



The Cable Tow

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

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MW Franklin J. Demonteverde
Grand Master
MY 1999-2000



ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

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C O N T E N T S

What's Inside

In Focus

ANCOM '99

6-27
35-40

Regular Features

Grand Master's Message

4

Editorial

5

Round the Districts, Lodges 16; 32-34; 42-45; 48-53; 55-61; 63

Quick Quotes

27

Special Features

American Masonry in the Philippines

28

Grains of Wit & Humor

31

Czarina Golda Musni

34

PGMC

46

PMATI

47

G.L. of New Zealand

48

Balloting of Petitioners

61

Doing It by the Heart

62

Thought to Share With a Young DeMolay

66

Triplets Rule Wyoming Bethel

68

The Good Die Young

69

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OUR COVER

On the front is MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master of Philippine Masons for MY 1999-2000. His theme and logo are presented on the back. On the inner front are the Elected Grand Lodge Officers (GLOs); on the inner back, the Elected and Appointed GLOs.

FROM THE GRAND ORIENTAL CHAIR

Addressing Accusations against us a formidable task

When I was being installed as the Grand Master of Masons last April 1999 in General Santos City at the culmination of the 83rd Annual Communication, several nuns were seen within the premises distributing pamphlets that purportedly depicted Masons as devils, occultists, and criminals. A few of them even attempted to get inside the auditorium, were it not for the intercession of a Past Grand Master who lectured on the nuns. The sight of the nuns distributing those fabricated literatures was simply pathetic, but the message was clear - an anti-Masonic vilification campaign is again being waged against the fraternity. Renewed attacks against us are on the upswing. Admittedly, I am saddened by this development. Somehow, it is disturbing and something must be done about it.

In my inaugural speech, I outlined to you my program for the year, a program that is centered on Masonic Education. The objective is to re-orient the membership on the teachings of the Craft so as to make them more knowledgeable on its various aspects. On the other hand, I had also outlined a plan of action that is geared towards the enlightenment of the public

about the Institution, among which are the establishment of an Institute for Masonic Learning, the net-working with all of the appendant bodies, particularly those that involve the family, a public awareness ac-

tion plan, and the implementation of various monthly activities. To this end, I will be activating the Masonic Coordinating Council, the membership of which is composed of the heads of all appendant bodies, with your Grand Master as its Chairman. Together, we will attempt to address the accusations against us and hopefully, through a concerted effort, we may be able to bridge the gap that has been engendered by our detractors and bring about a happy solution to it.

I must admit though that it is a formidable task. I, even

as your Grand Master, cannot do it all by myself. I must have all the support that I would need to overcome the prejudices and biases against Masonry. YOU will be my ally. YOU will be the legs that I will stand on to achieve our goals.

To all Brethren, **"Come then, let us to the task, to the battle, to the toil, each to our part, each to our station."** By this effort, we can firmly hold the lamp that casts its light of Truth upon a stony way.



GM FRANKLIN J. DEMONTEVERDE
"I must have all the support ... to overcome the prejudices and biases against Masonry."

**TOWARD BUILDING UP A STRONGER, STURDIER, MORE
MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE OF PHILIPPINE MASONRY**

We are optimistic that during this Grand Lodge year we will build up a stronger, sturdier, more magnificent temple of Philippine Masonry, which anti-Masons would find difficult to attack, much less to destroy, and under the aegis of which we, the members of the Masonic family, would make wonderful things happen by working together in close harmony and showing our pride in our Masonic membership. To us, after all, doing things together, accomplishing together, sharing together in sincere love and fellowship is what Masonry is all about. MW Bro. Franklin J. Demonteverde and his dynamic set of officers, elected and appointed alike, are highly resolved to stand together as a great team of players to carry out the thrusts of this year's program of administration. But, of course, they will succeed only if and when they receive helpful cooperation from every segment of our Masonic family.

That is why one of the thrusts of this year's administrative program is the reactivation of the Masonic Coordinating Council, which consists of representatives of our Grand Lodge and appendant bodies and orders.

The Masonic Coordinating Council, at the start, will have informal meetings; eventually, however, it will draw up a multi-phased strategic plan covering all segments of our Masonic family. This plan will state the vision, or mutually-agreed-upon destination, of our Masonic family. It will also contain goals, strategies, and programs for immediate, middle- and long-term actions.

We fervently wish the Masonic Coordinating Council success. Its task, we know, is uphill. But, we also know, the members thereof will apply themselves to the task; for, we know, they fully recognize the paramount importance of a well-thought-out, well-coordinated strategic plan in building up a stronger, sturdier, more magnificent

temple of Philippine Masonry vis-à-vis the enormous challenges of the third millenium, which will usher in the global village — a global order characterized by the unfettered exchange of services, commodities, people, and technologies across geopolitical, socio-cultural, and techno-economic barriers. By dint of economic globalization, increased interdependence, scientific and technological advances, and developments in communications and information technology, the global village is expected to spur the interface and movement of goods and entities among economies across the globe.

With the strategic plan drawn up by the Masonic Coordinating Council in place, we will be prepared to face the challenges of such a global order.

The Right Worshipful Joe R. Manning, Jr., Past Grand Master of Masons in Oklahoma, stated several years ago, *"We, as a Fraternity, have the history, the lessons and the facilities to succeed if we but have the courage to use them to the advantage of our future rather than our past... If experience shows that change is required, we must have the resolve to make those changes for the benefit of each of our members and our Fraternity as a whole."*

We do agree - and repeat - that Masonic leader's challenge: We must have the resolve to make those changes...

We are assured that, with the blessing of the G.A.O.T.U., wise counsel from the Board for General Purposes, all-out support from the Masonic Coordinating Council, and helpful cooperation from all members of our widespread Masonic family, MW Bro. Franklin J. Demonteverde and his officers, both elected and appointed, will succeed in building up a stronger, sturdier, more magnificent Temple of Philippine Masonry — one we all can be proud of.

So mote it be.

eF.R.eN

AN ACCOUNT OF OUR GRAND LODGE'S 83rd ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 83rd ANCOM of our Grand Lodge held in Gen. Santos City on April 22-24, 1999 was a **tremendous success.**

The story behind its success started two years ago in Tacloban City when spokesmen for Masonic District No. 48 serenely and confidently presented to the brethren consistent arguments in support of their District's bid to host the 1999 Ancom in Gen. Santos City, thereby getting the brethren's approval. Stated Bro. Andres "Sinukuan" Bonifacio: *"All your desires will be crowned with success if you have serenity, constancy, reason and confidence in every one of your endeavors."*

Upon arriving in Gen. Santos City, leaders of the Craft in M.D. 48, together with officers of appendant bodies and orders therein, rolled up their sleeves and began working in the quarries. They organized the Executive Committee and other working committees. The members of the Executive Committee carefully planned and put together the best possible program. They paid absolute attention to every detail, closely coordinated with Grand Lodge, exerted effort to get the best speaker, and gave every ounce of energy they could muster to communicating "the word" to brethren of other Masonic Districts and Blue Lodges in our jurisdiction.

Preparing for the 83rd Ancom of our Grand Lodge was, to them, **hard work but fun.** Success, they knew, is 99% hard work and 1% inspiration.

In the end, participants in the Ancom, brethren and guests alike, unanimously said it was the best hosted so far, pointing out, among other things, that activities were very organized; that there was a cornucopia of foods and drinks; that hospitality was splendid, accommodation very satisfactory, transportation well coordinated, and entertainment at the Ancom site quite sufficient, so that one didn't feel the need to look for fun elsewhere; and that our Bicol brethren, who won the bid to host Ancom 2001, would be hard put to equal, much less to surpass, the feat of our brethren in M.D. No. 48, who truly deserved the accolade given them.

PRE-ANCOM ACTIVITIES

Clearly, our brethren in the host District did a lot of benchmarking and technology transfer. Registration was computerized and well organized, so that delegates, as well as sports activities participants, didn't find any difficulty in regis-

tering at the Gen. Santos City Gymnasium on April 19 and 20.

The flag-raising-and-floral-offering ceremony at the monument of Bro. Jose "Dimasalang" Rizal in front of City Hall in the morning of the 21st was well attended by brethren and guests; it also attracted the attention of curious bystanders and passers-by.

The competitions in golf, tennis, and practical shooting were rather fierce, but fraternalism prevailed among the competing brethren.

Registration for the Annual Convention (Ancon) of the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP) in the Gen. Santos City Gym was so organized that the rehearsal of the Grand Lodge Officers (GLOs) in the same venue went on smoothly.

City Mayor Adelbert W. Antonino, who belongs to a Masonic family, warmly welcomed and cordially entertained the GLOs who paid him a courtesy call in his office.

Well attended, likewise, was the GGPMP Ancon in Dragon Place, as well as its fellowship dinner in Rosewood Place, which would also serve as the venue for the ladies fellowship in mid-morning of the day following.

ANCOM PROPER Opening Ceremonies

In the morning of April 22, the GLOs having made their entrance into the convention hall, Deputy Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde presided over the opening of the Grand Lodge, solemnly received Grand Master Enrique L. Locsin, warmly welcomed him to the East, and presented to him his gavel.

MW Locsin then solemnly received the Past Grand Masters, the foreign Masonic dignitaries, and the guest of honor and speaker, His Excellency Joseph Ejercito Estrada, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Among the foreign delegates were MW Randy Chang, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii; RW Adriano Moscatelli, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Italy; RW Kent Gould, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Colorado; and RW Goshen Tsao, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of China.

MW Chester L. Ditto, PGM, Grand Secretary, represented the Grand Lodge of Japan, and RW Norman Martin, Grand Representative, led the delegation from the Grand Lodge of Victoria.

With RW Moscatelli were RW Domenico

Della Ventura and Bro. Antenore Allesandro.

RW Tsao led the biggest delegation. With him were RW Gino Min, Senior Grand Warden; MW Raymond M. Chang, PGM, Grand Secretary; and brethren from Tang Lodge No.9, such as WM Winston Chen, Chaplain Clemente Ma, Senior Deacon Midas C.L. Lin, Junior Deacon Allen Lai, and Bro. C.C. Shieh.

Other delegates from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria were WB Emmanuel Rapinette, WM, Kent Lodge No.31; WB Robert Blanchard, WM, Lodge of Judah 20; WB Frank Beattie, WM, Lodge of Golden Fleece 300; WB Robert T. Houston, PM, Lodge of Concern 852; and WB Graham Flaherty, PM, Henty Lodge No. 278.

Brethren of Jacques DeMolay Lodge No. 305 executed to near perfection the posting of the revolutionary banners and the Philippine Flag.

After the singing of the Pambansang Awit and the Grand Lodge Hymn, Grand Chaplain Alberto C. Reyes led the assembly in invoking the GAOTU's blessing on the great and important undertaking at hand.

Keynote Speech

Introduced by MW Rizal D. Apotadera, PGM, President Estrada delivered the **keynote address**, as follows:

I THINK I AM ALSO A MASON

I know that the Masons are proud to be known as one of the last all-male societies in the world. But, let's face it, without the ladies, is life worth living? Without the help and inspiration of women, can anything worth doing ever get done? Not for me.

Let's face it, too, the only other all-male society I know of is the national penitentiary.

So, then, to the ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

When I was invited by my friend, your Grand Master, to speak before a gathering of Masons, I already heard about this secret society whose members call themselves Masons but who have almost no connection to building. Most Masons are soldiers, lawyers, accountants and businessmen.

I was told that Masons are a society of friends, organized to meet, enjoy each other's company, and help each other in times of need. I can relate to that.

On the front of your Mother Lodge, I saw these words inscribed in stone: *Masonry builds its temples in the hearts of men.*

I understand that, too. I think I am also a Mason.

A Mason believes in friendship. I am even notorious for the premium I put on friendship, as though it is wrong for a man to prefer those who have helped him over those who have hurt him.

A Mason believes in the brotherhood of all. I have reached out even to enemies, and asked them to join me in one common effort of nation building. After all, I am nobody's rival for the position that will again be open to everyone at the end of my term.

A Mason believes in helping others. It is the highest duty of the Mason to come to the rescue of everyone in need, especially within the fraternity. I have never ignored a distress call or turned the widow's son from my door.

"My special mandate is to build a better country for all our people, especially for the poor who cannot feel they can call this one their own."

I am also a builder. I built roads for my town when I was mayor: more roads than in any other municipality. It is my special joy to see things built, and built well and strong.

I believe that building is how we join with God in the continuing creation of the world.

As Senator, I put the capstone on the independence of our country by voting to end the Philippine-US bases treaty. As your President today, I am laying the cornerstone for a new partnership of security with our democratic ally, the United States. A cornerstone of mutual help and respect.

I am building our country.

I must build on the soil of freedom won by Corazon Aquino, because our people will not stand for any political system but democracy.

"Like a Mason, I, too, try to build in the hearts of men: more hope in their future and more pride in their place as Filipinos."

I must build on the economic foundation laid by Fidel Ramos, especially his free-market reforms, because the country has committed so much to these reforms already, and the rest of the world will not allow us to go back.

My special mandate is to build a better country for all our people, especially for the poor who cannot feel they can call this one their own.

I don't mean building a better country just for the "Origs" — as they called them in the last administration. I mean for everyone. Even for those who take a little longer to see that we all stand on the same side—behind our country, pushing her forward, against those who want to

pull her back
I must make a bigger roof to cover those who have never had a permanent roof over their heads. I must give a home to those who have never known one. I must make progress meaningful to more of our people by giving them a greater share of its fruits.

Indeed, I must build more than Masons can imagine. And I must build in the real world, where there are more problems than money or ideas to solve them. Yet, where there is plenty of faith in the man elected to be, in a manner of speaking, Grand Master of the Fraternity of Filipinos. I will not disappoint that faith.

Like a Mason, I too, try to build in the hearts of men: more hope in their future and more pride in their place as Filipinos.

*"Show, not by talk, but by example.
Lead, not from behind, but ahead."*

I know that in any construction, be it house, road or country, the place to start is in the heart, and the first tool to take up is faith of the people.

If they believe something will go up, it will come up.

If they believe it can be done, it will be done.

If they see that those who tell them what to do are the first to show them how, they will build it and they will finish it together.

The founding Fathers of our country—Rizal, Bonifacio, Luna, Aguinaldo, Quezon—were all Masons. They knew this secret of leadership and success: Show, not by talk, but by example. Lead, not from behind, but ahead.

I have tried to do that, and the people know it. The people see through the lies against me to the efforts I have made and the real gains I have achieved: a stronger peso, cheaper credit, low inflation, greater public safety and the only consistently positive growth in the region today. Things are getting better, which is why our critics are getting desperate.

The Grand Master has pledged the support of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines to our common vision of a better country. If you ask me what that support should be, it is, of course, **to do the work that each of us is given and to do it well.** We cannot all be politicians, thank God, or nothing will get done.

And if you ask me what else you can do, it is simply this: **tell the truth as you see it, about this country of ours that we are building together.** I know I can count on your support.

Thank you and good day.

Presentation of Appreciative Plaque

A standing ovation the brethren gave to him who thinks he is also a Mason, and to the "Grand Master of the Fraternity of Filipinos" our Grand Master presented an appreciative plaque "as a token of profound gratitude for extending to the Brotherhood the honor of addressing the 83rd Annual Communication of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, and deep appreciation of his qualities that would make him a Mason: compassion for the downtrodden, fidelity to friends and combined with a perfect integrity in the performance of official functions, magnanimity to rivals, modesty in victory, humility in the highest office of the land, and a vision of a country just and free, prosperous and progressive, where the wealth of the nation is equitably shared by all our countrymen without distinction."

Poetic were the lines used by MW Locsin when he presented the plaque of appreciation to President Estrada. He said:

"Not since the age of heroes, when our nation's leaders were Masons, has a national leader graced and thereby so deeply honored a major Masonic event.

"We have just put the Centennial behind us. We reeducated our country about its roots in Masonry and reaffirmed our commitment to its principles.

"Now we must look forward—from what Masonry achieved in the past 100 years—from the many proud things we did in the past year—to what Masonry must do to keep its relevance in the next 100 years.

"It is a good sign that this new start should be graced, indeed honored beyond words, by the presence of the man who will finally bring the vast, neglected majority of the Filipino people from the background to the foreground of their history.

"Words again fail us in expressing our gratitude. All we can say, Mr. President, is that you shall go away from here with more than words of praise.

"You shall carry with you the loyalty, the friendship, and the support of the Masons.

"Mr. President, if you are thinking of the same man I am thinking of right now, let me say that he was just one Mason. The Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines are legion."

The President of the Philippine Republic then left the convention hall, for he had promises to keep and miles to go before he'd sleep.

Grand Oration

VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr. delivered an eloquent grand oration, which follows.

MASONRY: SHAPER OF DESTINY, CRADLE OF NOBLE HEROES

In a gathering of Masons such as this some 44 years ago, the guest of honor of the 1955 Annual Communication stood before the brethren: His ramrod posture belied his 86 years of age. In a stirring and impressive address, he recounted many events that occurred during the fight for independence and the role of Masonry and the Masons in that endeavor. Among other things, he said, "The successful Revolution of 1896 was *Masonically* inspired, *Masonically* led, and *Masonically* executed. And I venture to say that the first Philippine Republic, of which I was its humble president, was an achievement we owe largely to Masonry and the Masons."

Thus declared Worshipful Brother Emilio Aguinaldo, a 33rd Degree Freemason, Past Master of Magdalo Lodge in Kawit, Cavite, the same Magdalo Lodge which, under the leadership of Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo, knew no fear of the enemy, the Spaniards and the friars.

The declaration of Bro. Aguinaldo was neither an idle boast nor the ranting of an old man desiring desperately for recognition. For indeed, it is true that most, if not all, of the great Filipino leaders in the movement for independence were Freemasons.

Most prominent among them was, of course, Jose Rizal, scholar, hero and martyr, whose writings, particularly his two novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, provided the spark that was to ignite the flames of the revolution. It is a credit to Freemasonry that, in the words of the European savant, Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt, "*the greatest man that the Malayan race has produced*" was a brother Mason.

There was also the Sublime Paralytic, Bro. Apolinario Mabini, known in history as the Brain of the Revolution of 1896, and who contributed much to the cause of constitutional government.

Among the other notable patriots and propagandists in the fight for independence were Bros. Marcelo H. del Pilar, Mariano Ponce, Graciano Lopez-Jaena, and the brothers Luna, Juan and Antonio — all Masons. They, together with Bro. Jose Rizal, labored and sacrificed to publish the fortnightly organ, *La Solidaridad*, first in Barcelona, Spain and later on in Madrid. It was from the inspired pens of these zealous brethren that

articles and essays flowed to convey to the peoples of Europe and to the world the oppression taking place in our country, and answered the calumnies heaped upon our countrymen by our colonial rulers. They pleaded for reforms in the oppressive government run by abusive officials, governing and ruling under the union of Church and State.

And then there was Andres Bonifacio, fiery founder of the Katipunan that actually started and waged the Revolution against Spain. As a revolutionary leader of the Sons of the People, Andres Bonifacio impressed upon the people that true love of God is love of country, and that this love is also the true love for our fellowmen, and to engrave in their hearts that the height of honor and happiness was to die in order to save one's country.

Last year, our nation celebrated the centennial of the declaration of our independence on June 12, 1898. This centennial represented our history, our struggle, and our solidarity as a people. It served as the reminder of our moral duty to perpetuate the inherent nobility, wealth and strength of our heritage.

It was no ordinary gathering of men that inspired and brought to fruition the historical milestone that we marked last year and became the celebration of our glorious past and glorious future: the emancipation of the Filipino from the tyranny of colonialism, and his transformation into a citizen of an independent and proud nation, and a citizen of the world. It was the Masonic Brotherhood that inspired, led and executed that successful Revolution.

"Throughout history, we see examples of the Masons' ability to organize and to hold an unwavering commitment to a common cause."

Nor was the Philippine Revolution of 1896 the only historical event where Masons played significant roles. This brings to mind the American Revolution of 1776 when the original 13 English colonies revolted against England. We are told that not only George Washington but nearly all his generals were Masons, such as Generals Greene, Lee, Marion, Sullivan, Rufus and Israel Putnam, Edwards, Jackson, Gist, Baron Steuben, Baron de Kaib, and the Marquis de Lafayette, who was made a Mason in one of the military lodges in the Continental Army.

It is a fact that many of the liberation movements in South America that led to the birth of many South American nations, such as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay and

Argentina, not to mention many other Central American nations, such as Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras and El Salvador, were led by Masons.

In recalling these events of history, I would like to focus on what I perceive to be the main reason that they succeeded where other similar movements had previously failed. These successful events came to pass because of the leadership, commitment and heroism of Masons. Through history, we see examples of the Masons' ability to organize and to hold an unwavering commitment to a common cause. It is precisely this facile ability to band together for the common cause of liberty, equality and fraternity that has struck fear in the hearts of tyrants and dictators who know that they would soon lose their foothold in their territories and in the minds of their subjects.

"We are shapers of destiny, cradle of noble heroes, progenitors of great nations, molders of great men and heroes."

When the revolution of 1896 broke out, the Masons became the natural targets of the Spanish authorities as being responsible for the civil disorder. Many Masons were arrested and sent to jail. And all Masonic lodges were closed.

Since the grant of independence by the Americans on July 4, 1946, Masonry in the Philippines has had the chance to grow peacefully into a vibrant way of life. The animosities of the past against the Fraternity have seemingly been forgotten, although every now and then intolerant and hostile attitude against Freemasonry rears its ugly head.

At those times, it is well to remember that our Order has, in the past, won to its fellowship men of the first order of intellect, men of thought and action, in many countries, and in every walk and work of life: soldiers like Garibaldi, Wellington, MacArthur, and Aguinaldo; philosophers like Krause and John Locke; patriots like Washington and Bonifacio; writers like Voltaire, Walter Scott, Rizal and Lessing; poets like Goethe, Burns, Kipling and Pike; musicians like Haydn and Mozart; statesmen, philanthropists, educators, jurists, men of science - Masons whose names shine like stars in the firmament of intellectual and spiritual glory.

Despite the prevalent misconceptions about the nature of Freemasonry, misunderstandings of its precepts and practices, particularly its rituals and ceremonies, and the mistrust generated by such ignorance of the true nature of the Fraternity that has on occasion led to violence be-

ing committed on Masons, Freemasonry is still around, and, I like to think, more solid and stronger than ever.

You and I are part of this glorious past. You and I are part of this great movement called Freemasonry. We are shapers of destiny, cradle of noble heroes, progenitors of great nations, molders of great men and heroes.

"In these times of stress and storm, let us renew our faith in the final triumph of Freemasonry..."

Our institution is not an ordinary gathering of men. It is not a mere club nor is it just another fraternity. Ours is an august and honorable brotherhood, bound together, not by blood, but by the strongest chains of brotherly love - a mystic tie so strong as to cause true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

Today, we are at the threshold of a new era - a new millenium. As in the beginning of this ending millenium, the world today is again in ferment and there seems to be nothing certain but uncertainty. Hatred is again on the rampage, in eastern Europe, in Africa, in Asia, in the Middle East, in the Far East, and in our country, right here in Mindanao. Any observer who follows the course of human events in the world today cannot fail to see that war and discord prevail in many places of our planet and in our country where peace and harmony should reign supreme.

In these times of stress and storm, let us renew our faith in the final triumph of Freemasonry, the principles of right, of equality, liberty and justice - and, as of old, repeat the refrain:

*In the beauty of the lilies, Christ
was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that
transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy,
Let us die to make men free.
His truth is marching on.*

A good day to you all!

The GM and the Grand Representatives

The grand oration over, Grand Master Locsin received the Grand Representatives of other Grand Lodges near our Grand Lodge.

"I appreciate your willingness to serve in the way you have been serving," he told them. "I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done."

The Grand Representatives, in turn, assured the Grand Master and the brethren that they would readily and willingly serve the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in any capacity, and that they would renew and enlarge their commitment to the Grand Lodges of which they are Representatives.

GM'S Report, Resolutions

After the approval of the 82nd Ancom Proceedings, Grand Master Locsin read his report for the brethren's consideration.

The presentation and discussion of petitions, motions and resolutions, as in the past, to a great extent, stirred the blood of the participating brethren.

The following Resolutions were presented, discussed and approved by the Grand Lodge:

1. Resolution increasing the fee for a dispensation to form a new Lodge from 200 to 2,000 pesos.
2. Resolution that the names of the five nominees for the position of Junior Grand Warden selected by the Past Grand Masters be announced in the morning of the day of the annual election of officers of the Grand Lodge (usually the second day of the ANCOM), and immediately thereafter, each nominee will be required to speak briefly on his platform or plans for the welfare of the Grand Lodge and benefit of the Craft.
3. Resolution requesting Grand Lodge to make representations with the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP) to allow death and hospitalization benefits to Past Masters who may be under suspension for non-payment of dues or nonattendance at meetings.
4. Resolution creating the position of Grand Historian.
5. Resolution requiring the conferral of the First Degree to be made within three months from the date of the candidate's election to receive the degree of Masonry.
6. Resolution changing the ritual of bringing the ancient Master's Word from the West to the East, and vice-versa, during the opening and closing of a Lodge of MMs.
7. Resolution designating the place in Lodge of the Lodge Auditor to be beside the place of the Treasurer and behind the Senior Deacon.
8. Resolution that the a formal turn-over ceremony from the outgoing to the incoming DDGM be held during the first meeting of the District Council.
9. Resolution providing for the mandatory inclusion in every District or Multi-District Con-

vention of a seminar-workshop for Lodge Officers on Lodge Administration and Lodge Management, including the duties and responsibilities of the elected Lodge officers and those of the Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI).

Referred to the incoming Grand Master was the Resolution to create a five-member committee, to be known as ANCOM Evaluation Committee, the tenure of office of which shall be three years and which shall evaluate proposals to host Annual Communications and set minimum standards and guidelines for hosting.

Lodges in the National Capital Region whose resolutions were approved in the Ancom rejoiced in no small measure, for they would get from their Regional Deputy Grand Master, VW Roger Talastas, their promised reward.

Grand Master's Night

The brethren, together with the guests, all in formal attire, attended the Grand Master's Night at the Anchor Driving Range.

The program for the event, which was ably emceed by VW Mario T. Buenaventura, PGP, assisted by VW Peter Ismael F. Eusoof, started with an invocation led by VW Froilan G. Tecson, RDGM.

After the singing of the Pambansang Awit led by Brothers In Harmony, VW Domingo T. Teng, DDGM of the host district, welcomed one and all.

The number dished out by the Rajah Buayan Court No. 28, Order of Amaranth, was entertaining. Decidedly!

Unquestionably, the dinner that ensued was sumptuous...

Dinner over, MW Locsin presented awards to outstanding Districts, Lodges, and individual brethren.

Fellowship continued to reign among the brethren, sisters, and guests.

The ten Outstanding Masons for MY 1998-99 were MW John L. Choa, PGM (Manila-Mt. Lebanon #1), Printing Industry; VW Jose A. Lim, III (Sarangani #50), Business; VW Ramon L. Go (Service #95), Public Service; VW Roberto T. Lastimoso (Macajalar #184), Law Enforcement; VW Ruperto S. Sangalang (Indang #115), Education; VW Santos B. Gabison, Jr. (Timerland #219), Military; WB Tommy L. Co (Dalisay #14), Humanitarian; WB Roger Z. Guzman (Tumauini #251) Environmental Education; WB Felicisimo O. Josen, Jr. (Nueva Ecija #73), Government Service; and Bro. Gerardo G. Cabigao (Leonardo T. Panares #220), Medicine. Walana #13 and Sarangani #50 were outstand-

ing local Lodges, while Charleston #44 was outstanding Lodge overseas.

Outstanding Worshipful Masters were WBs Danilo P. Mangila and Datukan M. Guiani of Walana #13 and Sarangani #50, respectively.

There were five outstanding DDGMs, namely: WV Rudy L. Ong, Dist. 3; VW Sonny K. Wang, Dist. 5; VW Francisco A. Labao, Dist. 36; VW Serafin E.R. Manarin, Dist. 2; and VW Peter Ismael F. Eusoof, Overseas.

Outstanding Districts were Nos. 3, 5, 36, and 2.

Outstanding DGLs were VW Benito K. Tan and VW Victor A. Yu, both of MD No. 3 VW Robert S. Co of MD No. 36, and VW George L. So of MD No. 5.

VW Rodel T. Matias (Talavera #273) was outstanding GLI.

Outstanding Lodge Secretaries were WBs Ziegred T. Sendico of Maribulan #304, Ponciano A. Sagun of Midsayap #267, and Ramoncito P. Javier of Jacques DeMolay #305.

VW Clemente M. Nava and Bro. Lorenzo T. Villas were outstanding Master Masons.

Outstanding Lodge newsletters were *D'Trowel* of Korondanal #209 and *Lee Sin Times* of Alfonso Lee Sin Mem'1 #158. *The Trowel* of District No. 45 was outstanding District newsletter.

Urdaneta #302 garnered outstanding website.

More Reports

The Grand Lodge resumed session at 8 a.m., April 23

Grand Treasurer John L. Choa, Grand Secretary Reynold S. Fajardo, Senior Grand Lecturer Ike Arribas, and the Chairmen of Standing and Special Committees gave their respective reports. Incoming Deputy Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi presented the Account and Budget of the Grand Lodge for MY 1999-2000, while MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, reported on the accomplishments of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children Inc. (MCCCI).

OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS GONE DOWN?

As of December 31, 1997, our Grand Lodge had a total membership of 16,742 Master Masons. This figure includes dual and life members.

In the same period, our Lodges raised 537 brothers, restored 261 to regular membership, affiliated 14, and extended dual membership to 36, or a total of 848, thus raising the gross membership to 17, 590.

But, our Grand Lodge lost 914, broken down as follows: 93 demits, 629 SNPDs, 177 deaths,

2 expulsions, and 13 suspensions.

Hence, we gained 848 but lost 914. So, our membership is now down to only 16,676. If we deduct from this figure the dual members totaling 1,490, our membership will go down further to only 15,180.

Our Grand Secretary, MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, further revealed that we have 2,863 life members by longevity. This figure, he said, is almost 19% of our total membership.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

The office of the Grand Secretary issued certificates to our brothers indicating their membership and attainments in our venerable fraternity, as follows: Master Mason, 376; Life Membership by Longevity, 197; Past Master, 102; Installed Past Master, 159; Honorary Membership, 36; Charter, 3; Grand Representative, 4; 50-Year Membership, 7; and Travel, 42

Issuing such certificates, according to MW Fajardo, is one of the pleasant tasks of every Grand Secretary.

NEW GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR OUR GRAND LODGE

The following brethren were appointed Grand Representatives for Israel, Italy, and Rhode Island near our Grand Lodge, respectively; VW Reynaldo V. Paz, VW Albert K. Tan, and Bro. Generoso D.G. Calonge. They replaced our late brethren: WB Honorio L. Carreon, WB Raymund L. Yu, and VW Marcelino P. Dysangco.

(Mabuhay po kayo, mga kapatid!)

OUR GRAND LODGE NOW HAS 278 LODGES

Our Grand Lodge now has 277 regular Lodges and one Lodge U.D.

The following Lodges U.D. were given their respective permanent characters and numbers during the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge in Gen. Santos City: Palanyag No. 323, Paranaque City; Bongabong No. 324, Bongabong Oriental Mindoro; Dr. Jose P. Laurel Memorial No. 325, Lipa City; Gov. Eduardo L. Jose Memorial No. 326, Munoz, Nueva Ecija; Kakarong No. 327, Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Apolinario B. Yap Memorial No. 328, Victoria, Tarlac; and Ma-Bu-Ti No. 329, Sorsogon, Sorsogon

Guillermo E. Bongalan Memorial Lodge U.D., located in Bayombong Nueva Vizcaya, was given an extension to end before the Annual Communication in year 2000.

MASONIC SUPPLIES

The management of Masonic Supplies, as was recommended by the Board for General Purposes, was transferred from the office of the Grand Treasurer to the office of the Grand Secretary. This is more in accord with check and balance.

FINANCIAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED

Our Grand Lodge, through the Committee on Charity and Medical Assistance chaired by RW Oscar V. Bunyi, extended grand financial and medical assistance to the following brethren: VW Ruben O. Azarcon, Sr., PDDGM, of Narra Lodge No. 171, fire victim; WB Arsenio K. del Rosario, PM of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, whose wife, Sister Luisa, was bedridden due to kidney and heart ailments; WB Camilo Parrilla, PM of Island-Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5, whose spouse, Sister Rosalinda was suffering from cancer; WB Julian Seeping, PM of Biak-na-Bato Lodge No. 7, who was undergoing therapy due to a stroke; Bro. Jaime B. Tubay of Condillera Lodge No. 178, whose daughter was suffering from brain tumor; Mr. Alberto Pajarillo, DeMolay, Narra Chapter; WB Antonio R. Uypitchings, Sr., PM of Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91, who was suffering from cancer in his colon; Bro. Alfonso P. Briones of Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91, who was suffering from cancer; and Bro. Felix Chinte, Jr. of Makiling Lodge No. 72, who was afflicted with respiratory ailment.

(Let us, dear brethren, remember our brothers and sisters who are suffering from ailments or victimized by fortuitous events in our prayers; we Masons, after all, are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. The great aim we have in view is to soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.)

GUARDIANSHIP FUND

The Guardianship Fund of 37,981 pesos and 71 centavos will be transferred to the Grand Lodge Fund, so that it may be used in a very flexible way for taking care of the priority needs of our youth as determined by our Grand Master. This was recommended by the Committee on Guardianship chaired by Past Grand Master Agustin V. Mateo.

BROCHURE ON MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION TO BE PREPARED

The Orders of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls,

and Job's Daughter will submit information material about their organizations and activities, and the Committee on Youth will prepare a brochure based on the materials submitted. Thus, the brethren, especially the newly raised, will be the better enlightened on the mission-vision, as well as undertakings, of our Masonic youth organizations.

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY & MUSEUM NEEDS SUPPORT

The library of our Grand Lodge, according to the Committee on Library & Museum chaired by Grand Secretary Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, has a total of 3,369 volumes (books and periodicals). Ninety-three of these are missing because some of our brothers have forgotten to return what they borrowed. The missing books consist of 43 volumes from our general collection, 13 volumes from the Cunanan collection, 19 volumes of our Grand Lodge Proceedings, and 18 volumes of foreign Proceedings.

Stated MW Fajardo: "I am also sorry to report that this year only 11 volumes were donated to our Library. Hopefully, the brethren will learn to support the Library and Museum. It is our prayer that next year the Grand Secretary will report fewer books missing and more books donated."

It is our prayer, too, that the old Jose Abad Santos Hall will soon be converted into an impressive museum. In other jurisdictions, as was pointed out by the Board for General Purposes, "the museum is the centerpiece of the Grand Lodge Buildings in view of the rich history of masonry in the birth and progress of many countries."

Host of 85th Ancom

Our Bicol brethren will host the 85th Ancom to be held in 2001. Will they be able to match, if not surpass, the feat of our brethren in M.D. 48? *Vamos a ver!*

Elected GLOs

Deputy Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde was elected Grand Master; RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master; and RW Napoleon A. Soriano, Senior Grand Warden.

Reelected Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, respectively, were MW John L. Choa, PGM, and MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH.

VW Eugenio Labitoria, PDDGM, emerged, in the second balloting, as our new Junior Grand Warden. He won over closest rivals Jose Marlowe Pedregosa and Jimmy Gonzales, both

PDDGMs.

Due to computerization, election results were expeditiously known.

Appointed GLOs

Incoming Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde officially presented to the assembly the officers he had appointed to assist him in administering the affairs of the Grand Lodge and its constituent Districts/Lodges during his year in the Grand East.

He then announced that the Grand Line, the appointed GLOs, the DDGMs, and the DGLs would meet with him in Dragon Place at 10 a.m. April 24.

Appointed GLOs are as follows:

VW Melvyn S. Jurisprudencia, Asst. Grand Treasurer; VW Benjamin J. Torres, Asst. Grand Secretary; VW Francisco C. Lovero, Admin. Asst. to the Grand Master; VW Raul A. Laman, Grand Orator; VW Raoul E. Hilario, Grand Marshal; VW Manuel G. Brasileño, Grand Chaplain; VW Miller V. Serondo, Grand Standard Bearer; VW Van Cornelius D. Luspo, Grand Sword Bearer; VW Rufino G. Arias, Jr., Grand Bible Bearer; and VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr., Senior Grand Lecturer.

Junior Grand Lecturers

VW Noel S. Encarnation, North Western Luzon; VW Abraham C. Domingo, North Eastern Luzon; VW Jose B. Montejo, Jr., West Central Luzon; VW Jose R. Dizon, East Central Luzon; VW John B. Llamas, National Capital Region; VW Nicolas G. Ricafrente, Tagalog Region; VW Jesus R. Decena, Laguna & Quezon Region; VW Jose Nelson D. Doloiras, Bicol Region; VW Procopio B. Trabajo II, Eastern Visayas; VW Gil N. Octaviano, Jr., Western Visayas; VW Maximo G.W. Paderanga, North Central Mindanao; VW Edgardo D. Ortega, Western Mindanao; VW Bonifacio B. Sing, Eastern Mindanao; VW Ferdinand P. Subido, South Central Mindanao; and VW Gregory B. Blas, Overseas.

Other GL Appointments

VW Edgardo C. Dypiango is Senior Grand Deacon; VW Pepito B. Gellada, Junior Grand Deacon; VW Francisco C. Lovero, Senior Grand Steward; VW Angelito C. Monge, Junior Grand Steward; VW Vicente P. Garrido, Grand Pursuivant; VW Joselito J. Vibandor, Grand Organist; VW Nicias J. Alameda, Grand Tyler; and VW Pieter Nootenboom, Grand Webmaster.

Board for General Purposes

MW Reynaldo S. Puno, PGM, GMH, continues to chair the Board for General Purposes. MW Rizal D. Apotadera, PGM, is vice chairman. The following PGMs are members: MWBs Reynold S. Fajardo, Rudyardo V. Bunda, Rosendo C. Herrera, and Pablo C. Ko, Jr.

Deputy Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi is secretary.

Grand Master's Deputies for the Districts

The following are the Grand Master's Deputies for the various Masonic Districts:

VW Egidio R. Ancajas (1), VW Rodolfo A. Tor (3), VW George L. So (5), VW Edgardo S. Delmo (7), VW Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr. (9), VW Benedicto A. Madarang (11) and VW Enrique L. Flores, Jr. (13).

VW Alfredo D. Leon Guerrero (15), VW Benjamin R. Flores (17), VW Zaldemar T. Ricamona (19), VW Michael R. Jugan (21), VW Carmelo T. Naguiat (23), VW Fernando G. Quintos (25), VW Tony N. Lee, Jr. (27), VW Deogracias E. Rivera (29).

VW Isidro G. Lapuz (33), VW Martinino R. Marcos (35), VW Michael V. Nava (37), VW Santiago O. Dickson (39), VW Oscar G. Rodriguez (41), VW Dominador W. Tumbali (43), VW Roger Z. Guzman (45), VW Geronimo B. Singson (47), VW Elpidio T. Pauig (49), and VW Roger M. Balmaceda (51).

VW Ireneo L. Racimo (2), VW Romulo P. Alcala (6), VW Roy D. Roxas (8), VW Celso B. Sarmiento (10), VW Jose Dy-Ching (12), VW Robert D. Cua (14), VW Gil L. Viojan (16), VW Edward Y. Chua (18), VW Severino C. Aguilar (20), VW Emilio G. Jison, Jr. (22), VW Joel C. Obar (24).

VW Santos B. Gabison, Jr. (26), VW MacDuffie A. Tan (28), VW Abelardo F. Plaza, Jr. (30), VW Adonis B. Macute (32), VW Michael Paul O. Ong (34), VW Francisco A. Labao (36), VW Marcelo T. Palabrica (38).

VW Raul G. Cabalang (40), VW Fortunato G. Cagas, Jr. (42), VW Bonifacio K. Tan (44), VW Roberto L. Chua (46), VW Antonio E. Sarrosa (48), and VW Elmer S. Que (50).

District Grand Lecturers

MD #1 — VWBs Peter Phoa Yong Chip, Mariano J. Remoquillo, Raul C. Villanueva; MD #3 — VWBs Danilo P. Mangila, Camilo B. Parrilla, Victor Tan Tek Sian, Dennis L. del Rosario; MD #5 — VWBs Ignacio Q. Angeles III, George Hernandez, Eliseo C. Miranda, Vicente O. Que, Jr.; MD #7 — VWBs Ruben G. Azarcon III, Heneage J. Mitchell, Flor R. Nicolas;

MD #9 - VWBs Gil F. Cruz & Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr.; MD #11 - VWBs Kim Alvin C. Villanueva & Gregorio C. Mendoza; MD #13 - VWBs Rodrigo T. Diapana, Antonio M. San Luis, Jr., Elson T. Tayko; MD #15 - VWBs Michael M. Pope & Wilfredo G. Ching;

MD #17 - VW Murray V. Harland, Jr.; MD #19 - VW Charles A. Bond; MD #21 - VW George E. Sirwell; MD #23 - VWBs Antonio J. Guzman, Restituto M. de Leon, Moises S. Roque, Eligio V. Soliman; MD #25 - VW Gerardo R. Valdecanas; MD #27 - VW David A Yap;

MD #29 - VWBs Mario V. Calara, Daniel M. Ferrer, Pepito L. de Fiesta, Pacifico H. Laugo, Rodel T. Matias, Anselmo P. Sy Egco, Jr.; MD #33 - VWBs Floro P. Domingo, Eduardo C. Vendivil, Juanito S. Ignacio, Romeo F. Rellegue, Ely C. Gaspar; MD #35 - VWBs Edgar D. Cuenco & Benjamin G. Chua;

MD #37 - VWBs Rolando O. Reinoso & Rufino Ramil Z. San Juan; MD #39 - VWBs Leandro V. Quiming & Rodolfo C. Blanco; MD #41 - VW Tadeo G. Claravall; MD #43 - VWBs Emmanuel W. Diaz, Sr. & Noe V. Dannang; MD #45 - VWBs Hector B. Anagaran & Antonio T. Valencia; MD #47 - VW Llewelyn M. Santos; MD #49 - VWBs Tito David C. Barcelano, Renato S. Gongora, Jose C. Lingat;

MD #2 - VWBs Eulogio I. Aman, Jr., Teodulo P. Cleofe, Oliver C. Cuevas, Federico D. dela Cruz, Vicente G. Degrano, Francisco E. Expectacion, Alberto S. Miranda, Rafael A. Vasquez;

MD #6 - VWBs Manuel B. Mendoza, Joselito O. Folloso, Narciso O. Infante; MD #8 - VWBs Buenaventura C. Cabuyao & Augusto E. Angeles; MD #10 - VWBs Exequiel B. Tamayo, Jovencio M. Ramirez, Virgilio S. Coronado, Jr.; MD #12 - VWBs Dante C. Banaban, Benito S. Ngo, Eduardo S. Freyra; MD #14 - VW Jose F. Ernacio; MD #16 - VW Leyland M. Castillo; MD #18 - VW Walderico F. Bonifacio;

MD #20 - VWBs Benito K. Coe & Glenn A.M. Catedral; MD #22 - VWBs Beethoven B. Fuentespina & Roberto L. Hinolan; MD #24 - VWBs Noel P. Catacutan & Jesus M. Ravanes; MD #26 - VWBs Alvin S. Ty, Felix B. Vicente, James Douglas T. Libre;

MD #28 - VWBs Robert S. Dy & Galileo G. Padero; MD #30 - VWBs Danilo M. Bondoc & Jose A. Fuentes II; MD #32 - VWBs Joelito G. Intong & Wilfredo O. Albos; MD #34 - VWBs Alejo A. Quijano & Alberto P. Caga-anan; MD #36 - VW Robert S. Co;

MD #38 - VWBs Jacinto C. Tambolero, Nestor A. Gonzales, Avelino P. Hijastro; MD #40

- VWBs Billy E. Emphasis & Roberto B. Alli, Jr.; MD #42 - VWBs Romeo R. Perez & Resuldo D. Malintad;

MD #44 - VW Antonio Q. Delena; MD #46 - VWBs Gregorio Nealon M. Dy & Wilfredo T. Siao; MD #48 - VWBs Orlando S. Manaluz & Isaac Alvero V. Moran; MD #50 - VWBs Mark Peter F. Fernandez, Anthony T. Lao, Federico A. Kandero;

MD #51 - VWBs Cristeto R. Guillermo, Manuel T. Mena, and Richard Tan Uy.

Fellowship Social

Brethren, sisters and guests assembled in Anchor Driving Range for a fellowship social.

Emceed by RDGM Froilan Tecson, WB Edgardo Abrazaldo, and Bro. Herminio Javier, the program for the affair commenced with an invocation led by WM Honesto Acharon of Mount Matutum Lodge #156, followed by the singing of the Pambansang Awit led by WM Magno Francisco Mateo, Jr. of Kaduh Lodge # 278.

After the welcome remarks by Convention Overall Chair Domingo Teng, one and all relished the plentiful, delicious dinner ...

Assisted by the sports activities chairmen, MW Locsin awarded trophies to the victors.

The Oldies But Goodies regaled all present with their wit and antics.

Raffle Winners

Then VW Teng, assisted by PDGL Timoray Ang, WM Marcelino Santos, and WI Peter del Valle, presided over the Ancom '99 Raffle Draw (Four Chances to Win Four Grand Cars).

Winning numbers, with corresponding prizes, were as follows:

Ticket No. 2595 -One Unit BMW

Ticket No. 1710 -One Unit Honda Accord

Ticket No. 8604 -One Unit Mitsubishi Galant Super Salon

Ticket No. 1692 -One Unit Hyundai Elantra Wagon

Announced Ancom Overall Chair Domingo Teng: "The winners may claim their prizes upon presentation of their tickets and/or official receipts at the ANCOM '99 c/o WB Marcelino M. Santos in General Santos City, Tel. No. 083-552-2139."

Again, fellowship reigned among brethren, sisters, and guests.

Conferral of IPM Degree, Seminar-Workshop

In the morning of the 24th, SGL Ike Arribas presided over the conferral of the Installed Past Masters (IPM) Degree in full ceremonial form. He later on took charge of the conduct of the semi-

nar-workshop for incumbent Worshipful Masters. He himself lectured on "Administration & Management of Lodges" and "How to Preside."

Testimonial Luncheon

The host district tendered a testimonial luncheon for PGMs and their Ladies.

MW Demonteverde, Other GLOs Installed

MW Bro. Franklin J. Demonteverde and other Grand Lodge Officers (GLOs), both elected and appointed, were installed in solemn ceremonies held in the Gen. Santos City Gym in the afternoon of Saturday, April 24.

Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies were MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, Chairman of the Board for General Purposes, GLP,

and Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Phillipnes, and MW Rizal D. Apotadera, PGM, respectively. In attendance were other PGMs than MWBs Puno and Apotadera, foreign Masonic dignitaries, brethren and sisters, guests.

The posting of the revolutionary banners and the Philippine Flag by brethren of Jacques Demolay Lodge No. 305 was very impressive.

Brothers In Harmony led the singing of the Pambansang Awit and the Grand Lodge Hymn, as well as spiced the proceedings with a musical interlude.

Newly-installed Grand Master Demonteverde explained the significance of the theme for his year in the Grand East, "Casting the Light of Truth Upon a Stony Path," and outlined his program of administration.

GLIs of Lodges in District 13 Jointly Installed

The appointed Grand Lodge Inspectors (GLIs) of Lodges in Masonic District 13 were jointly installed last May 3 at the Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz Masonic Temple. They were WIs Juanito Vaño, for King Solomon; Víctor Eleazar, for Batong Buhay; Reynaldo Madrid, for Pagkakaisa; Elias delos Santos, for Muog; Odelon Torres, for Palanyag; Rolando del Rosario, for Kagitingan; Mario Angeles, for Jacobo Zobel; and Teodorico Castor, for Gen. Artemio Ricarte.

VW Enrique L. Flores, Jr., DDGM, was installing officer, while WB Juanito Vano acted as master of ceremonies.

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, delivered an inspirational talk.

Records of the district were turned over to VW Flores after the closing of the Lodge. His predecessor, VW Ricky Misa, is now connected with *Air Taca (El Salvador)*.

The following brethren are now working with *Eva Air*: WB Dave Jiz de Ortega and Bros. Tony Arguelles, Arjan Hassaram, and Jim Sydiogco. Working with *Centennial Air (Domestic)* are VW Tito Garcia, WBs Ben Maturan and Ernie Pabalan, and Bro. Gabby Gomez. Bro. Bong Reamon is working with *Cebu Pacific*; Bro. Noel Lastimoso, with *Air Macau (Macau, China)* and Bro. Boy Llamas, with *Aero Lines (Argentina)*.

King Solomon 150 Master Is Recognized, Gives Recognition to "Balik Bayan" Past Master

WM Conrad L. Ilumba of King Solomon Lodge No. 150 was awarded by the PNB Branch Managers Association with a Plaque of Recognition during the 1999 Managers Convention held at the PNB Financial Bldg. on Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

The award was given in recognition for his active and exemplary leadership during his term as President of the PNB Branch Managers Association and for his being the first ever PNB manager to become President and CEO of the National Services Corporation (NASECO).

In a recent stated meeting of their Lodge, WM Ilumba and the brethren warmly welcomed WB Frank Domingo, their Master in 1984.

He gave the Lodge a copy of the Masonic Bible "*in token of the continuance of friendship and brotherly love.*"

The Lodge, in turn, presented the Past Master's Pin to WB Domingo.

In keeping with the Lodge's tradition, the presentation of the pin was done by the youngest Master Mason of the Lodge, Bro. Neil Jose Y. Macasaet, in whose hands the Secretary VW Hernani B. Lopez, entrusted the editorship of *Temple News*.

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde**Our 82nd Grand Master**

THE MAN AND BROTHER who was installed Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine grand jurisdiction for 1999-2000 was born in Iloilo City on April 3, 1944 to the late MW Ruperto Sarrosa Demonteverde, Sr., our Grand Master in 1973, and Sis. Nora Tioko Jaroda.

He is, in effect, the second Lewis Mason (Mason's son who is a member of the Craft) to have become our Grand Master, the first being the late MW Teodoro V. Kalaw, Jr., our Grand Master in 1975 and son of the late MW Teodoro M. Kalaw, Sr., our Grand Master in 1928. Expectedly, then, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde will promote the cause of the Lewis Masons during his year in the Grand East.

Educational, Personal Development

The young Franklin took his elementary education at the Ateneo de Davao and his secondary education at the Notre Dame de Cotabato, where he graduated as 1st honorable mention.

Unknown to many the young Franklin was an acolyte or "Knight of the Altar" during his grade school days. In fact, he excelled in Religion. In his high school days he joined other catechists in giving religious instruction to pupils of elementary schools in Cotabato.

Then he enrolled at the University of the East in Manila, graduating therefrom with the degree of Bachelor in Business Administration-Management in 1967.

Ten years later, he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos.

In 1980, he got from the Supreme Court of the Philippines his certificate of admission to practice law.

Civil Service Eligibilities

Besides passing the Bar, he also passed the examination for General Clerical (Second Grade) and Loan Evaluator (First Grade).

Work History

Right after his graduation from college, he worked as an agent for National Life Insurance (NLI) and Eastern Assurance & Surety Corporation (EASCO). While working with these companies, he attended various seminars on general and life insurance.

In 1970-71, he was a detailman/salesman for Inhelder Corporation, Western Visayas. In 1971-73, he was supervisor in the Insurance Department of Warner, Barnes & Co.

In 1976, he received from EASCO the Efficiency Award and the Most Improved Branch Award.

In 1980 to 1985 he was a legal retainer for BM-AMCI in Bacolod City. It was during this period that he assisted in the planning and implementation of the echo seminar on barangay legal education, in coordination with the U.P. Law Center and the City of Bacolod. He also assisted in the holding of the General Law Practice Institute for the continuing studies and knowledge of practicing lawyers, as to recent jurisprudence on the legal profession.

In 1986 he served as PCGG fiscal agent for E. Cojuangco Jr. & Sons Inc. He continued to attend seminars on labor relations and general law practice conducted by the U.P. Law Center.

From May 1988 to February 1990 he was attorney on retained basis for the Development Bank of the Philippines (DPB). From March 1990 he has served as Attorney V in the DBP branch in Bacolod City.

From August 27, 1992, he has been Resident Ombudsman for the same branch.

In 1992, he attended a seminar on the New Local Government Code sponsored by the U.P. Law Center. About three years later he attended a seminar on Assessment Center Technology conducted by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

During his term as Grand Master he works at the DBP's head office in Makati City, so that he can devote more time to the affairs of the Grand Lodge and the Craft.

His Own Family

During his year in the Grand East, therefore, he will be away from Bacolod City, where he resides with Sis. Maria Lorna Gaddi Piccio-Demonteverde, Presiding Judge of Branch 2, Municipal Trial Court in Cities, Bacolod City, with whom he has six children: Joseph Dale, 32; Franklin, Jr., 30; Omar Francis, 29; Glenn, 25; Rowena, 23; and Rhett, 17. MW Franklin and Sis. Lorna have two grandchildren, Paolo and Cheska, children of Franklin "Jong" Jr. and Kay.

Masonic Career

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde has lived a dynamic Masonic life, as may be gleaned from the subsequent narration.

He was initiated, passed and raised in Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 on May 14, June 5, and July 24, 1970, respectively.

In November of the same year, he was conferred the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite in Iloilo City and in 1971 the York Rite degree.

In 1973, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines awarded him the Certificate for Distinguished Masonic Service.

Toward the end of the same year he founded and organized Negrense Lodge No. 200. While this Lodge was under dispensation, he served as its Worshipful Master. In 1974, he was elected Charter Master of the Lodge.

He was at the same time Eminent Commander of Negros Occidental Commandery

No. 6, Knights Templar. He was also Grand Representative of the Royal Arch Masons in Montana.

In 1975, he was reelected Master of Negrense Lodge No. 200, of which he is now a life Member by Longevity.

On May 8, 1976 he demitted from his Mother Lodge. Shortly afterwards he founded and organized Lantawan Lodge No. 210 (now M.V. Ko Memorial Lodge). It was during this time that he served as Secretary of Negrense Lodge No. 200. (He would serve this Lodge as Secretary in 1981-84 and again in 1985.)

In 1977, he became Grand Lodge Inspector of M.V. Ko Memorial Lodge No. 210. The following year, he was the main proponent for the division of District No. 14 into two districts: District 14 (Panay Province) and District 27 (Negros Occidental).

In 1981, MW Simeon Rene Lacson appointed him Grand Bible Bearer. In the same year he was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma near our Grand Lodge.

In 1984, he was again GLI—this time, assigned to Mancas Lodge No. 260.

In 1985, he was the GLI of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, where he was initiated, passed and raised 15 years earlier.

He founded and organized the Negrense 200 Foundation, Inc., which is based in Bacolod City.

In 1986, he was appointed District Grand Lecturer. The year following, MW Teodorico Baldonado appointed him DDGM. It was during his term as DDGM that:

1. He founded and organized Ernesto S. Salas Memorial Lodge No. 280, of which he is now an honorary member.
2. He assisted in the organization of Dalusan Lodge No. 281.
3. He organized the Venus Assembly No. 11, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG).
4. He revived the York Rite Bodies in Bacolod City.
5. He was mainly responsible for the

organization of the Maraparta Chapter, International Order of the Eastern Star (IOES).

6. He also served as Illustrious Master of Alpha Council No. 6.

All these, among other things, made him deserving of the award Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic Year 1987-88.

In Ancom '88 held in Cebu City, he chaired the Committee on Grand Lodge Officers Reports.

In 1988, too, MW Raymundo N. Beltran reappointed him DDGM. He was also High Priest of the Bacolod Chapter No. 4, Royal Arch Masons (RAM). He was, moreover, appointed as RAM's Grand Representative to New York and the Knights Templar Commandery's Grand Representative to Ireland.

In the Ancom held in Bacolod City on April 27-29, 1991, he chaired the Secretariat Committee, the Grand Lodge Election Committee, the Credentials Committee, and several other committees. The success of the Ancom enhanced the image of Bacolod City as a convention center in the Philippines.

In 1991, likewise, the Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP) awarded him Most Outstanding District Deputy Guild Master.

VW Demonteverde also chaired the Executive Committee in May 1992 when Bacolod City hosted the IORG's Grand Assembly.

In 1993-94, the term of MW Rizal D. Aportarera as Grand Master, he served as Junior Grand Lecturer for Western Visayas.

Besides serving as member or co-chairman of the Grand Lodge Committees on Masonic Education, Works, and Awards, he inspired the organization of Ruperto S. Demonteverde Memorial Lodge No. 320 in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental.

In March 1996, VW Bro. Franklin was conferred the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH)

by the Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R. of Freemasonry, Republic of the Philippines.

In the Ancom held in Cagayan de Oro City in April 1996, the brethren elected him to the position of Junior Grand Warden. In his acceptance speech, he said in part, *"The trek along the tortuous route to the Grand East has been wearisome.... I accept my election with much relief and great joy."*

In 1997 and 1998, respectively, he served as Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master. In those two years, he was Venerable Master of the Bisayas Bodies, A. & A.S.R.

In 1998, he was Honorary Legion of Honor-designate, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

On March 12, 1999 he was coroneted 33rd Degree, Inspector General Honorary (IGH), by the Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R.

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde is an honorary member of Lodges Ernesto S. Salas Memorial No. 280, San Carlos No. 182, Manuel Abello Memorial No. 260, and Kagitingan No. 286.

He is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay.

Our Grand Master is proficient in conferring the rituals, giving the lectures, and delivering the charges of the first three degrees.

He can also serve as Installing Officer or Master of Ceremonies, preside over funeral rites, and confer the 4th degree of the Scottish Rite.

Involvement in Professional, Civic Organizations.

He was president of the Y's Men's Club of Bacolod in 1975-76; member, Police Advisory Council, 1975; president, Negrense Lion's Club, Bacolod City, 1975-76 and 1976-77; sergeant-at-arms, Rotary Club of Bacolod, 1982-83; president, YMCA of Negros Occidental, 1983 and 1984; regional director, Y's Men International, Phil. Region, 1984-85; secretary, Negrense 200

Foundation, Inc., 1986; finance chairman, Alay Lakad '87; secretary, Kiwanis Club of Metro Bacolod, 1988-89.

President, Bacolod Square & Compass Toastmasters Club, 1989-90; president, Y's Men's Club of Negros Occidental, 1990-91; area governor, Toastmasters International, 1991-92; president, Negrense 200 Foundation, Inc., 1991-94; secretary, Kiwanis Club of Metro Bacolod, 1992-93; chairman, Finance Committee, Bacolod City Peace and Order Council, 1995-98; president, YMCA of Negros Occidental, 1998; and member, National Board, YMCA of the Phils., 1999.

Fund Raiser, Convention Chair

As Finance Committee Chairman of Alay Lakad '87, he was principally involved in raising funds to finance the livelihood projects of out-of-school youths. When the Y's Men International had the project dubbed "Time of the East," he again raised funds from the entire area of Asia for the underprivileged children of Panama, Senegal, Bangladesh, and Ghana with a goal of \$60,000.

And he assisted the Y's Men's Club of Negros Occidental Executive Committee in raising \$10,000 from Geneva, Switzerland to finance the projects of distressed puroks and barangays in Bacolod City.

Furthermore, he chaired the hosting of the regional convention of Y's Men

International in Bacolod City.

More Awards, Travels

MW Demonteverde received certificates and plaques of appreciation from various service/civic organizations.

In 1976, the YMCA of the Philippines awarded him the Bronze Triangle, and Lions International gave him the Presidential Award.

In 1980, the YMCA of Negros Occidental, Inc. declared him YMCA Man of the Year, and in the following year the same organization awarded him the Silver Triangle.

In 1986, Y's Men International, Philippine Region, gave him the Leadership Award, and he was the sole representative of Asia during the leadership training sponsored by the Y's Men International in India on April 23-26, 1986.

Final Remark

With MW Franklin J. Demonteverde's persevering nature and organizational skills, we are optimistic that his influence will lead us well in coping adequately with the demands of our times.

As before, the helm of our Grand Lodge is in the hands of a highly qualified and skillful Craftsman, who, like his late father, wants Truth to cast its Light upon a stony way.

MW Demonteverde Appeals For Full Support For Candidate to Miss IOJD

One of the action plans of our Grand Lodge for this Masonic year is strengthening appendant bodies, particularly those involving the families.

In line with this, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, our Grand Master, in his 6th Circular, urges GLOs, DDGMs, GLIs, as well as officers and members of subordinate lodges in our grand jurisdiction, to extend all possible support, particularly financial assistance to help defray expenses for the trip of Ms. Gilda Carina S. Musni of Cagayan de Oro Bethel No. 19, daughter of MB Oscar Musni, Past Master of Don Antonio Cosin Lodge No. 308.

In their 3rd Grand Bethel Session held in

Baguio City, the Job's Daughters selected Gilda Carina as their candidate for the most coveted title of Miss International Order of Job's Daughter. She will vie for the title in the international pageant to be held in Michigan, U.S.A., this coming August.

"To be able to bring home the title," MW Demonteverde states, *"Gilda Carina needs our full support."*

For further information, our Grand Master adds, you may get in touch with VW Abelardo F. Plaza, Jr., DDGM of Masonic District No. 30, at Tel. No. (08822) 724158—c/o J.P. Simpao Machine Shop, Guabucayan Street, Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City 9000.

His Inaugural Address**CASTING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH
UPON A STONY WAY**

by MW Franklin J. Demonteverde,
Grand Master, MY 1999-2000

WHEN THE GOD THOTH, the Egyptian Prometheus in Plato's *Phaedrus*, spoke of his invention, the art of writing, the god-king Thamus, also known as Ammon, admonished him with these words: *"This discovery of yours will create forgetfulness in the learners' souls, because they will not use their memories; they will trust to the external written characters and not remember of themselves. This specific which you have discovered is an aid not to memory, but to reminiscence, and you give your disciples not truth, but only the semblance of truth; they will be hearers of many things and will have learned nothing; they will be tiresome company, having the show of wisdom without its reality."*

I appear before you today with a twin sense of humility and trepidation, as I embrace the challenge to bring our honored Fraternity into the digital world of the 3rd millenium. Humility because the achievements of my immediate predecessor loom bigger than I could imagine, and trepidation because of the nagging fear in me at the outset that I may not be equal to the formidable tasks ahead. When Thomas Jefferson reported to Paris as America's Ambassador to France, the Prime Minister remarked, *"I see that you have come to replace Benjamin Franklin."* To which Jefferson replied, and I wish to echo the sentiment to MW Grand Master Enrique Locsin, *"I have come to succeed him. No one can replace him."*

But whatever misgiving that may have hovered momentarily on my mind before my installation day, your spirited indorsement of my leadership and your preferred eagerness to share my visions for our Craft in the months ahead have been nudged away,

and courage and zeal have fully seized my heart to forge ahead, unafraid and unshaken against all the trials and tribulations that may lurk behind the bend.

"The ultimate objective of mankind is the good life of the mind, that which makes us truly human."

Bill Gates of the mighty Microsoft has written a fascinating book called *The Road Ahead*, where he declares that we are on the very edge of the beginning of the digital world, the Internet Revolution, the net effect of which will be a wealthier world.

Today, I will speak to you of the right road ahead for our Fraternity. And since William Shakespeare is once again in vogue these days, let me assure you that I intend to be brief, for as the Bard says: *"It is better to be brief than tedious,"* ever remembering that for a speech to be immortal it need not be eternal.

Our modern world has witnessed tremendous leaps of progress in science, medicine, transportation, engineering, robotics, computer science, telecommunications, and other related fields. Computers have practically reduced the entire planet into a mere village. But the question is: Have we progressed as much with respect to our vices and natural inclinations? Has there been an equal advancement in our spiritual lives? For we live in a materialistic world where the standard of one's success is measured by the pile of money one has amassed, the lands one has acquired, and the extent of power one has gained in the corridors of government. Even the educational program of our government is geared towards economic and material progress; we encourage our students to concentrate on the sciences rather than on the liberal arts or humanities. Even the Commission for Higher Education (CHED) wanted to remove the humanities courses, particularly literature, from college. It only backtracked when its proposal met stiff opposition from scholars and educators. Our government

seems to believe that the only way for the country to attain economic progress in a highly competitive global community is by emphasizing the science courses. This is as erroneous as it is misleading. Even the United States has not been spared this materialistic road to progress. A few years back, the great scholar, Professor Allan Bloom, in his thought-provoking volume, *The Closing of the American Mind*, argued that the social and political crisis of 20th-century America is really an intellectual crisis, brought about by the widespread neglect of the humanities in the universities and colleges.

While it is important that we take care of our material needs, it is dangerous to rely solely on material possessions for our survival as a people. Civilization is not chiefly concerned with money, or power, or possessions. It is concerned with the human mind. Even if each and every Filipino has all the food, clothing, shelter, machines and material possessions he needs, our society would not yet be considered civilized. The food, the clothing, the shelter, we share these with the animals. But the ultimate objective of mankind is the good life of mind, that which makes us truly human.

"Intolerance is the bastard child of ignorance."

It is therefore the main mission of my administration as your Grand Master for this Masonic year to re-orient our membership on the basic tenets, principles, and teachings of our Craft, to relentlessly pursue Masonic activities with temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice for the enhancement of the Masonic way of life, the sure and safe road ahead as we enter the 3rd Millenium, the only sure guide of the Fraternity in the digital world, without which guidepost we shall surely be adrift. We propose to establish an Institute of Masonic Education to be composed of the Senior Grand Lecturer as chairman and the Junior Grand Lecturers as members

thereof, the purpose of which is to enable the Masons to be knowledgeable on Masonic history and teachings.

I am particularly alarmed at the resonance of the anti-Masonic vilification campaign waged by certain sectors of our society, which I find ironic considering that we have just celebrated the centennial of our independence, that glorious flower of the heroic labors of countless members of our Fraternity, of Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo, and many others.

Intolerance is the bastard child of ignorance. *There is no darkness but ignorance*, sayeth William Shakespeare. And in the words of Albert Camus: *"The evil that is in the world always comes from ignorance, and good intentions may do as much harm as malevolence if they lack understanding."*

Intolerance always cripples understanding and love amongst men. I therefore call upon those who consider themselves our critics and adversaries to embark on a journey of mutual understanding and tolerance, for in the words of Virgil: *"The descent to hell is easy.// The gates stand open day and night, /But to re climb the slope / And escape to the upper air/ This is labor."*

I call upon our members to reaffirm brotherly love, relief and truth, the principal tenets of our Fraternity; we should always be just and upright Masons, always supportive and loyal to the Craft: for we are, in the words of the Holy Book, like a city upon a hill and the whole world marks our demeanor as Masons and as men.

Let us cast the Light of Truth upon a stony way. Let us proclaim the Truth to the whole world, for falsehood is not its only enemy; silence is equally destructive. To be silent in the midst of a vicious assault is to be part of that conspiracy.

Let us, each one of us, exemplify our Masonic virtues with boldness and audacity, so that from every corner of our archipelago a mighty current will light up the mighty burning bush of Truth and cast its

liberating light upon the stony path of intolerance and ignorance.

*"COME THEN, LET US TO THE TASK,
TO THE BATTLE, TO THE TOIL,/ EACH TO
OUR PART,/ EACH TO OUR STATION."*

Mission Statement

Affirming that brotherly love, relief, and truth are the principal tenets of the Fraternity, Freemasonry seeks the moral advancement of all its members for a stable, strong, and dynamic brotherhood.

Integrity, respect for one another, and plain dealing among Masons shall always be the hallmark of the Fraternity. Our membership in Freemasonry shall never be used for mercenary motives, but rather, as an avenue to promote the welfare of each other. We shall, therefore, be always just and upright Masons, and mighty proud of the respectable character we sustain. We shall always support and be loyal to the Craft, for Freemasonry is the sum total of its members.

In unity, there is strength. This is our strong, personal, and collective commitment.

Vision

A strong and dynamic Fraternity whose membership is committed to preserving its time-honored traditions, and whose leadership is amply endowed with the necessary skills to effectively achieve its goals.

Mission

To re-orient the members on the basic tenets, principles, and teachings of the Craft, and to relentlessly pursue Masonic activities with temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice for the enhancement of the Masonic way of life.

Action

1. To establish an Institute of Masonic Education composed of the Senior Grand Lecturer and the Junior Grand Lecturers, the purpose of which is to enable the Ma-

sons to be knowledgeable on Masonic history and teachings.

2. To provide monthly activities.

3. To conduct leadership training/seminars under the auspices of the DDGM's office.

4. To strengthen appendant bodies, particularly those involving the families.

5. To increase the level of the general public's understanding and awareness of the nature, purposes, and activities of Freemasonry.

6. To strengthen middle management by (a) establishing business offices, (b) reducing mailing expenses through e-mails and computers, and (c) professionalizing the positions of DDGM, DGL, and GLI.

Monthly Activities

May - Organization of District Councils; Sportsfest (Districtwide), Family Day

June - Independence Day Celebration; Honoring Dr. Jose Rizal

July - Leadership Training / Seminar; Charter Day; Remittance of Per-Capita Dues (not later than July 15) ending June 30

August - Tribute to Top 10 Educators (Public) - Provincewide; National Heroes Day, August 31.

September - Seminar on Masonic Education

October - Honoring Top 10 Policemen - Provincewide. All municipalities and component cities shall submit nominees.

November - Lodge of Remembrance / Remembering the Dead; Bonifacio Day, November 30

December - Election of Lodge Officers; Christmas Party - by Districts (Family Day); Observance of Rizal's Death Anniversary

January - Seminar for New Lodge Officers; Submission of Annual Reports & Remittance of Assessments due the Grand Lodge ending December 31 - Deadline: January 15, 2000

February - Ladies Night (Valentine's)

March - Appendant Bodies

April - ANCOM 2000 - Iloilo City

Grand Master's Schedules ~ (As of June 5, 1999)

May 3 – Installation of GLIs, District No. 13 (Makati City)

5 – Installation of GLIs, District No. 49 (Isabela)

6-8 – 23rd Annual Session, Order of the Amaranth Carig Plaza Hotel, Santiago City

15 – Constitution of Mabuti Lodge No. 329

(Masbate) Sorsogon, Sorsogon

16 – Magdiwang Lodge No. 238, Noveleta, Cavite

21-22 – 6th National Triennial, Order of the Eastern Star, Davao City

23 – 50th Anniversary of the Sampaguita Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star, Heritage Hotel, 5:00 p.m.

29 – Constitution of Kakarong Lodge No. 327, Sta. Maria, Bulacan

30 – MD #3 Family Outing, Camp Bagong Diwa (9:00 a.m.) Taguig, Metro Manila

June 4 – Courtesy Call of Hiram Lodge No. 88

Officers & Members and Presentation of Original GLP Logo (5:00 p.m.)

5 – GM's Meeting with SGL & JGLs (9:00 a.m.)

— Constitution of Palanyag Lodge No. 323,

Parañaque City (4:00 p.m.)

12 – Independence Day – Luneta/Kawit, Cavite

15-16 – Cotabato City

18 – Cosmos Lodge No. 8, F. & A.M. Ceremonial Tee-Off, 6:00 a.m. – Aguinaldo Golf Club

19 – Bro. Dr. Jose Rizal's Birth Anniversary (Parade, a.m.); Masonic District No. 6

Convention (p.m.), Calamba, Laguna

26 – Constitution – J.P. Laurel Memorial Lodge No. 325, Lipa City (9:00 a.m.)

28 – 7:00 p.m. – Diamond Jubilee Celebration – Mencius #93, Grand Ballroom, Western Phil. Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex

July 3 – Constitution – Apolinario Yap Memorial Lodge No. 328, Victoria, Tarlac

10 – Regional Convention (Laguna and Quezon)

17 – Constitution – Gov. Eduardo L. Joson Memorial Lodge No. 326, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija (9:00 a.m.)

24-25 – 25th Charter Anniversary, Negrense Lodge No. 200, Bacolod City

30 – 75th Anniversary of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (GLP)

31 – Constitution of Bongabong Lodge No. 324, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro

August 7 – Reserved

14 – Cornerstone-Laying – M.S. Garcia Mem'l Lodge #306, Aduas, Cabanatuan City (10:00 a.m.)

14 – MD #23 Dinner with the GM – San Fernando, Pampanga

Aug. 21 – Sept. 20 – U.S.A. Visitations

September 24-25 – North Eastern Luzon Regional Convention (7th Multi-District Convention) Host: Mountain Province (MD #43)

— South Central Mindanao Regional Convention Venue: General Santos City

October 1-2 – Western Mindanao Regional Convention (7th Multi-District Convention)

6 – 9:30 a.m. – Courtesy Call – Aloha Temple Potentate (Inviting GM to Lunch)

7-9 – Aloha Temple Ceremonial, Cagayan de Oro City

8-9 – Bicol Regional Convention

14-16 – Philippine Shrine Association Ceremonial – Afifi Shrine Temple

15-16 – Eastern Mindanao Regional Convention, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur (Host: Timberland Lodge #219)

22-23 – Grand Lodge of China 44th Annual Communication, Taipei, Taiwan

26 – Grand Lodge of Victoria, Australia

29-30 – Masonic District No. 50 Convention, Basilan

November 6 – South Central Mindanao Regional Convention, Gen. Santos City

11-13 – Visayas Regional Convention, Tagbilaran, Bohol

12-15 – Conference of World Grand Masters, Brazil

19-20 – Tri-District Convention (MD 37, 41 & 47) Host: MD #47 (Ilocos Sur)

27 – National Capital Regional Convention (MD 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 & 13)

30 – Masonic District #2 Convention, Cavite

Dec. 3-4 – Luzon Multi-District Convention, Olongapo City

19 – GLP Anniversary

Feb. 2nd Sat. – Kalilayan Lodge No. 37 Installation of Officers, Lucena City

— Guam & Saipan Visitation

19 – Dedication of Temple & Installation of Officers Marcelo H. del Pilar Lodge No. 272, Meycauayan, Bulacan

— 47th Mindanao Regional Convention

— 2000 Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries

March 9-11 – 50th Anniversary and Annual Session, The Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R., Scottish Rite Temple

13-16 – Visitations to Okinawa Lodge No. 118, Okinawa, Japan and Rising Sun Lodge No. 151, Tokyo, Japan

17 – 43rd ANCOM of the Grand Lodge of Japan

— Grand Lodge of Italy (Rome)

April – 84th Annual Communication, Iloilo City

Presentation of PGM's Jewel, Response

MW Puno then presented the PGM's Jewel to Immediate Past Grand Master Enrique L. Locsin. He said:

"MW Enrique L. Locsin, the brother who climbed the Mt. Olympus of masonry last year and has come back to the valley of his peers will now receive his just reward – the Past Grandmaster's Jewel, the highest token of love from his brethren. Every Ancom, we observe this happy ritual of expressing our appreciation to our immediate Past Grandmaster for his service bordering servitude to the fraternity. Year in and year out, we see the flow of this stream of Past Grandmasters, all unremitting in serving masonry, all possessed of unyielding loyalty to the Craft. This year, however, we are honoring a Past Grandmaster whose reign will never be replicated by future Grandmasters. History has destined and the Great Architect of the Universe has willed that MW Enrique L. Locsin should be our centennial Grandmaster.

"As centennial Grandmaster, the burden of MW Locsin was unusually heavy, heavier than that of his predecessors in office. For as centennial GM, it behooved MW Locsin first, to correct the oversight, if not organized errors in our history books – errors that omit the pre-eminent role played by masons in our 1896 revolution. All these despite the fact that the leader of the 1896 revolution himself, brother Emilio Aguinaldo, described the 1896 revolution as "masonically inspired, masonically led and masonically executed." Yet, this defining masonic influence has not been bright-lined by our historians and, consequently, is hardly appreciated especially by our younger generation. Secondly, it likewise behooved MW Locsin to prove that after a century in our country, masonry is not a relic of the past, not a movement with a mere archeological value, but that masonry is a powerful force whose tenets continue to be the formula that can save man from himself, that can save man from man, and that

can better strengthen the mystic tie that binds man to his Creator.

"As chairman of the Board of General Purposes, I had the rare opportunity to be given a window to see the start and end of the term and tenure of MW Locsin, and I say that all these high expectations by the brethren were fulfilled by our immediate PGM. As I said, one can easily discern the plan of the Great Architect of the Universe when He blessed the brethren's choice of MW Locsin as our centennial Grandmaster. The great theme of our centennial celebration as a nation was freedom, the independence of our people from those who suppressed our rights, regardless of whether the suppressors were of the white skin variety or the brown variety. It goes without saying that he who would be our centennial Grandmaster must be worthy of the masonic tradition of freedom, one who can carry our torch of liberty, somebody with an undefiled past, somebody who can champion the virtues of freemasonry without a question mark. MW Locsin fitted that description well. He comes from the famous Locsin family, owner and publisher of the *Philippines Free Press*, the weekly magazine conceded as the best exponent of free and responsible journalism in the Philippines after World War II. As we all know, the *Philippines Free Press* was among the first to be shut down when authoritarianism was re-established by a brown hand in 1972. The clamp down, however, merely strengthened the will of the Locsins to struggle for the restoration of our liberty, especially the freedom of the press in our country. 1986 saw the flowering of these efforts to regain lost liberty, and the honor roll proclaims in neon the names of the Locsins - Teodoro, Sr., he whose courage contaminated many; Teddy Boy, whose mighty pen wrote pieces worthy of the Propaganda Movement; and our GM Enrique, who never yielded to the temptation of collaboration. When MW Locsin therefore called the at-

attention of all to the role of masons in our 1896 and 1986 revolutions, the world listened and stood at attention, for he and his forebears bear the honorable scars of battles for freedom of the Filipino. I like to think that this is not a mere happenstance, for freedom of the press is one of the legacies of masonry in this country. I will not delay you with a recital of the many achievements of MW Locsin as GM as these are all detailed in his Grandmaster's Report. But before I am done, let me just stress that in 1994 MW Locsin had the opportunity to run for the position of Senator of the Philippines, but his love for the Craft made him run for the position of Junior Grand Warden. I am sure he could have won as a Senator given his name and reputation, but he chose to be of service first to the brethren and service is the synonym of a worthy mason.

"In behalf of the brethren and of all masons withersoever they may be dispersed, I present to you, MW Sir, thru our beloved Sister Susan, the PGM's Jewel, and may its light flicker on your heart for a hundred years and more.

"Let us give MW Locsin a standing ovation."

"..... after a century in our country, masonry is not a relic of the past, not a movement with a mere archeological value, but... a powerful force whose tenets continue to be the formula that can save man, and that can better strengthen the mystic tie that binds man to his Creator."

In his response, the recipient of the PGM's Jewel, obviously touched by the words of the presenter and the standing ovation given him by the assembly, said that the past administration was not his, but rather, ours. The rest of his response is as follows:

"The year just over belongs not only to our time, but to Masonry across the ages. It was only my good fortune to be the Grand Master in a period that will not see its like

until 100 years hence. So those who received the Centennial Award for work done to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence - will not see it again conferred. Not in their lifetimes nor even that of their children. Not until a hundred years have passed, will another Grand Master so commemorate and so honor the same event.

"We were all fortunate to cooperate on a task of truly historical importance. In the key places of our country's history, new monuments mark the great work of the Craft in its creation. The memory of our race has been refreshed by two distinguished volumes of the history of the Craft in the Philippines. In addition, new lodges were opened, the membership re-energized, perhaps inspired by our eloquent reminders on what Masonry had done for the country.

"It was my distinct honor to be at the head of the Craft when all these things were happening.

"I shall treasure this medal, but I will not need it to remember."

"But the past year has been more to me than a great honor. It has been, despite the burden of the work, a great experience and a great delight. I met new and interesting people from all walks of life, from many countries. I made fast friends of all of them, I hope. My life has been enriched in the thing I value most - friendship.

"I have always loved friends, but I never dreamed I could have so many, or that I could have so many opportunities to enjoy their company while doing such meaningful work.

"This is indeed, as President Estrada so aptly put it the other day, a Society of Friends - constituted for mutual help and mutual enjoyment. It is just too bad that those who insist on thinking the worst about Masonry can never know how good it is without becoming a part of it. If they opened their minds, they would see that the great

secret of Masonry should be no secret to them. Masonry believes in the same things as they do, except that it practices what they only preach - trust, faith, good works and friendship.

"I am a little relieved. It has indeed been a hectic, event-filled year. I think we are all relieved it is over and that it has been the great success we hoped it would be. But we shall feel a little regret. For this has been a high water mark in the Craft.

"We made our mark as the century came to a close. We made our countrymen realize their true history. We created an example that our brethren in other countries might wish to follow as well. Surely, the next time Italy, Mexico, Argentina, Columbia, France, and the United States celebrate some landmark of their freedom and independence, they might want to stand up as we did. They might want to step out of the secrecy of their lodges and tell their people that at the heart of the best things their countries have achieved is the mark of Masonry. Then perhaps the slanders against Masonry will cease, for they are slanders against their countries, too.

"I want to thank you all again for your friendship, cooperation and company. We shall never forget how it all started, how well it went, and how it ended today. I shall treasure this medal, but I will not need it to remember.

Intolerance Rears Its Ugly Head

In the course of the installation ceremonies, outside the gym "those who insist on thinking the worst about Masonry" distributed printed material attacking Masonry. To them applies these words of IPGM Locsin: "Masonry believes in the same things as they do, except that it practices what they only preach - trust, faith, good works and friendship." Because they are not members of the Craft, they can never know how good Freemasonry is, that by the principle of Brotherly Love it unites men of every country, sect and opinion and causes true friendship to exist among those who might oth-

erwise have remained at a perpetual distance. Indeed, as MW Demonteverde pointed out, intolerance is the bastard child of ignorance; it always cripples understanding and love amongst men.

Benediction

VW Manuel G. Brasileno, Grand Chaplain, led the assembly in asking God's benediction on all present and on all members of the widespread Masonic family throughout the world.

Inaugural Ball

The inaugural ball at the Family Country Hotel & Convention Center served as a fitting punctuation to our Grand Lodge's 83rd Ancom - the best hosted, so far:

Quick Quotes

- What creates trust, in the end, is the leader's manifest respect for the followers. —**Jim O'Toole** in *Leading Change*.
- Set high goals and keep raising them once they are achieved. If you don't, a competitor will blow right by you while you're telling yourself what a great job you've done. Good enough never is! —**Carl Sewell**
- The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith. —**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

1998: CENTENNIAL OF THE START OF AMERICAN MASONRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

By R.W. Bro. Napoleon A. Soriano

Note: This is the text of the speech RW Soriano delivered on April 3, 1999 at VFW, Millington, Tennessee, on the occasion of the induction of the officers of the Philippine Masonic Association of Tennessee, Inc. (PMATI), which was founded on August 24, 1998 as the 14th chapter of the Philippine Masonic Association of America Inc. (PMAAI). For details of the affair, please see accompanying news item.

I am indeed happy to be with you on this significant occasion because it affords me a chance to rub elbows with brother Masons from Tennessee.

We in the Philippines cannot forget the major role played by Masons from Tennessee in shaping our Masonic history. So far, two distinguished gentlemen from this State have occupied the Grand Oriental Chair of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The first was William W. Larkin, who was elected Grand Master in 1931. He established our Masonic Hospital for Crippled Children and served as its president for many years. The other was Luther Boone Bewley, who was Grand Master in 1960. MW Bewley was an outstanding figure in the Philippine education system. He was our Director of Education for over a decade and was the adviser on education to four Philippine Presidents.

Another gentleman from Tennessee, John Sears, communicated, for the first time in our country, the 4th to the 32nd degrees of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry under the auspices of the Mother Supreme Council of the World.

Besides these three, many distin-

guished men from your wonderful State had their names on the rolls of our Grand Lodge.

I must, therefore, say to you, brethren from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, "Thank you very much for all your contributions to Philippine Masonry."

My friends, last year the entire Filipino nation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Philippines from foreign rule. Unknown to many, another centennial was quietly commemorated last year. This was the 100th year of the start of American Masonry in the Philippines. I want to focus my talk on that important event.



RW Napoleon Soriano, Guest of Honor & Speaker at PMATI

Arrival of American Masons in the Philippines

American Masonry literally came with the troops that landed on Philippine soil in 1898. On April of that year America declared war on Spain. Orders were issued to Admiral George Dewey in Hong Kong to commence operations against the Spaniards who were then occupying the Philippines. He sailed into Manila on May 1 and demolished the armada of Admiral Patricio Montojo. Before the day was over, all the Spanish warships were either sunk or enveloped in flames.

On board the ships of Dewey were hundreds of Masons. In the following months thousands more came with the ships that arrived later. The new arrivals owed loyalty to diverse Masonic obediences. All the Grand Lodges of the United States were represented; so were the various Rites and Orders. There were members of the York

Rite, the Southern and Northern Jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite, the appendant organizations, and even the Shrine.

Establishment of a Military Lodge

The war was still raging when the American Masons started practicing the Royal Art. Their first recorded Masonic activity took place after the ship carrying the First Regiment United States Volunteers for North Dakota heaved into Corregidor Island on July 31, 1898. On board were 48 Masons bringing with them a dispensation from the Grand Master of North Dakota for a Movable Military Lodge.

After the Regiment had settled down, the lodge held its first meeting at regimental headquarters. It took place in August. A lodge hall was established in Malate and meetings were subsequently held every Wednesday and Sunday. Those meetings were always well attended. The visitors' register of the lodge contained the names of Masons from all parts of the United States. Masons from Australia, Hong Kong, Yokohama and other Oriental lodges, Englishmen, Swiss and Spaniards—all of them found fraternal welcome in the lodge.

The lodge was overwhelmed with petitions for degrees, and it held many initiations and meetings. One of those meetings is exceptionally memorable and worth relating. It took place on February 22, 1899 inside a church in Culi-Culi. On that day the members were warned by headquarters to take extra precaution because Filipino troops were expected to attack with the aim to break through American lines. But still the lodge was opened at 8 p.m. While the Master was in the midst of the Obligation, a crashing volley came from Filipino lines. The firing was brisk. Bullets went through the roof of the lodge hall. The Master stopped short; but after the firing had died down, the work was finished in short order. The members later bragged that was the first instance on record that a candidate was initiated under fire.

On July 31, 1899, exactly one year after its arrival in the country, the Regiment returned to the United States, and the Military Lodge surrendered its charter to the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. That did not, however, put an end to American Masonic activities in the Philippines.

Introduction of American Brand of Scottish Rite of Masonry

With other troops were Colonel Frank Foote, a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, and Major M. Sears, the Deputy Inspector General for Tennessee. In May 1899, the two introduced the American brand of the Scottish Rite of Masonry into the Philippines. They organized a council of the Scottish Rite in Manila. Then on June 9, 1899, Sears, as was already mentioned, communicated the 4th to the 32nd degrees of Scottish Rite. Masonry to Edwin C. McCullough in a house on No. 113 Calle de la Marina in Ermita, which came to be known as the "Cradle of American Masonry in the Philippines."

Like the members of the Movable Military Lodge, however, Foote and Sears had to return to the United States shortly afterwards. The progress of the Scottish Rite in Manila, therefore, came to a temporary halt.

American Masons Secure Masonic Foothold in the Philippines

After the Americans had defeated Spain and the Filipinos and after peace had been restored in the urban areas, American Masons went about in earnest to secure a Masonic foothold in the Philippines.

In 1900, black Americans belonging to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., of Missouri founded Manila Military Lodge No. 58.

A year later, white Americans established Manila Lodge No. 342 under the Grand Lodge of California. Subsequently they organized Cavite Lodge No. 350 and Corregidor Lodge No. 386, both under the

Grand Lodge of California.

The Shriners also organized in 1902. They founded a Shrine Club that went by the name "Bamboo Oasis."

In 1904, the Order of the Eastern Star (OES) organized Mayon Chapter No. 1.

On March 16, 1905 the Royal Arch Masons agreed to petition the General Grand Chapter of the United States for a dispensation. The petition, signed by 31 Royal Arch Masons, was sent on April 8. They were given their dispensation on June 1, 1905.

Two years later, under the leadership of Gen. Harry Bandholtz, 60 Knights Templar organized Far East Commandery No. 1.

In 1908, after nine years of hibernation, the Scottish Rite of Masonry reemerged with the organization of the Scottish Rite Lyceum in Manila. We should recall that Scottish Rite activities ceased when Foote and Sears returned to the United States. It was in 1901 that the Sovereign Grand Commander Richardson of the Southern Jurisdiction laid claim to exclusive jurisdiction over the Philippines. He attached the country to the jurisdiction of California under Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) Frank Pierce. Unfortunately, Pierce believed that it was unwise to establish Bodies of the Scottish Rite in the Philippines; doggedly, he turned down all petitions for dispensation. The only concession he gave was the organization of the Lyceum. It was only after Pierce's death in 1911 that the Scottish Rite Masons in Manila were able to organize four Bodies of the Scottish Rite.

Lodges under Varied Obediences

I must emphasize, at this juncture, that the Americans did not have a monopoly of the Philippine Masonic landscape. Long before their arrival, the Filipinos already had scores of lodges chartered by a few Spanish Grand Orients. The Filipino Masons were severely persecuted by the authorities and hunted down like criminals. Those caught were arrested and tortured; some were

brought before the firing squad. But, the dangers notwithstanding, the Filipino Masons persevered in keeping their lodges alive.

The advent of the American regime spelled the end of the persecution of Masons. The Filipinos, therefore, were able to establish their closed lodges. But they overdid it. Enthused by the sweet taste of freedom, they organized lodges under numerous jurisdictions, such as the Grand Lodge of France, the Grand Orient of France, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Gran Oriente Lusitano, the Gran Oriente Español, and the Gran Oriente de España. They even founded a Philippine Grand Orient. A carnival atmosphere, in effect, prevailed.

The proliferation of lodges eventually led to conflicts, specially after the founding by the Filipino Masons of a Regional Grand Lodge under the Gran Oriente Español and after the organization of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands by American lodges under the jurisdiction of California.

For five years the two Grand Jurisdictions engaged in a not-too-friendly competition.

Fusion of the Two Grand Jurisdictions

Cooler heads, fortunately, intervened. The American Governor General, Francis Burton Harrison, and the great Filipino leader, Manuel Luis Quezon, President of the Philippine Senate, pooled their power and prestige and influence to bring the warring factions to the conference table. Their efforts bore fruit. In February 1917, all Masonic forces in the country, both in the Blue Lodges and in the Scottish Rite, forged a union. They agreed that from that time on all Blue lodges in the Philippines would work the American Ritual and all Scottish Rite Bodies would come under the jurisdiction of the Mother Council of the World.

Pursuant to the agreement, the Filipino Lodges and Bodies returned their charters to the Gran Oriente Español.

My friends, the union of 1917 holds up to now. For the past 82 years, then, we in

the Philippines have been working the

American Brand of Masonry.

Establishment of the Grand Lodges of China and Japan

In the 1930s the Grand Lodge of the Philippines chartered lodges in Mainland China; after World War II, it set up lodges in Japan. The lodges in these two countries organized the Grand Lodge of China, now located in Taiwan, and the Grand Lodge of Japan.

What signifies the existence of the three Grand Lodges in the Far East? Perhaps it proves that Americanas are capable of exporting their Masonry to other countries. But more importantly, it provides a concrete proof that our venerable Fraternity has a universal appeal. Besides, my friends, the existence of the three Grand Lodges in our region gives us a taste of the bonding effect of Masonry. The United States, China, Japan and the Philippines are worlds apart as far as culture is concerned. But because of Masonry, peoples from these countries embrace one another as brothers and as friends. Indeed, by the principles of Brotherly Love, Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

That is why we, your brethren in the

Philippines, as well as those in Taiwan and Japan, are grateful to our brethren in this great nation for bringing to our region the American brand of Masonry.

Reiteration of Thanks

Let me reiterate my sincerest gratitude to you, my brethren and friends, for having given me the great honor of being your guest of honor and speaker on this important occasion, the induction of the officers of your association. WB Alex Sausa, the newly-inducted president of your association, informed me that PMATI had grown both in number and strength in the few months of its existence partly because of the active involvement of your lovely ladies. I must therefore convey heartfelt commendation to the ladies for giving their Mason husbands helpful cooperation and inspiration.

I have no doubt that with the leadership of the newly inducted officers, you will work together in close harmony in achieving the many worthwhile goals you have set before you, particularly promoting one another's welfare and relieving the distressed. You must be commended for having committed yourselves to helping crippled children in the Philippines.

Maraming, maraming salamat. Maligayang gabi, at mabuhay po tayong lahat.

SOME GRAINS OF WIT AND HUMOR *By RW Clemente M. Nava*

Note: This was adapted from the original "selection of wits, jokes and humor" by the author, one of the Outstanding Master Masons for the Masonic Year 1998, which appeared in the April 1999 issue of perennial most outstanding lodge newsletter Lee Sin Times.

Opportunity is often difficult to recognize; we usually expect it to beckon us with beepers and billboards.

When at least one of the parties to a conflict wants something more than peace, we have war.

The greatest gifts you can give to your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.

The Bible tells us to love as well our neighbors as our enemies, probably because, generally, they are the same people.

Woman: *Never mind, I'll do it myself.*

Man: *Do it, if you insist.*

Woman gets mad.

MAN: *Now what are you mad about?*

Woman: *If you don't know, I'm not going to tell you.*

MD NO. 3 HOLDS TURNOVER CEREMONY, FAMILY OUTING

By VW Antonio A. Tuason, PDGL, District Secretary



District 3 and Grand Lodge leaders listen to outgoing DDGM Rudy Ong

Masonic District No. 3 held its first meeting for Masonic Year 1999-2000 last May 8 at the Bungalow Restaurant along San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila. VW Rudy L. Ong formally turned over the office of DDGM to his successor, VW Rodolfo A. Tor. The affair was graced by the presence of MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, and RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master. VW Ong, outgoing DDGM, welcomed all the representatives of the seven Lodges in the district. Then he thanked the brethren of the district for the support and cooperation they extended to him during his term of office.

"Because of your support and cooperation," he said, "our district was chosen as one of the outstanding districts in our grand jurisdiction and, correlatively, I was selected one of the outstanding DDGMs for Masonic Year 1998-99."

Next he turned over to VW Rock Tor the Official Receipt from the Acacia amounting to 100, 646 pesos. This represents the District Charity Trust Fund set aside specifically to aid and assist the families of

brethren belonging to the district who would drop their working tools.

VW Ong, in turn, received from the brethren a Plaque of Recognition for a job well done. VW Rock Tor enjoined the new officers, as well as the other members of the district, to keep up the high standard of the district.

"Our district," he said, "was selected twice in a row as Outstanding District. Besides, during the term of MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, VW Jose Marlowe S. Pedregosa was Outstanding DDGM. Then, during the term of MW Enrique L. Locsin, VW Rudy L Ong was also Outstanding DDGM. I am hopeful and confident that you will demonstrate continued cooperation, concerted effort, and strong camaraderie."

VW Tor next introduced the District Grand Lecturers: VWBs Danilo P. Mangila, Dennis L. Del Rosario, Camilo B. Parrilla, and Victor Tan Tek Sian. He also announced the names of the Grand Lodge Inspectors assigned to the Lodges in the District.

The other officers of the District are WB Paul Y. Chua, PM, *District Treasurer*, this



The Young Ones and the Young Ones

writer, *District Secretary*; WB Mariano Ong Tian Un, PM, *District Chaplain*; VW Rodolfo H. Cardona, PDGL, *District Auditor*; and WB Doloresindo I. Paner, PM, *District PRO.* The following were elected to serve in the Board of Trustees of the District Charity Trust Fund: VW Rock A. Tor, DDGM, *ex-officio chairman*; VW Rudy L. Ong, PDDGM, *trustee for 3 years*; VW Victor A. Yu, PDGL, *trustee for 2 years*; and WB Gilbert L. Pazcoguín, *trustee for 1 year*.

VW Tor distributed copies of the District Directory; announced the various committees, their chairs and members; and detailed the schedule of district activities for

the year. Each of the seven Lodges was assigned to take charge of an activity.

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde showed appreciation of the District's plan of action, which is in line with his thrusts for the year. RW Bunyi, on his part, lauded the District's readiness to realize its various projects and expressed hope that the District would support the Grand Lodge Fund-Raising Campaign to be initiated by the Grand Master.

VW Rock A. Tor, DDGM and host of the affair, finally called the brethren from labor to refreshment. We partook of the dinner, with peace and strengthened harmony prevailing among us.

Most Outstanding Website Honored



Members of Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 pose for a souvenir photo with MW Enrique L. Locsin, Grand Master of Masons of the Phils, 1998-99, with their award as **Most Outstanding Website for Masonic Year 1998-99** during the 83rd Annual Communication in General Santos City last April 22-24, From left: Bro. Reynal MJC Serrano, Secretary; VW Ramil Z. San Juan V, PM, DGL; MW E.L. Locsin; WB Valerio G. Crescencia, Immediate Past Master; WB Rex Alvin A. Bilagor, Incumbent Master & Bro. Rommel L. Cardineza, Lodge Webmaster & Senior Deacon. E-mail: urdfam@yahoo.com; website: <http://www2.mozcom.com/~rsj>

CZARINA GOLDA MUSNI



DINGKAY'S

Color: Blue and Purple

Mascot: Elmo

Emblems: angels and star

Motto: Weak men wait for opportunities, Strongmen make them.

This year Miss Philippines Job's Daughter is CZARINA GOLDA S. MUSNI of Bethel No. 19, Cagayan de Oro City. She was initiated in the International Order of Job's Daughter on November 05, 1995 and is currently the Senior Princess of Bethel No. 19.

Dingkay, as she is fondly called by family and friends, is the youngest daughter of WB Oscar P. Musni of Don Antonio Cosin Lodge No. 308. She is an incoming junior student at Corpus Christi School, where she is a consistent honor student.

Dingkay is into soccer, horseback-riding and loves listening to reggae beat, particularly that of BOB MARLEY, and lists Fried Chicken as her favorite food. She is set to leave for Grand Rapids, Michigan this August to compete for the Miss International Job's Daughter Pageant. You can write to Dingkay at dingkay@gurmail.com. She'd really love to hear from you...

115 Col. Fermin C. Jonko Street, Apovel Subdivision, Bulua, 9000 Cagayan de Oro City

GLOs To Furnish GLP With E-mail, Fax Numbers

Our Grand Master, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, in his 5th Circular, requests DDGMs, JGLs, and other GLOs to furnish the Grand Lodge Office with their e-mail addresses and contact telephone and FAX numbers.

In case a GLO doesn't have available e-mail address or fax number, he may designate a brother in his district who has these facilities to receive correspondences from the Grand Lodge.

States the Grand Master: " *All Circulars and Edicts will be sent thru e-mail or Fax to avoid delays in receiving copies by the district and lodges...*"

The Grand Master also enjoins DDGMs, JGLs, and other GLOs to send copies of their reports to the Grand Lodge Officers thru e-mail: glpils@epic.net or FAX No. 522-2218. Original copies of the reports may be submitted to Grand Lodge later.

NEWSPAPER COLUMN FOCUSES ON MASONRY

VW Joel C. Obar, the Grand Master's Deputy in Masonic District No. 24, lawyer/businessman by profession and a dean of the College of Law of a university in Dumaguete, has a column in *Sun Star*, a community newspaper in Dumaguete, entitled "Square & Compass." Starting with the May 6, 1999 edition of the newspaper, he has focused his column on Freemasonry—in line with MW Franklin J. Demonteverde's thrust to raise the level of the general public's understanding and awareness of the nature, aims and activities of the Fraternity.

Upon learning this, MW Demonteverde wrote VW Obar a letter of commendation.



A scene during the Marbel shootfest. VW Jun Ebdane gets ready to prove his mettle.



Deputy Grand Master Demonteverde presents gavel to Grand Master Locsin.

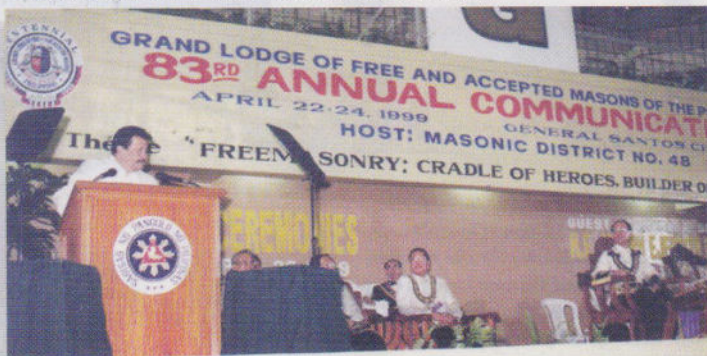


VW Alberto C. Reyes leads invocation.



VW Fernando V. Pascua, Jr. delivers Grand Oration.

Dignitaries in the East listen attentively to President Estrada deliver keynote address.





Grand Master Enrique L. Locsin hands over to His Excellency, President Joseph E. Estrada, a Plaque of Appreciation.



Emcees during Grand Master's Night, VW Buenaventura and VW Eusoof, appear to enjoy their assigned task.



Shootfest overall winner Jun Ebdane displays his prize, is congratulated by MW Locsin and VW Domingo Teng.



MW Locsin presents award to his loving wife, who demonstrated untiring support to him during his year in the Grand East. VWBs Damian, Eusoof, and Buenaventura flash smile of approval.



VWBs Ricardo Galvez, Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, and Jimmy Gonzales, all losing candidates for the position of Junior Grand Warden, seem to say "Time, patience and perseverance will accomplish all things."



Ancom and Installation Site: General Santos City Gymnasium



Newly elected JGW Eugene Labitoria shows elation as his loving wife examines his newly-earned jewel.

SGW Nap Soriano assists DGM Oca Bunyi arrange his jewel while reelected Grand Treasurer John L. Chua, PGM, seems to be an interested onlooker.



Grand Lodge Officers listen intently to instructions being given by Master of Ceremonies, MW Rizal D. Aportadera, PGM.



MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, starts installation ceremonies.



Incoming Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde takes obligation at the altar; behind him is MW Aportadera, PGM, Master of Ceremonies.

MW Rey Puno, Installing Officer, presents gavel to newly installed Grand Master Demonteverde.



"... I now declare all the officers duly installed!" --- MW Aportadera, PGM, Master of Ceremonies.

Masons bow reverently to newly installed Grand Master, signifying allegiance to him.



IPGM Henry Locsin congratulates his successor, MW Franklin Demonteverde, while PGM Rody Herrera awaits his turn.



MW Rizal Aportadera congratulates newly proclaimed Grand Master.



Newly installed Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde delivers inaugural address.



Introduced by her husband, Sis. Lorna P. Demonteverde waves at the assembly, as if saying, "I too will support my husband."

Grand Marshal Raoul E. Hilario escorts Sis. Susan R. Locsin to the East, is welcomed by PGM Aportadera, MC.



Sis. Susan Locsin pins PGM's Jewel on her husband's coat, while MW Rey Puno, PGM, looks on.

*IPGM Henry Locsin and
GM Franklin Demonteverde
with WB Rapinette, Sis. Susan,
MW Damaso Tria,
MW Rody Herrera,
Sis. Anching, MW Rey Beltran,
and MW John Chua*



*Foreign Masonic
dignitaries, PGMs,
and several ladies*

*The "First Family" of
Our Grand Lodge for MY 1999-2000*



Newly installed Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde with his bigger or extended family

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Andres Bonifacio Lodge No.199
presents
"SILVER HANDS...SILVER HEARTS"
25 Years of Working & Sharing Together
1974-1999
by: W.B. Methusael "Sali" A. Casul

"Every cloud has a silver lining"... and what joy it is to say that the cliché points to the brethren of Andres Bonifacio Lodge 199 in Quezon City. Since the start of his term as W. Master of Andres Bonifacio Lodge 199 this year, W.B. Celso S. VIRAY has spearheaded a project to make our 25th year of existence outstanding. Aptly dubbed, "SILVER HANDS... SILVER HEARTS," the project aims to help various charitable institutions on a monthly basis. Sharing our blessings with others by means of food distribution, entertainment, games and love gifts.



W.B. CELSO S. VIRAY

As emphasized by W.B. VIRAY in his inauguration speech last February, the project is a fine example of working and sharing together in the spirit of Masonic Brotherhood. Enthusiasm for W.B. VIRAY'S project is seen not only from the support of the Junior and Senior Wardens and members of the Lodge, but of their wives and children as well!

Even before the year began, plans were already underway for W.B. VIRAY'S flagship project. As early as December, appointments for visitations were already made with centers under the Department of the Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as

well as other institutions managed by non-government organizations. Since then, the project has been running non-stop.

For our first engagement, the brethren visited BAHAY TULUYAN in Malate, a drop-in center for street children in the vicinity founded by a British national. This shelter serves as living quarters for street children as well as day care center for the impoverished. At first, we were greeted with shy smiles by the 100 plus children whose ages range from 3 to 15 years. But soon after program started, the single-story center filled-



W.B. VIRAY delivers opening remarks in BAHAY TULUYAN -the first beneficiary of his outreach project.

up with energetic laughter and ebullient singing. As the puppeteers and the magician of the Ellinwood Malate Church - Hands Unlimited, worked their charm with the children, the brethren interacted with Bahay Tuluyan's staff and social workers and shared thoughts on the situation faced by the children. After the show, food, candies and official "Silver Hands...Silver Hearts" T-shirts were given.

Another NGO in Malate was the next beneficiary of this undertaking...



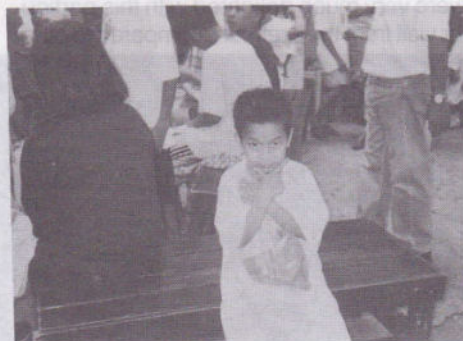
The officer in charge of BAHAY TULUYAN expresses his heartfelt thanks to the brethren of Andres Bonifacio 199 for the visit and food distribution.

KANLUNGAN SA ERMA. This sanctuary (Kanlungan) established in 1989 serves as a refuge for street children, 7 to 18 years old, in the Ermita and Malate area who have been victimized by parental neglect, prostitution and extreme poverty. The Kanlungan sa Erma ministry helps street children by giving them shelter, opportunities to study, learn vocational skills, and handicraft such as greeting cards and sewing.

After a very entertaining program of puppets and magic, and of course generous helpings of hamburger, spaghetti and juice, the children of Erma rendered songs and dance numbers. The highlight of the afternoon was a very touching song number by a teenage female resident named Rosana, about her experiences as an orphan and the hardships she encountered in the streets. So inspired were the brethren by the development of these children



W.B. CELSO VIRAY distributing love gifts and T-shirts to residents of BAHAY TULUYAN in Malate, Manila.



"Mac-Mac", a 9-yr.-old orphan at Kaunlaran sa Erma, expresses desire to be adopted by any member of Andres Bonifacio 199.



W.B. VIRAY together with S.W. Allan Buntuyan, J.W. Edwin Dizon, members of the Andres Bonifacio 199, and the children of KANLUNGAN SA ERMA.

through the ministry that they also scheduled a visit to the drop-in center in Laguna. The children and social workers were also given T-shirts, packs of toothpaste and

toothbrushes as parting gifts.

After two sets of fiestas with children, the project directed its efforts to the residents of GOLDEN ACRES in Quezon City. Golden Acres, run by DSWD, is the first in a series of government institutions that will be visited by the brethren. The others include the Elsie Gaches Village and the Heaven Center for Women in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

This Golden Acres visit was the biggest to date with food distribution for 400-plus residents and social workers. It was a delight to hear from one "lola" that they were very much delighted with this particular visit from the brethren, compared to other



W.B. VIRAY entertaining the residents of Golden Acres - Home for the Aged.

visitation programs. A serenade by the Ellinwood Malate Church (EMC) Psalm Ensemble was the main attraction of the show. This singing group is composed of young professionals - doctors, lawyers and businessmen. Also present during the event, as a volunteer, was Pastor Emanuel Orendain of EMC, who gave an inspirational talk and led the whole congregation in prayer. As the brethren distributed food, musical cassettes of the Psalm Ensemble album, packs of soap and towels, a number of Golden Acres residents rendered their own song numbers. In May, the brethren embarked on an outreach project very appropriate for the summer! "Operation Tule" in Barangay Greater Lagro, Fairview, Q.C., was a big success! A total of 50 young boys were given free circumcision by member doctors of Andres Bonifacio Lodge 199 led by Dr.



Brethren of Andres Bonifacio 199 with Uncle Tony "Big Boss" of Golden Acres.

Allan Buntayan and Dr. Cris Panlilio. Also present were guest doctors: Dr. Irene Marie Derotas and Dr. Glenn Magistrado. Not only were the young boys given this service absolutely free, they were treated, along their families and members of the Barangay Health Center, to a merienda.

The beneficiary of the project in June is the Laguna facility of Kanlungan sa Erma; in July, "The Cathedral of Praise Drop-In Center." This is just the beginning of W.B. Viray's project.

The future promises more days of hard work and selfless dedication as it is filled with boundless joy and utter fulfillment because the brethren of Andres Bonifacio Lodge 199 have committed themselves to sharing their silver hearts and reaching out with their silver hands every month.



Bro./Dr. Chris and Dr. Irene Marie Derotas perform circumcision assisted by 2 Health Center nurses

MULA SA PUSO 2 – A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR

by Bro. Tomas C. Bautista

Diffun Lodge No. 317 and Namnama Court No. 24, Order of the Amaranth, undertook a civic-action project dubbed Mula Sa Puso 2 last May 14 and 15 at Villa Pascua Barangay, with the helpful cooperation of the local government unit of Diffun, Quirino; barangay officials; Dad Macario Ramos Memorial Chapter, Order of DeMolay; DeMolay Alumni Association of the Philippine (DAAP), Cagayan Valley Chapter; Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), Quirino Chapter; Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), Quirino Chapter; 2RCDG Rescom, PA; and Pepsi Cola Phils.

On May 14, the brethren of Lodge 317 supported and participated in the diabetes testing program initiated by Court 24, led by Royal Matron and Patron Aliena and Remy Corbe. In the evening of the same day, Lodge 317 had its stated meeting,

which was graced by the presence of VW Roger Balmaceda, DDGM; the three DGLs, VWBs Cristeto Guillermo, Manuel Mena, and Richard Tan Uy; and the GLI, WB David Co, whom the brethren of the Lodge consider their moving spirit and inspiration.

After the meeting, the brethren, together with their ladies and children, and the visiting Masonic dignitaries had a relaxing fellowship social at the Daffungan Restaurant.

Lodge 317 and Court 24 extend heartfelt thanks to the cooperating organizations mentioned above and convey sincerest gratitude and commendation to Dr. Ramon Abella, Jr., DAAP; Dr. Maria Cristina Lagao; Dr. Maria Cristina Abaya; Dr. Olivia Guzman; Miriam Ribac, Nelly Bautista, and Glen Santiago of the PNA; Jesusa Leal and May Crisostomo of the PNRC.



"Missionaries" pose for a memento. *Front row* (L-R) – VW Clemente Salvador, Jr. (PDDGM), Bro. Nelson Macato, Glen Santiago, Nelly Bautista, Ruel Villaluz, (PMC), and Bro. Mario Cabe. *Second row* (L-R) – WB Sammy Benigo (PM), WB Elmer Domingo (PM), Bro. Goger Ganotisi, Bro. Maximino Guillermo, Bro. Eugene Gumayagay, May Crisostomo, Jesusa Leal, Dr. Olivia Guzman, Dr. Olivia Guzman, Dr. Cristina Abaya, Miriam Ribac, HL Aliena Corbe, HL Lolinda Pagulayan, HL Linda Libunao, Dr. Ramon Abella, Jr. (PMC), Brgy. Chair Hilaria Bartolome. *Third row* (L-R) – Bro. Tom Bautista, Inocencio Guingab, Jess Palo, Anton Wed-Ang, Bro Venan Sadang, WB Biley Temanel, Bro. Remy Corbe, and Bro. Rudy Reyes.

PGMC IS BORN

(Based on a feature article by W. Bro. Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr., PM)

PGMC stands for Permanent Grand Masters Club, which was formed last Nov. 21 at the beach house of the Herreras in Naic, Cavite.

Its elected officers are Bro. Masong C. Tria, our Grand Master in 1971, *Chairman*; Bro. Rody C. Herrera, our Grand Master in 1983, *President*; Bro. Rey S. Puno, our Grand Master in 1984, *Executive Vice President*; Bro. Reynold S. Fajardo, our Grand Master in 1986, *Secretary*; Bro. John L. Choa, our Grand Master in 1990, *Treasurer*; and Bro. Gass V. Mateo, our Grand Master in 1992, *Press Relations Officer*.

Other PGMs present during the Naic affair were Bros. Teddy V. Baldonado and Ray N. Beltran, our GMs in 1987 and 1988, respectively.

All PGMs, in their messages, unani- mously expressed their whole-hearted ap- preciation to the hosts. Then they went a-

golfing.

Others present during the affair were Bro. Oca Bunyi and Sis. Ester, Sisters Luz Puno, Siony Fajardo, Tess Baldonado, and Lolit Mateo (with only son Richard Solomon).

The members of the Ladies Commit- tee, such as Sisters Peding Navia, Ching Ramos, Lucy Flores, Greece Quirante, and Lorma Galagosa (who was accompanied by her hubby, WBro. Geminiano Galagosa Jr.) made their presence felt.

Also present were Bros. Victorino Ramos, Jovito Tamayo, and Rosalio Quirante.

Sis. Ching Herrera said a few words and rendered several beautiful songs.

Bro. Rody Herrera narrated the events that led to the formation of the PGMC.

"Although Bro. Rudy Bunda was unable to attend," he said, "he assured us that he would host the next event."



Past Grand Masters all; from left, Rosendo C. Herrera, Reynato S. Puno, Damaso C. Tria, Reynold S. Fajardo, Teodorico V. Baldonado, John L. Choa, Raymund N. Beltran and Agustin V. Mateo.

PMATI HOLDS INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

The Philippine Masonic Association of Tennessee, Inc. (PMATI), which was founded on August 24, 1998 as the 14th chapter of the Philippine Masonic Association of America, Inc. (PMAAI), held the induction of its officers at VFW, Millington, Tennessee, on April 3, 1999.

RW Napoleon A. Soriano, then Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, who was introduced by VW Robert Q. Pagotan, PSGL of the GLP, spoke on the role of American Masons in building the temple of Masonry in the Philippines, China, and Japan. He also lauded the Filipino American Masons of Tennessee and their ladies for working together in close harmony to accomplish the many worthwhile goals they had set before them, particularly promoting the welfare of one another and their families, as well as relieving the dis-

tressed, such as crippled children in the Philippines. Accompanying RW Soriano were VW Felixberto C. Legarda, PDDGM; WB Diosdado M. Barawid, Sr., PM; and Sis. Shirley Pagotan, VW Bert's lovely lady.

The following were inducted into office by PMAAI President Chico Lojo: WB Alex Sausa, HA, *President*; Bro. Nestor Francisco, *Vice President*; Bro. Dandy Barawid, *Secretary*; Bro. Fred G. McCaw, Jr., HA, *Treasurer*; Bro. Rogaciano Valez, M.D., *Auditor*; VW Robert G. Pagotan, *P.R.O. (Philippines)*; Bro. George P. Bagay, *P.R.O. (USA)*; Bro. Howie Haag and Bro. Cedric Mendez; *Sergeants-at-Arms*; and Bro. James Jones, *Chaplain*.

The ladies of the Masons in Tennessee and Memphis took charge of the dinner.

The program was spiced by special performances by the Filipino Americans of Tennessee and dance floor open.

GRAND LODGE OF NEW ZEALAND FREEMASONS GETS COPY OF DIMASALANG

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand Freemasons received a copy of the book *Dimasalang: The Masonic Life of Dr. Jose Rizal*, by MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, Grand Secretary.

Dominador V. Resos III, a DeMolay now working in Wellington, New Zealand, as a male nurse, was requested by his father, Bro. Dominador C. Resos, Jr., whose Mother Lodge is Dadiangas No. 225 and who is a dual member of Dapitan Lodge NO. 21, to deliver the copy to the office of Grand Secretary S. J. Cooper.

Adjacent is Grand Secretary Cooper's appreciative letter to Mr. Resos.



GRAND LODGE OF NEW ZEALAND FREEMASONS

Upper Broadway, Upper Unit, Grand Lodge, Wellington, P.O. Box 2228, Wellington 6122, New Zealand. Tel: 04 478 2288

Office of Correspondence to Grand Secretary

Volume 428

5 March 1999

Mr. D. V. Resos
3414 Maffra Road
UPPER HUTT 4807

Dear Mr. Resos:

Thank you for calling at our office on 4 March, to personally deliver the book "The Masonic Life of Dr. Jose Rizal" as requested by your father in the Philippines.

This will make a valuable addition to our growing collection in our library. Over the years similar presentations have enabled us to assemble quite an extensive collection of documents and publications which bring pleasure to our readers and are of considerable assistance to those researching historical facts.

I am sure you will be in contact with your father and I would ask you to convey our thanks to him and to also pass on our personal greetings.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
S. J. Cooper
GRAND SECRETARY

2011/954

JACQUES DEMOLAY LODGE NO. 305: UNITED IN PURPOSE, PROUD IN ACCOMPLISHING THINGS TOGETHER

By Bro. Jojo P. Javier, Junior Warden

1. FAMILY OUTING

In line with his theme, "*The more we get together, the more our families would know each other,*" WM Nick Salvador assigned me to chair the committee tasked to organize a four-day family outing in Cauayan, Isabela and Diffun, Quirino.

Organizing the event was rather hard, entertaining the brethren was not a problem, getting the wives to do things together was manageable, but keeping the kids from getting bored was the ultimate challenge!

Chartering a bus was expensive; so through the help of Mr. Edwin Mencias, we blocked off 30 seats in advance.

We left Manila at 6:30 a.m. on March 30. Almost 10 hours later, we arrived at the house of VW Bobet and Sis Janet Domingo in Cauayan. After a light snack, we were herded off by our hosts to their "farm," which seemed to us a major portion of the province! There for two days we enjoyed home-cooked meals, consisting of tilapia, buro, tuyo, vegetables, wild duck, lechon, etc. Almost everyone ate with bare hands.

Besides touring the place, we fished and had games. We also celebrated the 7th birthday of Alec, Bro. Julius and Sis. Carmela's kid. WM Mel Taob of Maharlika Lodge provided the cake, while Bro. Raymond and Sis. Nelly took care of the entertainment.

After two days of frolic and fun in the "farm" of the Domingos, we proceeded to Diffun. Our host was VW Clemente Salvador (Manong Jun to everyone), whose birthday fell on Good Friday.

A Ladies Night was organized, to the amusement of the Sisters. With everyone gathered around a bonfire, games intended for couples were played. It was a delight to see the kids tickled pink. In the end, the ladies were surprised with flowers and an invitation to dance. Who said Masons were

not romantic? The host gave the event a touch of science by setting up a telescope for gazing purposes. It had nothing to do with Ladies Night, but it helped keep the kids and the parents amused!

Exploring the Aglipay Caves was a breathtaking experience for everyone. We were all awed by the different natural formations surrounding the place. We even felt a tinge of fear whenever the place fell in total darkness, only to be relieved when light revealed the enormous caverns, deep crevices, and steep climbs. While traversing the caves, one thought of the dangers that might lurk along the way. But that was part of the entire thrill. A few of us fell victim to butt falls; yet no serious injuries ever occurred!

At WM Nick's farm, we brethren had a few rounds of firing and beer, while the kids played basketball, *patintero* and *habulan*.

Finally, we packed our bags, ready to descent to "earth." During the long trip back home, everyone savored in sips the nectar of reminiscences of the last four days of "furlough." Those memories, as well as the happy smiles, could never have come true without the assistance and support of VW Bobet Domingo and his family, WM Mel Taob and the brethren of Diffun Masonic Lodge No. 317, WB David Co and the brethren of Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133, and all those other brethren who took time off to help, entertain, and assist us in all our activities.

2. CAPTURING 1ST SQUARE & COMPASS GOLF CLUB CROWN

Team 305, consisting of WM Nick Salvador and Bro. Boyet Almadin, bested 46 other teams that participated in the Inter-Lodge Golf Tournament held at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club, Quezon City last April 15.

Team 305 brought home the bacon because of Bro. Boyet's immense and accurate driving strength and WM Nick's short game. The winning duo garnered a net score of 68.

The champion team's name is to be inscribed on the trophy, which shall be prominently displayed at the clubhouse. But Team 305 has to register two more wins (not necessarily consecutive) before it could claim the almost-five-foot-high championship trophy.

3. PARTICIPATION IN 83RD ANCOM

Lodge 305, represented by WM Nick Salvador and more than ten other brethren, was at the 83rd Ancom in Gen. Santos City for several reasons. It was there to support the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay in "killing" the fatuous resolution blocking or suspending the additional 70-peso assessment intended for the Supreme Council. The much-needed support came from the formidable troika of VW Santiago Gabionza, VW Van Luspo, and WB Nani Barrios that hogged the discussion leading to the "death" of the said resolution.

Secondly, Lodge 305 was there because its Secretary, viz., this writer, was to be awarded Most Outstanding Secretary for MY 1998-99 during the Grand Master's Night. (For your inputs and advice during my term as Lodge Secretary, I must thank you, VW Francis Lovero, SW Joby Magbanua, and VW Gigi Ancajas!)

Thirdly, Lodge 305 was there to post the revolutionary banners and the Philippine Flag during the Installation Ceremonies. Clad in white gloves and black suits, the brethren of the Lodge performed their role with precision, while VW Van D. Luspo read the "Pagpupugay sa Watawat." This participation is a show of strength, as well as support for the incoming Grand Master, who has been a stalwart of the DeMolay movement.

The ascent of the following distinguished members of Lodge 305 in the fra-

ternity's ladder signified that their tenacity and dedication to the Craft had eventually paid off: VW Francis Lovero, Sr. Grand Steward; VW Van Cornelius Luspo, Grand Sword Bearer; VW Egidio Ancajas, DDGM, District 1; and VW Edgardo Delmo, DDGM, District 7.

For the greenhorns among the brethren of Lodge 305, attending the Ancom was a chance to watch and learn from the more senior members of the Lodge and the Fraternity.

Lodge 305 was impressed not only by the overflowing foods and drinks but also by the well-oiled machinery that ran the logistics of the entire event. It agrees that our brethren in Masonic District No. 48 have succeeded in making the 83rd Ancom as *"one of the most organized events in Grand Lodge history."*

4. HOSTING 1ST NATIONAL QUIZ BEE COMPETITION

Lodge 305 hosted the 1st National Quiz Bee Competition held during the 3rd National Senior DeMolay Congress in Olongapo City last May 1. Eight teams representing active DeMolay Chapters from all over the Philippines vied for the grand prize: 12,500 pesos, a championship trophy, and individual medals.

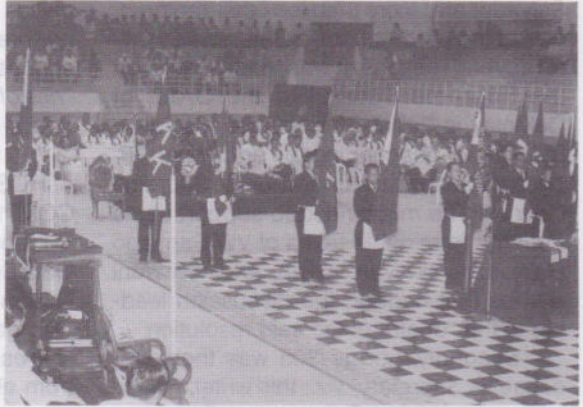
At the start, each team skillfully answered the questions posed by Quismaster Reggie Reyes (JASC) of Podomo Lodge 294. After 30 questions, however, Gen. Douglas MacArthur Chapter, Manila (GDMC) and Pangasinan Chapter, Pangasinan, were tied in first place. Three tie-breaker questions had to be asked. In the end, Pangasinan Chapter won, DGMC having changed its final answer. Nevertheless, it received 7,500 pesos cash, a trophy, and medals. Third placer Dr. Manuel Bernardo Chapter, Tacloban, got the prize of 5,000 pesos cash, a trophy, and medals.

The prizes were awarded during the closing ceremonies, with 11 members of the Lodge present. Ms. Kaiko Rulona, Ms.



Mother's Day Luncheon With MW Franklin J. Demonteverde

Jacques DeMolay Lodge No. 305 brethren present revolutionary banners and the Philippine flag during installation ceremonies at Ancom '99



Pangasinan Chapter champion team with Ms. Rulona and Lodge 305 brethren

DAAP '99, assisted WM Nick Salvador in awarding the championship trophy. SW Joby Magbanua and this writer awarded the 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively.

5. MOTHERS' DAY

One of the cardinal virtues of the Order of DeMolay is filial love – honor and respect for parents, most specially for mother, whose love never fails. Freemasonry also manifests its obligations to mother, wife, sister and daughter. It was but fitting that last

May 9 at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, the brethren of Jacques DeMolay Memorial Lodge No. 305, F. & A.M., hosted a luncheon fellowship in celebration of Mother' Day. Fifteen ladies and twenty children were in attendance, together with members of the Job's Daughter and brethren from various Lodges. It was an afternoon of fun, fellowship and surprises. Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde and Deputy Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi found time to join us in this celebration.

LODGE 82 AWARDS WB ZAMUCO, 98, 50-YEARS PIN, DIPLOMA



WB Zamuco looks young at 98.

Some brethren of High Twelve Lodge No. 82 paid WB Gregorio T. Zamuco a surprise visit at his residence on the occasion of his 98th birthday last May 9.

A retired Dean of the College of Forestry of UP-Los Baños, WB Zamuco was the Master of Lodge 82 in 1938. He became a Life Member by Longevity in 1956.

Led by WM George So, the visitors included Past Masters Ben Padilla, Flor Tejada, Gigi Ancajas, Art Fadriquela, Emil Sia, and Charles Agar. The program they tendered in honor of the birthday celebrator was highlighted by the presentation of a birthday cake by WM So and awarding of the 50-year pin and diploma by Gigi Ancajas, DDGM of M.D. No. 1.

Patently touched, WB Zamuco was teary-eyed when he gave the response.—
VW CGA

VW Ancajas pins 50-years token on WB Zamuco's lapel, while WM So and other PMs. look on



MT. MAINAM LODGE NO. 49 UNDERTAKES PROJECTS

by VW Nestor Tampol

Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 in Naic, Cavite, as may be gleaned from the following activities, is thriving.

1. JOINING FORMER US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER IN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSING

Members of Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 in Naic, Cavite, joined erstwhile US Pres. Jimmy Carter in Habitat for Humanity – Jimmy Carter Work Program 1999 (JCWP99), which involved the construction of 250 low-cost homes for the homeless among the country's poor at Maragondon, Cavite. The program took place on March 21-27, 1999.

Led by WM Leodinilo del Rosario, Mt. Mainam brethren went to the construction site in working clothes, denim pants, long-sleeved shirts, and Lodge caps. They were not bothered by the terrible heat. They were among the 4,000 volunteers, including foreigners, from 32 countries who helped build houses for poor families.

Besides WM del Rosario, the following brethren worked at the project site: SW Danilo Novelo, JW Delfin Narvaez, SD Joel Antonio, SS Romulo Perey, Marshal Severino Angeles, WB Pepito Pinpin, WB Gil Melegrito, VW Alfonso Dualan, VW Raffy Vasquez, WB Merito Javier, Bro. Orlando de Guzman, Bro. Benjamin Atangan, Bro. Cesar Catubo, and WB Pepito Reyes. Several members of the Order of the Amaranth were there, too.

Habitat for Humanity, a non-stock, non-profit Christian foundation that aims to alleviate the housing problem of the world through volunteer work, was founded by a Brother Mason from Georgia, Bro. Millard Fuller, and his wife Linda.

2. SHOOTFEST, SEMINAR ON PROPER GUN HANDLING & GUN SAFETY

Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 sponsored a shootfest and conducted a seminar on proper gun handling and gun safety at the Foren Shooting Range in Naic, Cavite.

The activity started with a program emceed by SD Joel D. Antonio. Marshal Severino Angeles led the opening prayer, followed by the seminar proper. VW Ben Tan, PDGL of M.D. 3, lectured on proper gun handling and gun safety.

After a sumptuous lunch prepared by WM Del Rosario, the competition began, with VW Serafin ER Manarin, DDGM of M.D. 2, firing the ceremonial shot. In the end, Bro. Dante Managat bested 15 other participants.

The shootfest was followed by the "Raffle for a Cause"—a fund-raising activity, the proceeds of which would be used for improving the lodge fence and lodge sound system, as well as for defraying the expenses to be incurred in the free medical/dental mission. VW Manarin delivered a short but meaningful message, and WM Del Rosario closed the program.

The day ended with a fellowship social at the Isabella Beach Resort. The brethren who took their turns at the videoke included SW Danilo Novelo and JW Delfin Narvaez.



Members of Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 (F&AM) at work at the Jimmy Carter Work Program 1999 project site, Maragondon, Cavite. In photo are WM Lody del Rosario, WB Pepito Pinpin, Bro. Serevino Angeles and Joanne, a volunteer from the USA.

ERAP SARI-SARI STORE INAUGURATED

ERAP SARI-SARI STORE was inaugurated and blessed on Saturday May 8, 1999, at Ilog-Baliwag, Quezon, Nueva Ecija.



At the center is Cong. Josie Manuel-Joson; to her left, Usec Fil O. Joson, Jr. In blue barong is PGM Danny Angeles. To Cong. Manuel-Joson's right is NFA Provincial Director Crisostomo and VW Deogracias E. Rivera (in white shirt), DDGM.

Among those who attended the inauguration were Hon. Josie Manuel-Joson, 1st District Congresswoman; MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM; NFA Regional Director Nicasio M. Crisostomo, NFA-RO3 Provincial Manager Yolanda C. Nieves, Undersecretary Fil O. Joson, Jr., and other brethren of Nueva Ecija Lodge No.73.

The ERAP "PARA SA MAHIRAP" SARI-SARI STORE is only one of the projects of Nueva Ecija Lodge No.73 and Usec Fil O. Joson, Jr. towards attaining the vision to provide assistance to the people and bring the many programs of government closer to them.

The ERAP Sari-Sari Store will provide staple commodities at prices lower than those in the market.

The prime commodities are NFA rice, coffee, milk, noodles, cooking oil, sardines, and so forth.

MAKAHAMBUS SPONSORS FREE CIRCUMCISION ~ By WB A.D. Trani



Some Makahambus Lodge brethren pose while the first group of the children undergo circumcision. Standing from left to right are Bro. Erwin B. Culanang, Bro. Emmanuel M. Nagasan, Bro. Dennis L. Roa, WM Richard T. Go, WB Aristoteles D. Trani, VW Macduffie A. Tan (DDGM), WB Bronson R. Ching, SW Ildedefonso L. Chaves. The following attended the project but are not in picture: JW Antonio D. Uy, WM Benito A. T. Barcelona, VW Robert S. Dy (DGL), VW James C. Go, Bro. Fritz Y. Ang, and Bro. Carlos C. Kho

Makahambus Lodge No. 315 launched Free Operation "Tuli" as an outreach project this Masonic year at Barangay Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City last May 11.

Led by Dr. Leo Generalao, Chief of J.R. Borja Memorial City Hospital, the surgical team consisting of 4 doctors, 6 nurses, attendants and other medical personnel of said hospital performed the operations at the Carmen barangay hall starting at 8 a.m..

A total of 210 children were circumcised. The Lodge spent about 30,000 pesos for medicines and for the food and snacks of the medical team and the attending brethren. The children were also provided with free medication for three days consisting of anti-biotics and analgesics.

Carmen Bargayan Chairman Rolando Uy expressed his profound thanks to WM Richard T. Go and the brethren of the Lodge.

ERAP SARI-SARI STORE INAUGURATED

Among those who attended the in-

ERAP SARI-SARI STORE was inaugurated



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WE WILL REMAIN SOLID FOREVER

by VW Serafin E.R. Manarin

(Delivered during the formal turn-over ceremonies held at Magdiwang Lodge No. 238 last May 16)

EXACTLY A YEAR AGO, we held the first-ever formal turn-over ceremonies at Tagaytay Lodge No. 165.... The occasion was graced by the presence of the newly-installed Grand Master, MW Enrique L. Locsin, who was our guest speaker; MW Rosendo Herrera, PGM, who delivered the inspirational talk; MW Raymundo Beltran, PGM, another pillar of our district; other pillars of our district; and RW Napoleon Soriano, then Junior Grand Warden. Aside from the other guests, there were about 250 Masons of our district in attendance. That, to me, was a manifestation of solidarity among Masons of this district and at the same time an affirmation of support to, as well as acceptability of, the new district leadership.

The objectives of the formal turn-over ceremonies were as follows:

1. To institutionalize the practice as well as to dignify the position of the DDGM and those of other officers at the district level;
2. To strengthen the link between the Grand Lodge and the subordinate Lodges through the district leadership;
3. To impress upon the new district leadership that it should seriously accept the grave responsibility of taking care of the district; and
4. To bring the district leadership closer to the officers and members of subordinate Lodges and familiarize themselves with the plans and programs for the ensuing Masonic year.

I believe this formal turn-over of responsibilities, as envisioned, has effectively dignified and elevated the position of the DDGM and those of the other district officers, who must not command respect, but rather, earn the love, cooperation and support of the brethren. I further believe that

we have been serious in our commitments. Indeed, we have tried to live up to the highest expectation of the brethren in the district.

Today's occasion is again graced by the presence of the newly-installed Grand Master, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde; MW Rudyardo Bunda, PGM; MW Raymundo Beltran, PGM; and other great pillars of Philippine Masonry, including those of our district. Their presence surely lends credence to the institutionalization of the ceremony...

I am exceedingly happy to note that our gathering today is spiced by the presence of members of the appendant bodies, namely, the Order of the Amaranth, the Order of the Eastern Star, The Mothers Club, the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, the Order of Job's Daughters, and the Order of DeMolay. They are here to affirm their unqualified and unflinching support to our newly-installed DDGM, VW Rene Racimo, and the other district officers.

As I stated on several occasions, this great Masonic District has many achievements because of the enthusiastic, selfless, collective efforts of the brethren. We Cavite Masons want to prove to one and all, particularly the Grand Lodge leadership, that there exists no valid reason from Masonic District No. 2 to be divided. The message is loud and clear: we will never allow the fragmentation and division of this district; we will remain solid forever.

May I, at this juncture, submit to you, my brethren of Masonic District No. 2, this Plaque of Recognition, which I received for and on behalf of the Cavite Masons at the Ancom in Gen. Santos City...

This plaque is yours, my brethren. You earned this through your sacrifices and the collective efforts you showed in the past Masonic year. I salute you. This plaque is a well-deserved recognition of your worth as Masons.

I also received this Plaque of Recognition as Outstanding DDGM for Masonic Year 1998-99, and this afternoon you gave me this Plaque of Recognition. Thank you so much, brethren. I am indeed overwhelmed by this gesture of appreciation for the little service I rendered to the district during my incumbency. This is an embodiment of your brotherly love. This is a priceless treasure; I consider it a cherished possession.

Allow me, at this point, to call on my partner, your Sister Linda, and other members of my family, so that they may be able to share with me the honor you have accorded my humble being. Like other men, I draw inspiration and strength from my partner and children.

I am eternally grateful to you, my dear brethren, because you made my task as DDGM easier and simpler by demonstrating your brotherly love, deep understanding, and cooperation.

... Let us forget the shortcomings of the past Masonic year and remember only the good things that came our way. Let us give primacy to the tenets and principles of Free-

masonry, which has weathered the test of time. Let us pool our hearts and minds, so that we will the better be enabled to acquit ourselves with the highest honors here and lay up a crown of rejoicing which shall continue when time shall be no more.

VW Rene Racimo, my worthy successor, you are now occupying the most coveted position and the hottest seat in the district. Allow me to make public my wholehearted support to your administration. Just like my predecessors, I will still be around, a silent spectator in the governance of the district. I will whisper good counsel if and when the need arises. But I will never try to govern the district from the floor.

Finally, my brethren, I am proud to have served as your DDGM. I grew up under the aegis of Masonry's wings. I have walked along with its great leaders. I have given my level best to Masonry, not because I wish to be remembered, but because Masonry has to be revered, for Masonry is a way of life.

At sa inyo, mga Kapatid, sakaling kayo ay lalayo na sa akin, ngayong hindi na ako



VW Serafin E. R. Manarin



VW Serafin "Totoy" Manarin is congratulated by MW Enrique L. Locsin for being one of the outstanding DDGMs for MY 1998-99, as well as for leading MD No. 2 to the award of being one of the outstanding districts in our grand jurisdiction.

("We Will Remain Solid Forever" ...)

ang inyong DDGM, tandaan ninyo na isang hakbang ninyong palayo, isang hakbang konomang palapit. Kaya, hindi rin tayo magkakalayo.

Mabuhay ang hahaliling pampurok na pamunuan! Mabuhay ang Masoneriya! Mabuhay tayong lahat!



VW Manarin hands over Dist. 2 standard to MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, who will turn over the standard to VW Rene Racimo. (Photo by Bro. Adolf Perez, official photo-journalist for MD No. 2)

CVL 133 LAUNCHES COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS

In the heart of Cagayan Valley lies Santiago City which produces a variety of farm crops, fruit crops, industrial crops, livestock and others. It is the commercial center of Southern Isabela where people from Quirino Province and some towns of Ifugao and Kalinga go to sell their produce and also to purchase groceries and other products, and where a great demand for processed foods imported from outside the City has been noted.

The Worshipful Master of Cagayan Valley Lodge. No. 133, realizing that processed foods imported from other places can be produced locally if technology is available, and in the pursuit of the Lodge's mission to uplift human dignity, decided to conduct a community-based project to help the poor and the underserved.

And so, as a follow-up to its livelihood projects some two years ago, CVL133, in

coordination with the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No.2, which has the technology and is willing to share the same to the poor people of Santiago City, launched the project known as "Establishment of a Livelihood Training Center at the Santiago Masonic Center" to be managed by the Lodge's designated Center Manager under the supervision of DOST R2.

Hon. RUSTICO B. SANTOS, Regional Director, DOST R2, attended the Lodge's stated meeting on April 12, 1999 and with Worshipful Master WILFREDO V. DE JÉSUS of CVL 133 signed the Memorandum of Agreement in the presence of the brethren of the Lodge. On the same occasion, Director Santos also presented to WM De Jesus the amount of 100,000 pesos for the purchase of equipment, maintenance and operating expenses of the Center.

- M. NUEVO, PDDGM

MASONS SHOW CONCERN FOR QUADRAPHLEGIC GIRL

In his recent trip to the Philippines, WB Bing I. Dionida, PM, Muog Lodge No.89, GL of the Philippines, who is affiliated with Crocker Lodge No. 212, GL of the State of California, met Drs. Ralph Asuncion and Gualberto Basco, then WM and JW of Union Lodge No.80 in San Fernando City. He informed them of the plight of Jelyn Nimuan Banan of Aringay, La Union, a quadraphlegic 8-year old girl. She is an orphan, and her mother does laundry work for neighbors.

Not only the two officers, but the whole Lodge, agreed to help the orphan. Dr. Basco visited her in her home; then he secured her admission in the pediatric-orthopedic ward at Region I Hospital in San Fernando City.

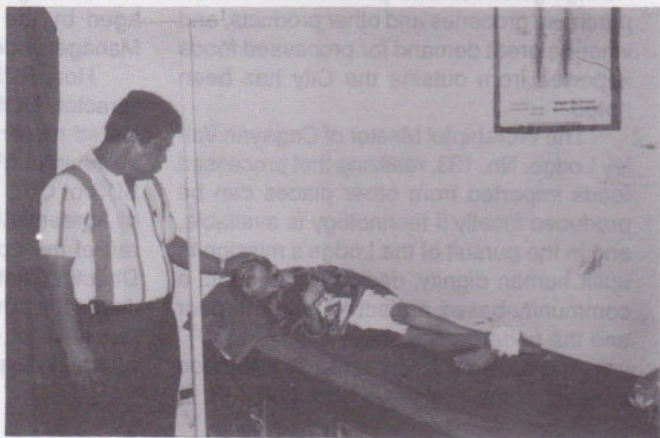
He and Dr. Asuncion obtained from civic organizations, such as the Lions Club, cash donations to be used for buying nutrition and medicines. They are treating Jelyn for free.

Dr. Basco already did 3 surgeries on the girl—one on her left hip and the two others on both feet. By dint of these surgeries, her deformities had been corrected. Jelyn, in cast, is now recuperating at home. Both physician brethren will do the other surgeries at some future time. Reported WB Dionida:

"When the people of Aringay heard of the magnificent work of Drs. Basco and Asuncion, they expressed high praises for the Masons. It is to the credit of the Masonic Fraternity to have men and Masons like Drs. Basco and Asuncion who have the dedication to aid crippled and needy children."



Top: Dr. Basco examines Jelyn at Region I Hospital. **Below:** Dr. Asuncion, WM, Union Lodge No. 80, shows Jelyn that he cares.



THE BLAZING STAR IS BORN

Juan S. Alano Lodge No. 137, F. & A.M., in Isabela, Basilan Province, under the stewardship of WM Ralph S. Estrada, has come out with the maiden issue of its newsletter, *The Blazing Star*.

The editor-in-chief is WB Danilo M. Bucoy, PM, who took his oath of office as judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch III, Basilan Province, last February 8. The other members of the editorial staff are VW Rogelio L. Igot, DGL, executive editor; WB Michael Manapol, GLI managing editor; Bros. Cesar A. Casili & Inocente F. Gonzales, circulation directors; and Bro. Leoncio B. Solamillo, photo/layout editor.

The editorial reads in part thus: "Foremost among the concerns of the *The Blazing Star* is the dissemination of masonic information especially to the uninitiated non-masons so as to erase the lingering doubts and misconceptions about masonry and, eventually, impart upon them the true meaning and beauty of masonry...."

The Blazing Star purports to be "an instrument of peace and reconciliation."

The editorial staff of *The Cabletow* hopes to receive copies of forthcoming issues of the *The Blazing Star*

**COPIES OF
MASONIC DIRECTORY
STILL AVAILABLE**

Designed to facilitate communication among the brethren in this grand jurisdiction, Masonic Directory, 1999 edition, has a beautiful cover and 82 pages containing the pictures, addresses and telefax numbers of Grand Lodge Officers, including Junior Grand Lecturers, DDGMs, and DGLs, and a list of subordinate Lodges showing the officers thereof.

The Masonic Directory, according to the May 1999 issue of The Living Stone, official publication of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27, is the product of two weeks of hard work by a committee composed of VW John Llamas, WB Boy Vaño, VW Melvyn Jurisprudencia, and Bro. James Olayvar. It was printed by the Public Affairs Service AFP Printing Facility under Major Romy Gan, a petitioner of Kagitingan Lodge No. 286.

Copies of the Masonic Directory are still available at the Masonic Supply Center in the Grand Lodge. A copy costs 150 pesos.

SUNSHINE IN THE RAIN - By VWB Jaime L. Nabua

We - WM Joseph Hufano, WB Jose Benin, VW Mariano Garantoza, and myself - visited the mother of VW Andresito M. Capati, Mrs. Elisa Capati, who was confined at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Cabanatuan City after a mild stroke - the intermittent rains notwithstanding- last April 28.

Although we were unable to talk to Mrs. Capati, who was then inside the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), we were informed by her grand-daughter that her grandma was doing fine.

"In behalf of Dad and Tito Det (Andresito)", she said, "we must thank you, the Masons, for showing care and concern."

It was raining heavily at Quezon City when we reached the Heart Center of the

Philippines (NCP). Sis. Lydia and Cecille, wives of WB Jose and Bro. Benjie Benin, respectively, were happy to see us.

Although still in pain and under anesthesia, Bro. Benjie recognized us and waved his hand at us.

We spent some time conversing with Sis. Lydia and Sis. Cecille outside the recovery room, as the nurses did not allow a long visit inside.

Before leaving, we assured our two Sisters that we'd pray for Bro. Benjie's early and complete recovery.

WB Jose Benin stayed behind, while the three of us drove back to Dagupan City. The trip was rather long, but we were happy and light-hearted, considering that we brought Sunshine in spite of the rains.

RENOVATION OF A MASONIC CENTER, A GARGATUAN PROJECT

By VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PJGL

In the 1950s, brethren of Camarines Lodge No. 107 wanted to do away with the trouble of renting a house in which to meet every 2nd Saturday of the month. Hence, financial difficulties notwithstanding, they pooled their resources and donated a lot on which to build a Masonic Temple. Then they gradually built the Masonic Temple.

Most of those brethren had gone to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." But the Masonic Temple built by them withstood the test of time and the wrath of supertyphoons that beat against it almost every year..

Over the years it has been transformed into what is now known as the Camarines Norte Masonic Center, complete with the amenities of a Masons' home, including a fully airconditioned lodge hall with beautifully tailored curtains and ground floor so refurbished as to accommodate social functions.

The Masonic Temple was considered a landmark overlooking the neighboring residential houses—an edifice more beautiful than any of its kind in the Bicol Region.

When VW Alberto Escultura, PJGL, then police director in the province, attended a stated meeting of our Lodge, he moved that we rename the Masonic Temple Camarines Norte Masonic Center to allay the fear or suspicion of the Catholic hierarchy that it was a place of worship.

His motion was duly seconded and approved.

Recently, the incumbent Worshipful Master Master of Daet Lodge No. 247, VW Ernesto C. Tabanao, PDDGM, proposed the conversion of the existing build-

ing, the meeting place of Masons in the province for almost half a century, into a new structure costing approximately 407,000 pesos, which is a whooping amount that could raise one's eyebrows, considering that an economic upheaval is affecting our less fortunate brethren. The proposal is, of course, subject to the approval of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, owner of the building.

(By the way, due to the dearth of Master Masons qualified to occupy the Oriental Chair, the Past Masters Club, which serves as advisory body to Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107, Daet Lodge No. 247, and the Daet Lodge of Perfection, A. & A.S.R., endorsed the "recycling" of VW Tabanao as Worshipful Master.)

Subsequently, the Camarines Norte Masonic Foundation, the President and Chief Executive of which is WB Mauro O. Mangubat, Master of Norte No. 107, revealed its plan to renovate the existing Masonic Center to a modern, multi-million-peso structure that would include a commercial complex fronting it, a roof garden at the back to accommodate all social functions that would generate income, and permanent rooms for the Nonformal Education Outreach Program of the Bicol Bodies, A. & A.S.R., which would offer short livelihood courses to out-of-school youths.

The foregoing plans, however, are still under consideration of the Board of Trustees.

The renovation project, as planned, is certainly gargantuan. But the funding thereof will not burden the brethren .

The project is being awaited by multi-million-peso donations from Foundations here and abroad.

BALLOTING OF PETITIONERS

By: Bro. Gene Calonge, Nilad Lodge #12

(Excerpt of talk on Decorum, Protocol and Balloting of Petitioners before members of Walana Lodge #13, March 27, 1999)

Balloting is our first line of defence. It determines whether or not we should allow a non-Mason to join our ranks.

It has been a practice since time immemorial that we as Masons unanimously and without dissent accept candidates worthy of our favor. It would therefore be a good practice to remind ourselves of certain values in balloting that have been with us but occasionally, we tend to overlook or even take for granted:

1. It might be a good idea to look into a potential candidate as a future Master, or in exceptional cases, as a future Grand Master. Does he embody the ideals of the Fraternity? Does he have the bearing (not only physically) to be a brother worthy of introduction to the community and the world as such?

2. We have to be strict but not unreasonable. Personal feelings should not be the primary factor in balloting of candidates. The yardstick should be the fraternity, not oneself. For example, a fellow businessman or a rival for a woman's heart should not get in the way of allowing a potential member to join a lodge.

3. Strictness is, of course, relative. But tests could be made with questions like these: Will I be proud to sit with him in lodge? If the world would know that we are brothers, should I reinforce that belief or would I have the tendency to deny it? Based on his conduct, or what I know of him, would I be willing to be closely identified with him?

4. Balloting is responsibility, so we have to take it seriously. In many cases, one's motivation in casting the ballot must be closely examined. Should it be white, or should it be black? If a knocker's attitude is no good, by all means, it is the duty of each and every member to deny him entry. But if one does not have full information or has not heard anything negative about him from other Masons, is it worth denying membership? A sense of justice, fair play and measure of good conscience should prevail.

5. The secrecy of the ballot is important. No

brother may disclose the proceedings during balloting to non-members nor indicate how he himself balloted. And no Mason has the right to inquire how another brother voted for a particular candidate.

6. Vouchers for petitioners should really know their candidates and must be present during the balloting and even beyond (e.g., during the degree work for those elected).

7. In the investigation of petitioners, it is the duty of each and every Mason to assist the Master or the officers by giving information that they know, whether positive or negative, about the petitioner. A negative information would certainly have a bearing on the petitioner's entry. A positive information would certainly enable us to know him better and be closer to him.

8. If a brother is not a member of the Investigation Committee, and did not, on his own, make his inquiries regarding the prospective candidate, and eventually, the candidate was favorably endorsed by the Investigation Committee, the brother should examine his conscience many times before seeking to deny the petitioner membership in the lodge. Let us remember that in this case, the petitioner has been endorsed for membership by many Masons already: his two signers and the investigation committee itself.

9. Finally, it might be a good idea to determine beforehand whether or not a candidate could perform the very basic duties of a Mason:

a. Give time to Masonry. I personally know of a brother who is blind but is highly dedicated in Masonry. His blindness is not an obstacle. How many brothers have we seen who are in perfect health and have perfect excuses?

b. Attend lodge.

c. Visit sick Masons.

d. Assist officers by helping out in committee work.

e. Study Masonry and be good in life.

10. Brethren: Let us accept worthy men in our ranks. At the same time it should be our duty to keep out of our Institutions those who are not, at the outset, good men. Only in this manner could we assure the future of our gentle Craft in the ages to come.

DOING IT BY THE HEART: A CHALLENGE TO WOULD-BE MASTERS

by WB Armando B. Navarroza, IPM, Naga City Lodge No. 257

Have you ever traveled? Whence and whither? Of what are you in search? Have you those secrets? Monitorial questions, the answers to which go beyond the monitor, but easily found, for they lie deeply, supposedly, in every Mason's heart. Only, they need to be discovered.

"Daddy, who is that person speaking?" my 12-year-old son asked me during the public installation of Grand Lodge Officers in Tacloban City. Then he commented, "He is very good!"

I answered, "He is MW Reynato S. Puno, one of the Past Grand Masters of our Fraternity, Associate Justice Of the Supreme Court, and one of the most admired brethren in our Craft.

That was two years ago, when I was still in my station in the West. But my son's admiration of MW Puno as Installing Officer was so deeply implanted in my mind that it became a great, consuming challenge to me to prove to my son that someday I could also perform creditably as Installing Officer.

Our Master-elect agreed that I would be his Installing Officer. Yet a PDDGM jokingly charged, "You are violator of human rights for suppressing the right of our Master-elect to choose his Installing Officers." Then the incumbent DGM raised the issue of legality. "The Installation Manual stipulates that the least who can install an Incoming Master is an Immediate Past Master," he said. "But you cannot be considered an Immediate Past Master because your successor to the Master's Chair is not yet installed."

I begged the two Very Worshipful Brothers to subdue their reflections first, await a time with patience, and let me prove myself worthy and well qualified. They acceded to my request. So, I installed my successor to the Oriental Chair on the 6th day of March 1999.

The euphoria which pervaded the 18th public installation of officers of our Lodge was, modesty aside, overwhelming. I felt an inner flow of achievement especially when I presented the gavel to my successor and put the Master's hat upon his head.

I have to admit, at this juncture, that "imported" Installing Officers make the ceremony solemn and impressive. But I insist that outgoing Masters can equally do the same – if they have the resolve to do so. After all, we are all gifted with mental faculties and instructive tongues for the purpose. Besides, everyone knows the axiom "Time, patience, and perseverance will accomplish all things.

"With patience and perseverance an Immediate Past Grand Master can in due time install his successor. But he must love doing it and he must do it by the heart".

Our Installed Master accepted this challenge in public, with the hope that this would become a continuing practice, an endearing tradition, in our Lodge.

Let me add that I felt deeply honored when the Past Master's Apron was bestowed upon me, before the eyes of the brethren and the public present.

I felt that my Mastership was indeed fulfilled. I also felt more attachment to my Lodge, and I resolved not to rest with that great honor nor to hibernate on the duties incumbent upon me as Past Master. At that moment I recalled these lines by Robert Frost: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep...."

We Freemasons, particularly Past Masters, should ever bear in mind that our travel towards the East, our journey and struggle towards the Light, is a continuing endeavor, which should cease only when from our nerveless grasp drop forever the working tools of life.

Laoag Lodge Brethren Attend 11th Foundation Anniversary of 69th IB

Brethren of Laoag Lodge No.71 attended the 11th foundation anniversary of the 69th IB stationed in Camp Aquino, Tarlac City, under the command of Bro./Maj. Remigio de Vera.

They also received donations of used clothes from Bro. Kevin E. Bonner

of King Citadel Military Lodge No. 163 and Bro. Noriel S. Javier of Okinawa Lodge No. 118, both representing the United States Air Force. The donated clothes were distributed to indigents during the Lodge's recent medical-dental mission.



Absalon Salboro, WB
Joey Soriano, Willy Sy,
Saldy Santiago, VW
Ernie Cua, and Dave
Pascual pose with VW/
Gen. Gregorio Camiling,
Jr., guest of honor and
speaker, and Bro./Col.
Lito Balaoing, both of
the 7th ID, PA Command.

WB Joey Soriano, VW
Nap Domingo, Bro.
Saldy Santiago, and Bro.
Dave Pascual pose with
Bros. Bonner and Javier,
together with members
of the Philippine Air
Force.



WAS GENERAL MIGUEL MALVAR A MASON?

Our consultant, MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, our reelected Grand Secretary, showed us a copy of *Miguel Malvar and the Philippine Revolution: A Biography*, by Doroteo Abaya and Bernard Karganilla, published by Miguel Malvar Productions, Inc., 1998. The book was edited by Edberto Malvar Villegas, who wrote an introduction to it.

In Chapter III, "From Reform to Revolution: The Role of Malvar," we learn, among other things, that the Secularization Movement was the first wave of activism that eventually led to the birth of our nation. In this engagement, native priests crusaded that control of parishes be passed on to them from the Spanish monks. This crusade led to anti-friar and anti-peninsular movements, which culminated in the Cavite Munity of 1872. This uprising was considered the "first articulate expression of the feeling that Spanish rule was no longer to be borne."

One of the suspected participants in the 1872 Munity was Manuel Genato, a native of Batangas.

The friars implicated Filipino secular priests, preeminent of whom were Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos, and Jacinto Zamora, who were executed on Bagumbayan Field (now the Luneta or Rizal Park) on February 17, 1872.

This event widened the gap between the secular and regular clergy, between natives and Spaniards.

Madrid, as a result, tightened military control; it sent to Manila a Spanish artillery battalion which would later figure in the August 1896 conflagration.

At this time, according to the authors, Malvar was only seven years old. Twenty years later, Miguel and his father would reckon with the hometown friar who pointed to them as "ringleaders" of the local anti-clerical circle.

The next section of the chapter deals with...

The Masons

Side-by-side and subsequent to the Secularization Movement, the Romanticists and the progeny of the Enlightenment advanced the liberal agenda. Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora who simply opposed the Recollects for seizing their parishes were superseded by more progressive and combative currents like Freemasonry. Blacklisted by the Catholic hierarchy, the lodges of the secret society of Masons were the preeminent centers of discussion of Reform. Later, the clubhouses of the brotherhood were credited as breeding grounds of separatists. As a note-taker on the Revolution annotated: "*It is fully proved that freemasonry has been the principal factor for the development of these islands, not only of advanced anti-religious ideas, but chiefly for the foundation of secret societies possessing a character especially separatist...*"

Indeed, the diffusion of the Brotherhood throughout the Archipelago paralleled the dissemination of the independence imperative. In 1875, just three years after the Cavite Mutiny, Masonry was reestablished by the Iberians in the Peninsula who restricted membership to their class and race. It would take a decade before the mother federation, the Gran Oriente de España, would permit Philippine mestizos to sign up. In April 1886, the original Masonic lodge called *Solidaridad* under the Gran Oriente de España was founded in Madrid where a couple of Hispano-Filipinos (*insulares*) were allowed to affix their signatures. A year later, Graciano Lopez-Jaena affiliated with this lodge, but in May 1887 it ceased to function. Two years passed when the first predominantly Filipino Masonic lodge, *Revolucion*, was organized in Barcelona with Lopez-Jaena as Worshipful Master and Marcelo H. del Pilar, Jose Ma. Panganiban and Mariano Ponce as co-founders. That year, 1889, was doubly significant as the same pioneers reorganized the Spanish-Philippine Association and activated the reformist periodical *La Solidaridad* in Spain.

Other Filipino mestizos soon joined the lodge, notably Santiago Icasiano and Teodoro Sandico of Bulacan and Galicano Apacible of Batangas. At the end of that year, Barcelona's *Revolucion* was rivalled by the revived *Solidaridad* in Madrid, with Del Pilar, Julio Llorente, Damaso Ponce, Dominador Gomez and Sandico as officers. By May 1890, when the lodge *Solidaridad* received its charter from the Gran Oriente Español, Antonio Luna, Jose Alejandrino, and other Filipino students were members. The following year, Apacible moved in from *Revolucion* and linked up with new recruits like his comprovinciano Gregorio Aguilera and the famed Laguneño Jose Rizal. With its namesake newspaper, this lodge campaigned for Filipino representation in the Cortes and against clerico-tyranny in the islands.

On January 6, 1892, Pedro Serrano Laktaw, Moises Salvador, Timoteo Paez and Jose Ramos set up the first Masonic lodge, *Nilad*, in the Philippines. From this mother chapter, other lodges soon fanned out from Manila to the provinces. Their mission in general was to combat the frailocracy and the specific tasks included support for *La Solidaridad*, *La Asociacion Hispano-Filipina*, and the Propaganda Movement in Spain. The semi-underground fraternity widened the Filipinos' fighting space as its chapters penetrated the Cassock Curtain. Apolinario Mabini and Andres Bonifacio, among others, set up 180 lodges throughout Luzon and even the Visayas.

Many Filipino liberals and reformists were cultivated in their politicalization by membership in Freemasonry. Expatriate and homebound alike were infused with the French Revolution ideals of *Liberty*, *Equality* and *Fraternity*. Just as important as the acquired philosophy were the tactics of organizing and the rites of initiation. As a Spaniard complained in his letter to the direction of the newspaper *El Correo*: "*The most efficient, formal and powerful means of this anti-patriotic propaganda are the innumerable masonic lodges which are mysteriously operating in the provinces mentioned above without the authorities having*

the power to prevent it, because they lacked the necessary means of surveillance." Another foreigner raised a similar grievance: "*The character of the native, so propitious to all the mysterious and symbolic, easily accustomed itself to the ridiculous practices of freemasonry: the initiations, the proofs, the oaths, attributes, signs and passwords, and the pseudonyms, all and everything surrounded by shade and mystery, appeal to the native and serve him as an educative ladder, which prepared his mind for his entry into other associations of graver transcendencies.*" This meant that the Brotherhood "made the road toward it (independence) an easier one to follow" although the Katipuneros were not all Masons. It also showed that Bonifacio would be vindicated in managing the Katipunan as an underground group.

What about Malvar's recruitment into Freemasonry? We do not have available records to bear this out. Yet it has been established that his contemporaries among the reformist Batangueños were Masons, especially his right-hand man, Leon Apacible, and his adviser, Galicano Apacible, not to mention Mabini himself. Some of Malvar's descendants believe that the general was indeed a Mason, a possible attribute that put him on the path to Revolution. Take for example his fellow general Antonio Luna, who was not a Katipunero but was a Mason. Luna's biographer contended that the Ilocano propagandista believed his "*project of Masonry... could at the propitious time be utilized in a conspiracy of filibusters.*" Approved by the Spanish Orient, its members "*did not know the secondary goal to which it was to be applied.*" Definitely anti-Spanish then, Luna "*desired to have the revolution begin when he came back from Spain.*"

Even before the Revolution, Mabini and Galicano Apacible were already acquainted. In fact, Apacible had deposed before the *Logia Batangas* that he and Mabini first met in 1893, a year after the KKK's founding, in the latter's Nagtahan home during a meeting of the Masonic lodge called *Balagtas*. (pp.44-43.)

THOUGHTS TO SHARE WITH A YOUNG DEMOLAY

By III. David Goodnow, 33□

Note: *In June 1998, Brother Goodnow became the newest inductee into the DeMolay Hall of Fame. The following is an excerpt of remarks he offered following his induction.*

None of us has any idea of how or to what extent our lives have impacted upon others, others we don't even know.

If you think who you are and how you conduct yourself aren't being observed closely by others, think again. Give yourself some credit. You might be more of a trendsetter than you know. Some people may hold you in high esteem and you not even know it. Impressionable young people may seek to duplicate you.

It's like the pebble tossed in the pond. The waves it makes may be small, but they spread out to affect many parts of that pond. From where we stand on the shore, we may not see here all the affects of the waves that are felt in the pond. But they are there.

What if you knew someone you would meet on a certain day would be strongly influenced by you? How would your day be changed? Would you have to be "on your guard" so as to make a difference in that other life?

What if you could rewind any day in your life that you were not on your guard? You could evaluate what you said and did. What if part of that replay would include those who observed you? This was something you didn't know at the time. You could see how they were affected by what they saw you say and do. It's too bad we don't have that kind of imaginary replay machine. It could be our personal monitor to show and tell us when we drop the ball

It doesn't take a PhD to know how to make your life an example for good.

When we become DeMolays, we learn about certain rules that we're supposed to observe to govern our lives. If we really

learn to live by those rules, we will have made the giant step that ultimately means achievement.

When you have a chance to help someone, don't pass it up. Pass it on. You undoubtedly thanked the one who helped you when you asked for it. But it didn't end there. There is an obligation. You can carry on with that kindness and it may not even take much time. Passing it on may become a very agreeable habit.

The job of living means many things. One is that we leave footprints of a sort. When we pass from this life to the next, others come along who will take up the baton and run the relay, doing their part, leaving their footprints.

How would history have been changed if special kindness had been extended by certain people at certain times? There have been many instances where lives could have been changed for the better by positive actions of a person or even a group of people.

Let's speculate for a moment on how the lives of some of history's most awful dictators might have been changed when they were children. Was there an event or series of things that happened to warp the child that might have been overcome by the positive actions of another? Could that positive action have been simply the upstanding, honest character of another person? How might this have affected a young Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, or Saddam Hussein?

Millions of lives might have been saved if the massacres they caused had not happened. Take a moment to ponder how things might have been changed years ago by the actions and upstanding character of a person who could influence a young mind in a positive way. Is there a young person out there right now who could become one of the world's next dictators unless someone steps in to lead by example?

DeMolays can be a force for good in their lives. The precepts are not complicated. The rules are simple. It doesn't take a PhD to know how to make your life an example for good. You are already out front in many ways by your decision to become a member of the Order of DeMolay.

There are those who don't know what DeMolay stands for. The only thing they may ever know about DeMolay, and you, is what they see you doing and saying in your life. Telling people how to live is one thing. Demonstrating it by your actions is another thing altogether.

Make sure the waves you make in the lives of others are the right kind.

These same young men may not know exactly what it is about you as a DeMolay that is different but they can sense something different. They may not be able to explain what it is about your actions and attitudes, but they know you have something that may be better than what they have in their lives. For them, you put a face on the organization. You breathe life into it.

If they see and hear someone they know to be a member of this fraternity acting and speaking in a dishonorable way, they may never ask you about DeMolay. They may think it's nothing by some kind of club and continue looking for strong leadership and example from another person.

We all know there are some very bad people out there looking for disciples. They want to find someone with a loss of purpose, someone easily influenced. How many of those lost souls would have been changed if they could have seen and followed the example of a persuasive DeMolay?

We in the news business have the sad duty to report what seems to be an unraveling of our society. The sad and sometimes cruel stories seem to come without end. Some of them are gruesome beyond belief. It seems we have almost become accustomed to events that continue to tell of the dehumanizing of us all. Life

seems cheap. There are some of us who remember when this kind of widespread angry social behavior was not even dreamed of. We would have thought it was only wild fiction.

Our society has gotten more sinister in the last several decades. Reporters have seen it change with great speed. People explode in anger at one another over what may be just simple things: road rage, school rage, and just plain rage. We've all heard about people "going postal." When that joke began to make its rounds on the evening talk and variety shows, the audiences would laugh. If and when we laugh at that these days, we laugh nervously because it could happen anywhere. It's not really funny anymore.

You are leaving footprints as you pass through your life. Others may see and follow them. You may not know it, but you may be the example in a critical moment in the life of another. You could actually be setting the course for the rest of the life of another human being. You may be that pebble in the pond. Make sure the waves you make in the lives of others are the right kind.

More Info about the Author

In the August 1998 edition of *The Northern Light*, III. Richard H. Curtis, 33□, gives the following information about III. Goodnow:

"As a young man, David became a member of Vincennes Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in 1952. In his household, Masonry was always spoken of with great respect, he says, so it was a natural move for him to join DeMolay.

"Although he never served as Master Councilor, he took an active role with many speaking parts. His favorite was the dramatic DeMolay Degree.

"He had considered pursuing a career in music, but instead he began working as a reporter for an Illinois radio station in 1959. Then it was back to Indiana to continue in the broadcasting field.

"At Vincennes University, he became

involved in establishing the first privately supported educational TV station in Indiana and was named a charter committee member of the Indiana Higher Education Television System. Goodnow has lectured at a number of universities on TV production, newsgathering, writing, reporting and anchoring.

"He has also served as a senior journalist and solo anchor for an ABC-TV affiliate in Evansville, IN.

"After becoming a Master Mason in Lessing Lodge No. 464, Evansville, and the Scottish Rite Valley of Evansville, he volunteered his services as a DeMolay advisor, where he enjoyed coaching the DeMolay Degree.

"It was while he was anchor and news director at a television station in Terre Haute that he took a young man under his wing to break him into the business. The young man became a competent producer and then moved on to take a position with CNN. Knowing Goodnow's qualifications, the young man suggested to David several years later that he send along his resume and a tape.

"When David was offered a position as one of the original anchors for the newly created CNN Headline News, he made the move to the Atlanta headquarters."

Since 1982 Goodnow had anchored the 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. (Eastern Time) shift for CNN Headline News. In late September 1998 he stepped down from the anchor desk. Subsequently he received the 33rd during the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's Supreme Council session in Cincinnati.

III. Goodnow was recognized with the DeMolay Legion of Honor, in 1984.

There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along; People who will appreciate our compassion, our encouragement, who will need our unique talents. — Leo Buscaglia

TRIPLETS: TOP OFFICERS IN WYOMING BETHEL

Identical triplets Sabrina, Stephanie and Sarah Broadaway occupy the top three offices of Bethel No. 39 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This, according to *Supreme News Exchange*, March 1999, may be the first for Job's Daughters.

The girls were born in Joplin, Missouri, on July 11, 1982. They lived in Missouri until they were seven. Then the family moved to Cheyenne. On Nov. 6, 1993, the girls were initiated into Bethel No. 39.

Honored Queen Sabrina was active in 4-H. She was county Wildlife Champion and received State Awards for her projects. She plays the cello and sings in the school choir. She is a Shrine Bowl Cheerleader this year.

Senior Princess Stephanie was also active in 4-H and participated in P.A.C.T., Visual Arts and other activities. In 4-H she received the Jr. Fashion Revue Champion in P.A.C.T. She has also served as Grand Bethel Representative to California No.3.

Junior Princess Sarah was active in 4-H, too, and competed in P.A.C.T., Arts and Crafts, and Rocket Modeltry. She plays the flute, harp, oboe, piano and signs in a choir. She has been selected Honor Bethel Chaplain and Grand Bethel 5th Messenger.

Since joining the Bethel, the girls have attended all Grand Sessions of Job's Daughters in Wyoming. They were able to make the 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1995, and they were in the Supreme Session in Salt Lake City in 1997. Their parents, Tom and Glenna, are very involved with Job's Daughters. Tom is Associate Guardian of Bethel No.8 in Cheyenne; Glenna is Guardian of her daughters' Bethel.

In Bethel No.23 of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, meanwhile, the top three officers are all sisters. The oldest, Bonnie Sellers, reigning Junior Miss Alberta Job's Daughters, is Honored Queen. Twins Brenda and Bridget are Senior Princess and Junior Princess, respectively.

WHY MUST THE GOOD DIE YOUNG?

by VW Carlos S. Briones, PM, PDGL, PDDGM

Note: This is an eulogy in memory of Bro. Ernesto A. Miguel, a practicing lawyer initiated, passed and raised in Isarog Lodge No. 33, Naga City. He became a Regional Trial Court (RTC) judge on July 7, 1997.

After an earlier stroke, he dropped his working tools on May 4, 1999. He was a well loved and respected law professor of the University of Nueva Caceres; he was the BAR Operations head of the College of Law when he died.

WHY MUST THE GOOD DIE YOUNG?

We constantly hear this query every time someone so full of life, so full of hope, looking forward to many things with so much anticipation, dies; every time an innocent child dies; every time someone who has yet so much to learn and experience comes to the end of his or her journey in our world.

Some sages have philosophized, "Some must die so that others may live." I know not how to simplify the ramifications of such a statement. But I know it can hardly, or cannot, assuage the grief of those who have lost someone dear to them. Short of directly confronting GOD's wisdom in the phenomenon of life and death, some would just sigh and murmur: "Why, why must someone die so young and innocent?" "Why must he or she die so quickly when there are so many things to accomplish?" "Why must they fade away at the prime of life

— when they were just starting to enjoy each other (or, when we have just begun to know them)?"

Others have philosophized that the infinite wisdom of our Maker can never be questioned as regards the destiny of His creation because that is precisely the mystery of life.... Still others cite passages of the Scriptures, such as "He that giveth shall take." They say that God has plans beyond the comprehension of ordinary mortals like us. We Freemasons say we must completely surrender to and accept His will.

I have not known Brother Ernie as close or intimate as some of our brethren. I have not experienced the hospitality of his home when he was still alive. There were only few unexpected meetings and acquaintances during Masonic functions. In fact, the only member of his family I know is his son Jay, who happens to know me also because he is a member of the International Order of DeMolay. I met Sis Marilou and her daughter May Celine for the first time only when I came to pay respect last Wednesday night, May 5, 1999. I never formally know the other daughters—Faye Josephine, a fourth-year law student of the Ateneo de Manila University, and Day Angelina, a fourth-year computer science student. But one need not live physically near somebody to know him better. We need only to be observant. The few encounters I had with him afforded me many opportunities to see, know and visualize the inner Ernesto A. Miguel, the man and the

Mason.

Not too long ago, a friend articulated to me what he considers the best gauge to judge the success of a man, namely, his ability to answer the question *"What happened to the children?"*

Many men have become business tycoons and have accumulated wealth beyond human imagination. Many others have become great and are on top of their profession as doctors, lawyers, and so on. But, mind you, only few can ever say, *"Well, my children are now enjoying the fruits of their careers, or are happily contented, not with material wealth, but rather, with inner peace because of clean and honest living!"* Ask adults, *"What happened to the children?"* Many of them, I am sure, can't even look at you straight in the eyes to answer the question.

Were Bro. Ernie confronted with the same question today, he would modestly answer in the affirmative.

Perhaps Jay may not make it to the RTC like his father. But that will not prove him a lesser lawyer than his father. In Jay, we clearly see the mark that our brother left behind. The reason he is now a lawyer and her younger sister Faye Josephine is graduating to be one is because the father was too strong an inspiration to ignore. That is one legacy not too many parents can achieve.

Bro. Ernie may have been a small provincial lawyer who never displayed the bravado, the flamboyance, the flippancy of the one from the big city. But in this side of the globe, he continues to cast a giant shadow. His brilliancy as a lawyer may not have been recorded in the annals of our local courts, but his quality as a law mentor and his

dedication to lead many of his students to pass the Bar examinations are emblazoned in the repository of their faithful breasts. In the College of Law of the University of Nueva Caceres, he is an institution that would take too long to forget and so hard to replace.

So, when we pause and ponder by what standard he can be judged, surely it will not only be by the achievements of his children by flesh and blood but by the long line of students who have crossed their bars with him carrying the torch. It is not only because Jay is now stamping his own mark and identity as a lawyer in the bigger city, nor is it because another daughter is now a doctor, or because the two others are at the threshold of their own profession. Nay, more than this; for by his guidance and example, he was able to raise into this world children who recognize his virtues and value the principles he stood for.

At 56, Bro. Ernie is still young. He has just crossed the half-century mark by a short six years. By psychological standard, it is the start of a ripening year where the wisdom of time and experience can be best displayed. We know he has an abundance of that.

The lonely bench of the judiciary was a perfect spot. It fits the personality of the cool and perceptive mind like that of Bro. Ernie.

It is just sad that he should surrender his working tools just when the real work begins.

But, who dares question the wisdom of the Great Creator? Surely, not His lowly and finite creation.

And, as we Masons, in moments like this, proclaim, *"The will of GOD is accomplished. So mote it be. AMEN!"*

MASONIC HARVEST

by eF.R.eN

LEWIS MEDAL

The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, Canada, gives due recognition to Lewis Masons, i.e., sons of Masons who are members of the Craft, by investing them with the Lewis Medal.

Our current Grand Master is a Lewis Mason. He may as well have a similar medal crafted to promote the growth in number and strength of Lewis Masons in our jurisdiction. The medal may be named after Teodoro Kalaw; for the Kalaws were the first father-son tandem to have reached the Grand Orient, the Demonteverdes being the second.

INTERNET LODGE NO. 9659

In January 1998 the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) established Internet Lodge No. 9659, the members of which are brethren who are active on the Internet and have their own e-mail addresses. The Lodge meets three times a year. Notice of meeting is posted to members via e-mail. Two of the annual meetings are given over to papers on both historical and contemporary aspects of Freemasonry. These papers are available for members via the Lodge's Internet site: internet.lodge.org.uk.

If you, Brother, are active on the Internet and have your own e-mail address, you are eligible for membership in Internet Lodge No. 9659. But, of course, you have to meet the initial requirements to join the UGLE. The first requirement is a "Clearance Certificate" or letter of good standing from your own Lodge. You must also send a copy of your Grand Lodge certificate.

The letters of good standing having been received by the UGLE, you must fill out a simple form provided by Internet Lodge to cover other necessary information.

If you want to join this Lodge, you may contact W. Bro. Don Hyde at don_hyde @

zernet.co.uk, or W. Bro. Charles Arnold at ukmason @ charnold.demon.co.uk.

COMPASS OR COMPASSES?

Compass, according to Ill. Richard H. Curtis, 33, editor of *The Northern Light*, is an instrument used to determine direction, while *compasses* (a singular noun in plural form, such as scissors, pliers, trousers, etc.) is an instrument used to draw circles.

I'll Curtis informs us that, according to Coill's *Masonic Encyclopedia*, at a very early date the Masonic symbol was called compass, but according to Prichard's *Masonry Dissected* (1730), both compass and compasses were used interchangeably.

Today most Grand Lodges refer to the Masonic emblem as the "square and compasses."

PROGRAMS PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASONS ARE PURSUING

Our brethren in Pennsylvania are pursuing the "Replace Yourself" Program, also called Friend-to-Friend.

Grand Master James L. Ernette explains the importance of the program thus:

"We do so much that is good for so many. We work to make good men better, serve humanity charitably, and benefit our communities. We are able to do this because we are a fraternity of men bonded for the good of mankind. For us to continue to do our good works, we must sustain that brotherhood. At the least, we have a stable membership, optimistically, we will see it grow.

"That's why our commitment to REPLACE YOURSELF is not only important, it is a key to the future of your Lodge and our Fraternity.

Is Grand Master Ernette in favor of solicitation? No, he is not. In fact, he feels we don't have to solicit.

Says he: *"I sincerely believe that when*

good and worthy men can see what Masons—men of quality—are doing in the communities, they will want to be a part of our brotherhood. Remember, as we work to build membership, we have an obligation and an objective to sustain membership quality."

Since he is a man of quality, Grand Master Ernette further explicates, a Freemason feels obliged to select the persons to whom he would tell about Freemasonry—persons he would appreciate having as members of his Lodge, persons, therefore, who are of good character, enjoy a favorable standing in society, and are fit to be made Masons, men every Freemason would be pleased to call "Brothers."

Our Pennsylvania brethren, moreover, are reaching out and touching the lives of many people through their generosity and concern for their fellowmen. They participate in their Grand Lodge's Masonic Matching Charities Fund Program. Lodges in that State, as a result, are doubling their charitable impact.

The general public has become more aware of the good works of our Pennsylvania brethren; consequently, a growing number of intelligent young men in that State have expressed their interest in joining the Craft. (See *The Pennsylvania Freemason*, August 1998.)

Perhaps we should also pursue Friend-to-Friend as a means of "replacing ourselves." Perhaps we should also increase our charitable works..... But, of course, we should bear in mind this precept in the Masonic moral code: "Do good and let your good deeds speak to men."

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & RETENTION

There are, according to *Empire State Mason* (Spring 1998), five key points of the Membership Development Plan (MDP) of the Grand Lodge of New York, namely:

1. Knowing the candidate — This facet seeks to establish a basic one-on-one relationship between a candidate and a

potential sponsor. It is where quality versus quality begins.

2. Brother Bring a Friend Night — a program in which potential candidates are informed of Masonry, so that they will know what to expect. Those who pass through this program are more likely to develop a zeal and desire for Masonry. That's why it is considered the keystone of the MDP.

3. The Investigation — This key point stresses the vital importance of careful investigation.

4. The Ballot — In this phase, Masters are urged to spend some time with the Book of Constitutions and the Standard Work Book. By so doing, Masters are the better enabled to anticipate contingencies and react properly, thereby preserving harmony and promoting efficiency and proper Masonic protocol in balloting procedures.

5. The Shepherding Program — This is a transition phase where "Masons" are made. On the night of the Ballot, the Master assigns a member of the Lodge to "shepherd" a new Brother for one full year. The shepherd need not be the sponsor, but one who has demonstrated much enthusiasm for Masonry.

To increase awareness at the district level of the various facets of the MDP, each Area Chair interacts with the DDGMs in his jurisdiction, presenting to them the MDP and offering any help. He serves as facilitator, particularly in the use of Brother Bring a Friend Night.

To assure that the elements of the MDP are put into optimal use, each Area Chair stimulates DDGMs to be aware of the Brother Bring a Friend Night scores on their various benchmark evaluations.

To assess the result of the MDP, Area Chairs are required to submit semiannual reports to the CMD Chair for further evaluation. Then they make spot visits to areas by request of the DDGMs.

In our jurisdiction, we need a well-organized, well-coordinated membership development and retention program similar to that of the Grand Lodge of New York.

OF VARIOUS MODES OF ADMITTING, TRAINING NEW MEMBERS

A growing number of Grand Lodges in North America and in other parts of the Masonic world have adopted the Grand Master's One-Day Festival. But other are hesitant to adopt the practice because such questions as the following are aching to be answered:

1. Does the one-day class afford the new Mason the proper guidance and teachings of Masonry?
2. Does it nurture a dedicated Mason who will continue to serve and work with the Craft?
3. Will the other Masonic bodies suffer without these dues-paying members?
4. Will the Lodges lose their ability to stay proficient in degree work?

These Grand Lodges, in effect, still prefer the candidate education program in the traditional setting because this allows the necessary bonding and nurturing of the prospective and new-made Mason with the Lodge members. When properly done, it insures that every candidate is correctly instructed in the rudiments of Craft Masonry. It allows the candidate to be gradually introduced to Freemasonry and it provides him with enough time to really understand his duties and privileges. It cultivates a fraternal feeling that will stay with the candidate for the rest of his life. (See *The North Dakota Mason*, April-June 1998.)

The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M., it seems to me, is among the advocates of the conventional candidate education program. Past Grand Master Leonard Philip Harvey stated:

"I am convinced that much of our difficulty within the fraternity today is a direct result of our errors of yesterday. Our past concern to take in members rather than to make Masons has created a new concern - the challenge to inculcate Masonic beliefs and principles upon members who have never really subscribed to those beliefs and principles of our fraternity in the first place. I am alarmed at the large

number of our brethren who actually know very little either about Masonry or their duties as Freemasons, and the apparent lack of interest to learn more about our fraternity is of equal cause for concern. Yet, how shall we fault them when we have failed to set the example? It is we who have failed to make them understand - we, the leadership of our Lodges and of our Grand Lodge. We have failed to give them the real vision of Freemasonry!

"Our gentle fraternity has sown to the wind with indifferent, hurried and incomplete investigation of the qualifications of some who have knocked upon our doors for admission, and we now reap the whirlwind of unconcerned indifference to that morality which is so characteristic of the fraternity which should be composed only of good moral men. Consequently, I have admonished the Lodges to pay close and careful attention to the investigative process when petitions are filed in the Lodges. Undesirables and misfits are more prudently denied admission to our fraternity than reformed while dwelling in our midst. Let us be more eager to qualify men for Masonry!"

I fully agree with M.W. Bro. Harvey. The editorial I penned for the November-December 1997 edition of this periodical reads in part as follows:

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

"That is why the leadership of our Grand Lodge has recurrently urged us, individual Freemasons, to act, particularly when abroad in the world, so consistently as to show to non-Masons that, influenced by the pure principles of Freemasonry, we have become better men in our several stations in life, displaying the beauties of holiness, to the honor of God's holy name,

and contributing to the building of better local, national and international communities. If we live our Masonry, decidedly, young men of promise will seek our fellowship.

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

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

The Grand Lodges of many countries are much more restrictive than ours in allowing individuals into the Fraternity. Take, for example, the National Grand Lodge of France. Wrote Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania: "I found that in most jurisdiction it can take several years to become a Master Mason, a rime during which Masonic education is given to each candidate. The Assistant Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of France told me that, even with this time requirement, their membership has averaged a ten percent annual increase for the last decade." ("There Must Be A Message For Us!" in

The Pennsylvania Freemason, August 1998, p. 14).

I learned from M.W. Bro. Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, that in Greece, likewise, it normally takes four years to become a Master Mason. Four years! #In our jurisdiction, it normally takes only a few months for one to become a Master Mason.

In Greece, M.W. Bro. Herrera further told me, Lodges are usually opened and business is conducted on the Entered Apprentice Degree, thereby providing Fellowcrafts and Entered Apprentices with the chance to participate in stated meetings. In our grand jurisdiction, it is only Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, S.C., which opens and conducts business in the EAM degree. In Greece, furthermore, when a prospective member is being investigated, he is photographed, and his picture is displayed for six months at the lodge entrance. All members of the Fraternity, particularly those of the Lodge concerned, have the opportunity to observe the prospective member's action around town before the ballot. Returns are made after each degree in long form, and the brethren of the Lodge, especially the officers, make sure that the Brother understands the purpose and ideals of each degree before advancing to the next. Candidates, as well as newly-made Master Masons, are also required to give lectures about Freemasonry in open Lodge.

In Latin America, too, brethren of the Lodge take turns in giving lectures about Freemasonry in open Lodge.

After giving a lecture, the brother concerned turns in to the Secretary a copy of his lecture.

This copy is attached to the Secretary's report to the Grand Lodge. Many of the lectures given by the brethren in open Lodge, in effect, get to see print in the official publications of Latin American Grand Lodges.

As R.W. Grand Secretary Jackson would put it, there must be a message for us in what the Greek and Latin American grand jurisdictions are doing.



Elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers

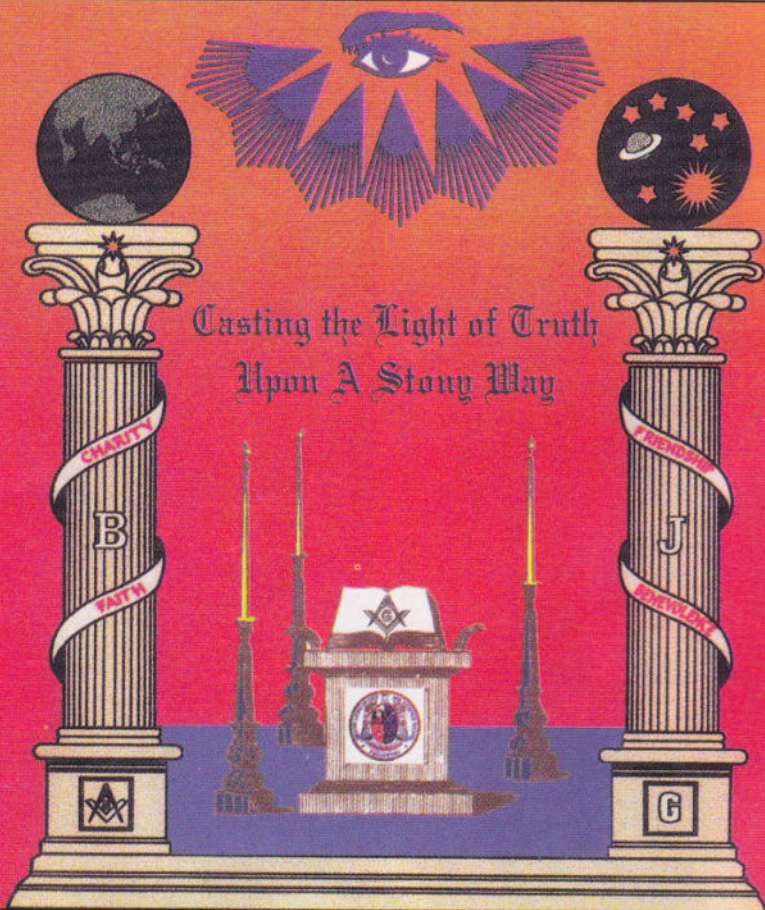


Elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers with the DDGMs and DGLs

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