our Past Grand Masters.

After the early breakfast tendered by Labong Lodge, the early birds among the brethren were awarded with gift certificates, t-shirts and socks with Masonic emblem.

The convention proper was formally opened by a composite team of Worshipful Masters of the said districts.

After the usual reception of dignitaries, VW Marlowe Pedregosa gave the welcome remarks.

Upon the call of the roll by VW Hernani Lopez, it was found out that attendance was quite higher than had been expected.

The DDGMs of the participating districts gave reports on their accomplishments.

Bro. Freddie B. Feir, a family friend of the Paredeses, introduced the guest of honor and speaker, Justice San Diego, whose speech during the convention is reprinted in this issue.

MW Bañez, assisted by the DDGMs, presented a plaque of appreciation, together with a big reproduced picture of the late MW Paredes, to Justice San Diego.

In his closing remarks, the Grand Master thanked the host district for inviting the guest of honor and the rest of the Paredes clan to the occasion. He



Guest of Honor Justice Lourdes Paredes San Diego is received and assisted by GM Bañez and AGS E. Langomez.

expressed gratification at seeing the big Jose Abad Santos Hall almost filled to capacity.

After the convention proper, the Grand Master, assisted by Mrs. Leilani Taguba, daughter of Justice Lourdes San Diego, unveiled the huge narra frame mentioned earlier.

Justice San Diego and other close relatives of the Grand Master joined the brethren in the testimonial lunch.

--VW CHARLES C. AGAR, DCL



Justice Lourdes San Diego receives a picture of his father, MW Quintin Paredes, from GM Bañez, assisted by the 5 DDGMs.

From l-r: GM Bañez; VW J.M. Pedregosa; VW Webb; VW J. Gonzales; VW M. Bawagan; VW H. Lopez and AGS VWE. Langomez.



VW Jose Marlowe presents a plaque of appreciation to Grand Master Bañez.

GM Bañez and the Paredes clan.



OUR FAMILY WILL LIVE BY THE TENETS OF FREEMASONRY

BY JUSTICE LOURDES PAREDES SAN DIEGO

... **I**t's really a great pleasure to be introduced by a fellow *provinciano*, who cannot say anything evil about his fellow *provinciana*. I think that the choice of Atty. Feir made by another very good *provinciano*, my nephew, Grand Master Leon Angel Purugganan Bañez, Jr., was a good one. It is not

everyday that people are introduced only for their good side of life. That fact seems to have been completely ignored by my friend Feir. I shall not be the one to tell you about my deeds. I have two confessions to make. First, my nephew, Grand Master Bañez, approached me about 15 days

ago. He said I was to be the recipient for my father, and I was to give a thanksgiving talk. That, I thought, should not be difficult because talks like that are very short. Three days ago, however, I received a very beautiful invitation asking me to be your guest speaker. You can imagine my consternation since I no longer had the time to write a proper speech. So, you will forgive me if I go around at random about things. I want you, Freemasons, to think about my father.

My second confession is that I know almost nothing about Freemasonry. It is a coincidence, however, that sometime ago I read a book entitled *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* by two researchers. It is about the history of the Church of Rome, and consequently about things and organizations that had much to do with the Church. I learned from the book about the origin of Freemasonry, which I want to share with you, although I suppose most of you know it.

About the 12th century, it is said, a secret organization was formed by men and women who were to uphold certain principles and teachings they believed had to be kept secret. These principles and teachings had been kept so secret that no researcher up to this time has come to know what the purposes of the organization really were nor what the organization stood for. But the Church considered the members thereof as enemies. So, the crusaders went after the members of that organization, so that about the 14th century the

latter either were exterminated or simply disappeared. In their place came the Templars. This time the Templars' secret organization was composed purely of men—men again dedicated to secrecy but with a big difference, namely, they had arms! They could use their arms to protect their secret organization. Legend has it that these Templars held in their hands certain documents on, as well as relics of, the life and death of Jesus. One of these relics, it is said, was a goblet that held the blood of Jesus Christ as he was staked on the cross, dying from the hands of Jews. No wonder, therefore, that this legend brought out the idea of the Round Table of King Arthur and the Round Table that searched for the Holy Grail.

The Templars became the seed of Freemasonry, so that Freemasonry, like the Templars, was composed purely of men. There were no women in their organization.

But I see a few women around. So, maybe there has been a concession on your part.

But let me repeat, the Templars did not hesitate to use their swords to help keep their secrecy and their ideals. The Freemasons, I am glad to see, do not hold any swords.

When I was younger, (I will not reveal to you my age), I used to hear many stories about Freemasonry, especially after my teachers came to know that my father, the late Grand Master Quintin Paredes, was a Freemason. I heard stories of atrocities and blasphemies committed by Freemasons, including trampling and spitting

on the cross. I was so worried for the soul of my dear father that I never stopped asking him, "What is it that Masonry has for you?"

His answer was, "First and foremost, Freemasonry demands honesty from its members. Second, Freemasonry requires that we, its members, should treat our fellowmen with justice, fairness and compassion." And I am so glad that Atty. Feir, who introduced me, read to you what my father in so many words had told me about.

So, my father lived by God's commandments. A proof that he did is the fact that when he died, hundreds and hundreds of people from all walks of life, from the most powerful and the richest to the most humble *paisano*, walked all the way to the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, where he lay in state, to pay their last respects to him.

Unfortunately, my dear friends, in my lifetime I have seen my father's way of life and principles in life derided time and time again. Service to fellowmen, more often than not, is tainted by hypocrisy, by ambition, by personal interests. True love and dedication seem to be forgotten ingredients in the alchemy of human relations. Today, it is with great sadness that we see our fellowmen being disinherited of their rights to life, property and happiness by the stronger and the unfortunate victims full of bitterness toward their fellowmen. Today, as I see it, we are surrounded by graft and corruption, by political circuses, by heinous crimes like rape, abortion and murder. We now find ourselves surrounded by people

full of desperation and disappointment about what we are going to be in the very near future. But there is hope in the words of your Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Clifford C. Bennett, and I quote, "Men who always subdue our passions to the dictates of our reason, fearless men of conviction who will fight evil wherever it may be found, men who with faith in God and a firm belief in those self-evident truths taught in our Lodges will go forth and preach them outside in words as well as in deeds."

I cannot, dear friends, do any better than what your Past Grand Master has said, and I hope that you, members of the Masonic fraternity in the Philippines, will prove to be men of such qualities as to go out of your way to help the poor of our beleaguered country out of the darkness of almost-helplessness into a brighter tomorrow.

With the leadership and the motto of your Grand Master "Together Is Better," I have no doubt that you will force yourselves forward towards making our country once more what it was at the time of your Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Quintin Paredes, my father.

Before closing, I wish to thank you all for the honor you have given my father and his family. This beautiful testimonial we will keep in our hearts. You may rest assured that we will keep this moment....The children and the grandchildren of Don Quintin Paredes will live to follow the tenets of Freemasonry, your beloved fraternity.

IITH TRI-DISTRICT NORTHERN LUZON MASONIC CONVENTION

Districts 37, 41 and 47, with a total of 14 Lodges, held their joint convention on November 7-8, 1997 at the PSV Convention Hall in Lingayen, with Lingayen No. 161 as lead Lodge, the WM of which was WB Gerardo E. Padilla.

On November 7, the brethren first held a floral offering at the monument of Dr./Bro. Jose P. Rizal. The offering was participated in by brethren of the various Lodges, led by VW Bro. Roy V. Serrano, DDGM.

During their courtesy call on the Mayor, Hon. Ernesto Castañeda, Jr., the latter was briefed on the goals and objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

DDGM Roy V. Serrano received the MW Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Lingayen Mayor Ernesto Castañeda and the representative of Congressman Jose Antonio Bengson.

The DDGMs of the participating districts having made their respective reports, VW (or is it RW?) Clemente M. Nava conducted a Lodge management seminar-workshop. He divided the brethren into three groups, each of which would draw a plan, which would include the institution of management reforms together with recommendations.

During the Governor's Night, under the sponsorship of the Office of the Governor of Pangasinan, the delegates interacted with one another. Provincial Administrator Feliciano M. Bautista represented the Governor. His speech elicited the admiration of the Grand Master and the other brethren.

November 8 started with an animated discussion on fraternal interrelationship as the Masons' responsibilities

in the outward spectrum of Masonry.

VW Vicente Hao Chin, Jr. lectured on the art of listening and on the art of authentic expression, which caught the delegates' interest.

In the ensuing symposium, the delegates submitted recommendations or suggestions toward the Fraternity's upliftment.

The resolutions submitted during the joint conventions were as follows:

1. That VW (RW?) Clemente M. Nava be a candidate for the position of Junior Grand Warden.

2. That Masonic District No. 37 be divided into two Districts, covering eastern and western Pangasinan, respectively.

3. That the Immediate Past Master and the DDGM be allowed to vote during the Ancom.

4. That Union Lodge No. 70 in San Fernando, La Union be the next host of the tri-district convention.

MW Bañez then challenged the brethren to conform to and abide by the theme of the Masonic year, "Freemasonry: A Brotherhood for Peace, Unity and Human Progress," as well as to be accordingly guided by the motto "Together Is Better."

DDGM Serrano later expressed his desire that brethren show more interest in the convention by refraining from loitering around while the speakers delivered their pieces, that the registered delegates complete the two-day convention, and that delegates be more constructive than destructive in their remarks regarding the conduct of the convention.

—VW Charles G. Agar, DGL, Masonic District No. 7

CABLETOW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS INSTALLED MASTER OF NOLI ME TANGERE LODGE NO. 148

BY VW CHARLES C. AGAR

CABLETOW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FLOR R. NICOLAS (eF.R.eN) WAS PUBLICLY INSTALLED WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF NOLI ME TANGERE LODGE NO. 148 ON JANUARY 31, 1998 AT THE JOSE ABAD SANTOS HALL, PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE.

Other officers installed were Bernardino L. Cabiles, Senior Warden; Emeritus P. Aviles, Junior Warden; WB Danilo C. Angeles, PM, Treasurer; VW Rene C. Damian, PDDGM, Secretary; WB Emmanuel S. Medina, PM, Auditor; Samuel M. Salvador, Chaplain; Charito C. Mabitazan, Marshal; Francisco A. delos Santos, Jr., Senior Deacon; Manuel G. Lagonera, Junior Deacon; Abdulkadil IM. Guialani, Senior Steward; Danny R. Ignacio, Junior Steward; Randolph G. Alcantara, Orator; Virgilio T. Mauricio, Lecturer; WB Alexander B. Dairocas, PM (vice Vince T. Guia), Almoner; Thakur K. Sharma (vice Francisco A. Ureta), Organist; WB Robert O. Asuncion, PM (vice Henrich D. Roxas), Historian; WB Jaime R. Bacho, PM (vice Romualdo L. Gripal), Custodian of the Work; and WB Renato S. Ang, PM (vice Augustus F. Cesar), Tyler.

After the reception of visiting brethren and dignitaries, the evolution of the Philippine Flag, starring DeMolays of the Loyalty Chapter, was received. After the tribute to the Flag led by VW J. Waldemar V. Valmores, PDGL, the National Anthem and the Grand Lodge Hymn were sung.

Bro. Samuel I. Salvador led the invocation, while WB Danilo C. Angeles,

PM, welcomed everybody to the 81st public installation of officers of the Lodge.

MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr. served as Installing Officer. Providing him able assistance were VW Ernesto A. Malapaya, PSGI, and VW Benjamin J. Torres, PAGS, Master of Ceremonies and Asst. Master of Ceremonies, respectively.

VW Samuel P. Fernandez, PSGS and Past Master of the Lodge, solemnly read the Ancient Charges.

Wor. Master Flor R. Nicolas then gave his inaugural address, which he entitled Wisdom, Strength and Beauty of Our Lodge.

Ms. Chandra Evangelista, Past Honored Queen of Bethel No. 22, International Order of Job's Daughters, entertained the assembly with a song.

VW Damian introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Sis. Esperanza delos Santos Herrera, President of the Mothers Club, Order of DeMolay, who narrated how she involved herself and her family in the Masonic career of MW Rosendo C. Herrera, our Grand Master in 1983.

This writer and VW Emil C. Dalican, both DGLs of Masonic District No. 7, presented the Past Master's Jewel and Apron, respectively, to WB Renato S. Ang, the Master of the Lodge in 1992.

The following were recipients of awards: WB Francisco A. delos Santos, Sr., Hiram Award; WB Robert O. Asuncion, Outstanding Master Mason; WB Danilo C. Angeles, Outstanding Past Master; JW

Emeritus P. Aviles, Most Proficient Award; Bro. Francisco A. delos Santos, Jr., Perfect Attendance; Bro. Manuel C. Lagonera, Chief, Medico Legal of Manila, Nolitarian Award in the Field of Medicine.

Special Achievement Awardees were WM Flor R. Nicolas, Editor-in-Chief, *The Cabletow*; VW Samuel P. Fernandez, Editor-in-Chief, *Far Eastern Freemason*; SW Bernardino L. Cabiles, President, Prosecutors League of Manila, who will soon be appointed Judge; and VW Waldemar V. Valmores, PDGL, Dean, Graduate School, Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila.

VW Fernandez led the assembly in remembering the brethren of the Lodge, particularly VW Marcelino P. Dysangco, PAGS, who had laid down the working tools of life.

For and in behalf of the Grand Master, who was at the time in Guam, RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Junior Grand Warden, congratulated the officers and challenged them to bring their Lodge to greater heights of achievement. He pointed out that there were some 23 Lodges represented during the momentous event.

MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, Grand Secretary, made true his promise that he would attend the affair. He had to rush from Indang, Cavite, where he attended another Masonic function.

The Lodge having been closed in short form by VW Bawagan, there ensued at the Aguinaldo Hall dinner, fellowship and ballroom dancing. Prizes were awarded to lucky winners in the raffle.



DeMolays of Loyalty Chapter stand at attention before the Altar during reception of the Evolution of the Philippine Flag.

Seated (L to R): VW Malapaya, RW Bunyi, MW Ko, MW Rosendo C. Herrera, Sis. Esperanza delos Santos, JW Aviles, WM Nicolas, SW Cabiles, VW Bawagan, VW Fernandez, VW Emil C. Dalican.

Standing (L to R): VW Charles R. Agar, WB Medina, Dong delos Santos, Jr., Regulo Pe O. Benito, WB Danilo C. Angeles, Manuel G. Lagonera, Danny R. Ignacio, and Abdulkadil IM. Guialani.

Standing, 3rd row (L to R): Samuel M. Salvador, VW Damian, VW Valmores, Randolph G. Alcantara, Virgilio T. Mauricio, Charito C. Mabitazan, and WB Rene Ang.

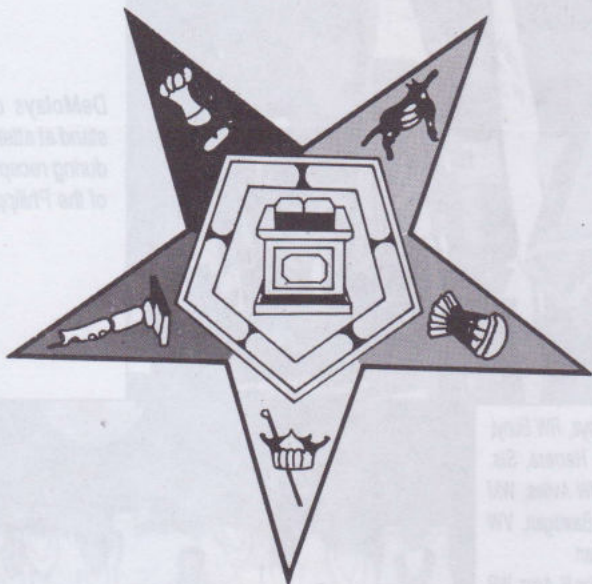


VERONA CHAPTER #1, OES

Verona Chapter #1, Order of the Eastern Star, which was chartered in 1949 and which bears the first name of its first Worthy Matron, Verona Madson, meets every second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Agana Heights, Guam.

Its officers for 1998 were installed last January 10 by Dottie R. Winterle, PM, Salvacion P. Alger, PM, Rady M. Alvarez, and Grosvenor M. Needham, PP, Installing Officer, Marshal, Secretary and Chaplain, respectively.

The installed officers were: Virginia S. Camaganacan, PM, *Worthy Matron*; Doroteo E. Camaganacan, *Worthy Patron*; Corazon Rabanal, *Asso. Matron*; Leonilo T. Alger, PP, *Asso. Patron*; Barbara E. Haig, PM, *Secretary*;



Salvacion P. Alger, PM, *Treasurer*; Judith Booth, *Conductress*; Cindy Huang, PM, *Asso. Conductress*.

Grosvenor M. Needham, PP, *Chaplain*; Jose C. Laguana, PP, *Marshal*; Elizabeth Gianchand, *Esther*; Dottie R. Winterle, PM,

Martha; Marie Kuntz, *Electa*; Ricardo R. Subulboro, *Warder*; and Frederick F. Dunsmoor, PP, *Sentinel*.

Trustees are Cindy Huang, PM (1 year); Frederick F. Dunsmoor, PP (2 years); and Dottie R. Winterle, PM (3 years).



Dottie Wintterle
Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron

Worthy Matron Virginia S. Camaganacan chairs the Advisory Board, Guam Assembly #1, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Dottie R. Wintterle is Mother Advisor. The following are members: Doroteo Camaganacan, Michael Camaganacan, Frederick F. Duns Moor (Deputy), Barbara E. Haig, Ciny Huan, Corazon Rebanal, Roger Rebanal, Ricardo R. Subulboro, and Virgilio R. Soriano.

In their inaugural message, Virgie and Ted Camaganacan, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, respectively, laid out the various prongs of their one-year stewardship, as follows:

1. We would like to increase and fill vacant offices.
2. We have to fraternize with Masonic and appendant bodies.
3. We have to improve our finances and engage in civic consciousness and community assistance.
4. We have to pursue vigorously the development of, as

well as extend financial assistance to, Guam Assembly #1, IORG.

5. For the good of our Order, we will see to it that all officers will be proficient in their respective stations by conducting frequent schools of instruction.

Dottie Wintterle, on her part, said, "As your Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron, I stand ready to serve and assist you as we work to accomplish your Eastern Star goals for 1998. My challenge to each of you is to open the fan and be the power that will flame international friendships as we extend our hands and hearts to those we meet in life. May we all live our lives so that our youth will look to us for leadership and others will want to emulate our behavior."

She punctuated her message with sincere congratulations to the 1998 officers of Verona Chapter #1, Order of the Eastern Star.—eF.R.eN



Virgie and Ted Camaganacan
Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron

EASTERN STAR SHINES IN SAN PABLO CITY

BY DALTAZAR C. HERNANDEZ, PM

THE FIRST ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR CHAPTER IN THE PHILIPPINES, MAYON CHAPTER No. 1, WAS CHARTERED IN MANILA ON OCTOBER 19, 1904. NINETY THREE YEARS AFTER RISING IN PHILIPPINE HORIZON, THE EASTERN STAR WAS SOON TO SHINE AND ILLUMINE THE SKIES OF THE CITY OF SNA PABLO.

Early in 1997, some brethren of Malinaw Lodge No. 25 contemplated in establishing a Masonic appendant body for women relatives of Master Masons. They believed that these ladies possessed a reservoir of talents and energy which could be harnessed and nurtured to assist in the promotion of the principles of the Craft. Moreover, they also observed that upon the death of a Mason, his widow, orphans and close relatives began to drift away from Masonic activities. Soon enough, this alienation made them strangers to other living members of the Fraternity. To these brethren, the willful omission of not providing an answer to a nagging reality was a departure from the Masonic obligation "to aid and assist a worthy Brother Mason, his widow and orphans."

The prospective members pondered long and hard about an organization with a rich heritage and tradition, dynamic and supportive leadership and an international acceptance and stature. The Order of the Eastern Star was the unanimous and final choice.

In its June stated meeting, the Lodge voted to sponsor the establishment of a subordinate Chapter of the Eastern Star under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter (GGC) based in Washington, D.C. The first organizational and subsequent meetings saw several Master masons, their spouses, children, daughters, granddaughters, nieces and close relatives of active and deceased Masons sign up to the petition to affirm their ardent desire to be one among the more than a million members of the Order all over the

world. They elected to name the new chapter "San Pablo de los Montes", the old name of the city as it was known during the Spanish period. They volunteered time, talent, and token to ensure that their petition would be found worthy of recognition by the governing General Grand Chapter. With the overwhelming help and support of Sister Fe Abarquez Suaco, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Patron, Sister Nieves Amagna, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron and some active members of other chapters, the stage was soon set for the Institution of the newest Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in the Philippines.

October 25, 1997 was to be a milestone in its short but memorable history. Patience, persistence and painstaking efforts would now have their just reward. Presented with the

much-coveted Warrant from the Most Worthy Grand Patron Robert L. Baker, GGC, OES, San Pablo de los Montes Chapter (UD), OES was instituted, the charter members were conferred the Five Degrees of the Order in due and private form, and the first set of officers was publicly installed by a composite team of proficient and dedicated members of different Chapters in Luzon. On the momentous day, in the presence of more than a hundred guests, sisters and brothers of the Order coming from far and near, all sixty petitioner-members of the youngest Chapter in this jurisdiction knelt before the altar and fervently vowed fidelity, ewconstancy, loyalty, faith, and love to God, to country, to the Order, to each other and to humanity.

Installed to their respective positions were: Sis. Veronica V. Hernandez, *Worthy Matron*; Bro. Vicente M. de Rama, *Worthy Patron*; Sis. Juliet P. Briñas, *Asso. Matron*; Bro. Lorenzo U. Comendador, *Asso. Patron*; Sis. Minerva A. Maghirang, *Secretary*; Sis. Rosalita B. Guevarra, *Treasurer*; Sis. Herminia T. Custodio, *Conductress*; Sis. Perla M. Guevarra, *Asso. Conductress*; Sis. Emily T. Espiritu, *Chaplain*; Sis. Gigi V. Azores, *Marshal*; Sis. Alice C. Elma, *Organist*; Sis. Alfa Mae G. Comendador, *Adah*; Sis. Azel G. Comendador, *Ruth*; Sis. Liza M. Torrizo, *Esther*; Sis. Vilma M. Torrizo, *Martha*; Sis. Jennalyn A. Hernandez, *Electa*; Sis. Lina B. Escondo, *Warder*; Bro. Teodoro C. Escondo, *Santinel*; Bro. Rector G. Briñas, Sis. Marilyn A. Gaviño, and Bro. Nicholas E. Azores, *Trustees*.



The Charter members of San Pablo de los Montes Chapter (UD), OES, with Sis. Fe Abarquez Suaco, DMWGP. and Sis. Nieves Amagna, DMWGM, during their Institution, Initiation and Installation in San Pablo City.

MWGM ADAIR, MWGP JOHNSON VISIT PHILIPPINE CHAPTERS

Sister Florence Adair, Most Worthy Grand Matron, and Brother Lennart Johnson, Most Worthy Grand Patron, officially visited Philippine Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star in February 1998.

Reported Sister Nieves G. Amagna, Deputy to the MWGM in the Philippines (Luzin): *"The various Chapters hosted activities designed to make the MWGM's stay in the country hard to forget."*

The MWGM and her entourage visited Chapters in the Visayas on Feb. 11-13; those in Mindanao on Feb. 14-16; and those in Luzon on Feb. 17-21.

On Feb. 17 they paid a

courtesy call on the Grand Master, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., and then on Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, 33°, SGC, Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, A&ASR, Republic of the Philippines.

On Feb. 19, a composite team from various Chapters presented ritualistic work. The visiting dignitaries were very impressed with the team's presentation.

--e.F.R.eN.

MAHARLIKA SHRINE OASIS INSTALLATION

The officers and divan of Maharlika Shrine Oasis were publicly installed at the Sampaguita Hall, ISAFP, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Feb. 24, 1998.

Noble Gigi R. Ancajas was installed High Shereef; Noble Manuel Carranza, 1st Naib Shereef; Noble Roy G. Azarcon, 2nd Naib Shereef; Noble Ernesto V. Paranis, Katib; and Noble Edgardo M. Zafra, Amcen El Sundok.

The following Nobles composed the Oasis' divan: Carlos N. Villanueva, Ma Hab Zu; Emiliano L. Buyco, Chaplain; Carlos R. de Castro, Liaison Officer; Lucas M. Managuelod, Marshal; Reynaldo I. Berroya, Almoner; and Juanito G. Espino, Jr., Auditor.

Noble Benjamin N. Libarnes, PHS, is Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Noble Buyco led the invocation, while Noble Libarnes gave his

valedictory address and presented awards.

The ISAFP Officers Ladies Club provided entertaining intermission numbers.

Noble Juan C. Nabong, Jr., PHS, assisted by Noble Fernando C. Pace, PHS, installed the officers and the divan.

After the inaugural address of High Shereef Gigi Ancajas, RW Enrique L. Locsin, DGM, presented the Past High Shereef Medallion to Noble Libarnes and gave the closing remarks.

After the closing prayer led by Chaplain Buyco, the brethren and their guests enjoyed a warm fellowship social, which was made all the livelier with continual dancing.— eF.R.eN

PNP SQUARE & COMPASS CLUB, INC

INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

The PNP Square and Compass Club, Inc. held the induction of its officers for the Masonic year 1998-99 at the Club Filipino, Green Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila on March 31, 1998. The affair was hosted by the Eastern Police District Brethren.

After the dinner, the National Anthem was sung, followed by an invocation led by Bro. Jose Antonio "Joey" Salvacion. Bro. Lucas M. Managuelod of Gonzaga Lodge gave the welcome remarks, and Bro. Cipriano "Abdul" E. Querol, Jr., called the roll of the brethren who attended the affair. They represented different Lodges throughout the jurisdiction.

MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Grand Master, inducted the officers into office. They are as follows: WB Reynaldo M. Acop, PM, President; Bro. Lucas M. Managuelod, Vice-President; Bro. Cipriano E. Querol, Jr. (Al-Haj), Secretary; Bro. Romulo D. Sales, Treasurer; Bro. Enrique C. Cuadra (Al-Haj), Auditor, (who, due



Vice Pres. Bro. Lucas M. Managuelod welcomes the members and guests.

to inevitable circumstances was absent); Bro. Enrique "Ike" B. Galang, P.R.O. (who also served as emcee, vice VW Rodolfo A. Tor, who was also absent due to certain compelling reasons); and VW Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Adviser.

In his inaugural address, WB Acop was humorously serious or seriously humorous. He was serious in the sense that he surprised the officers and members of the club when he ordered the Treasurer, Bro. Sales, to serve as almoner. The officers and members doled out close to P10,000. WB Acop said he wanted to emulate former President Ronald Reagan, who once delivered a 17-word speech. But, he



(L to R) WB Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., WB Reynaldo M. Acop, Bro. Lucas M. Managuelod, Bro. Romulo D. Sales, Bro. Cipriano E. Querol, Jr. and Bro. Enrique B. Galang

said, in deference to Bro./Gen. Tomas Manlungat, who was present during the affair, he decided not to emulate Reagan; nevertheless, his speech would be *"short enough to attract attention and long enough to cover the objective."*

Jestingly he also remarked that the theme song of young Masons is Moment to Moment. But as they grow older, they



GM Bañez congratulates Pres. WB Rey M. Acop while Bro. Jun Ebdane & Bro. Rey Managuelod look on with amusement.



Pres. WB Reynaldo Acop gives a response.

change their theme song to Night and Day, Day and Night. Later their theme song would become Day by Day; still later, Let Me Try Again; and finally, Remember When.

Then, getting serious, he said he had accepted the challenge, with the hope that every worthy Brother would do his part.

In his message, MW Bañez bewailed the fact that the general public are not yet so acquainted with Freemasonry: what it is, what it is for, and what it has done to mankind. He narrated his experience in Japan regarding this mat-

ter. He then expressed his optimism that, through the efforts of allied organizations like the PNP Square & Compass Club, Inc., the level of the general public's awareness and understanding of Freemasonry would be raised.

Among the guests who were conspicuously present were the Grand Master's daughter, Dr. Leilani "Honeybee" Bañez-Tabuga; MW Agustin V. Mateo, PGM; WB/Gen. Alejandro de



GM delivers his message.

Guzman, past President of the Club; and Bro./Gen. Avelino Razon.

Fellowship prevailed among the brethren and guests after the program.

—eF.R.eN

MORE NEWS, UPDATES

65TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF M.D. NO. 2

The 65th Annual Convention of Masonic District No. 2 was hosted by Indang Lodge No. 115 in Indang, Cavite.

Early in the morning the brethren, as well as officers and members of appendant orders, assembled in front of the Indang Municipal Building, where they awaited the arrival of Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. and his party. They then paid a courtesy call on Hon. Iluminada F. Silao, Indang Municipal Mayor.

During the welcome ceremonies Rev. Fr. Paul de Leon led the invocation, Hon. Silao gave her welcome remarks, and Cavite Governor Epimaco A. Velasco delivered an inspirational message.

After the wreath-laying ceremonies and unveiling of a Masonic marker, the customary parade started.

After the parade the convention proper took place at the S.M. Rolle Hall, SAC.

The ceremonial officers for the convention first received VW Ruperto S. Sangalang, DDGM, and his party. VW Sangalang in turn received the Grand Master and his party and then the Past Grand Masters present, including MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, MW Rosendo C. Herrera, and MW Raymundo N. Beltran.

After the usual flag ceremony and invocation, the brethren said a silent prayer for departed brethren.

WM Manuel A. Baes gave his welcome address, and AMASI President Eduardo M. Espejo delivered a message.

District Secretary Damian B. Perido read the minutes of the 1996 discon, which were unanimously approved as read. District Treasurer Edgardo E. Lupisan reported on the financial state of the district, the Masters of the Lodges gave reports on their Lodge's activities, and VW Sangalang summed up the accomplishments of, as well as problems encountered by, the district.

In his keynote address, MW Bañez focused on the theme and motto of his administration.

The luncheon and fellowship social that followed were capped by the distribution of wheelchairs to crippled children.—eF.R.eN

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SPANISH MASONRY AND THE COLONIAL CRISIS OF '98

This significant event took place in Barcelona, Spain on Dec. 3-6, 1997. It consisted, in the main, of lectures by acknowledged experts and round-table discussions on various Masonic personages and historical events.

Among the papers discussed during the symposium was "Philippine Masonry in Spain" by MW Reynaldo S. Fajardo, PGM, Grand Lodge of F & AMs of the Philippines.

Other papers/lectures relative to Philippine Masonry which were presented/discussed during the symposium include the following:

1. "Jose Rizal and Masonry" by Susana Cuartero and Jose Antonio Ferrer Benimel, University of Zaragoza;

2. "Philippine Historical Sources on Rizal and His Enthronement" by Pedro Ortiz Armengol, Spanish Ambassador;

3. "Public Opinion during the Philippine Independence Movement" by Dulce Nombre de Maria Pais Benito, University of Valladolid;

4. "The Armed Forces in the Marianas at the End of the 19th Century" by Belen Pozuelo Mascarque, Autonomous University of Madrid;

5. "Masonry and the Army in the Philippine Crisis of 98" by Pablo Gonzales-Pola de la Granja, Ministry of Defense;

6. "Masonry and Anti-Clericalism in the Intellect of the Independent Filipino" by Juan Jose Tartaglia Redondo, University of Valladolid. (This focuses on Jose P. Rizal and Isabelo de los Reyes.)

The international symposium was organized by the University of Zaragoza, particularly its Center of Historical Studies on Spanish Masonry, with the collaboration of the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Madrid, the Pompeu Fabra University, the Ramon Llull University, and the Arus Public Library.

Among those who represented the Philippines during the symposium was Mrs. Isabel Caro Wilson, Philippine Ambassador to Spain.—eF.R.eN

A MEANINGFUL, FRUCTIFEROUS TRIP

BY VW CHARLES C. AGAR, DCL (□7)

The Grand Master's recent trip to Japan may be considered very meaningful and fruitful; for it did not only bring happiness to officers and members of the Lodges there under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, but it also bridged the gap between mother and daughter, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the Grand Lodge of Japan.

Arrival in Japan

MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. and his party (WB Vic Tan Tek Sian and this writer) arrived at the Narita airport at 11:30 a.m., March 11. We were warmly welcomed by WB Zaldemar Ricamona and WB Joseph Torres, current Master and Immediate Past Master, respectively, of Rising Sun Lodge No. 151, who drove us from the airport to the Naval Air Facility of the U.S. Navy at Atsugi, Kanagawa Ken, Japan. The brethren of Rising Sun treated us to a welcome dinner at the Officer's Club.

GM & Party Attend Lodge

At about 7:00 p.m., March 12, the brethren opened the Lodge in the usual form and then recessed it to enable the families to witness the public reception of the Grand Master and his party. The Grand Master had earlier advised the brethren to bring their families with them.

We were received with full honors in the hall, which was almost filled to capacity due to the presence of hermanas and their kids.

Before returning the gavel to the Worshipful Master, the Grand Master

said, "I am very happy to see our hermanas and our children in this gathering of Masons. This has made this evening's affair memorable."

WM Ricamona then welcomed the guests and introduced the brethren present together with their families.

WB Patrick James and WB Joedie J. Poole, Immediate Past Master and current Master, respectively, of Sagamihara Lodge No. 13 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Japan, were also present to welcome the Grand Master and his party.

Other brethren of Filipino descent who belong to the other grand jurisdiction were introduced, too.

There are, by the way, three Lodges that hold meetings in the same building. There are a Prince Hall Lodge, the Sagamihara Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Japan and Rising Sun Lodge No. 151, which is located at Camp Zama, an American Army Camp more or less 20 miles away from NAF Atsugi, where we were billeted.

I was asked to deliver a brief Masonic education. I chose to talk on "The Secret to a Long Life." The secret to a long life, I said, is the constant use of the compass to circumscribe our desire and keep our passions within due bounds towards all mankind as well as the persistent practice of the cardinal virtue of Temperance or Moderation.

The Grand Master thanked the brethren of Rising Sun 151 for the warm and unique reception they had extended to us. He also emphasized that one of his program thrusts is involving our families in Masonic endeavors. Freemasonry being a universal brotherhood, he said, it is important that we practice the motto "Together Is Better."

During the fellowship at the lobby of the same building, MW Bañez happily conversed with the hermanas, who in turn were elated by the fact that the Grand Master was giving them special

attention.

We certainly relished the variegated foods, contributed via potluck. And the fellowship was so warm and cordial that there was no doubt true camaraderie prevailed among the Masons and friends present.

The officers and members of Rising Sun 151 presented the Grand Master and his party with appreciative memorabilia.

Grand Lodge of Japan: a Backgrounder

Ill. Bro. Douglas MacArthur, it is said, brought Masonry to Japan. For some time Japanese Lodges were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Then the Grand Lodge of Japan was given its own charter in 1957. Its first Grand Master was MWB Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez.

The Tokyo Masonic Association owns a high-rise commercial building in downtown Tokyo at the foot of the world-renowned Tokyo Tower and adjacent to the famous Shiba Park at Minato-ku. It has provided the Grand Lodge of Japan with an adjacent 4-storey building, at the basement of which are housed Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite halls as well as offices of Lodges located in Tokyo; on the first floor, the offices of appendant higher bodies; on the second floor, the office of the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, where there is a replica of the room once used by General Tojo as a war room. This is called the Zaidah Hojin Room.

41st Ancom, Grand Lodge of Japan

We attended the 41st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Japan on March 13. With us was WB Joseph Torres, IPM of Rising Sun. We were all sporting barong tagalog with colorful green undershirt and bowtie.

WM Kazutoshi Iwahama, Grand Master, presided over the proceedings, assisted by officers of the Grand Lodge.

After the Grand Chaplain's invocation, the Grand Lodge received the Past Grand Masters. MWB Yoshio Washizu, PGM, gave the response in behalf of the PGMs.

Together with representatives of other Sister Grand Jurisdictions, we were recognized and duly received. Grand Master Iwahama expressed joy in receiving the delegation from the Mother of the Grand Lodge of Japan. In his response, MW Bañez in turn thanked the Grand Lodge of Japan for the warm reception accorded to him and his party.

We were given seats in the East, together with PGMs and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of China and his party. On the sidelines were representatives of other Grand Lodges.

MW Iwahama, using both English and Japanese, warmly welcomed all delegates, representatives of Sister Grand Jurisdictions and other Masonic dignitaries.

MW William D. Patterson, immediate Past Grand Master, focused his remarks on the various problems and obstacles that had confronted Masonry in Japan.

After the reports of certain Grand Lodge Officers, the labor of the Ancom was suspended for lunch.

In the afternoon session, unfinished business was discussed, followed by the election of officers for the ensuing Masonic year.

To save time in travel from Atsugi to Tokyo, we stayed at the New Sanno Hotel in downtown Tokyo, a few blocks away from the Grand Lodge of Japan. There we were informed by delegates that the Grand Lodge of Japan had finally resolved the problem of whether or not to recognize the prince Hall Grand Lodge. The news made the Grand Master very glad, indeed.

Fellowship ensued at the Piano Bar of the Hotel.

Events of March 14

On the second day of the Ancom,

there took place a Lodge of Instruction for Masters, Wardens and Secretaries and the conferral of the Installed Past Master Degree by WB Yuya Hirose, JGL.

In the afternoon the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers were installed. VW Peter Ismael Eusoff, DDGM of Masonic District No. 19, and his party joined us in attending the installation ceremonies.

Installed elected officers were the following: MWB William M. Heath, Grand Master; RWB Fredric R. Collins, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Kazuhiro Watanabe, Senior Grand Warden; RWB Eichi Inae, Junior Grand Warden; MWB James L. Johnstons, PGM, Grand Treasurer; MWB Chester L. Ditto, PGM, Grand Secretary.

Installed appointed officers were: VWB Philip A. Ambrose, Senior Grand Lecturer; WB Yuya Hirose, Grand Chaplain; WB Jack C. Miller, Grand Orator; WB Akira Washikita, Grand Marshal; WB David R. Pogue II, Grand Standard Bearer; WB Robert D. Target, Grand Sword Bearer; WB Haruju Ikegami, Grand Bible Bearer; WB Norinaga Miyoshi, Junior Grand Lecturer; WB Shinya Takeda, Senior Grand Deacon; WB Kenzo Takatsu, Junior Grand Deacon; WB Shisuki Ueno, Senior Grand Steward; WB Richard Ellison, Junior Grand Steward; WB Jerry M. Pricer, Grand Pursuivant; WB Sunao Kanemitsu, Grand Organist; WB Yoshiharu Shimokawa, Grand Tyler; and WB Sahuho Katagiri, Grand Historian.

The public installation was presided over by MWB Yasutada Kitamura, PGM.

In his inaugural address, MW Heath focused on the responsibilities attendant to the Grand Oriental Chair and urged the brethren to extend all-out support and cooperation.

After the closing of the Grand Lodge, banquet and fellowship ensued at the Scottish Rite Hall.

During the fellowship, MWB Chester L. Ditto, PGM, Grand Secretary, informed MW Bañez about the recognition by the Grand Lodge of Japan of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. When he told the Grand Master that the restriction imposed on members of the Grand Lodge of Japan on its members not to visit Lodges under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines shall now be recalled, MW Bañez was overtly happy.

The inaugural banquet started with an invocation by the Grand Chaplain, followed by the traditional toasts to the Emperor, the Grand Lodge of Japan, the Grand Master, and the visitors.

During the program that followed dinner, MWB Patterson invested the PGM's Apron and Jewel on outgoing Grand Master Iwahama.

MWB Yasutada Kitamura, PGM,

was guest of honor and speaker at the inaugural banquet. He delivered his speech in Japanese, which was translated into English by JGW Eichi Inae. In his speech, MWB Kitamura focused on the role of the Tokyo Masonic Association....

Entertainment numbers during the program included Masonic songs by Junior Grand Warden Inae and Past Grand Master Washizu.

Toward the end of the fellowship social, the newly installed Grand Master of Japan, MW Heath, accepted the invitation of our Grand Master, MW Bañez, for the Grand Lodge of Japan to attend our forthcoming Annual Communication in Manila. He then made several toasts, including one to the foreign visitors and the last to the Tyler.

The dinner-cum-fellowship over, we motored back to Atsugi, with VW Joseph Torres on the wheel.



*GM Bañez
is led to the Altar
by Marshal Joseph Torres.*

*Memorabilia to Grand Master
given by Rising Sun 151 brethren,
Left to Right: VW Agar,
GM Bañez, Sister & Bro.
Alan Huntley, JW,
WB Joseph Torres, WM Zaldemar
Ricamona & WB Vic Tan Tek Sian.*





From left to right:
WB Joseph Torres
WB Vic Tan Tek Sian,
GM Kazutoshi Iwahama,
GM Bañez, and
VW Charles Agar

Newly installed
Grand Master
William M. Heath with
outgoing GM Iwahama
and GM Bañez



The Fraternal Center Bldg.
at Camp Zama at the
background. From left to right:
WB Vic Tan Tek Sian, Bro.
Ferdie Salas and VW Agar.

The Square & Compass Club of Atsugi, Japan, composed of Masons belonging to different Grand Lodges, tendered us, the Grand Master and his party, a send-off party at the Club's social hall on Sunday, March 15. The event, which was spearheaded by brethren of Rising Sun 151, turned out to be a family affair since the hermanas and kids were again present.

The club secretary, Bro. Ferdie Lalas, introduced the members present as well as the hermanas and kids. Introduced, too, were WB Charles Bond, Master of Yokosuka Lodge No. 20, who came together with his Filipino wife, Senior Warden George Sebastian with wife and kids, and Junior Warden Carlo M. De Castro.

Again, the lunch, consisting of foods prepared by the hermanas, potluck style, was palate-tickling and belly-filling.

The Grand Master praised the members of the Club and thanked them for the warm reception. He announced the promotion of two Brothers to the rank of DDGM—Dikit na Dikit sa Grand Master. They were WB Vic Tan Tek Sian and WB Joseph Torres, IPM of Rising Sun 151, who served as driver to the Grand Master and his party during their sojourn in Japan. The announcement was unanimously accepted by the brethren as might be deduced from the thunderous round of applause.

The Grand Master's speech was followed by community singing.

GM VISITS YOKOSUKA LODGE NO. 20

MW Bañez and his party motored to Yokosuka base after the send-off party tendered by the Square & Compass Club. DDGMs Joseph Torres and Peter Ismael F. Eusoof escorted us.

Yokosuka Lodge No. 20 was formerly under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines—from July 1947 to July 23, 1965. This was when Yokosuka Lodge No. 20 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of

Japan.

The Lodge holds its meetings in the Masonic building on top of a hill on the right side of the gate of the base. A Prince Hall Lodge also uses the same hall.

WB Charles Bond, incumbent Master, together with SW George Sebastian, gave us a tour of the hall and briefed us on the historical background of the Lodge.

Various memorabilia of the Lodge's connection with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines still exist in the hall, such as Ancom Proceedings of our Grand Lodge, copies of The Cabletow, the Lodge's old Charter, and the Philippine Flag which the Lodge used then.

MW Bañez was so touched to see our flag in its original form that he asked the permission of WM Bond that he would borrow it, so that it would be displayed during our Ancom. (The flag is at present displayed in the office of our Grand Master.)

On the initiative of WB Bond, we were able to board USS Fife, a US Navy destroyer. WB Bond himself explained the various parts and functions of the destroyer. Then he treated us to dinner at the base restaurant, where we were joined by the two other Lodge Lights and their ladies.

The sumptuous dinner over, we enjoyed a fellowship social at the Officers Club, where a live Filipino combo played ballroom music. The music was so inviting that the Grand Master enjoyed dancing the swing and the lambada.

What a treat it was!

Then we motored back to Atsugi.

DEPARTURE TO MANILA

Accompanied by WM Zaldemar Ricamona, Bro. Boiti Portugal and Bro. Ferdie Lalas, we motored to the Narita Airport, where we enplaned back to Manila.

All in all, the GM's visit to Japan was fraught with meaning and reaped much fruit.

VITAL SIGNS OF A LIVING LODGE

BY R.W. WAYNE T. ADAMS

Note: THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN ADAPTED FROM THE SPRING 1997 EDITION OF *THE MAINE MASON*.

ALL THE LODGES IN MAINE I HAVE VISITED HAVE SEVERAL THINGS IN COMMON. IN EACH OF THEM THERE ARE GOOD MEN, GOOD MASONS WHO HAVE A STRONG ATTACHMENT TO THEIR LODGE. THEY VALUE THEIR LODGE FOR ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY AND FOR ITS PLACE IN THE LIVES OF MANY GOOD MEN THEY HAVE KNOWN. THERE THE SIMILARITIES END.

Beyond those feelings of loyalty and attachment, lodges fall into two categories: those that are swimming and those that are sinking. This is not news to anyone. Not surprisingly, those which are swimming along have several things in common, and those which are sinking also have several things in common.

Here are the vital signs a visitor notices without having to ask any questions at all:

1. How do they greet visitors? In some lodges brother after brother will come up to welcome a visitor and strike up a conversation, whether the visitor is a friend or a stranger. In other lodges, those who know the visitor will shake his hand. Those who don't will give him a short stare and seek out someone they know. They seem to think that greeting visitors is someone else's job.

These very different responses are more than just a warm-welcome test.

When a brother welcomes guests to his lodge, he shows that he feels a part of his lodge and sees it as his duty to welcome guests as well as fellow members of his lodge. Warm personal interaction is the first and probably the most significant thing a visitor notices about a living lodge.

2. How is the lodge maintained? Some lodges are neat, clean and freshly painted. They impress visitors, spouses, friends and prospective candidates. It is obvious the brethren take pride in their lodge. It's obvious they spend considerable time keeping it in top share.

Other lodges seem a bit messy, not too clean and have a run-down look. A visitor notices in a wink if his hosts take pride in their lodge. He knows a living lodge has brethren who are willing to contribute a little time to keep it up.

3. Who is doing the work? A visitor can easily spot those who are busy with the supper and getting the lodge room ready for the evening. At living lodges, a visitor very often notices a generational mix. He looks in the kitchen and sees older brother, younger brothers and some in between, all working together. In spite of age differences, they understand they have something important in common and enjoy working together on a common task. A visitor quickly spots in living lodges those "who best can work and best agree."

In other lodges a visitor often sees a quiet, grim-faced group who appear to have done the job many times before. He can almost hear them thinking, "When is someone else going to take over this job?" A visitor is well-advised not to linger in that

kitchen.

4. Does the lodge do more than send a card? Every Master comes to the point in his agenda where he asks about brethren in sickness or distress. In some lodges, the Master will start right out saying he spoke with Betty Smith that afternoon who reported Brother Smith was doing much better following his heart attack. another Brother rises to announce he visited Brother Smith in the hospital the day before and had a good talk with him. A visitor is impressed that these brethren have a genuine interest in each other's welfare.

Then there are lodges where someone says he "heard" Brother Smith had been taken to the hospital. The Master asks the Secretary to circulate a card. A visitor sees care and share is not a priority item in that Lodge.

5. Are there young men in the chair? This is important because younger officers attract younger candidates. A number of young men in the chairs may indicate the lodge has at least a rudimentary Masonic education program which has sparked the interest of these young men. Well-informed candidates are more likely to become active Masons than uninformed candidates. I have never heard anyone disagree with that proposition. Some lodges—living lodges—see their candidates learn some of the history, lore and symbolism of the three degrees. A little understanding of Craft masonry is often enough to make a man want to learn more.

Other lodges have few young men in the chairs. They complain that young men just don't have the commitment. They don't stop to wonder how a man can be committed to a task or an organization when he has little or no understanding of its purposes, its history, or its potential importance in his life. A visitor wonders why those lodges waste their time initiating, passing and raising a man if they are not going to make even a minimal attempt to give him some knowledge of

Masonry.

6. Are there any young men on the sidelines? The average age of a Mason is 60. It always will be because a Masons ten to be dues-paying members of their lodge for life. A visitor can, nevertheless, spot in a living lodge a few younger men on the sidelines. This tells a couple of things. First, someone has made sure they come back after being raised. We easily forget how complicated our ritual and practices appear to a new Mason. Many are intimidated, many are afraid they will embarrass themselves the first time back. All of them remember they have been told to give their Master Mason's lesson and are very self-conscious if they haven't done it. It is not surprising that many need a little encouragement from their sponsors, their elder brother or some other Mason in order to get involved in the life of the lodge.

We have all heard stories of Masons called to come in for their 25-year pins, who have never been back since they were raised. We wonder why they haven't come back. We should wonder why it took 25 years for someone to call them.

7. Are there any younger men at all? When a visitor goes to a lodge and sees no younger Masons, either in the chairs or on the sidelines, he knows that lodge has not participated in a Fellowship Night and it badly needs to do so. Better than three out of four guests to Fellowship Nights submit applications. That tells us there are many non-Masons who are looking for an organization which does good works, which offers an opportunity for good fellowship and which encompasses a reliable value system, a good anchor to the windward. Those men are seeking what we found. There are, nevertheless, some Masons who believe we should hide our light under a bushel. Then, there are some who are content just to sit on the bushel while their lodge shrinks in size and sinks into inactivity.

These seven vital signs are helpful in telling us whether a lodge is swimming

ahead or sinking under. But let's go back to the things common to all lodges, where there are good Masons who have a strong attachment to their lodge. No matter what the condition of a lodge is, these vital signs point out things we all can do to help our lodges stay alive.

First. Each one of us can greet personally Masons attending our lodge each night, friend and visitor alike. None of our lodge is so large as to make that an onerous task.

Second. Each one of us can show our pride in our lodge by pitching in to help keep it neat and clean, and to freshen it up where needed. Such an effort will result not only in a better-appearing lodge, but in the pleasure of sharing that task with friends.

Third. Each one of us can participate and share common tasks with older Masons and with younger Masons. Getting to know them better will be its own reward.

Fourth. Each one of us can do more than sign a card. Cards are appreciated. A phone call or a visit is appreciated even more. Try this. Ask yourself how much interest you would show in your own brother in like situation. Surely, a card would not be enough.

Fifth. Each one of us can improve his own knowledge of Masonry and see that our candidates acquire as much knowledge of Masonry as their curiosity demands. The survival of Masonry as a way of thinking and a way of living depends on Masons taking the time to teach younger men.

Sixth. Each one of us can assure the newly-raised candidate he will find friends when he comes back to lodge, that there is a place for him and a task for him, and he is wanted as a friend and a brother.

Seventh. Each one of us can promote Fellowship Nights, can volunteer to help on Fellowship Nights and, most importantly, can bring friend who might be interested in Masonry. This is important for our Lodge. It is potentially

even more important for our friend. If Masonry is of great value to us, it is likely to be of value to any man who would be our friend.

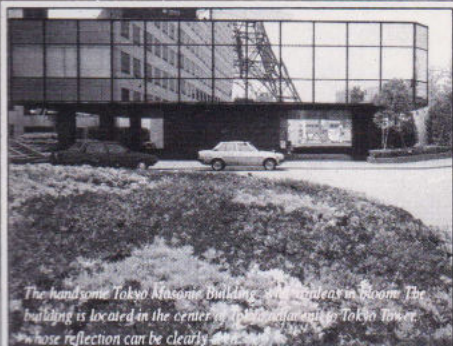
Each of these tasks requires a little initiative and a little time. Each Lodge has many Masons to profess a devotion to the craft and to their lodge. The question is, does each lodge have good Masons who are devoted enough to their lodge to undertake these tasks necessary to keep it a living lodge? Let no one think these tasks are someone else's man's tasks. Let no one think he has done his work, and today it's another man's turn. We all want young officers, but let's look at the world of a young man today. He works long hours and some times two jobs to make ends meet. His wife works outside of the home, which means he has to pitch in and help. His kids are young and growing up in an environment where every child is at risk.

A good, hard-working young family man is our ideal lodge officer. Then we expect him to attend every stated meeting, every special meeting, and every rehearsal. We expect him to attend schools of instruction, Masters and Wardens meetings, and lodge inspections. We want him to visit sick and shut-in brothers and widows, to work on public suppers and to become involved in community projects. Who are we kidding? We want a Supermason, and then mutter about a lack of commitment if we don't find him. If we want younger men in the chairs, there is a trade off. The trade off is that we all have to pitch in and help.

Let us ask ourselves the following questions:

1. What vital signs does a visitor see in my lodge?
2. Do I help in those areas needing improvement, or do I wait for the other guy to do it?
3. Do I show by my deeds the devotion I profess to my lodge?
4. Do I act as if the very survival of my lodge as a living lodge depends on my participation?

MORE PHOTOS ON GM'S TRIP TO JAPAN



The handsome Tokyo Masonic Building. The ceremony in Room 100. The building is located in the center of the downtown in Tokyo Tower, whose reflection can be clearly seen.



The Scottish Rite Hall seats 125.



The beautiful Blue Lodge hall can accommodate 125.



GM Bañez congratulates GM Heath.



GM Heath and PGM's Anron on MW Iwahama.



toast to the new Grand Master.



L-R: VW Agor, Bro. Melvin Garcia, GM Bañez, VW P. Euseof & VW Joseph Torres.
Background: GL of Japan Bldg.

IF UNDELIVERED, PLEASE RETURN TO:



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

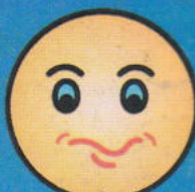
DO I ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS THIS WAY?



SLEEPY



FROWNING



ARTIFICIAL



ANGRY



UNSURE



INDEFFERENT



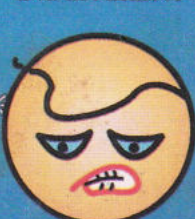
WORRIED



ABSENT MINDED



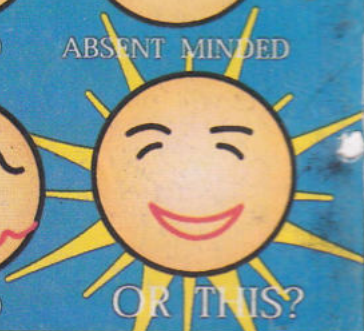
HANG OVER



DISGUSTED



LOADED



OR THIS?

RE-ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER
AT THE MANILA POST OFFICE ON JUNE 16, 1962

TO SUBSCRIBER: Change and correction of address
requested for prompt delivery