The Cable Tow

Vol 76, No.2 July August 1999

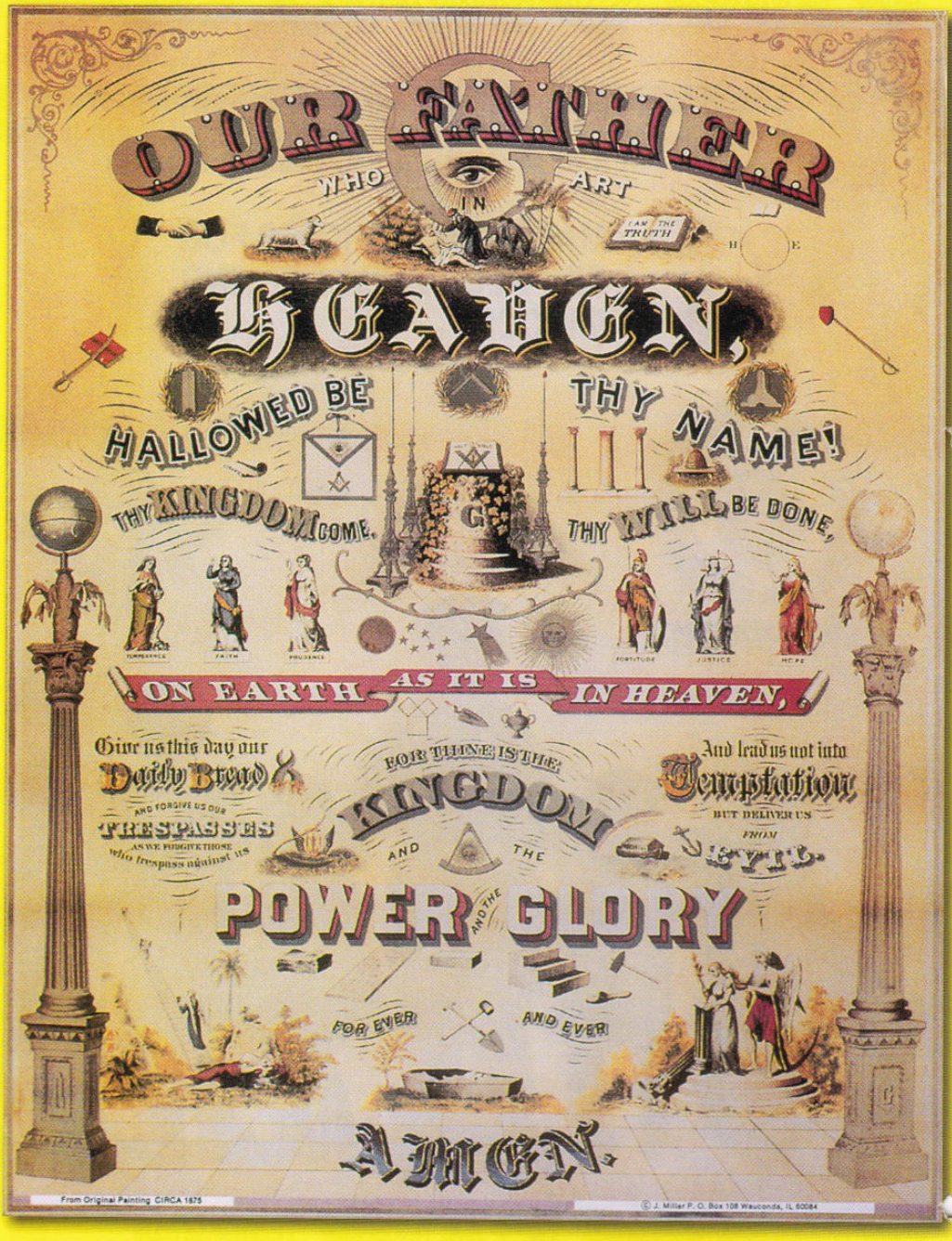
GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES
1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila

MASONIC CHARITIES FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, INC. (MCCCI)

75th Anniversary



MASONS CARE FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN


OUR FATHER
WHO ART IN
I AM THE TRUTH
HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME!
THY KINGDOM COME,
THY WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN,
Give us this day our Daily Bread
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE who trespass against us
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY
And lead us not into Temptation
BUT DELIVER US FROM Evil.
FOR EVER AND EVER
AMEN.
From Original Painting CIRCA 1875
© J. Miller P. O. Box 108 Wauconda, IL 60084

CONTENTS

Grand Master's Message	4
Editorial	5
Masonic Directory Listings	6
Masonic Directory Advertising Contract	7
Grand Lodge Committees	8
Edicts	10
Circulars	13
Let's Pontificate	15
Our Masonic Universal Emblem	16
Why Attend Lodge?	20
Church Opposition to Masonry	23
DBP Awards MW Demonteverde	25
Our Senior Grand Warden	26
Past Grand Chaplain Bert Reyes	29
Centennial Clock	32
MCCCI Turns 75	34
Masonic Family Joins Luneta Ceremonies	36
Round the Districts, Lodges	14; 22; 37-62

EDITORIAL STAFF

J. FLOR R. NICOLAS
Editor-in-Chief

HENEAGE J. MITCHELL
Business Manager

CHARLES G. AGAR
Office/ Circulation Manager

EMMANUEL D. BELTRAN
Official Photographer

CONSULTANTS

MW REYNOLD S. FAJARDO, PGM, GMH

MW REYNATO S. PUNO, PGM, GMH

VW SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ

THE CABLETOW

THE CABLETOW is a bimonthly publication of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. **Main Office**: Plaridel Masonic Temple, San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila, D2801, Philippines.

Members of Blue Lodges in this grand jurisdiction are regular subscribers thereto. Brethren in other grand jurisdictions are invited to subcribe to it at US $20 a year. Send check payable to the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, with complete mailing address, to THE CABLETOW of the address changes.

Original articles are subjected to editing and, when published, become Cabletow property. Any Article in THE CABLETOW may bereprintedin full, or excerpts thereof reproduced, provided proper attribution to the author is made, the source is given due credit, and the Cabletow office is furnished witha courtesy copy of the reprinted material.

Paid advertisements are accepted for printing in THE CABLETOW.

Vol. 76 No. 2
July-August 1999

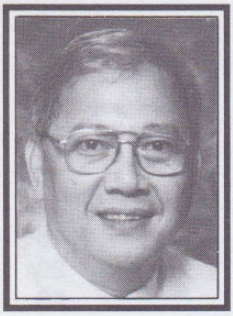
OUR COVER

The front and back covers show the stamp issued in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI), which exemplifies the Masonic tradition of caring for fellowmen, particularly the disadvantaged like crippled children.

The inner front cover is a reproduction of the Masonic concept of The Lord's Prayer, as depicted in the original painting produced circa A.D. 1875, while the inner back cover is a reproduction of a painting which appeared on the front cover of the January 1999 issue of *Genesis*, the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Spain. The two repreductions indicate that Masons have faith in God, hope of immortality, and charity for all mankind.

From the Grand Oriental Chair

THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY RESTS IN OUR HANDS



Two fun-loving boys went hunting in the mountains one day, but they were able to catch one measly bird. While trudging down the mountain trail, they decided to make up for their disappointing catch by putting to test the reputed wisdom of the old man who lived at the foot at the mountain. When they were within hearing distance of the old man, the older boy, with his hands behind him, shouted, *"Old man, if you are truly wise, tell me whether the bird I am holding is dead or alive!"*

According to plan, if the old man would say *"Dead!"* the boy would stretch out his hands and show the live bird. But if the old man would say *"Alive!"* the boy would squeeze the bird to death and show the dead bird.

The old man, however, stated in no uncertain terms, *"Young man, the answer rests in your hands!"*

The future of Freemasonry, similarly, rests in our hands. It will be what we make of it. If we are complacent, Freemasonry may degenerate into a mere social club with empty titles and vain pretensions. But, of course, we do not want that to happen to our beloved Fraternity. We must, therefore, take concrete actions to show to all and sundry, including those who consider themselves our critics or adversaries, that Freemasonry is an institution of moral leadership, educational advancement, and philanthropic endeavors. This requires the combined and concerted effort of members of the Masonic family, as well as a renewed commitment to learn the simple lessons of practical morality and the sublime teachings of religious philosophy propagated by Freemasonry and then to live those lessons and teachings. By so doing, we let the Masonic light shine before men in such a way that they will continue to desire our fellowship and join in our assemblies.

I fondly hope that our universal emblem, the Square and Compasses with the letter *G* or the All- Seeing Eye at the center, will constantly remind each one of us to strive to become a *Magister Interior* or Inward Master because until we have mastered ourselves, our influence over other men can bring no good result.

I fondly hope, too, that each one of us will emulate the late Senator Ninoy Aquino, the son of a Mason, who once said, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, let me not refuse to do something I can do."

What we Freemasons can and should do is to increasingly improve ourselves in Masonry, ever remembering this significant statement of the great Russian author, Leo Tolstoi, a Brother Mason: "People want to change humanity, but they do not want to change themselves. If we wish to rid ourselves of corruption, then we must be incorruptible. If we want to do away with greed, then we must be unselfish."

There can be no doubt that if all members of the Craft in this jurisdiction consistently exemplify the Masonic virtues with boldness and audacity, we will yet convince the non-Masonic public that Freemasonry is not simply fellowship, but rather, an institution established to make its members better persons in our several stations before God and men, or that it is a science and an art that walks arm in arm with progress toward a better way of life. Let's, then, so conduct ourselves that the Craft is respected for our efforts in the society in which we happen to live. May every one of us be someone else's perception of Freemasonry. So mote it be.

Fraternally,

FRANKLIN J. DEMONTEVERDE
Grand Master

Editorial

TOWARD MAKING THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OUR GRAND LODGE A QUALITY PRODUCT

The official publication of our Grand Lodge, *The Cabletow,* is a very potent tool for motivating the brethren to broaden and deepen their knowledge about the Craft, as well as for raising the level of the general public's knowledge and awareness of what Freemasonry is, what its purposes are, and what Freemasons are doing for the benefit of our local, national and international communities. It is also an effective means of improving others' perception of our Order and, hopefully, of increasing the number of good men and true who may want to seek membership in Masonry

To attain these and related objectives, we want *The Cabletow* to be a quality product, both in content and in form, including the quality of the paper used. As you may have already noticed, the May-June 1999 edition of *The Cabletow* is no longer made of newsprint but rather of white paper. This is part of the ongoing project to make the official publication of our Grand Lodge look more attractive to potential customers, while at the same time actually making it more informative and educational to current consumers.

But the budget of *The Cabletow* for the current Masonic year is limited. It is not enough for producing six issues of the publication and mailing copies of the same, not to mention the operational expenses of the Cabletow office, the salary of the secretary, and the honoraria of the members of the editorial staff.

Since increase in subscription fee is dependent upon the approval of the brethren duly assembled in an Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge, there is a dire need for us to resort to accepting advertisements. This is where we need the helpful cooperation of individual brethren, Blue Lodges and Masonic Districts. The future of *The Cabletow* rests in the hands of every one of us. It will be what we make of it.

Please read "Masonic Directory Listings" which appears after this editorial and act accordingly. Remember, dear brethren, *The Cabletow* is your publication. We are counting on your support. Let's all work together toward making it a publication we can all be proud of.

What is an ideal Masonic publication?

Replies J.A. Fetterley in *Masonic Tidings* of Milwaukee:

"The ideal Masonic publication must be educational, enlightening, inspiring. It should be a forum wherein the readers are free to discuss subjects of interest to themselves and to the Craft. It should not be subservient in nature or policy, it should not be super critical, nor should it be prejudiced. It should be independent in policy, God-fearing in practice, and thoroughly Masonic in conduct and action, giving credit where credit is due, and not fearing to criticize where criticism is deserved."

Masonic Directory Listings

The Masonic Directory will be published in every issue of the Cabletow, starting from the December 1999 edition..

Its purpose is to provide funds for the Cabletow and to assist the Brethren in locating goods and services offered by members of the Craft in the various districts comprising the Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, as well as helping to support the various districts through payment of commissions to the DDGM's of Districts whose members support the directory.

The Masonic Directory is only open to businesses operated or owned by Master Masons.

The Listings will be categorised by Districts: those businesses with countrywide relevance will have their own section.

The basic listing, comprising several lines of text with the name of the Mason, his business name and services offered, address and telephone, fax and e-mail address, is charged at P500 per issue.

Larger listings or box ads can be accommodated. Payment for these is pro-rated according to size.

Payment must be made in full to the Grand Lodge before publication.

Advertisers must sign up for the entire Masonic Year.

20% commission on payment received by Cabletow for Directory Listings will be paid to the DDGM of the relevant districts.

All commissions will be paid to the Districts (DDGM's) in a timely manner by the Grand Lodge.

So please support your District, help your business grow and sign up for a Directory listing now!

Sample Listings: P500 per issue

ABC Hardware Inc.
All your hardware needs
123 A. Reyes St.,
Tondo, Manila
Tel: 123 4567, Fax: 123 7654
abc@email.com
VW Alfonso B. Reyes, Prop

Better Motors Inc.
Better mechanics, better service!
657 Gen. Aguinaldo St.,
Malabon, Metro Manila
Tel 321 7654; fax: 321 8765
bettermotors@email.com
Bro. George Better, Manager

Sample Box Ads

ABC Hardware Inc.

All your hardware needs under one roof!

123 A. Reyes St.,
Tondo, Manila
Tel: 123 4567
Fax: 123 7654
abc@email.com.
VW Alfonso B. Reyes, Prop

1/12 page ↑
P1,000 per issue

1/6 page →
P2,000 per issue

Better Motors Inc.



Better mechanics, Better service!

657 Gen. Aguinaldo St.,
Malabon, Metro Manila

Tel 321 7654;
Fax: 321 8765
bettermotors@email.com

Bro. George Better,
Manager

Box Ad Sizes & Rates per Issue:

Full Page:	P12,000
1/2 Page:	6,000
1/3 Page:	4,000
1/6 Page:	2,000
1/12 Page:	1,000
Listing:	500

Simple logos or art work can be added to box ads from 1/6 page and up. Please make sure you supply a clear copy of any graphic you want included.

Masonic Directory Advertising Contract

Terms & Conditions:

1 Advertisers must sign up for every issue for the Masonic Year
2 Full payment must be received in advance. before publication. Please make your check for the full amount payable to: Grand Lodge of the Philippines
3 Payment and signed contract, together with all details to be included in the advertisment, must be received at least one month before publication date.
4 Errors must be brought to the attention of the Editor at least one month before publication of the next issue.
5 Please complete the following: ALL sections MUST be completed to ensure publication:

Member's Name: _____
Business Name: _____
Services/Products: _____
Address: _____
_____
Tel: _____ Fax: _____
E-Mail: _____
Lodge: _____ No.: _____
District: _____ Signature: _____

Ad size (check one):	MY 1999 (3 issues)	MY 2000 (6 issues)
❑ Listing	❑ P 1,500	❑ P 3,000
❑ 1/12 page	❑ 3,000	❑ 6,000
❑ 1/6 page	❑ 6,000	❑ 12,000
❑ 1/3 page	❑ 12,000	❑ 24,000
❑ 1/2 page	❑ 18,000	❑ 36,000
❑ Full page	❑ 36,000	❑ 72,000

Total MY 1999: P_____
Total MY 2000: P_____
Total Amount: P_____

For Office Use Only:
Payment received: P_____
Bank: _____ Check # _____
Date Paid: ____/____/____ By: _____
Approved by: _____

Mail completed form with payment & materials to:

The Cabletow
C/O Grand Lodge
of the Philippines
1414 San Marcelino St.,
Ermita 1000

Box Ad Sizes & Rates per Issue:

Full Page:	P12,000
1/2 Page:	6,000
1/3 Page:	4,000
1/6 Page:	2,000
1/12 Page:	1,000
Listing:	500

Simple logos or art work can be added to box ads from 1/6 page and up. Please make sure you supply a clear copy of any graphic you want included.

GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES 1999

1. **FINANCE**
Chair: RW OSCAR V. BUNYI
Vice-Chair: RW NAPOLEON A. SORIANO
Members: RW EUGENIO S. LABITORIA, VW MELVYN S. JURISPRUDENCIA, VW FRANCISCO M. LOVERO

2. **ACCOUNTS**
Chair: VW JAIME Y. GONZALES
Vice-Chair: VW MELVYN S. JURISPRUDENCIA
Members: VW ADRIANO O. VALLE, VW FRANCISCO M. LOVERO, BRO. JAMES A. OLAYVAR, BRO. JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR., ALFONZO C. OBSUM

3. **ADMINISTRATION OF LODGES**
Chair: VW ROBERTO C. REYES
Vice-Chair: VW WILLIAM WEBB
Members: VW JAIME Y. GONZALES, VW CRISPULO M. FERNANDEZ, JR., VW FRANCISCO M. LOVERO

4. **REVISION OF CONSTITUTION**
Chair: VW RAUL A. LAMAN
Vice-Chair: VW RODRIGO Y. ARANDIA
Members: VW CONRADO V. SANGA, VW JOSELITO C. VILLAROSA, WB VICTOR Y. ELEAZAR

5. **INVESTMENTS**
Chair: MW RUDYARDO V. BUNDA, PGM.
Vice-Chair: VW JOSE O. LUSTRE
Members: VW CRISPULO M. FERNANDEZ, JR., VW SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR., VW GENESIS V. AQUINO

6. **JURISPRUDENCE**
Chair: VW RICARDO P. GALVEZ
Vice-Chair: VW ABELARDO L. APORTADERA, JR.
Members: VW FERNANDO V. PASCUA, JR., VW JOSELITO J. VIBANDOR, VW RAUL A. LAMAN

7. **GRIEVANCES**
Chair: MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM
Vice-Chair: MW PABLO C. KO, JR., PGM
Members: VW EDWARD O JOSON, MW JUAN C. NABONG, JR., PGM, VW RICARDO P. GALVEZ

8. **BY-LAWS**
Chair: VW ABELARDO L. APORTADERA, JR.
Vice-Chair: VW SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Members: VW ENRIQUE L. FLORES, JR., VW BENEDICTO A. MADARANG, WB JOSE PETROCINO G. SANTILLAN, JR.

9. **AWARDS**
Chair: MW JOHN L. CHOA, PGM
Vice-Chair: RW OSCAR V. BUNYI
Members: RW NAPOLEON A. SORIANO, RW EUGENIO S. LABITORIA, VW LEONARDO T. CHUA

10. **RESOLUTIONS**
Chair: MW REYNATO S. PUNO, PGM.
Vice-Chair: VW RAUL A. LAMAN
Members: VW SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR., VW ABELARDO L. APORTADERA, JR., VW RICARDO P. GALVEZ

11. **CHARTERS**
Chair: RW OSCAR V. BUNYI,
Vice-Chair: VW JOSE MARLOWE S. PEDREGOSA
Members: VW MARIO CATALINO Q. ANGELES, VW CONRADO V. SANGA,
VW EMILIANO P. LANGOMEZ, JR., VW MELVYN S. JURISPRUDENCIA, VW SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ

12. **RESEARCH & MASONIC EDUCATION AND WORKS**
Chair: VW FERNANDO V. PASCUA, JR.
Vice-Chair: VW JOHN B. LLAMAS
Members: VW FERDINAND P. SUBINO, VW PROCOPIO B. TRABAJO, II, VW SAMUEL K. MORGIA, VW ISAAC F. ARRIBAS, JR., VW VICTOR C. HO, VW CRISTOPHER CHUA TEK AN

13. **VITAL ISSUES**
Chair: MW RIZAL D. APORTADERA, PGM
Vice-Chair: REYNOLD S. FAJARDO, PGM
Members: MW RUDYARDO V. BUNDA, PGM, MW RAYMUNDO N. BELTRAN, PGM, &MW TEODORICO V. BALDONADO, PGM

14. **NECROLOGY**
Chair: RW NAPOLEON A. SORIANO
Vice-Chair: VW EGIDIO R. ANCAJAS
Members: VW MARIANO J. REMOQUILLO, WB TEODORO G. SALUD, VW PABLO M. ELAURIA, SAUL R, EXMUNDO, ALL DDGMs & DGLs IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS

15. **MEDIA RELATIONS**
Chair: MW ENRIQUE L. LOCSIN, PGM
Vice-Chair: VW SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ
Members: VW MANUEL S. CRUDO, JR., VW FLOR R. NICOLAS, BRO. TEODORO L. LOCSIN,

JR.

16. CREDENTIALS
Chair: MW REYNOLD S. FAJARDO, PGM
Vice-Chair: VW MARIO CATALINO Q. ANGELES
Members: VW TOMMY O. QUE, VW SEVERINO C. AGUILAR, VW EMILIO G. JISON, JR.

17. SUNSHINE & MASONIC ASSISTANCE
Chair: RW EUGENIO S. LABITORIA
Vice-Chair: VW DOMINGO T. TENG
Members: VW JOVEN K. CHUA, VW EDUARDO C. RABAGO, VW CHIN BON TE LU

18. YOUTH
Chair: VW EDGAR C. PEREZ
Vice-Chair: VW VAN CORNELIUS D. LUSPO
Members: VW TEODORO B. GONZALES, JR., VW ABRAHAM C. DOMINGO, VW ALBERT K. TAN, WB NICANOR S. SALVADOR, BRO. AVELINO I. MAGBANUA

19. RETURNS
Chair: VW MELVYN S. JURISPRUDENCIA
Vice-Chair: WB JUANITO B. VAÑO, JR.
Members: VW ENRIQUE L. FLORES, JR., VW RODRIGO T. DIAPANA, VW ANTONIO M. SAN LUIS , JR.

20. CHARITY & MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Chair: RW NAPOLEON A. SORIANO
Vice-Chair: VW GIL N. OCTAVIANO, JR.
Members: VW MANUEL B. DE ASIS, VW EDGAR C. DYPIANGCO, VW LEONARDO T. CHUA, VW CHIN BON TE LU, VW FELIX J. VICUÑA, JR., VW CARLITOS E. MAGNO

21. FOREIGN RELATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE
Chair: MW ROSENDO C. HERRERA, PGM
Vice-Chair: VW EVARISTO A. LEVISTE
Members: VW DOMINGO T. CHUA, VW ALBERT K. TAN, VW RAMONCITO B. PIAÑA, VW GREGORY B. BLAS, BRO. GENEROSO D.G. CALONGE

22. CEMETERY
Chair: RODRIGO Y. ARANDIA
Vice-Chair: VW EDGARDO S. DELMO
Members: VW RENE C. DAMIAN, VW HERNANI B. LOPEZ, WB ARIEL G. DALUSONG

23. TEMPLES & BUILDINGS
Chair: VW NICOLAS G. RICAFRENTE
Vice-Chair: VW FRANCISCO M. LOVERO
Members: VW RENE C. DAMIAN, VW MARIO Q. ANGELES, WB JUANITO B. VAÑO, JR., BRO. SALVADOR P. CASTRO, JR.

24. GUARDIANSHIP
Chair: VW JOSE MARLOWE S. PEDREGOSA
Vice-Chair: VW JOHN B. LLAMAS
Members: VW EGIDIO R. ANCAJAS, VW RODOLFO A. TOR, VW TITO F. GARCIA

25. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Chair: VW ROGER Z. GUZMAN
Vice-Chair: WB RAFAEL P. CREENCIA
Members: VW RAUL G. CABALANG, VW DONATO R. MARES, VW GEORGE O. CHUA CHAM, BRO. DANIEL T. TAN

26. WAYS & MEANS
Chair: VW MARIO T. BUENAVENTURA
Vice-Chair: VW ROGELIO S. TALASTAS
Members: VW ERNESTO A. UY, VW BENJAMIN M. APACIBLE, VW EMILIANO P. LANGOMEZ, JR., VW DANILO P. MANGILA, VW JOSE MARLOWE S. PEDREGOSA

27. EVALUATION
Chair: MW PABLO C. KO, JR.
Vice-Chair: RW OSCAR V. BUNYI
Members: VW JOVEN K. CHUA, VW EMILIO G. JISON, JR., VW JAIME Y. GONZALES

28. TASK FORCE
Chair: WB JUANITO B. VAÑO, JR.
Vice-Chair: VW JOHN B. LLAMAS
Members: VW ANTONIO M. SAN LUIS, JR., VW RUFINO G. ARIAS, JR., VW RODRIGO T. DIAPANA

29. INSTITUTE OF MASONIC EDUCATION & STUDIES
Chair: VW FERNANDO V. PASCUA, JR.
Vice-Chair: VW JOHN B. LLAMAS
Members: ALL JUNIOR GRAND LECTURERS (JGLs)

30. SPECIAL PROJECTS
Chair: MW JOHN L. CHOA, PGM
Vice-Chair: VW GEORGE L. SO
Members: VW LUCAS T. TY, VW DOMINGO T. TENG, VW JOVEN K. CHUA, VW RODOLFO A. TOR, VW RAMONCITO B. PIAÑA

31. LIBRARY & MUSEUM
Chair: MW REYNOLD S. FAJARDO, PGM
Vice-Chair: MW RAYMUNDO N. BELTRAN, PGM
Members: VW BENITO T. TY, VW MARIO Q. ANGELES, VW JOHNNY M. MENDOZA

Edict No. 185

INSTITUTE OF MASONIC EDUCATION & STUDIES ESTABLISHED

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, issued last June 23 Edict No. 185 by virtue of which he created and established the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES).

What are the purposes of the IMES?

The purposes of the IMES are as follows:

1. To serve as a permanent body in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines that shall take care of, and be responsible for, the continuing Masonic Education of the Craft.

2. To formulate or establish a syllabus or outline of a course in Masonic Education that shall serve as a curriculum common to all regions and districts in this jurisdiction, and to review, revise or amend the same from time to time.

3. To obtain, prepare and reproduce such instructional and teaching materials and manuals as shall be required for the study course(s) of the Institute.

4. To train the teaching staff of the Institute.

Of whom shall the permanent staff of the Institute be composed?

The permanent staff of the Institute shall be composed of the Senior Grand Lecturer (SGL), all Junior Grand Lecturers (JGLs), and all District Grand Lecturers (DGLs) appointed for the time being.

Who shall be the Director of the Institute?

The SGL shall be the *ex-officio* Director of the IMES. He shall generally perform executive and supervisory functions over the Institute and its staff.

Who shall serve as ex-officio Asst. Directors?

The JGL appointed for the National Capital Region (NCR) shall be *ex-officio* Asst. Director for Luzon; the JGL appointed for the Western Visayas Region, *ex-officio* Asst. Director for Visayas; the JGL appointed for the South Central Mindanao Region, *ex-officio* Asst. Director for Mindanao; and the JGL appointed for the overseas Lodges *ex-officio* Asst. Director for the Overseas Lodges.

What are the 14 Regions into which, for purposes of administration, the Philippine jurisdiction is divided?

They are as follows:

Number	Region	District Composition	No. of Lodges
I	NCR	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 & 13	46
II	Northwestern Luzon	37, 41, & 47	14
III	Northeastern Luzon	39, 43, 45, 49, & 51	27
IV	West Central Luzon	23, 25, 27, & 35	18
V	East Central Luzon	29 & 33	21
VI	Tagalog	2, 6, & 10	26
VII	Quezon & Bicol	8, 12, & 14	12
VIII	Western Visayas	20 & 22	16
IX	Eastern Visayas	16, 18, & 24	12
X	Western Mindanao	32, 34, 36, 38, & 50	24
XI	Eastern Mindanao	26 & 40	13
XII	North Central Mindanao	28 & 30	12
XIII	South Central Mindanao	42, 44, 46, & 48	24
XIV	Overseas	15, 17, 19, & 21	8

How shall the units of the Institute be designated?

Each Region enumerated above shall be designated as a "School" of the IMES and shall bear the name of the region plus "School". *Example:* "NCR School".

Masonic Districts under each School shall be designated as "Sections" identified by District Number. *Example:* "Section 10" for District No. 10.

Each Lodge under each District shall be designated as a "Class" and shall be referred to as "Class of" plus the name of the Lodge and its number. *Example:* "Class of Hiram Lodge No. 88".

Who shall serve as unit heads?

Each JGL shall be the Head of the School (Region) he is appointed to.

Each DGL shall be Section (District) Head.

In Districts with more than one DGL, the JGL (School Head) shall divide the Districts into Section A, B, or C as the case may be, designating also which Lodge (or Class) shall fall into each sub-section.

The Worshipful Master shall be designated as the Head of each Class (or Lodge).

What shall be the syllabus of the course in Masonic Education and Studies to be implemented by the Institute, until revised and amended by the Institute itself?

The syllabus to be implemented shall be as follows:

I. *Masonic History*
1. Origin(s) of Freemasonry
   The Regius Poem or Haliwell Manuscript
2. Transition from Operative to Speculative Masonry (Prior to and After 1717)
3. Development of Speculative Masonry and Its Relevance to Society
4. Masonry in the Philippines

II. *Masonic Jurisprudence or Laws & Regulations Governing the Craft*
1. The Ancient Landmarks
   a. The Regulations of 1721
   b. York Constitution of 926
   c. Mackey's Landmarks
2. The General Regulations Compiled by George Payne
3. Other Ancient Constitutions and Regulations
4. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines
5. The By-Laws of the Lodge (Uniform Code)

III. *Masonic Philosophy*
1. Definition of Masonry, Its Purposes and Goals
2. The Craft's Doctrines and Principles
3. Its Role in Society

IV. *Masonic Symbolism and Liturgy (or Ritual)*
1. The Entered Apprentice Degree
   a. Lessons
   b. Philosophy
   c. Symbolism
2. The Fellowcraft Degree
   a. Lessons
   b. Philosophy
   c. Symbolism
3. The Sublime Degree of Master Ma son
   a. Lessons
   b. Philosophy
   c. Symbolism
   d. Drama of the Tragedy
4. The Import of the Installed Past Master's Degree

V. *Organizational Structure of the Craft in the Philippines*
1. The Grand Lodge
2. The Blue or Subordinate Lodge

VI. *Study of the Other Great Rites*
1. York Rite of Freemasonry
2. Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

What shall be the methods of instruction?

The basic method of instruction to be

implemented by the Institute is the classroom method through a Lodge of Instruction to be held on a per class (or Lodge) basis.

Instructions shall be held during stated meetings of Lodges for a duration of not less than 15 minutes nor more than 30 minutes.

Each School or Section Head may schedule seminars or Lodges (classes) of Instruction to be participated in by more than one Lodge within their respective areas of jurisdiction, in coordination with the DDGMs of Masonic Districts concerned.

Subjects to be taken up in these seminars or Lodges of Instruction shall be submitted to the Director, through the Asst. Director concerned, for approval.

What reports shall the permanent staff submit to the office of the Director so that proper implementation of the aims and purposes of the IMES will be ensured?

The Section Head (DGL) shall submit a monthly report, which includes the number of classes held, the date, time and place of each class, subjects covered, and names of instructors. He shall submit this report to the SchoolHead (JGL) in the 1st week of the month immediately following.

Each School Head (JGL) shall submit a quarterly report containing a summary of the classes of instruction held within his area of responsibility (region) and his evaluation of the results thereof, to include such comments and recommendations as may be considered for the benefit of the Institute.

The Director and School Heads shall meet every six months to review the performance of the Institute and consider any recommendations regarding the course syllabus of the IMES or methods of instruction, and such other matters as may enhance the effectiveness of the Institute.

LIVE YOUR MASONRY.

Edict No. 186

REASONS FOR ALLOWING PLURAL LODGE MEMBERSHIP, GUIDELINES RELATIVE THERETO

Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde issued Edict No. 186 decreeing that members of Lodges in the jurisdiction of the M.W. Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines may apply for and be accepted as members in Lodges in addition to their Mother Lodge.

The following are the reasons for allowing plural Lodge membership:

1. Our Masonic Law prohibits members from influencing nonmembers to join our Craft.

2. Many Lodges are encountering difficulties in getting quorum for their meetings due to the small number of active members.

3. Lodges may encourage brethren from other Lodges to apply for dual membership.

4. Pursuant to Section 6 of Article 17 of our Constitution, membership in Lodges is limited to two Lodges, Mother and Dual.

5. There are Brother Masons who have both the time and the resources to become members of more than two Lodges.

6. Plural membership, which is being practiced in other grand jurisdictions, such as New York, California, Virginia, Washington, and Indiana, inasmuch as it does not violate any of Masonry's Ancient Landmarks and Traditions, may help Lodges solve their attendance problems.

7. The funds raised from the additional per-capita assessment will greatly help the Grand Lodge meet is ever-growing financial obligations.

Plural Lodge membership is subject to the following guidelines:

1. A Brother applying for membership in a Lodge other than his Mother and Dual Lodges must first obtain the written permission of his Mother, Dual and all other subsequent Lodges of which he may become

a member before applying for membership in other Lodges.

2. The applying Brother must satisfy the minimum required number of attendance in Lodge meetings as provided for in pertinent Grand Lodge rules and regulations.

3. All pertinent Grand Lodge rules and regulations on processing of membership shall apply.

4. A Brother suspended in any Lodge of which he has become a member shall automatically be suspended in all other Lodges of which he is a member.

5. Plural membership shall be limited to five Lodges exclusive of the Mother Lodge.

Edict No. 186 was issued on July 15, 1999.

CIRCULARS

Circular 7
RATES OF AVAILABLE NON-AIRCONDITIONED ROOMS IN GRAND LODGE DORMITORY

Since the Grand Lodge has not yet made provisions for airconditioned rooms, it can only make available to transient Brethren non-airconditioned ones at the rates specified hereunder:

Two-Person Bedroom - P400/day
Quadruplet for Monthly Basis - P100/day/person
Bunk Room - P75/day/person

Rules and regulations governing the Grand Lodge Dormitory are attached to the Circular.

Circular 8
APPROVED RITUAL CHANGE IN OPENING, CLOSING OF A LODGE OF MASTER MASONS

For the guidance of, as well as immediate observance by, the Brethren, Grand Master Demonteverde issued Circular No. 8 containing the ritual change in the opening and closing of a Lodge of Master Masons which was approved by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication held at General Santos City on April 22-24, 1999. In the Circular, the changes in the ritual are underlined and italicized.

Circular 9
NEW SYSTEM OF REMITTANCE TO THE GRAND LODGE

To lessen the burden of work of Lodge Secretaries, as well as to allow the Brethren to make payment by installments, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde issued last June 2 Circular No. 9, in which he informed the officers of the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges that submission of remittance to the Grand Lodge shall be twice a year, as follows:

1. The per-capita shall be remitted to the Grand Lodge on or before July 15.

2. The rest of the dues and assessments shall be remitted on or before January 15 of the following year.

Lodges are encouraged to remit dues and assessments in advance of the dates specified above.

Circular 10
NEW ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY (AGS)

Due to the departure of VW Benjamin J. Torres, appointed AGS for MY 1999-2000, for the United States on June 19, 1999, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, appointed VW Mario Catalino Q. Angeles as the new AGS.

In his 10th Circular, the Grand Master fraternally requests all Brethren wheresoever dispersed to extend full assistance and give due courtesies to VW Angeles as he discharges the responsibilities of his new office.

Circular 11
PROCEDURE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DISPENSATIONS

The 11th Circular of MW Franklin J. Demonteverde issued on July 24, 1999, first of all, cites the provision of the 1994 Con-

stitution, as amended, that a DDGM is authorized to grand dispensations to Lodges under his jurisdiction in the following instances:

1. Election of an officer outside the period provided for in the Constitution;

2. Receipt of and action upon the petition of an applicant for the degrees of Masonry whose application was rejected within less than 12 months after the filing of said petition;

3. Deferment of the lecture of the first and third degrees;

4. Transaction of business with fewer than 7 members present; and

5. Meeting to transact business and/or conferral of degrees in a place and at a time other than those fixed by the Lodge's By-Laws, Charter or Dispensation.

For every dispensation issued relative to the foregoing instances, the Lodge must collect P100. But when it confers Masonic degrees upon more than 5 candidates at any one meeting or when it confers degrees collectively on more than one candidate, the Lodge must collect the fee of P100 per candidate.

The DDGM shall collect from the Lodges concerned all the required fees for every dispensation he issues and shall remit the same to the Grand Lodge. The Lodge Secretary, on his part, shall attach to the minutes of a special meeting of his Lodge a machine copy of the dispensation granted for said special meeting and the corresponding receipts for the fees paid.

Circular 12
DROP BOX FOR REPORTS

In his 12th Circular issued on July 15, 1999, Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde states that effective June 1, 1999, the working hours of the Grand Lodge office staff has been standardized from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a one-hour noontime break.

The Circular further states:

"Provincial brethren who come to the Lodge before or after office hours to submit reports may do so by dropping them in a box located on the second floor near the main office door.

"The proper acknowledgment shall be mailed upon receipt of the documents."

COTABATO: PRODUCER OF GRAND MASTERS?

Our brethren in Cotabato are mighty proud of the fact that MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, our current Grand Master, resided in Cotabato City during his high school days, that is, in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It was in Cotabato City, WM Pedro S. Ocampo Jr. of Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110 pointed out in the May 1999 edition of the THE CRAFT, that MW Franklin met his better half, nee Lorna Piccio.

"We are all proud of MW Franklin, for he followed the footsteps of his late father, MW Ruperto Demonteverde, who commenced his Masonic life here in Cotabato City," WM Ocampo continued. *"Another Grand Master who emanated from this place is MW Pablo C. Ko Jr., who graced the Ancom held in Gen. Santos City and sat beside the Grand Oriental Chair as a manifestation of his support to a fellow Cotabateño."*

To demonstrate their pride in MW Franklin Demonteverde's assumption of the Grand Oriental Chair, our brethren from Cotabato City presented him with a talam with an inscription penned by VW Winifredo T. Siao, DGL.

During the presentation, WM Ocampo remarked , *"There are really enough talents in Cotabato City that are potential Grand Masters, such as VW Roberto Lim Chua."*

Retorted VW Chua: *"The spirit is willing, but the pockets are weak."*

In any case, the editorial board of THE CRAFT should be commended for responding to critics of Freemasonry.

LET US PONTIFICATE

By: R.W. Tydeman

In his article included in the 1998 Annual Report of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A. Masons of Ireland, R.W. Bro. & Rev. Cannon Richard Tydeman, OSM, a P.J.G.W. of the United Grand Lodge of England and a P.G. Supt. of the Royal Arch Province of Suffolk, who has held very high rank in other Masonic orders, explains why we must build bridges to help people find out the truth about Freemasonry.

First he gives the current definition of the word *pontificate* in the dictionary, namely, "to assume airs of infallibility; to speak or behave with pompous authority; to play the pontiff."

Then he points out that pontiff is a title sometimes given to a bishop or chief priest because "pontiff" is short for *pontifex,* the Latin name for a member of the principal college of priests in ancient Rome, presided over by their chief priest or *pontifex maximus.*

FREEMASONRY IS ONE OF THE LAST UNCHANGING TREASURES IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD; THOSE WHO APPREACIATE IT'S VALUE WILL EVER STRIVE TO BE WORTHY OF IT.

Next he gives the etymological definition of the word *pontifex—pons, pontis,* bridge, and *facere, factum,* to make or build. The Romans, he says, thought of a priest as a maker of bridges between the earthly and the heavenly, and so they called him pontifex or bridge builder. Unfortunately, R.W. Bro. Tydeman adds, some of the chief priests in those days, as well as in more recent times, have been prone to "speak or behave with pompous authority" and so have given the word a bad press.

It is in the original sense of bridge-building that he uses the word, and says, "Let us pontificate." Listen:

A bridge is one of the noblest structures ever devised, being formed of the greatest architectural achievement, the arch. Its characteristics are wisdom, strength, and beauty.

First, a bridge is undoubtedly a thing of beauty and symmetry, pleasing to the eye, and ever attractive to the artist and the photographer.

Next, a bridge must, by definition, be an example of strength. Not only does it have to carry enormous weights, but it often has to cross deep, swift-flowing water which makes it necessary to sink the foundations right down through shifting mud and sand into the solid ground beneath.

Beauty, then, and strength are here exhibited. But more than that, here is a supreme example of wisdom; for the most important and striking characteristic of a bridge is that it is built for the purpose of joining together two sides of a river. Almost every other kind of architectural structure is built for the purpose of dividing. Every wall is erected to divide the people or property on one side of it from the people or property of the other. Every house divides the space within from the space without. Even a church or a temple tends to divide the affairs of God from the affairs of man.

A bridge does none of these things. It is built for the sole and splendid purpose of joining – of promoting communication between two sides which were previously unconnected. Could there be a more useful and worthy project?

Notice further that it does this without any inconvenience to the river itself. Beneath the bridge the tide continues to ebb and flow, and ships pass, unimpeded by the traffic on the bridge above.

Now, the wisdom, strength and beauty found in a bridge are also the three great qualities found in Freemasonry itself, whose nature it is to be a species of bridge, joining together just, upright and free men of different races, languages and creeds, who – in the words of our Ancient Charges – "must otherwise have remained at a perpetual dis-

tance." Masonry has no desire to influence the affairs of the world; rather it rises above them, continuing to form strong lines of communication between men of goodwill, while the traffic of the world ebbs and flows unimpeded.

However, there is one more bridge that we have not yet learnt to build – though we are beginning to make an attempt, and that is the bridge between those who understand Freemasonry and those who don't. We find it difficult to communicate with people who seem to speak a totally different language and have somehow conceived a fear, a dislike, or even a hatred of Masonry. To change their minds will be a difficult task and will take time. But if we cannot yet build a complete bridge across the river of ignorant prejudice, we can at least help by providing what one might call stepping stones.

What we need at this moment is some clear and concise statements, brief and to the point – slogans if you like – to act as stepping stones towards a full understanding.

R.W. Bro. Tydeman does not profess to know all the answers, but he offers the following stepping stones as points of reference:

1. Masonry – a reliable foundation for building. Freemasonry – a reliable foundation for life.

2. Freemasonry doesn't proselytise. It doesn't need to; the right sort of man will always find it.

3. No man is ever pressed to become a Mason. In the end the approach always has to come from the man himself.

4. The purpose of Freemasonry is to build bridges between men of goodwill and to uphold the highest standards of life.

5. Freemasonry is one of the last unchanging treasures in a rapidly changing world; those who appreciate its value will ever strive to be worthy of it.

He hopes that we will come up with stepping stones as memorable as, if not more memorable than, the five he has suggested—stepping stones we will find invaluable when talking to our friends about why our Masonry is important to us.

No, R.W. Bro. Tydeman is not "speaking or behaving with pompous authority"; he simply wants to remind us that it is our duty – and our privilege – to "pontificate" in the true and original sense of that word, and so to exhibit the wisdom, strength and beauty of Freemasonry, now and evermore.

OUR MASONIC UNIVERSAL EMBLEM REVISITED

By VW Jimmy Y. Balacuit

NOTE: *VW Balacuit , Past Master of Iligan Lodge No. 207 and Past District Grand Lecturer, was chosen by our Grand Lodge as Most Outstanding Worshipful Master for Masonic year 1990-91. This is the lecture he delivered during the stated meeting of Maranaw Lodge No. 111 on June 12, 1999 at Ubaldo Laya Masonic Center, Iligan City.*

An emblem is a device, design, figure or symbol used as an identifying mark. Behind an emblem are moral lessons or ideas which bind the advocates together. For instance, the emblem of Christianity is the Cross, which teaches Christians that by emulating the life and sacrifices of Jesus Christ they may achieve everlasting life.

The universal emblem of Freemasonry consists of the Square and Compasses with the letter *G* at the middle. Each of the three symbols comprising the emblem conveys profound lessons or ideas designed to develop virtues and strengthen character.

We have been taught that exemplary behavior is a very effective way of attracting petitioners to our Fraternity. This means

that we attract petitioners by demonstrating to other people that we live a way of life that is worthy of emulation. Yet, we have been told that the roster of active Masons in the Grand Lodge of the Philippines has been decreasing.

What went wrong? Is the quality of the general membership of our Fraternity deteriorating? Are we not told that we should not recommend anyone to become a member of the Fraternity unless we are certain that he will ultimately bring honor to our ancient Institution? Are we not also told to correct the irregularities of our deviant or less informed brethren?

Let us revisit the fundamental aim of Freemasonry, the meaning of each symbol in its emblem, the profound lessons conveyed by the emblem and the implications of the emblem on our daily lives as Masons. Let us remind ourselves of the responsibilities associated with the privileges of being members of our distinguished Fraternity.

Please take note, my brothers, that I use the term "revisit" because the lessons or ideas I am going to discuss or talk over with you are not new to us. Perhaps they are just taken for granted, halfway forgotten in the face of competing concerns in our modern society, or simply did not register in the consciousness because of lack of clear understanding of what the Fraternity is really about.

Our discussion is brief; it covers only basic points related to our universal emblem. It is an attempt to simplify, for the sake of clarity, teachings in the Fraternity which are commonly veiled in allegories and symbolism.

Freemasonry's Ultimate Aim

Essentially, Freemasonry is a science and an art of character building (Angeles, 1992; Puno *et al.*, 1989). It is a science because it is concerned with the discovery of systematic principles that bring about the transformation of man into a better being. It is an art because it is concerned with the practice or application of such principles in daily life.

Freemasonry is a way of life which teaches the necessity of morality. Its ultimate aim is to bring man closer or nearer to God by strengthening his character. The basic assumption is that man as a creation of God shares His divine nature. However, man lost consciousness of his divine origin when he allowed his Lower Self or the ruffian in him to dominate his Higher Self or spiritual being.

Freemasonry's real goal is to bring about the inner transformation of man or the spiritual evolution of those who aspire to perfect their own nature. We are taught that our object as Masons is to find the Lost Word. What is really lost is the awareness of our divine origin, and Freemasonry teaches us how to find the path towards regaining such awareness.

This brings us to the greatest paradox in Freemasonry. The loss of our awareness of our divine origin is symbolized by the death of Hiram Abif, but the path towards regaining such awareness is symbolized by Death (Puno *et al.*, 1989, p.8). However, death here does not mean the death of the human body, but rather, the death of the ruffian or the rough ashlar in us. This reminds us of the caterpillar, which must undergo a death of its present form in order to become a beautiful butterfly.

Our quest for perfection is demonstrated in the three degrees of Freemasonry (*ibid.*, p.18). From one degree to the next, the candidate is led to a new quality of life. He starts as a natural man and ends up a regenerated, perfected man. To attain this transformation, he is taught to purify and subdue his sensual nature; then to purify and develop his mental nature; finally, to surrender his old self-centered ego so that his spiritual self will be born.

The Square, Compasses and Letter G

The Square is one of the most important symbols of Freemasonry. It is an instrument with at least one right angle and two or more straight edges used to lay out or test right

angles. As early builders used it for testing the accuracy of angles and the precision with which stones were cut, the square became an emblem of accuracy or rightness. To "act on the square" means to act rightly.

Aside from being a symbol of accuracy or rightness, the square is also a symbol of morality. As used in everyday discourse, morality refers to ideals of right human conduct in a particular group. In our Fraternity, for instance, we are taught never to defraud a brother of anything. The dictum which says that one should not do unto others what one does not want others to do unto him is a universally accepted moral principle.

In the Lodge the Worshipful Master wears the Square to exemplify honor, integrity and rectitude of conduct. In fact, he is called "Worshipful" to indicate a person whose thoughts and acts are built together into a structure of character governed by the moral standards symbolized by the Square.

Another important symbol of Freemasonry is the Compasses. Webster's unabridged dictionary (1986) defines it as an "instrument for determining circles, transferring measurements, and similar operations consisting in its simple form of two pointed branches joined at the top by a pivot, one of the branches having a pen or pencil point."

The Compasses is the most spiritual among the working tools of Freemasonry. As a tool, it deals with Spherical Trigonometry, which studies spheres and the heavens. As the heavens are in the plane higher than the earth, the Compasses symbolizes the dominance of man's Spiritual Self over his material being. Dominance here refers to the control of passion and the restraint of emotion. In the third degree we are taught to "circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds to all mankind, particularly to our brethren in Freemasonry."

There are significant symbolisms in the different positions of the Square and Compasses in the first three degrees of Freemasonry (*ibid.*, p.18). In the first degree, the Square covers the Compasses completely to symbolize the dominance of the lower self over the higher self. In the second degree, one of the branches of the compasses is above the square to symbolize that the higher self is emerging. And in the third degree, the Compasses is fully above the Square to symbolize the dominance of the higher self over the lower self.

So, an Entered Apprentice is one who is constantly carried away by the dictates of his earthly desires and passions; a Fellow Craft is a person who is already cognizant of the wisdom and guidance of the Higher Self; and a Master Mason in one whose life is fully governed by the Higher Self.

The letter *G* in the emblem refers to God. A unique feature of Freemasonry is its nonsectarian character. It teaches respect for what is sacred to any member. Thus, before its altar people belonging to various religious affiliations may kneel and pray together. It does not matter what name is used by a member to refer to his God. What really matters is that he believes in God. For no individual can ever be admitted into the Fraternity if he does not believe in God.

The location of the letter *G* in the universal emblem of the Fraternity has very profound meaning. It reveals to us how to find the Lost Word. In particular, the location of the letter *G* at the middle of the Square and Compasses teaches us that in every Mason's act God should be at the center. This is a complete submission to the Great Architect of the Universe. And when God is at the center of our daily life, we begin to regain the divine awareness in us or to find what is referred to in our Fraternity as the Lost Word.

Conclusion

Freemasonry is not simply fellowship. It is an institution established to make us better persons. As taught in its first three degrees, the assumption is that man's personality consists of the Lower Self and the Higher Self. Freemasonry uses allegories and ordinary working tools to convey profound lessons on how to attain perfection and to realize our full potentials.

While Freemasonry is not a religion, it is

a God-centered institution which teaches its members to reflect on the power, wisdom and goodness of the Divine Artist from Whom all creations come. The tragedy of Hiram Abif is a parable of the loss of our awareness of our inner divinity or Higher Self.

Our universal emblem symbolizes the kind of person we are or aspire to be. It is often said that the aim of Freemasonry is to make good men better. In fact, exemplary behavior is the key to the growth of the Fraternity. We cannot, however, deny the fact that there are some of us who have remained "rough ashlars" whose behaviors are governed by the Lower Self. And maybe this is a major reason for the declining membership in the Fraternity.

Let me conclude by quoting a statement in the brochure put out by the Committee on Masonic Education of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines, namely: "Freemasonry teaches the necessity of morality, requiring its members to be good and true, righteous when tried by the Square, Upright when tried by the Plumb, their passions kept in due bounds by the Compasses, just in their dealings with their fellows" *(A Lodge System of Masonic Education,* 1980, pp. 4-5). These are the important lessons encapsulized by our universal emblem.

References

Angeles, Danilo. *Basic Information on Freemasonry.* Manila: Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines, 1991.

Balacuit, Jimmy (ed.). *The Lanao Trowel,* Vol. 1, No. 1, January-March 1990, p.32.

Committee on Masonic Education. *A Lodge System of Masonic Education.* Manila: Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines, 1980.

Merriam Webster, Inc. *Webster's Third New International Dictionary.* USA, 1986.

Monitor, 1980.

Puno, Reynato S. *et al. Introduction to the Morals and Dogma.* The Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines, 1989.

The Masonic Business Directory will be published in every issue of *The Cabletow* starting from the December 1999 issue.

That's 15,000 copies. To brothers and friends of Masonry who want to do business with you ~ if only they can find you.

But did you know that putting your message in the Masonic Business Directory also helps support *The Cabletow,* the Grand Lodge and all the districts in the Jurisdiction?

Now you can promote your business and help the Craft at the same time!

Hurry! Sign up now! (*See pages 6 & 7 of this issue*).

WHY ATTEND LODGE?

By George I. H. Mason, MPS

"Those who attend Lodge get more out of Freemasonry than those* who *don't".

That's an axiom; everyone knows it. So why don't more attend – or attend more often? Do they think they've received most of what Lodge can offer, and the extra value isn't worth the extra time? But if those who do attend more do believe the extra is worth the time, what is that extra? What are they getting that others aren't? And just how much extra value does it have?

To find out, there's no point asking those who don't attend often. How could they possibly know? True, you can get a lot out of *reading* about Freemasonry. You can buy books, subscriptions, membership in research lodges, an Internet connection, and stay home and read. But does all the light available from Freemasonry shine full brightly through its words alone? Ask those who attend Lodge often. They say no.

They say there's more, much more. They first remind you that we're a fraternity, a brotherhood, a collection of tens of thousands of places where Freemasons meet, greet and share; that they get extra value out of the extra activities of meeting, greeting and sharing; meeting Lodge members and visitors; going to other Lodges and meeting more Freemasons in neighbouring towns, in nearby jurisdictions, and in Toronto, London, Sydney and Hong Kong; and greeting each other with that special camaraderie that comes from having shared the experiences of the Degrees and the Oaths and Obligations and Examinations, and the decisions in votes and ballots on candidates and officers; the Degree and Installation rehearsals and teamwork, and attendance at Divine Worship services and annual banquets and Grand Lodge Annual Assemblies, and visits from Grand Masters and from Grand Lodge Representatives from other jurisdictions all over the world, that remind us we're the oldest and largest international fraternity that believes in universality; in which millions of members all share beliefs in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and the immortality of the soul; the shared experiences and beliefs that lead to strong bonds of friendly and caring relationships, the mystic tie that binds us in what our Memorial Service describes as "the reciprocal intercourse of kind and friendly acts to mutually promote the welfare and happiness of each other."

You can get all that by reading about it?

No, say those who attend Lodge often. You get it through sharing. We share a flowing stream of mutual experiences; a frequency of new and renewed friendships; a sharing of ritual work and refreshing companionship; and a sharing of the *knowledge* imbedded in the fabric of Freemasonry, in its rituals and the design of how Lodges operate; knowledge concerning important truths about life and living; knowledge that leads to clearer comprehension, deeper understanding, the light each of us sought in Freemasonry; the light which some come to see more clearly than others, and prize more dearly, and want more ardently to share with more of their Brethren; who wish more would attend Lodge more often so the sharing could be as boundless as it was meant to be.

Fine words. Pleasant rhetoric.

But what's the real substance? What can you get through frequent attendance at

NOTE: *This article is from The Philalethes, April 1998, pp. 46-47.*

Masonic Lodges that you can't get elsewhere, or some other way?

You can get clearer answers, for one thing. Answers to questions every thinking Freemason asks himself as he goes along. At least asks *himself.* And often asks others. Or hears them discussed. Questions about the *origins* of the institution and rituals and symbology of Freemasonry; about why it developed, why it lasted through centuries, and why it has attracted millions of members generation after generation, grandfathers and fathers and sons and cousins and unrelated men who might otherwise have remained strangers to each other. Questions about the meanings of the words and phrases in the rituals; about the reasons for choosing them; about the allusions and references and quotations, that *some say* can lead you back in time to the origins of all the great philosophies and theologies and religions – to the answers our ancestors thought deeply about.

Some say? Who say? Those who attend Lodge often, that's who say. They say that's the whole purpose of Freemasonry – to encourage you to ask questions and consider answers, a long process of helping you travel your journey towards your own happy conclusions.

Long process? Yes. The light Freemasonry offers is not shed all at once in one blaze of Degree experiences. It's not contained only in the ritual words and phrases and allegories and allusions. It's contained as much or more in the design and effect of the *process* – the process of attending Lodge and participating in its activities through years and years.

Few of the ideas expressed in the words and actions of Freemasonry are unique or exclusive. But the ways in which they're put together and presented – the ritual ways

– there's nothing else quite like it anywhere, not in potential effectiveness.

Potential effectiveness. There's what we're talking about. Freemasonry can have an enormously beneficial effect in making a good man better and happier, if he fully exposes himself to all its *potential,* to its process, over time. It's just too complex, too deep and wide to absorb in a few sittings, or even in a few years. It works its magic, spreads all its light, and weaves its mystic ties, through a process which requires time; time for questions to come to mind; time to ask them; time to realize many answers aren't written down, and aren't easy to express; time to hear and consider the alternative answers; time to draw personal conclusions.

What questions?

Is there really more to the rituals than most people seem to realize? That ought to be one of the first questions. And the answer given by those who attend often is a resounding yes!

If symbols, allusions and allegories are used by Freemasonry as teaching tools, as the Ancient Mysteries did, and as all great religions still do, have I attended often enough to learn how to understand and use the tools of Freemasonry? Do I understand the symbolisms as well as I could? Have I asked others about them, discussed them, debated the possible interpretations?

If Freemasonry is a way of life founded on a philosophy proved beneficial throughout the ages, do I understand that philosophy, that way of life? Could I understand it better by observing more often how my Brothers demonstrate it in Lodge?

Am I as proud of being a Freemason as my Brothers are? If not, what am I missing?

Do I feel and fully understand the mystic tie that binds all Freemasons together? Am I sharing that sense of close friendship that obviously exists between other members?

If I haven't fulfilled the desire I had when I first approached Freemasonry, why do those who continue to attend feel that they have? What am I missing?

Can I explain to a potential candidate the feeling one receives from the handclasp

and words of welcome and good cheer offered by so many Brethren when I attend Lodge?

Can I explain the Masonic meaning of the word Brother?

Have I received all the light Freemasonry has to offer? If not, is that because Freemasonry doesn't really offer as much as it claims; as much as I expected when I joined? Or is it because I haven't worked with it enough; or haven't given it full opportunity to work with me.

If some Brethren say they get more out of Freemasonry than I think I do, can I get that extra value without attending more often?

Ask yourself those questions, sincerely. Some, for certain, you won't be able to answer without attending Lodge. And that's one of the most important answers!

Seek more answers. Seek them in the Lodge Room. The great aim of our institution is to enable you to discover how to find them, to make you so much happier you'll want to share that happiness with others, and thus to enrich your journey through life – and theirs.

God bless your traveling.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & FELLOWSHIP

By VW Rico O. Ibonia, PDGL

Masonic District No. 42 had an assembly and fellowship last June 19 at the Manaklay Resort in Mabini, Davao, with Tagum Lodge No. 204 as host.

VW Fortunao G. Cagas Jr., DDGM, assisted by the DGLs and GLIs, presided over the assembly, which was attended not only by brethren of the host Lodge but also by those of Mati-Aurora Lodge No. 190, Shangri-la Lodge No. 196, Panabo Dalisay Lodge No. 237 and Don Dalvador P. Lopez Memorial Lodge No. 276.

The brethren of the District also visited VW Sergio F. Dalisay, PDGL, at his residence in Davao City on the occasion of his 81st birthday.

They had an enjoyable dinner with the celebrator.



Standing(L-R): WM Dante De Castro; VW Romeo R. Perez, DGL; VW Fortunato Cagas, Jr., DDGM; VW Rafael I. Erfe, PDDGM, VW Rico O. Ibonia, PDGL; Bro. Merlino Ramos, WM Joselito A. Cruz.
Seated is WB Ray Soliban of Davao Lodge No. 149. At center is the celebrator, VW Sergio F. Dalisay, PDGL.

CHURCH OPPOSITION TO FREEMASONRY

By VW Victor A. Yu, PDGL, MD No.3

Note: *This is the synthesis of the talk VW Yu gave to the brethren of Walana Lodge No. 13 last May 22.*

VW Yu, Secretary of Service Lodge No. 95, graduated from Ateneo de Davao University with the degree of BSC – Accounting in 1986, and from the Madison Law School of Wisconsin in 1990 with the degree of Juris Doctor. He is a member of the Wisconsin Bar, USA; a Certified Public Accountant, Phils.; a member of Aloha Temple, Hawaii; partner, Dario & Yu, Manila; Counsel, Law Office, Benjamin W. Diets, Seattle, Washington, USA; and consultant, Wong & Co Law Office, Taipei, Taiwan.



At the last Annual Communication leaflets condemning our Fraternity were distributed at the convention site. Informed brethren would quickly notice the absurdity and lack of basis of the charges in the leaflets against us. Perhaps, our role in the Philippine Revolution received an impressive exposure during our nation's Centennial celebrations and some Church leaders are not happy about it.

Nevertheless, every Mason should always equip himself with Masonic principles and other basic truths to dispel the unfair and baseless charges by some Churches against our Fraternity. Freemasonry promotes the brotherhood of men under the fatherhood of God. If Freemasonry promotes such principle, Churches (faiths) should not have any objection when its members join our Fraternity. But we all know that such is not the case. Opposition to Freemasonry usually comes from the extreme fundamentalist elements of Churches, whether these be Catholic, Protestant, Moslem, Buddhist, etc. The nature of such extreme fundamentalists is that they are adamant on the position that people with beliefs different from theirs are committing sin against God. Extreme fundamentalists would naturally oppose Freemasonry because we Masons are taught to be tolerant of each other's faith, beliefs and culture. In Freemasonry, there is unity among diversity.

The most frequent issues raised against our Fraternity are that: a) we are a religion; b) we are a secret society; c) we take sinful oaths; d) we inflict horrible penalties; e) we worship satan; f) we are paganistic and practice naturalism; g) we have blasphemous titles; h) we are in favor of democracy and the separation of Church and State; i) we are in favor of public education; j) we are for civil marriage ; k) we are a political party; and l) we worship the sexual organ.

A religion has a set of common values but we definitely have no creed nor doctrine of faith. Nor do we have any theology defining the Supreme Architect of the Universe and prescribing procedures on how to worship Him. Instead, we teach religious toleration as we encourage each member to pay due reverence to his own God and obey precepts of human conduct that are common to mankind such as the Golden Rule, charity, tolerance, etc.

If we are a secret society, how come the roster of our members and even their ad-

dresses appear in our souvenir programs? We have secret rites not because we conceal them for unlawful purposes. We only have such secret rites to better impress upon the candidate the lessons taught by our Craft. It is universal that things which are hidden are sought after. If secrecy is bad, then corporations and families would also be guilty and have to divulge trade/business secrets and intimate family matters, respectively.

If oaths are sinful, then every public official is sinful because he takes an oath before assuming office. When Jesus said: "...swear ye not at all; ... but let your communication be... for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" in the Sermon at the Mount, what he was saying was that a man's word should be as sacred as his word supported by an oath. He was saying this because Jewish Law did not require one to keep his word unless supported by an oath.

The only penalties we have in our jurisdiction are deprivation of title and position, reprimand, suspension and expulsion. The penalties described in our obligation are merely symbolic and no one has ever been inflicted with such penalties. This accusation arose from William Morgan, a pseudo-Mason in Batavia, New York who signed in 1824 a contract to publish an expose of Freemasonry and boasted about it. When he disappeared, Masons were blamed. But at that time, Morgan had many debts and creditors were after him.

Accusations that we are a satanic cult came largely from a hoax perpetuated by Gabriel Jogand Pages who used the pen name Leo Taxil. He made several fabrications that we are engaged in satanic and occultic practices. Taxil eventually recanted and admitted that he duped the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. But his recantation was not widely publicized by our accusers unlike his previous hoax.

All religious practices are based on some paganistic ritual because worship to the Supreme Being originated from man's appreciation of the Creator and His creation (nature). Even the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a practice of a paganistic symbolism—that of eating the flesh and drinking the blood of Jesus Christ. And who defines what is pagan? In the eyes of an Aeta, Christians may be pagans! Naturalism in the early ages when condemned by the Roman Catholic Church was equivalent to scientific discoveries and explanation of some science behind occurrences. Such was condemned by some religions because when they explain things, religions lose their mystical and magical awe. Masonry has never advocated the sole use of human reason in everything. Instead, Masonic rituals teach us to invoke the blessings of God in our daily undertakings. With regard to blasphemous titles, the word "Worshipful" is an old word meaning Honorable or worthy of respect. In John Wycliffe's translation of the Bible, the clause "Honor thy father and Mother" is written as "Worchyp thy fadir and modir".

Democracy, separation of Church and State and public education are now acceptable fundamentals of a nation. In the past, such ideas threatened the stranglehold of the ruling Church and were forbidden lest they topple their rule. With regard to our alleged support for civil marriage, the Craft never expressed its opinion on such matter. We are taught to obey the laws of the country in which we reside. As such, we consider marriage to be a civil and religious contract. Discussion of politics is forbidden in Masonry because it tends to divide the brethren and what we promote is brotherly love as we unite men of every culture, faith and belief and cause true friendship to exist even among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. While discussion of politics is forbidden in Masonry, the brethren as individual citizens are free to discuss and get involved in politics in their personal capacities.

We are accused that we worship our sexual organs and we wear aprons to cover them because they are sacred. This is an

DBP AWARDS MW DEMONTEVERDE PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION

Development Bank of the Philippines Chairman Ramon C. Abad recently awarded a PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION to Atty. Franklin J. Demonteverde of the Office of Legal Counsel for his election as Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine grand jurisdiction for Masonic year 1999-2000.

The Philippine grand jurisdiction covers not only the Philippines but also Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, Guam, Saipan, and other countries of the Pacific Rim.

Atty. Franklin J. Demonteverde's father, Ruperto S. Demonteverde, used to head the Branches & Agencies Department (BAAD) of the DBP; he was elected Grand Master of Masons in the same grand jurisdiction in 1973.

Freemasonry, the largest Fraternal Order in the world, aims to establish on this planet a veritable brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God. On the principle of Brotherly Love it 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.

The first Grand Lodge was formally organized in England in 1717



Masons in the DBP Head Office who witnessed the presentation by DBP Chairman Abad (in dark suit) of the Plaque of Recognition include *(L-R)* Bros. Ben G. Perez, Romeo P. Escudero, Bal R. Leal, Mariano S. Guerrero Jr., Joven G. Peñaflorida, Mario R. Peralta, Chito Baltazar, and Perry Pasay.

Church Opposition... (Cont.)

irresponsible statement because we wear a lot of things beneath and beside our apron. Every man would agree that the sexual desire of man is the most difficult to control among our various desires as human beings.

Precisely, in Masonry we are taught to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds toward all mankind.

We Masons in the Philippines are lucky because we now only experience verbal attacks. If the attacks against Masons become violent just like the executions and tortures in the Spanish period or the persecutions against Moslems in Kosovo or the burning of Christian churches and homes in Indonesia, how many of us would still remain as members of the Craft?

Such questions can only be answered individually after a long period of personal examination or thorough reflection of our lives as members of the Fraternity.

OUR GRAND WARDENS

The Grand Wardens, as provided for in Article XI of the Masonic Law Book, Revised 1994, shall (1) assist the Grand Master at all times and, in his absence and that of the Deputy Grand Master, preside at Communications of the Grand Lodge in the order of their rank, and (2) in the event of death, absence from this jurisdiction, or inability of both the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, in the order of their rank, be vested with all the powers and duties assumed.

In this issue, we take a closer look at the biographical sketch of the Senior Grand Warden for Masonic year 1999-2000. In the next, we will meet the Junior Grand Warden.



R.W. BRO. NAPOLEON A. SORIANO, SGW

Birth & Family

Born in San Lorenzo, Gapan, Nueva Ecija, on November 29, 1950, Nap is the oldest of the five children of Fortunato V. Soriano, Sr. of Guimba and Felicidad M. Alejos of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, the younger ones being Henedina, Fe, Amado Joy, and Fortunato, Jr.

Student, Professional Life

After finishing grade 2 at Gapan East Central School, Nap transferred to Cubao Elementary School, where he graduated with second honors.

In 1967 he graduated as valedictorian from the Ramon Magsaysay (Cubao) High School. Then he enrolled at the University of the East in Sampaloc, Manila, where he was an academic scholar for two semesters and where he met Sis. Erlinda S. Lopera, who was, like him, actively involved in the student government.

When he was in 3rd year college, be became a working student. First he served as officer in charge of the electrical shop of Impact Corporation in Cainta, Rizal; then in 1972-73, as mechanical/electrical head of the maintenance department of S & J Cottage Industries in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City. During this period he attended a series of seminars on creative thinking, problem solving and related topics sponsored by the Philippine Inventors Society.

In 1973 he was graduated from the College of Engineering of the U.E. with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE).

In 1974 he took and passed the licensure examination for Assistant Electrical Engineer. Subsequently he was employed as Quality Control & Inspection Assistant in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Co.

In February 1977 he took and passed the licensure examination for Associate Electrical Engineer, and in August of the same year, that for Professional Electrical

Engineer, landing in 8th place, which led to his hiring as instructor in the College of Engineering of his Alma Mater, the University of the East. He served as such until 1987.

In 1978 he took enrichment courses at the De La Salle and Ateneo Graduate Schools. Such courses included Project Feasibility Study Preparation & Development and Construction Project Management. He also attended a seminar on Contract Administration sponsored by Konsulta Philippines Inc.

In 1979 he attended the 4th National Convention of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, of which he was (and still is) a members.

In 1980-81 he served as Staff Assistant in the Bldg. & Grounds Administration Division of the PLDT Co. During this period he participated in seminars on Technical Report Writing and Effective Building Administration at Communication Consultants Inc. and Asia Executive Resources Inc., respectively.

In 1980, likewise, he went on an observation trip/plant visit in several countries. From July 25 to August 10 he was in London, England; he underwent training in Fire Protection & Detection at the AFA Minerva (EMI Ltd.). In the week following, he was in Munich, Germany; he got further training in Fire Protection & Detection at SIEMENS. From Munich he flew to Mashushita, Japan, where he also underwent still further training in the same area.

From 1981 to 1991 he served as Manager in the Bldg. Maintenace Dept. of the PLDT Co.

In 1983 he participated in seminars on conference leadership, counseling as management tool, and project management at the PLDT Co. Then in 1984 he attended a seminar on building & ground maintenance at the executive Development Academy.

In 1986 he participated in the in-service training program of the PLDT Co. on administrative policies and procedures.

In 1988-90 he was a part-time instructor in Electrical Engineering at the Perpetual Help College of Rizal in Las Piñas, Metro Manila.

In 1991-94 he was Senior Manager in the PLDT Co. Bldg. Maintenace Dept.

In November and December 1991 he was in Germany, France, Belgium and Finland on another observation trip/plant visit. This time he got training particularly in elevator/ escalator construction, installation and maintenance at KONE-OY.

In 1994-97 he was Senior Manager in the Civil Works-DevEx of the PLDT Co., and from 1997 to the present he has served as Senior Manager in the same company's Project Support Division II.

Engineer Soriano belongs to two other professional organizations: the Philippine Association of Building Administratiors (PABA) and the Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA) International.

Masonic Career

Bro. Nap was initiated, passed, and raised in1982 at Walana Lodge No. 13

In 1984 he received the Scottish Rite degrees at Luzon Bodies.

Proficient in the three degrees of Craft Masonry, he was chosen chairman of the conferral team of Walana Lodge No. 13.

In 1985 he was elected Junior Warden of his Mother Lodge, and he received the degrees in Filipinas York Rite. He has



conferred the York Rite degrees to subsequent candidates. He also became a member of the conferral teams of Luzon Bodies, A.& A. S. R., and the Grand Lodge.

In 1986 he was Senior Warden of Walana, as well as recipient of the Most Outstanding Service Award. He was also chosen Masonic District 1-A's Outstanding Master Mason.In 1987 he became his Mother Lodge's Life Member by Purchase (LMP) and Worshipful Master. He also received from Masonic District 1-A the Most Outstanding Leadership Award.

WB Nap Soriano was invited to preside over the installation of Blue Lodge officers not only in the National Capital Region but in other parts of the country as well. He also presided over funeral services for deceased brethren. His fame as a proficient ritualist, as a result, spread like wild fire or wing of the hurricane throughout the grand jurisdiction.In 1988 he was elected Secretary of Walana and of Masonic District 1-A. In the year following, he served as the Grand Master's Deputy for the same district. He was, moreover, conferred the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) by the Supreme Council of SGIGs of the 33rd and Last Degree, A. & A.S.R. of Freemasonry, Republic of the Philippines.In 1990 he became a member of Afifi Temple, specifically Maginoo Shrine Oasis, AAONMS. He has conferred the Shrine degrees at the annual Philippine Shrine Ceremonial.In 1991 he served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines as Senior Grand Deacon; in 1992, as Grand Standard Bearer.

A dual member of Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282, he was one of the Charter Members of Baliwag Lodge No. 301 in 1993, and of Dr. Jose P. Laurel Lodge No. 325.

In the 1994 Ancom in Cebu he was an alternate candidate for the position of Junior Grand Warden. In 1995 he was not nominated. In the 1996 Ancom in Cagayan de Oro City he placed second to now Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde. In 1997 he was not nominated again. But during the 1998 Ancom in Manila the brethren elected him Junior Grand Warden.

In his brief acceptance speech, he said in part, "I must give thanks to the Grand Architect of the Universe and to you, dear brethren, *sapagkat kung wala kayo, wala ako...* My election indicates that time, patience and perseverance will accomplish all things."

During his year as JGW, RW Soriano served as chairman of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Necrology; vice-chairman of the Committee on Finance; and member of the Committee on Awards. There can be no doubt that he will extend utmost cooperation and support to the current Grand Lodge leadership.SGW Nap Soriano is a 33rd-degree Inspector General Honorary (IGH) in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. He is, furthermore, an honorary member of Lodges Bagumbayan No. 4, Biak-na-Bato No. 7, Luzon No. 57, High Twelve No. 82, Noli Me Tangere No. 148, San Mariano No. 307, Ganano No. 313, and San Mateo No. 319.

Family Man, Community Leader

Despite his busy schedule as Senior Manager in the PLDT Co. and as a Masonic leader, RW Nap Soriano is, in his own measure, a judicious user of the 24-inch gauge and therefore finds time to be "present" to his family.

Staunchly believing that Freemasonry is a worthwhile way of life, he has involved his family in Masonic affairs. In fact, Sis. Erlinda is a member of Manila Court No. 4, Order of the Amaranth. Their son Erickson is Past Master Councilor of Loyalty Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and their daughter Eloisa is a member of Bethel No. 22, International Order of Job's Daughter.

RW Nap and Sis. Erlinda, as well as their children, have involved themselves in local community development, often extending assistance to less fortunate neighbors and fellow men. Indeed, the jeepney drivers in their employ aver that the Sorianos are kind-hearted.

A Final Word

Decidedly, after serving our Grand Lodge "through the line," R.W. Bro. Nap Soriano will stimulate the brethren to convince the world, by precept and example, that Freemasonry is a science and an art that walks arm in arm with progress toward a better way of life. – **eF.R.eN**

PAST GRAND CHAPLAIN BERT REYES DROPS WORKING TOOLS

By Flor R. Nicolas

VERY WORSHIPFUL AND ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER ALBERT C. REYES, 33rd degree, Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Republic of the Philippines, dropped the working tools of life on June 19, 1999, the 138th anniversary of the birth of Bro./Dr. Jose Rizal, foremost Filipino hero.

In the very warm afternoon of May 17, according to Ill. Bro. Rosendo C. Herrera, 33rd degree, Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC) of the Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R., the Committee on the Preparation for the 50th Anniversary of the Scottish Rite was having a meeting at the Dreemhaus on Taft Ave. In the middle of the meeting, Ill. Bro. Bert Reyes discreetly left. He did not, however, return to the meeting. When the meeting was about to be adjourned, the sad news came: Bro. Bert had been rushed to the hospital unconscious!

Ill. Bro. Herrera further revealed: *"Friends, employees and brothers, all very concerned about him, immediately responded and combined efforts. When he arrived at the hospital, he was pronounced clinically dead. But, using their expertise, the doctors were able to revivify him. Yet he remained in a comatose state. His family and friends, desirous of fully reviving him and nursing him back to good health, sought the best medical advice. The days that followed were fraught with anxiety. Countless friends, brethren, peers, and loved ones rallied behind him in unity, as an expression of their love for him. All wanted to bring back to life the person who, in one way or another, had been a part of their lives and who, in so many ways, had touched the lives of so many people in accordance with God's will and pleasure."*

After a month and two days of hospitalization, Bro. Bert was finally summoned by the GAOTU to the Celestial Lodge.

Born in Sampaloc, Manila, on Sept. 30, 1924, he was initiated, passed, and raised in Araw Lodge No. 18 in Jan. 1964. He got so involved in the affairs of his Mother Lodge that the brethren elected him Junior Warden in 1968, Senior Warden in 1969, and Worshipful Master in 1970.

He obtained his Scottish Rite degrees from Luzon Bodies in May 1964.

In 1982 he was elected Ven. Master of the Harmony Lodge of Perfection, Luzon Bodies.

He also served as Wise Master of the Fraternity Chapter of Rose Croix, Commander of the Liberty Council of Kadosh, and Master of Kadosh, Equality Consistory.

From 1965 to 1980, he was an active member of the Luzon Bodies All-Around Conferral Team under Ill. Damaso C. Tria and Ill. Benito Maneze, Sr. This conferral team traveled to various parts of the country either to confer the Scottish Rite degrees or to instruct the brethren in the art of conferring the degrees, or both.

From 1964 to 1977, he was choir director of the Luzon Bodies Choir, the Brothers of Harmony, and the Scottish Rite Chorale. These singing groups rendered musical numbers during installations of officers of Blue Lodges, the Grand Lodge, and Scottish Rite Bodies; Masonic funeral and memorial services; wedding ceremonies; and other special occasions hosted by Masonic Lodges and Bodies. They also performed in choral concerts sponsored by other organizations at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Philamlife Auditorium, the Meralco Theatre, the UP Concert Hall, and other places in the country.

In 1968, Bro. Bert affiliated with Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1035, S.C. In 1980, he was Right Worshipful Master of this Lodge. It was during his term that he pre-

sided over the conferral on this writer of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, and Mark Master degrees.

On Jan. 14, 1970, he was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH). He was coroneted Inspector General Honorary (IGH) on Feb. 9, 1978.

Ill. Bro. Bert Reyes was frequently invited by Blue Lodges and Scottish Rite Bodies to serve either as Installing Officer or as Master of Ceremonies.

In March 1979, he was, reportedly, the first IGH to confer the 33rd degree.

On March 14, 1985, he was elected a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG); on June 27 of the same year, he was crowned Active Member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite.

Ill. Bro. Bert served as Asst. Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council from March 18 to Oct. 16, 1985; Acting Grand Secretary General from Oct. 17, 1985 to Sept. 25, 1986; and Grand Secretary General from Sept. 26, 1986 to the time of his death.

In 1988 he was reelected Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Perla del Oriente No. 1034, S.C.

His two sons, Roberto and Norberto, are both members of this Lodge and of Luzon Bodies.

In 1996 he was made Life Member by Longevity of his Mother Lodge.In 1998 he served as Grand Chaplain and member of the Committee on Necrology of our Grand Lodge.

The remains of "the venerated workhorse of the Supreme Council" lay in state at the Funeraria Nacional on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, from June 19 to 21, 1999. On June 22, they were transferred to the Scottish Rite Temple on Taft Avenue. In the evening, the 18th-degree funeral rites were given in his memory. Friends, relatives, and members of the Masonic family attended the funeral rites.

In his eulogy, SGC Herrera said in part:

"From the day I attended to him in the hospital, I knew he was ready to face his Creator. I saw the peace on his face. I felt the calmness of his children, who were resigned to whatever was the Almighty's will for their father... Indeed, Bro. Bert's relationship with the Lord was so strong that it was reflected in his disposition and in his dedication to his family – to Sister Trining, who was the center of his concern, his dream, his aspirations; to his two sons, particularly Bobby, who, as he had often confided to me, he hoped and prayed would have a steady and stable means of livelihood; and to his grandchildren who, according to him, had renewed his interest in living much longer.

"Bro. Bert Reyes had his own simple way of drawing people close to him. He was always accommodating, cheerful, and sincere. He never ran out of stories to tell. I can vividly recall how he made people laugh with his jokes. He was very transparent; he let others see through his feelings. While he expressed affection and fondness, he was also so straightforward as to express his anger, when this was needed. But as soon as he had said his piece, he reverted to his being an accommodating boss or a sincere brother. He never harbored grudges with anybody.

"His steadfast devotion to Masonry, especially to the Scottish Rite, was concurrent to his faith; for, according to him, by living Masonry, he was doing our Lord's work.

"Bro. Bert, indeed, lived a full life. Not too many in this jurisdiction – and probably throughout the Masonic world – have enjoyed the love, respect, and friendship of so many brothers the way Bro. Bert did.

"Tears may be shed on this day of gloom. But after the tears have cleared up, his family, who had seen the many ways the brethren manifest brotherly love and unity, will ponder on how this simple man, this husband, this father, this grandfather had built an empire of friends for them.

"I know that many of us here share the pride of having been a part of Bro. Bert's life. Let us relish the feeling that we, in our own way, had been part of him, too. I know that many share my happiness in our show of unity in seeing him through his illness until he dropped his working tools. This feeling will keep him alive forever in our hearts.

"Somewhere in time, we will all be reunited with him. Somewhere in time, our children's children will still think of this beautiful day of unselfish expression of love.

"As for now, let us feel the presence of our brother within us, smiling and thanking us for the love and unity we have manifested for him and his family. And we thank our good Lord for the many years He has gifted us with a good friend and brother.

"Until that somewhere in time, our good Brother Bert, take our love and prayers with you."

The following day, June 23, was another "beautiful day of unselfish expression of love" for Bro. Bert. With a big number of friends and brethren in attendance, the 3rd-degree funeral rites were given in his memory.

On June 24, his remains were cremated.

Farewell, dear Bro. Bert! You served your day and generation with so much skill, credit and excellence in your several stations in life, like desirable rich cream on milk – always rising to the top. A gentleman amongst men; much loved, widely respected, and highly esteemed by us, your friends and brethren; a rich blessing to your home, your Church, and the various clubs/organizations you joined along the way, foremost of which is the Masonic Order.

To you, decidedly, apply these memorable lines: WHEN THE FINAL SUMMONS COMES, TO TAKE THAT LAST LONG TRIP/ ADORNED WITH LAMBSKIN APRON WHITE, AND GEMS OF FELLOWSHIP;/THE TILER AT THE GOLDEN GATE, WITH SQUARE AND RULE, AND PLUMB,/ WILL SIZE UP YOUR PIN AND SAY, "WALK IN – I SEE YOU'VE TRAVELED SOME!"

Dear Bro. Bert, farewell!



Ill. Damaso Tria, 33rd degree, PSGC, assisted by Ill. Eugenio Labitoria, 33rd degree SGIG, and other Scottish Rite Leaders, presides over 18th-degree funeral rites in Ill. and VW Bro. Bert Reyes' memory.

CENTENNIAL CLOCK MONUMENT MARKER UNVEILED

The Hon. Ronaldo Zamora, Executive Secretary, representing His Excellency Joseph Ejercito Estrada, President of the Republic of the Philippines, and MW Enrique L. Locsin, immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M of the Philippines, unveiled the Marker of the Masonic Centennial Clock Monument, which proudly stands across the monument of Bro. Jose P. Rizal, last May 15.

The unveiling ceremony program started with the singing of the Pambansang Awit and the Grand Lodge Hymn, followed by the invocation led by VW Jaime Y. Gonzales, PSGS.

VW Samuel P. Fernandez, who acted as MC, presented the guests, and VW Sonny K. Wang, immediate PDDGM of MD No.5 and Centennial Clock Committee Chair, gave the welcome remarks.

Exec. Director Antonio S. Mercado of the National Parks Development Committee lauded the Masons for erecting in the Rizal Park the Masonic Centennial Clock Monument, a three-column structure, 2 storeys high, with a Bulova clock (1-meter diameter) on each of the columns.

In his message, MW Locsin informed those present that the cost of the entire project is approximately 3 million pesos. Dapitan Lodge No. 21 arranged for the donation of the three clocks (satellite powered, guided by global positioning) by the Bulova Watch Corporation of Switzerland.

Bro. Homobono Pique, Senior Warden of Palanyag Lodge No. 323, was in charge of the construction of the monument; he worked in close coordination with VW Rene Damian, PDDGM, who was then Building Administrator of the GLP and overall Centennial Clock Project Officer. Mencius Lodge No. 93 shouldered about 50% of the construction cost, while majority of the Blue Lodges in the NCR contributed money and/or services.

Introduced by MW Locsin, Executive Secretary Zamora read President Estrada's message, as follows:

I keep seeing you guys. But thank you for inviting me to another grand Masonic affair.

You are really determined not to make the country forget how much it owes to Masonry, in terms of heroes, ideals and sacrifices toward the birth of our nation and progress of our country.

One year after the Centennial, you are still celebrating the role of Masonry in the declaration of Philippine Independence.

And this is certainly one grand way to do it.

I am happy to be here and very pleased with this Memorial.

Now I understand what Masonry means. It means service to mankind and giving to country. And what a gift this is — in honor of the past, the present and the future.

This is one of the biggest clocks I have ever seen. And it is right smack where no one can miss it, not even Jose Rizal over there who has all the time on his hands.

It even has three faces. You cannot miss reading the time and it is not too far from Malacañang. I am bound to pass here at least once a day. Did you know that? Are you trying to give me a hint about being on time!

But this is certainly a wonderful gift to the nation. I understand it cost quite a lot. And it is now here for everyone to see and make use of. It joins the many monuments that mark the progress of Masonry throughout our history. But this one adds usefulness to beauty.

We have long needed a kind of national clock, a Big Ben. It used to be the clock over at City Hall but that one cannot be trusted to tell the right time all the time. I have used it as an excuse for being late coming home.

This clock, on the other hand, will always tell the right time. That is the Masons' promise. It is under a perpetual guarantee of accuracy from Bulova in Switzerland no less.

I will set my watch by this clock and, if I am ever late for appointments, I will know who to blame. You guys.

This clock sets a new standard for our country. It is a symbol of a new national seriousness about getting the job started and getting it done—on time.

Few know that I am a stickler for schedules and strict judge of time. Whether it is building roads, or putting up houses or any other task in the public service, I want things done fast and well.

This clock will remind me, as it should remind the people who work for me, that time waits for no man.

And there is much I want to do for our country because so much cries out to be done: Justice for the abused, discipline for their abusers, the production of more of the great wealth this country is capable of producing, and greater equity in its sharing. Even such basic things as housing, clothing and education for the vast majority of our people who have so little of them. The very same majority that elected me President. I want to be remembered, but not for accidental contributions. All presidents leave a legacy. Such is the power of this office that it is impossible not to leave some good behind.

But I want to be remembered for what I promised, for doing what the people elected me to do. I am proud of my reputation for keeping my word and never breaking faith with any man.

I will not break faith with the poor who made me: the successful actor I was, the successful mayor I became and the president that I am now.

This clock will remind me that the task is long and time is running.

I hope it reminds the people who work for me that I am also keeping time on them.

On behalf of the Filipino people, may I express our gratitude for this gift from the midwife of Philippine Independence, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.



VW Rodolfo Asel Tor (DDGM, Dist #3), VW Gigi Ancajas (DDGM, Dist #1), George L. So (DDGM, Dist #5), VW Enrique L. Flores, Jr. (DDGM, Dist #13), and VW Edgardo S. Delmo (DDGM, Dist #7) pose at the Centennial Clock Monument after unveiling of Marker.

75 YEARS OF MASONIC CHARITIES IN COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

The Philippine Postal Corp. issued on July 5 a stamp commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI).

This was announced by Postmaster General Nicasio P. Rodriguez, who said that the design of the new stamps depicts a Mason and crippled children held aloft by a big hand and rays of the sun signifying hope. He added that the following are also incorporated in the design: the word "Pilipinas", the denomination of the stamps, the text "75th Anniversary – Masonic Charities for Crippled Children," and the Square and Compasses with the G at the center, which is the universal Masonic emblem.

The Postmaster General further revealed that the commemorative stamps and official first-day covers are available at the Philatelic Division, Money Order Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, 1000 Manila, and all Regional Offices of the Philippine Postal Corp. Prominent Filipino and American Masons who met at the Masonic Temple on the Escolta on July 29, 1924 decided to house a Masonic ward for crippled children at the Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo, Manila. The ward opened its doors to five young cripples on Sept. 23, 1925. Except for a brief period during World War II, the Masonic ward has operated continuously and has increased its capacity to 20 beds. It is managed by the MCCCI, which is supported by annual assessments on Philippine Masons and run by a 9-member Board of Trustees, and is operated and maintained by orthopedic surgeons with extensive training and experience here and abroad.

The MCCCI, through its free surgical and medical program, has helped rehabilitate thousands of children suffering from poliomyelitis, congenital deformities like clubfoot, tuberculosis of the bones, bone tumors and other deformities. It has other units in Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Baguio and Cabanatuan.

The MCCCI received the prestigious Apolinario Mabini Award from the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled on Nov. 26, 1987. Then President Corazon C. Aquino presented the award in special ceremonies held at Malacañang.

During the celebration of its diamond anniversary at the Plaridel Masonic Temple on July 30, the MCCCI gave awards to magnanimous groups and individuals who have extended support to it.



Congressman Ernesto Herrera shows off souvenir frame containing MCCCI 75th anniversary commemorative stamps and first-day cover issued on July 5, 1999. MCCCI President Ray Beltran (at center) and MW Rosendo Herrera, PGM, look on with amusement.

MCCCI CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Masonic Charities for Crippled Children Inc. (MCCCI) celebrated its diamond jubilee on July 30, 1999 at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, Paridel Masonic Temple.

Upon the arrival of the guest of honor and speaker, Representative Ernesto F. Herrera, at about 7 p.m., the MCCCI Choir, composed of patients and ex-patients of the Masonic Ward in the Mary Johnston Hospital, led the singing of the Pambansang Awit. VW Antonio F. Joson led the invocation, and the MCCCI Choir once more led the singing of the Grand Lodge Hymn.

In his opening remarks, MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, MCCCI President, briefed the guests on the history of the MCCCI. Next, in behalf of Postmaster General Nicasio P. Rodriquez, Asst. Postmaster General for Marketing & Business Development Felipe A. Hidalgo, Jr. presented to the MCCCI the souvenir frame containing the 75th anniversary commemorative stamps and the first-day cover issued on July 5, 1999.

The patients and ex-patients serenaded the diners with Filipino folk songs and delighted them with the skillful performance of "Dancing on Wheels."

MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, in his inspirational talk, narrated that he and Sister Ching assisted a patient who subsequently died. "This event," he said, "inspired us to engage in more charitable endeavors."

Mr. Arjun Ansay, who was struck with polio when he was only 9 months old and confined at the Masonic Ward on April 4, 1964, gave a brief account of his life and rendered a very timely love song. He is now an electrical engineering professor of the Technological University of the Philippines. Also a holder of a Master's degree in Management, he is at present taking up his doctorate in Technological Management.

The following magnanimous persons or entities were awarded with souvenir frames containing the MCCCI's 75th anniversary commemorative stamps and first-day covers: MW Rosendo Herrera, PGM, and family; WB Esperidion R. Reyes; Bro. Antonio T. Tactay; the late Bro. Manuel T. Rivera; VW Ramon L. Go; Bro. James C. Paggao; and the Capitol Masonic Corporation. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, A & A.S.R. of Freemasonry, Republic of the Philippines, were also given tokens.

Introduced by VW Benito K. Tan, Congressman Herrera delivered a very inspiring speech. To the patients he said, "Don't feel sorry for yourselves nor develop inferiority complex for your physical defects. Instead, exert more of your other faculties and become useful citizens..."

MCCCI President Ray Beltran presented tokens of appreciation to Postmaster General Rodriquez (represented by Hon. Hidalgo) and Rep. Ernesto F. Herrera.

In behalf of Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde, RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master, gave the closing remarks, and VW Alfredo T. Li led the closing prayers.



Masonic dignitaries and guest with the patients& ex-patients on wheels.

MASONIC FAMILY JOINS JUNE 12 WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES AT THE LUNETA

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the Appendant Bodies joined the wreath-laying ceremonies at the Luneta in the morning of June 12, Independence Day.

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, and RW Eugenio S. Labitoria, Junior Grand Warden, together with officers of Masonic Districts and Blue Lodges in the National Capital Region, represented the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Ill. Rosendo C. Herrera, 33rd degree, Sovereign Grand Commander, and Ill. Agerico V. Amagna, Jr., Asst. Grand Secretary General and SGIG for Quezon City and Rizal, led the representatives of the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Republic of the Philippines.

The other Appendant Bodies which were duly represented during the event were the York Rite, the Philippine Shrine Association, the Amaranth, the Eastern Star, DeMolay Philippines, Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughter.

The Masonic Family representatives were at the Luneta as early as 5:30 a.m.

The event was highlighted by the messages of Hon. Lito Atienza, Mayor of the City of Manila, and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Republic of the Philippines.

In her message, Vice President Arroyo stressed the significance of the change of the celebration of the Philippine Independence Day from July 4 to June 12. She urged Filipino citizens to join hands with government officials in the task of realizing the vision of making the Philippines a newly industrializing country, so that we would enjoy a better quality of life.

The Vice President having left Rizal Park, the Masonic Family conducted its own floral offering at Bro. Rizal's monument. Picture taking ensued.

The Masonic Family representatives then paraded from the Rizal Park to the Plaridel Masonic Temple. They were accompanied by motorcycle-riding policemen.

At the Plaridel Masonic Temple they took breakfast together.





(*Clockwise, l to r*) 1: MW Demonteverde, Ill. Herrera, and other leaders of the Masonic Family with two military escorts wearing the Masonic Apron march to Bro. Rizal's monument. 2: MW Demonteverde and RW Labitoria enjoy conversing with Vice-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, while other members of the Masonic Family listen intently.

3: The Amaranths, Eastern Stars, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow Girls form part of the Beauty of Masonry. 4: RW Labitoria, Ill. Agerico Amagna Jr., and representatives of the Amaranth, Eastern Star, Job's Daughter and Rainbow for Girls wait for their turn to march to Bro. Rizal's monument. Brethren look on with keen interest.





KAKARONG MASONIC LODGE 327 CONSTITUTED, ITS OFFICERS INSTALLED

Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde led other Grand Lodge Officers and other Masonic leaders belonging to various Lodges in constituting Kakarong Masonic Lodge No. 327 at Km 39, Pulang Buhangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, last May 29.

Deputy Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi, assisted by VW Fernando "Amang" F. Mariano, who served as Master of Ceremonies, installed the officers of the Lodge, as follows:

Bro. Severino P. Cruz Jr., *Tyler;* Bro. Buenaventura M. Viray Jr., *Organist;* Bro. Archimedes T. Ebbay, *Junior Steward;* Bro. Raymond M. Castaneda, *Senior Steward;* Bro. Mario N. Rariza Jr., *Bible Bearer;* WB Alexander P. Meneses, *Historian;* Bro. Reynaldo B. Castaneda, *Custodian of the Work;* Bro. Emmanuel T. Yano, *Lecturer;* Bro. Giovanni L. Florendo, *Almoner;*

VW Alexander T. Bernardino, *Orator;* Bro. Celerino E. Amante, *Junior Deacon;* Bro. Jacinto P. Meneses Jr., *Senior Deacon;* Bro. Pablo R. Ochoco, *Marshal;* Bro. Salvador V. Elefante Jr., *Chaplain;*

WB Rolando P. Delos Santos, *Auditor;* Bro. Pastor G. Garcia, *Secretary;* WB Mario F. Ignacio, *Treasurer;* WB Asislo N. Nuestro, *Junior Warden;* WB Abner T. De Guzman, *Senior Warden;* and Felix C. Flor Cruz, *Worshipful Master.*

In his inaugural address, VW Flor Cruz acknowledged the presence of the Grand Lodge Officers; DDGM Carmelo T. Naguiat; DGLs Restituto M. De Leon, Moises S. Roque, Antonio Guzman, and Eligio V. Soliman; GLI Efifanio R. Reyes; and brethren from different Blue Lodges. Then he explained why they named the Lodge Kakarong, outlined the progress of the Lodge, and challenged the Lodge brethren to help support the leadership of Masonic District No. 23 and that of the Grand Lodge.

In his inspirational talk, MW Demonteverde dealt on the theme of his administration, "Casting the Light of Truth Upon a Stony Way," explicitating the Craft's mission-vision, as well as the action necessary to accomplish it. He specifically challenged the brethren to convince the world, by their actions, that Masonry is a worthwhile way of life. "Besides being just and upright Masons in our stations in life," he said, "let's demonstrate our loyalty and support to the Craft."

He urged the brethren to zealously acquire further Masonic Light, stressing that to be an asset to the Craft, a Master Mason must be well informed Masonically. "Such a brother," he added, "can stand tall for Freemasonry in the face of the resurgent vilification campaign against the Fraternity."

Newly installed Master Flor Cruz, assisted by some officers of the Lodge, gave out awards to deserving brethren. He presented a buntal hat to MW Demonteverde, who appeared much pleased with the Lodge's gift to him.

After VW Naguiat had closed the Lodge in short form, the brethren and guests partook of the delicious luncheon prepared by the Sisters and enjoyed a fraternal fellowship. Indeed, all is well that ends well!



VW Flor Cruz presents to MW Demonteverde a buntal hat, while VW Naguiat looks on.



Lodge officers pose with Grand Lodge and District Officers right after their installation.

WHY LODGE NO. 327 IS NAMED KAKARONG

Kakarong de Sile, south of San Rafael and halfway between Pandi and Angat in Bulacan, was the site of the greatest battle outside Cavite during the Philippine Revolution.

According to the late MW Teodoro M. Kalaw, PGM, in an article entitled "Gregorio H. del Pilar" (1930), Kakarong was then a flat-topped hill about a couple of square kilometers in area surrounded by forested terrain. Here the *katipuneros* of the province built their headquarters with houses of bamboo and nipa, barracks, a marketplace, streets, and an armory where firearms could be repaired and cartridges reloaded.

Wrote MW Kalaw: "The provincial revolutionary council was composed of Canuto Villanueva as the *supremo,* Eusebio Roque as Captain General, Casimiro Galvez as second in command, and a complement of lesser officers. Roque, an elderly teacher, spent his time, after induction into Bonifacio's secret society, going around Bulacan to spread the gospel of the revolution. A devout Catholic, he led his men in prayer every morning, after exhorting them to give exemplary behavior."

Here is MW Kalaw's account of the battle between the *soldados españoles* and the *katipuneros:*

"The new Spanish command under Polavieja showed its strategic competence when it sent a couple of thousands of its best troops under General Diego de los Rios divided into five columns that approached the rebel stronghold from different directions to camouflage their true objective. As they expected, Maestrong Sebio sent half of his 5,000 troops towards Malolos, after hearing from spies that the enemy had started out from there. The rebels, however, failed to meet the enemy because Rios had divided his men for the roundabout approach to Kakarong.

"Rios had set the concerted attack for New Year's day. Three days earlier, the insurgents had raided the town of San Rafael to the northwest. After attacking the enemy at the tribunal, however, they had to retreat because of the arrival of loyalist reinforcements (probably a column of Rios). One of the rebel raiders was a young 21-years-old lieutenant named Gregorio H. del Pilar, who would rise meteorically to the rank of Brigadier General and end a glorious career four years later with his heroic death at Tirad Pass.

"The attack on Kakarong de Sile began at 9 o'clock in the morning of January 1, 1897. Maestrong Sebio had ordered individual shallow pits to be dug all around the place as foxholes and because of these, the defenders managed to contain the enemy from all sides for about an hour.

"Del Pilar, his brother Julian, brother-in-law Socorro and 10 others had gone into a deep trench near the headquarters, and from here they shot down several of the enemy until they found their position untenable. Scrambling to the end of the trench, they fired at the few enemy soldiers on that side and managed to pass through the Spanish cordon. Gregorio was slightly wounded and the rifle butt of his brother Julian caught the lead bullet of a Remington; a companion, Isidro Wenceslao, was wounded on the left forearm; while another, Felix de Jesus, was hit, not mortally, in three parts of the body."

Del Pilar, according to MW Kalaw once more, wrote the following in his diary:

"As for me, I cannot tell how I fought.

CONSTITUTION OF DR. JOSE P. LAUREL LODGE NO. 325

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines constituted Dr. Jose P. Laurel Lodge No. 325 last June 26 at the Mabini-Kalaw Masonic Temple in Lipa City. MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, presided over the constitution ceremonies.

He was assisted by the following brethren: RW Oscar Bunyi, *Deputy Grand Master;* RW Napoleon Soriano, *Senior Grand Warden;* VW Raul Laman, *Junior Grand Warden;* VW Melvyn Jurisprudencia, *Grand Treasurer;* VW Emiliano Langomez, *Grand Secretary;* VW John Llamas, *Grand Marshal;* VW Nicolas Ricafrente, *Grand Chaplain;* VW Edgardo Lupsan, PDGL, *Grand Sword Bearer;* VW Fufino Arias Jr., *Grand Bible Bearer;* VW Ricardo Galvez, *Grand Lecturer;* VW Jovencio Ramirez, DGL (Dist. 10), *Senior Grand Deacon;* VW Exequiel Tamayo, DGL (Dist. 10*), Junior Grand Deacon;* VW Francisco Lovero, *Senior Grand Steward;* VW Angelito Monge, *Junior Grand Steward;* and VW Jaime Gonzales, *Grand Tyler.*

The following served as Past Masters with lighted candles: WB Magdaleno Dimaranan (#72), VW Juanito Vaño (#286), and VW Benito Ang, PDDGM, while WB Emmanuel Villena (#35) acted as Past Master with Book of Constitution.

After the constitution of the Lodge, RW Nap Soriano installed the officers. VW Alfredo Bihis served as Master of Ceremonies, with WM Michael Sevilla assisting him.

The principal elected officers duly installed were WB Roberto R. Chua, PM, *Worshipful Master;* Bro. Crostaldino B. Torino, *Senior Warden;* and Bro. Manolo A. Rodriguez, *Junior Warden.*

Bro. Salvador Laurel, an Entered Apprentice Mason of Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz Memorial Lodge No. 202, was guest of honor, while MW Demonteverde was guest speaker. The latter discussed his Masonic program, which is centered on Masonic education.

Fellowship lunch followed. – **VW John B. Llamas, JGL for NCR.**



Grand Master Demonteverde pours oil (of joy) during constitution ceremony.

Why... Kakarong (cont.)

Those who saw me in that critical moment can say it. A Mauser bullet scratched my forehead, and thank God I was saved from the peril. I finally had to leave the cotta because, when I sought my brave brethren of the Katipunan, nobody around was there. This cannot cause shame, because to save one's life is God's will."

By the end of January, Polavieja had under his command about 36,000 soldiers. Of these, 6,000, mostly native troops, were garrisoned in the southern islands and 30,000 in Luzon, of whom 28,000 were peninsulars since the Spaniards distrusted the native mercenaries.

This distrust was not without basis, for desertions were common. These native regiments were broken up to companies and attached to various larger peninsular units. At this time of the year, the climate favored troop movements. Polavieja, therefore, got ready to launch an all-out offensive against Cavite, resolute to reduce that rebel stronghold to ashes once and for all.

APOLINARIO B. YAP MEMORIAL LODGE NO. 328 CONSTITUTED, OFFICERS INSTALLED

The brethren of MD #35, led by DDGM Martonino R. Marcos, DGLs Edgardo D. Cuenco and Benjamin Chua, GLI Frank Perez, and PDDGM C. Erundino M. Cajucom, met MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, and his party at the McArthur Highway junction to Victoria.

The brethren then motored in caravan to the municipal hall, where they paid Hon. Emmanuel Guiam, Municipal Mayor, a courtesy call. Next they conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Jose Rizal monument.

MW Demonteverde presided over the constitution ceremonies.

RW Napoleon A. Soriano, Senior Grand Warden, installed the officers; he was assisted by VW Alfredo Bihis, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

The following were the installed officers: VW Cajucom, *W. Master;* VW Jesus B. David, PDDGM, *S. Warden;* Bro. Rafael R. Ricafort, *J. Warden;* VW Antonio W. Perez, PDDGM, *Treasurer;* VW Samuel La. Guerrero, PDDGM, *Secretary;* WB Armesto S. Corpuz, PM, *Auditor.*

Bro. Sol B. Madlambayan, *Chaplain;* Bro. Aurelio D. Eugenio, *Marshal;* Bros. Johnny Tan Po and Jose Ariel G. Domingo, *Sr. & Jr. Deacons,* respectively; Bro. Edgardo B. Sebastian, *Orator;* Bro. Abraham C. Rafanan, *Almoner;* Bro. Virgilio F. Leybag, *Lecturer;* Bro George T. Santiago, *Historian;* Bro. Eugenio S. Racoma, Jr., *Bible Bearer.*

Bro. Mario N. Madella, *Custodian of the Works;* Bro. Aurelio M. dela Cruz, *Custodian of the Temple;* Bros. Richard O. Corpuz and Rodolfo R. Valeroso, *Sr. & Jr. Stewards,* respectively; and VW Domingo G. Simon, PDGL, *Tyler.*

The post-installation program started with an invocation led by Bro. Sol Madlambayan, followed by the presentation of the Philippine Flag by VW Antonio Perez.

The guests and visiting brethren having been introduced by VW Carlito Evangelista, Mayor Emmanuel Guiam, DDGM Martonino Marcos, and Tarlac Governor Jose V. "Apeng" Yap delivered their respective remarks.

Finally MW Franklin J. Demonteverde addressed the assembly. He said in part:

"Before the war, there were only two Lodges in the province of Tarlac. It has now grown into six, a sign that the people of this beautiful and historical province are convinced and have accepted Freemasonry as a Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of God. Be proud, therefore, to be Masons and spread further the Masonic gospel through your community outreach program that the people of Tarlac may know that Masons and Masonry exist to serve humanity under the guidance of Almighty God."

The program was emceed by Bro. Virgilio Leybag.



RW Soriano addresses WM Erundio Cajucom during installation ceremony. Dignitaries in the East look on.



MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, RW Nap A. Soriano, and VW Marte Marcos talk with Victoria Mayor Emmanuel Guiam.

HOW LODGE 286 CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

By Bro. James A. Olayvar, Lodge Secretary

Our Lodge, Kagitingan No. 286, led by WM Delfin B. Pomposo, SW Ricardo C. Marquez, and JW Reynaldo N. Cadiz, celebrated the 10th anniversary of its founding last June 13 at La Bodega Restaurant, Philippine Army Officers Club, Fort Bonifacio.

The post-dinner program, which was ably emceed by VW Mario T. Buenaventura, PGP, an honorary member of our Lodge, started with an invocation led by Mario Q. Angeles, a dual member of our Lodge, who succeeded VW B.J. Torres, who had emigrated to Virginia, USA, as Asst. Grand Secretary (AGS).

In his welcome remarks, WM Pomposo acknowledged the dedicated services of his predecessors in the Oriental Chair, from 1989 to 1998, namely: WB Restituto C. Padilla, Sr.; WB Narciso M.Liston; WB Jacobo L. Amoyoy, Jr.; VW Rufino G. Arias, Jr., PDGL and currently Grand Bible Bearer; VW Enrique L. Flores, Jr., currently Tyler of our Lodge and DDGM of MD No. 13; WB Mamerto P. Santos; VW Melvyn S. Jurisprudencia, PDGL and currently Asst. Grand Treasurer; VW Elson T. Tayko, currently Treasurer of our Lodge and Grand Lecturer for MD No. 13; VW Rodrigo T. Diapana, currently Auditor of our Lodge and Grand Lecturer for MD No. 13; and WB Juanito B. Vaño, Jr.

WM Pomposo also acknowledged the presence of other Masonic dignitaries, including DGL Antonio San Luis, Jr., an honorary member of our Lodge; WI Rolando Del Rosario; VW Raul A. Laman, Grand Orator and another honorary member; VW John L. Llamas, PDDGM and currently Junior Grand Lecturer for NCR, still another honorary member; and VW Melchor C. Loreto, PDDGM, likewise an honorary member.

Finally, he urged the members, regular, dual, and honorary alike, to help the officers take the Lodge to greater heights of achievement during his term of office and in years to come.

The affair was highlighted by the presentation of the Hiram Award Medal to WB Resty Padilla by Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde, who is himself an honorary member of our Lodge.

Another honorary member, Deputy Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi, delivered the anniversary message. He said in part, *"Let us, on this occasion, rededicate ourselves to the principles and teachings of our Craft. Let us be united in purpose and proud of accomplishing things together, so that, by our actions, the general public will see that Freemasonry is both a science and an art that walks arm in arm with progress towards a better way of life. Because of the example of brethren who lived their Masonry, young men sought out Masonry. Young men will seek us still if we, too, work together in close harmony and live our Masonry."*

In his inspirational message, MW Demonteverde urged the brethren to extend helpful cooperation to the leadership of the District and the Grand Lodge in giving meaning and substance to our mission-vision. He expressed his hope that the leaders at all levels of our Craft would effectively use their know-how and skills for achieving the worthwhile goals we have set before us, and that we would prove to all and sundry that we are a strong and dynamic Fraternity. Stressed our Grand Master: *"Let us re-orient ourselves on the basic tenets, principles, and teachings of the Craft, as well as pursue relentlessly Masonic activities with temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice for the enhancement of our Masonic way of life."*

The event was capped by fellowship and ballroom dancing.

DIPOLOG 162 PARTICIPATES IN JUNE 12 CELEBRATIONS

Brethren of Dipolog Lodge No. 162, led by WB Jefferson P. Young, participated in the Independence Day parade at Dipolog City last June 12.

In the afternoon of the same day Lodge No. 162, in commemoration of its 37th anniversary, held its Raffle Bonanza '99.

A week later, on June 19, the Lodge conducted a floral-offering ceremony at the foot of the monument of Bro./Dr. Jose Rizal at Dapitan City Plaza, in commemoration of his 138th birth anniversary.



Bro. James Liong and Teodoro Aranas, holding the Lodge banner, lead the brethren in parade.



Kagitingan and visiting brethren with MW Franklin Demonteverde and RW Oscar Bunyi.



WB Restituto C. Padilla, Sr., Charter Master (1989), and WM Delfin B. Pomposo (1999) blow 10th anniversary candle.

MASONIC DISTRICT 7 ACTIVITIES

By eF. R. eN

Masonic District No. 7, under the leadership of VW Edgardo S. Delmo, DDGM, held its first meeting this Masonic year last May 22 at the Rafael Palma Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple, with Saigon No. 188 as lead Lodge.

After the reception of VW Delmo, together with DGLs Roy Azarcom, Heneage Mitchell, and this reporter, VW Julio Cabali, outgoing DDGM, turned over the records of the district to his successor. In his "valedictory" message, he urged the brethren of the district to observe the Charges, such as the obligation to attend stated meetings and other Masonic functions regularly and punctually. He stressed that Lodges should start meetings on time. He assured the new district leadership that he would be around to extend assistance.

The roll of Lodges having been called, VW Delmo proceeded to install the Worshipful Inspectors—WB Gaudencio Fabroa for Taga-Ilog Lodge No. 79, WB Jose Sumayod for F.D. Roosevelt Memorial Lodge No. 81, WB Edgar Lim for High Twelve Lodge No. 82, WB Randi Pinza for Hiram Lodge No. 88, WB Roland Chiu for Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148, WB Wilfredo Juco for Manuel A. Roxas Lodge No. 152, and WI Ernesto Ong for Saigon Lodge No. 188. VW Emilio S. Dalican, PDGL, assisted the DDGM in installing the WIs.

VW Dalican was elected District Treasurer; WB Pinza, District Secretary; VW Nards Chua, PDDGM, District Auditor; and WB Sumayod, District Chaplain.

In his message, VW Delmo outlined the administrative program of the Grand Lodge during the current Masonic year, urging the brethren of the district to extend helpful cooperation to the Grand Master, MW Franklin J. Demonteverde. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren had an enjoyable South at the Tree House on the Grand Lodge premises, with VW Delmo as host.

The succeeding district meeting, hosted by us, the three DGLs, was held at the Wok-In Restaurant.

The hosts of subsequent district meetings are as follows: the Grand Lodge Inspectors, July 3; Saigon Lodge No. 188, August 7; Hiram Lodge No. 88, September 4; Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148, October 2; F.D. Roosevelt Mem. Lodge No. 81, November 6; High Twelve Lodge No. 82, December 4; Taga-Ilog Lodge No. 79, January 8, 2000; Manuel A. Roxas Lodge No. 152, to be assisted by other Lodges in the district, February 5; District Grand Lecturers and Grand Lodge Inspectors, March 4; and VW Boyet Delmo, DDGM, April 8.

In demonstration of their support to the district leadership, officers and members of the seven Lodges showed up in full force during the wreath-laying ceremonies at the Rizal Park in the morning of June 12, Philippine Independence Day.



Brethren of MD No.7 and other districts of the NCR pose for photo while awaiting Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's arrival at the Luneta.

DISTRICT 9, 11 ACTIVITIES

The news items given below were culled from the June 1999 issue of *The Square of 3,* revived monthly newsletter of MD No. 9, the editor of which is VW Geminiano V. Galarosa, Jr., DGL.

***The Square of 3* was revived during the term of VW Bernardino Saplaco Jr. as DDGM of MD No. 9, with VW B.J. Torres as editor, and it went on to capture the Most Outstanding District Newsletter Award. But after VW Saplaco's term, it went back to its somniferous state. Now that VW Santiago T. Gabionza Jr. is DDGM, the newsletter has reawakened. Its June 1999 edition is quite informative.**

MD Nos. 9, 11 Hold Joint Meetings, Activities

Masonic Districts 9 and 11 used to be one but were torn apart against the will and pleasure of most of the brethren in Quezon City. The Grand Master's Deputies for the two districts, VWBs "Boy" Gabionza and Ben Madarang, together with other Masonic leaders, decided that the two districts hold joint monthly meetings and carry out joint endeavors.

For instance, Quezon City Lodge No. 122 of MD No. 9 will spearhead the Quezon Memorial Day, Silanganan No. 19 of MD No. 11 the Lodge of Remembrance, and Andres Bonifacio 199 the Bonifacio Day. But the brethren of the two districts, as well as their families, are expected to participate in such activities.

Among the joint activities of the two districts are sports and ballroom dancing, which are in line with the Grand Master's thrust to make the bonds among the brethren and their families stronger than ever.

CIVAC at Kamuning

Capitol City No. 174, led by its three Lights, WM Freddie Feir, SW Rey Berroya, and JW Ronald Cortez, as well as WBs "Jun" Sevilla, Ben Villanueva, and Tony de Jesus, sponsored a combined "Operation Tuli and Bunot Ngipin" at Barangay Sacred Heart in Kamuning, working in close coordination with the barangay council. Beneficiaries of the project were vacationing young students.

Bro. Allan Bontuyan, SW of Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199, Dr. Imelda Bautista, and Dr. Ricci de Jesus, plucked off the teeth of some of the patients, while Bro. Billy del Rosario of Laong Laan Lodge No. 195, a known surgeon, and Dr. Judy Nieto circumcised other indigent patients.

Quezon City 122 Celebrates 51st Founding Anniversary

Quezon City Lodge No. 122 celebrated the 51st anniversary of its founding at the Don Antonio Royal Clubhouse in Fairview, Quezon City.

WM Mario F. Ignacio and JW (Gen.) Arsenio Torres Jr. ably supervised the affair, which was attended by MW Reynald and Sis. Sion Fajardo, VW Agerico and Sis. Bes Amagna, VW Jose Lustre, VW Eluderio Salvo, VW Lamberto Aguilar, VW Saul Exmundo, the Gabionza brothers, WB Alexander Castulo, VW James Donadilla, WB Alexander Fabian, WB Sergio V. Regala Jr., WB Conrado Veneracion, WB Jesus and Sis. Lydia Venzon, Bro. Basil Afuang, Bro. Feliciano Arcebal, and the four Sorianos, who not only brought along their respective families but gave an entertainment number as well.

Copies of *Golden Reflections,* lodge publication edited by VW "Jun" Galarosa, were distributed to the attending brethren and guests.

Mandaluyong City 227 Also Celebrates Anniversary

The brethren of Mandaluyong City Lodge No. 227 also celebrated their founding anniversary in the vicinity of Tandang Sora, Quezon City, with SW Ed Ativo and JW

Francisco Serra supervising the affair inasmuch as WM Danilo Flores was at the time on an urgent assignment. Closely watching the two "supervisors" was VW Ramon Nuñez, Lodge Secretary.

Among the guests were MW Reynold Fajardo, VW Benedicto Madarang, VW Kim Alvin Villanueva, VW Emil "Boy" Andrion, and VW Peter Pagunuran. As on previous anniversary celebrations, food and drinks were overflowing. The children frolicked in the crystal-clear swimming pool.

Whence Originally Came the Idea of Revising Floor Work of Bringing the Word to the East?

Answer. Bro. Manuel "Nonoy" Carranza Jr., JW of Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147. The procedure, according to him, is being done in the United States. He peddled the idea to other brethren, and one enterprising brother from Manila submitted a resolution endorsing the procedure, for consideration at the 1999 Ancom. And the idea was approved!

THE BROTHER FOR ALL SEASONS

By Gene Calonge, Nilad #12

Throughout the whole Masonic world, unique he is. He does not miss stated meetings. He was Master of his Lodge. He does not complain. He laughs with the brethren and listens to them very intently. He manifests sincerity in listening to our brothers' stories.

This brother is a retired Doctor of Dental Medicine. He served with the Rizal Health Service and the Armed Forces of the Philippines during his younger days. He was born on September 19, 1930 and resides in Malabon, Metro Manila.

He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on July 6, 1963; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on August 8, same year; and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on September 7, same year. In 1969 he became Master of his Lodge.

He dutifully goes to meetings, says hello to the brethren with a smile and does not evince a single thought of hesitation in what he is doing... This Past Master of Labong Lodge No. 59 does not have any excuses for not attending Lodge meetings or Lodge activities

Long retired, he still maintains contact with the brethren.

He dutifully goes to meetings, says hello to the brethren with a smile and does not evince a single thought of hesitation in what he is doing.

He appears happy with the brothers, even if he is guided all the way to and from fraternal gatherings.

While other Masons have reasons for not attending Lodge meetings and Lodge activities, saying they did this, did that, or went to this or that, this Past Master of Labong Lodge No. 59 does not have any excuses for not attending Lodge meetings or Lodge activities.

To him, regardless of his physical condition, a Masonic duty shall always be a Masonic duty.

He cannot see the point of making excuses.

He is blind.

He is **Worshipful Brother Manuel Rodrigo Perez, Past Master.**

OUR LODGE'S FAMILY OUTING

By VW Julio M. Cabali, PDDGM (MD #7)

Every year our Lodge, Hiram No. 88, has a family outing in which sons and daughters of members of the Lodge who have achieved academic honors or who have graduated are awarded with plaques of recognition. This year we held our family outing at A & C Recreation Center in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. The event was graced by the presence of two eminent members of the Lodge, MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and WB Jesus M. Elbinias, PM, Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals.

Our Worshipful Master, WB Rodolfo L. Panganiban, brought a lot of fish, together with personnel to grill the fish, and a big, beautiful, excellent sound system, while the other brethren contributed other foods – and drinks.

A great many of those who attended the affair enjoyed swimming at the big pool, and the brethren took in the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy. The ladies and children had a lot of fun, while the brethren exchanged jokes with one another. With MW Puno and WB Elbinias present, the occasion turned out to be a "Past Masters Committee Meeting." Indeed, the brethren exchanged ideas as to how to improve the Lodge. MW Puno, for instance, suggested that the Lodge sponsor a series of lectures on Freemasonry. WM Panganiban bought the idea, assuring MW Puno and the brethren that the lecture series would be implemented right away. MW Puno would be the first lecturer.

In his message, MW Puno stressed the fact that Hiram Lodge No. 88 had established the reputation of being a family Lodge. He urged the officers to continue the tradition, for Freemasonry is decidedly a family affair.

The following children of the brethren were the honorees during the occasion: (1) MARC P. BAUTISTA, who graduated from elementary school; (2) MARK ERICSON CHUA, who garnered First Honors in nursery school; (3) ESMERALDA L. DALICAN, who graduated from high school; (4) ESTRELLITA C. DALICAN, who graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; (5) ENRIKA LOURDES G. DIAZ, who finished the seventh grade; (6) MARIE MEDEL GO, who got second Honors in 1st year high school; (7) MADY MIDEL GO, who graduated Cum Laude, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Food Technology; (8) JOHN ARVIN RAMOS, who earned Second Honors in Grade II; (9) RANDY LESTER SALONGA, who captured Second Honors in Grade V; (10) RAINER LLOYD SALONGA, who finished Prep-III; (11) SHALEEN MAY A. TAN, who got First Honors when she graduated from Grade VI; and (12) DAPHINE MERYL A. TAN, who finished Prep with honors.

Special honoree during the occasion was WB Jesus M. Elbinias, PM, Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals, who, aside from giving a significant message to the brethren and their families, performed magic, to the delight and amusement of all present, especially the children.

Sis. Conchita D. Ramos, widow of the late WB Benjamin G. Ramos, Past Master of the Lodge, recalled that it was Hiram Lodge No. 88 which was the first to relight Freemasonry in the Philippines after World War II.

An enjoyable sing-along session ensued... Fellowship among the brethren continued.

In the end, everybody felt that one day is too short for the brethren and their families to get to know one another and enjoy one another's company. This feeling would serve as a cue for improving next year's family outing.

ANOTHER MASONIC PUBLICATION IS BORN

THE CABLETOW received the maiden issue of the quarterly publication of Lodge No. 269, LA NAVAL BULLETIN, the editorial staff of which is composed of the following brethren: Bro. Jesus A. Castor, *editor-in-chief;* VW Vicente C. Escala, Jr., PDGL, Wor. Master, *managing editor;* Bro. Ruben R. Macalindong, Sr. Warden, *ads editor;* WB Ronelio R. dela Cruz, PM, Treasurer, *sports editor;* and Bro. Bobby S. Guinto, Jr. Warden, *features editor.*

One of the brethren featured in the maiden issue is **BGen. Liberato A. Manuel,** AFP (Ret.), Administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

A member of PMA Class of 1961, he is a Past Master of King Solomon Lodge No. 150 in Makati City. He firmly believes that Freemasonry endeavors to promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood which transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences and which recommends the practice of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. He further believes that the following is one of the best explanations why Masons devote much time to the Fraternity:

LET ANOTHER MAN PRAISE THEE, AND NOT THINE OWN MOUTH; A STRANGER, AND NOT THINE OWN LIPS. — PROVERBS XXVII, 2

"In my Brother's house I have always lived without fear. I always find my participation and involvement with Freemasonry very gratifying. It is like a form of dedication and service to my God and people, which gives me a feeling of great satisfaction, like entering into another dimension of living. Then and only then, when we feel ourselves better, can we urge others to do the same. As Masons, we value so much our Brotherhood and we feel its has made us better Masons. And most importantly, Freemasonry gives us a better understanding of the grandeur of the Great Architect of the Universe in His Kingdom of no end..."

Another brother featured in the same issue is **Lt. Gen. Willie C. Florendo.** Born in Naguilian, La Union, on October 10, 1944, he is married to Rebecca D. Florendo, with whom he has two daughters (Marissa, 28, and Romina, 21) and a son (Rodin, 26). The couple also adopted a daughter by the name of Maria Elena Dacanay, 18.

He took up Electrical Engineering at Mapua Institute of Technology from 1960 to 1963. Then he enrolled at the PAF Flying School, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City from 1963 to 1965. Next he took up AB at Adamson University from 1960 to 1970.

In his 36 years in the AFP, he has amassed for himself 30 medals, 10 ribbons and badges, 25 commendations and 9 plaques of appreciation and merit.

In 1984-85 he took advance studies at the National Defense College of the Philippines, garnering a Gold Medal for academic excellence and Bronze Medal for best thesis among his classmates. It was during this period that he was initiated, passed and raised at La Naval Lodge No. 269.

Another lucky guy featured in LA NAVAL BULLETIN is **Commodore Erlindo A. Erolin,** born in Muzon, Naic, Cavite on February 27, 1945. His father died when he was barely three years of age. The family migrated to the metropolis; hence, Erlindo studied in Manila High and from there went to U.P. He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1968, with a Bachelor's degree in Military Science.

He joined the Navy as Ensign, rose from the ranks, and finally got his star as Commodore in Naval Forces West in Palawan.

He was raised in Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49, but it was in Naval 269 where he

FIRST FILIPINO RESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA MASONIC HOME

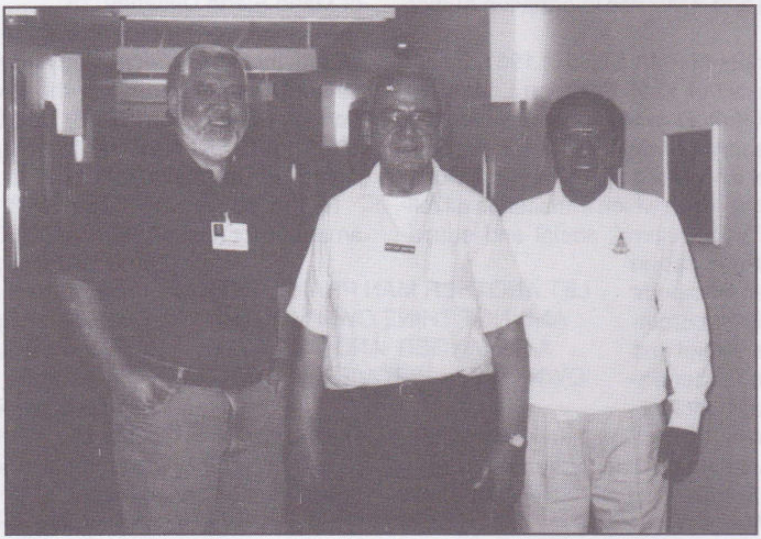
By VW Eriberto S. del Pilar, Jr., PDDGM

A Life Member and Past Master of our Lodge, Davao No. 149 in Davao City, WB Hector B. Martin moved into the Masonic Home for Adults in Union City, California, on March 29, 1999. He was sponsored by Angels Gate Lodge No. 198 in Lomita, California, of which he is a dual member.

WB Martin, in effect, is the first Filipino admitted in the California Masonic Home. Besides, 66 years old, he is the youngest resident.

According to him, the average age of the residents of this Masonic Home is 86.

A Master Mason who has been continuously a member in good standing in a Lodge in California for at least 5 years prior to the date of application, or the wife or widow of such a Master Mason, is eligible to apply for residence.



At center is WB Hector B. Martin, PM; at his left, Bro. Jess Arieta; at his right, WB Abraham I. Albano, PM.

Another MasonicPublication (cont.)

was elected as Junior Warden, then Senior Warden, and finally Wor. Master (in 1986).

When he was pursuing further studies abroad, he met brethren from different countries.

Another brother featured in the same issue is ***Commodore Dante Z. Ruiz,*** CNBC.

Born on January 28, 1944 in Sampaloc, Manila, he studied in Arellano High, UP and Mapua. In 1961 he entered the PMA, graduating therefrom in 1964.

He reported to the Philippine Navy in April 1968 as Student Officer at the Naval Training Command in Cavite City.In a little less than 30 years of varied duties, he earned 27 medals, 11 other awards, and 4 commendations and most importantly, the star rank of Commodore.

Capt. Ruiz joined La Naval Lodge No. 269 in 1996; he was then 52.

He served as Master of Ceremonies during the installation of the officers of the Lodge in January 1999. In October of the same year he was invited as guest of honor and speaker during the installation of officers of Aguinaldo Memorial Lodge No. 31.

At present he is the Commander of Naval Base Cavite. He will retire from active service on January 28, 2000.

He will then be 56.

KUTANG BATO 110 SPEARHEADS "OPERATION TULI"

Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110, F. & A.M., continues to help those who have less in life by providing medical services to them. Last May 23, for instance, it spearheaded an "Operation Tuli," with the Bro. Lu Eng Yat Foundation as main sponsor...

A total of 104 Muslim and Christian boys, most of whom were accompanied by their mothers, were given free circumcision and medication.

Muslim and Christian doctors and nurses worked side by side during the outreach activity. The Lodge brethren would like to convey their thanks and gratitude particularly to Drs. Leopoldo Lugtu, Abas Candao, Sangkula Ladia, Delmar Miranda, Ed dela Fuente, Zaide Macadatu, and Harris Macapeges.



Some of the organizers of the outreach project pose for posterity...

JOINT OUTREACH PROJECT BENEFITS 128 PATIENTS

The brethren of Union Lodge No. 70, led by WM/Dr. Ralph Asuncion, recently sponsored an operation "tuli" and a medical-dental mission jointly with Kabalikat Civicom LU Chapter at Brgy. Balbal-Losa, San Juan, La Union. The joint community outreach project benefited 128 patients, including 10 young boys who underwent circumcision.

The bus the brethren and the doctors and medical staff rode in was provided by Bro. Cesar Gonzales.

VW Bro. Oscar Rodriguez, DDGM, together with some brethren of Union Lodge and other lodges, went ahead of the "missionaries" to prepare the site of the outreach project.

Local residents provided the midday refreshment, while the Kabalikat Civicom Group supported the brethren by very competently arranging the site logistics and communication. WM Asuncion, in the end, expressed sincerest thanks to the brethren, the doctors and medical staff, as well as the pharmaceutical organizations which donated medicines.



WM Ralph Asuncion dispenses medical treatment to a local patient. At background are some of the brethren.

MAKAHAMBUS #315 DONATES ARMCHAIRS

By VW Robert Dy, DGL

In response to the appeal of Mrs. Erlinda T. Birondo, Principal, Makahambus Lodge #315 brethren pooled their resources to raise P30,000 for the purchase of 120 armchairs for use by the schoolchildren.

During the turn-over ceremony, Mrs. Birondo, together with the teaching staff, profusely thanked the brethren present, namely: VW Richard Go, VW Macduffie Tan, this writer (DGL), VW James Go, WB Aristoteles Trani, SW Ildenfonso Chaves, JW Antonio Uy, Bro. Erwin Culangi, and Bro. Carlos Kho.

Vice-Mayor Bantog likewise was deeply appreciative of the brethren's benevolence.

After the turn-over ceremony, the brethren proceeded to the well-known eatery of VW Chaves at Bugo, Cagayan de Oro City, for lunch.

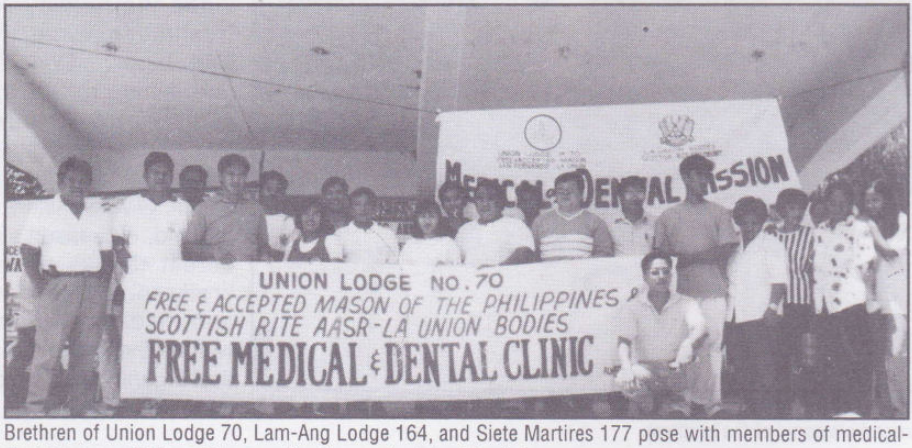
UNION LODGE NO 70 SPEARHEADS MEDICAL MISSION

Upon the request of Hon. Maggay, Municipal Mayor of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, WB/ Dr. Ralph Asuncion of Union Lodge No. 70 in the city of San Fernando (La Union) organized a team of medical specialists; urged the brethren of his Lodge and those of La Union Bodies, A. & A. S. R., as well as the DeMolays, to participate in the medical mission; and hired a bus for the purpose. He also relayed the news about the medical mission to brethren of Lam-Ang Lodge No. 164 and Siete Martires Lodge No. 177.

After traveling over rough and rugged roads, the "missionaries" from La Union reached Bessang Pass Battle Memorial, where they stopped to pay due respects to the fallen soldiers who had gallantly given their lives for the cause of freedom. Then they continued their long, hot, and dusty ride. When they reached the Bessang Pass Memorial Hospital, Dr. Querubin, the hospital director, warmly greeted them and graciously provided them with accommodation for the night.

Early the next day they paid Hon. Maggay a courtesy call, after which the medical team, assisted by the brethren, went to work. They were able to treat 313 patients with medical problems and 31 dental patients. They also gave free medication to the patients.The people of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur were profuse with gratitude to the "missionaries".

The hardship the brethren encountered during the journey back to the City of San Fernando in La Union was nothing when compared with the inner flow of achievement they felt for having brought relief to persons too old or infirm to take a long travel to the nearest medical center.



Brethren of Union Lodge 70, Lam-Ang Lodge 164, and Siete Martires 177 pose with members of medical-dental team and Mayor Maggay after the medical-dental mission.

TOWARD MAKING UNION LODGE TEMPLE REFLECT THE GREAT TRADITION OF FREEMASONRY

The ground on which will rise the extension of the existing temple of Union Lodge No. 70 was broken last April 10 in a simple ceremony attended by the brethren of the Lodge and graced by the presence of R.W. Bro. Oscar V. Bunyi, now Deputy Grand Master, and V.W. Bro. Cornelius Van Luspo, PDDGM and now Grand Sword Bearer.

For the brethren present, the ceremony signaled new hope that the Union Lodge Temple would reflect the great tradition of Freemasonry.

As the new edifice starts to rise from the ground, the next task is to ensure that the continuation of funding for the completion of the project is maintained.

Hence, as part of its efforts to raise the necessary funds, the Masonic Corporation launched a Temple Fund Draw, which offers excellent prizes.

The prizes, according to plan, will be drawn by the Most Worshipful Grand Master at the dedication of the new temple.

The Masonic Corporation has requested the brethren to assist in this mammoth task, whether individually or through urging their own or other companies to act as sponsors, so that the dream will eventually become a reality. Details of the dedication ceremony will be announced in the subsequent edition of *The Trestle Board,* official newsletter of Union Lodge No. 70.



R.W. Bro. Oscar Bunyi breaks ground for the start of the new building project. At his left stands WB/Dr. Ralph Asuncion, Master of Lodge 70, and at his right is V.W. Bro. Van Luspo.

MT. MAINAM 49 CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Last June 19 Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49, which conducted a successful medical-dental mission at Brgy. Balayungan in Maragondon, Cavite, last May, celebrated its 80th anniversary by holding a shootfest dubbed "Subukan Mo" at the FOREN Shooting Range in Naic, Cavite, the main purpose of which was to foster camaraderie and togetherness among the brethren.

Eighteen participants answered the opening salvo fired by WM L. del Rosario. Based on their ability to shoot, they were classified into two groups. Among the interested guests was MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM.

Class "A" winners were as follows: Bro. R. Buenaflor, 1st; Bro. D. Castro, 2nd; and Bro. R. Narvaez, 3rd. The following were declared winners in "Class B": WB L. del Rosario, 1st; Bro. J. Antonio, 2nd, WB G. Melegrito, 3rd; Bro. D. Novelo, 4th; and VW R. Vasquez, 5th.

The affair ended with an enjoyable South at the Lodge.



"SUBUKAN MO": *Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 Anniversary Shootfest, June 19, 1999*

LODGE NO. 301 PARTICIPATES IN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

By Bro. Lito M. Guinto

Brethren of Baliwag Lodge No. 301, led by WM Max Gregorio and Bro. Rolando Salvador, town mayor, participated in the observance of Independence Day, June 12. They offered flowers at the monuments of Bros. Jose P. Rizal and Andres Bonifacio.

The fellowship social that ensued was hosted by Hon. & Bro. Salvador.



(L-R): Bro. Celedonio Morales, Bro. Joel Ramos, VW Mar Agustin, Hon./Bro. Lando Salvador, WM Max Gregorio, Bro. Paul Ochoco, Bro. Lut Navarro, Bro. Re Rugay. Photo was taken by WB Tony Marollano.

MD #8 UPDATES

By WB Joselito P. Tamaray, PM (#37), Dist. Correspondent

BRO. GAZMIN BECOMES HONORARY MEMBER OF LODGE #37

Convinced that he adheres strictly to Masonic tenets and virtues, the brethren of Kalilayan Lodge #37 conferred Honorary Membership upon BRO. VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN last May 8 at the Don Felimon Perez Masonic Lodge Hall.

Officers and members of MD #8, led by VW Roy Roxas, DDGM, were in attendance during the occasion. Also present were some brethren from other Masonic jurisdictions.

Especially noticeable was the presence of WB Mike Bannagan of Camp Spring #227 in Maryland, USA, who is currently the Grand Lodge Representative of the Philippines to the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Bro. Gazmin assured the brethren that he would abide by the rules and regulations appertaining to his being an Honorary Member.

RW Napoleon A. Soriano, who had promised to attend the affair, arrived only during the fraternal fellowship at the Premiere Cuisine Restaurant due to the traffic. Profusely apologetic, he expressed his elation to be able to join the brethren, who welcomed him and his party with the usual fraternal warmth.

JOINT MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION IN BRGY. KANLURANG MAYAO

Kalilayan Lodge #37, Banahaw Square & Compass Club, and MD #8 held a joint outreach project in health care at Barangay Kanlurang Mayao in Lucena City last June 6.

Our brother doctors, namely, VW Bong Habito, VW Willy Frondoza, and VW Roy Roxas, examined 250 medical patients, who were given free medicines.

The dental team, from the Southern Luzon Command under Bro. Voltaire T. Gazmin, was able to treat around 150 patients. The anaesthetic medicines used were donated by VW Willy Frondoza, while the rest of the medicines came from the brethren of Kalilayan Lodge #37.

BANAHAW SQUARE AND COMPASS CLUB, MD #8 SPEARHEAD RIZAL DAY CELEBRATION

Officers and members of MD #8, together with those of the Banahaw Square and Compass Club, spearheaded a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal, our national hero and brother Mason, last June 19.

The affair was attended by the City Government of Lucena City, headed by Mayor Bernard Tagarao, and by different civic/fraternal organizations like the Rotary Clubs of Lucena, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Jaycees Inc., React Radio Group, and Kiwanis Club of Lucena.

Bro. Voltaire T. Gazmin emphatically stated in his remarks that Dr. Jose Rizal was a proud Mason and that we should continue to observe his teachings and emulate his example.

As agreed upon by the participants, the wreath-laying ceremony will become a yearly celebration. According to plan, a bigger monument, with Dr. Rizal wearing the habiliments of a Mason, will be put up at the New City Hall Annex.

FRATERNAL DINNER, FELLOWSHIP FOR MW DEMONTEVERDE & PARTY

The officers and members of MD #8 and those of Banahaw Square and Compass Club hosted a fraternal dinner and fellowship in honor of MW Franklin J.

Demonteverde, Grand Master, and his party, composed of RW Oscar V. Bunyi (DGM), VW Rufino Arias, VW Angelito Monge, and the visiting brethren from Naga, headed by WB Willie Ocampo.

VW Carlitos Briones delivered a post-dinner Masonic education speech, in which he challenged the brethren to be ever mindful of our purposes as Masons and consistently practice in daily life the precepts of Masonry.

Bro. Jimmy Caringal made the fraternal fellowship all the more delightful with his superb showmanship.

MW Demonteverde was elated by the harmonious atmosphere during the affair.

He encouraged those present to disseminate the Masonic virtues and manifest the beauty of Masonry to the general public.

Fraternal fellowship continued...

Breakfast the following day was prepared by Bros. Gus Demaala and Derrick Orbase.

The Grand Master and his party left Lucena City with memories they would treasure and relish for a long time...



BSCC officers and members, headed by Bro. Voltaire T. Gazmin, with Hon. Bernard Tagarao, Lucena City Mayor, after the floral offering at Bro. Jose Rizal's monument last June 19.



Seated (L-R): MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, BSCC President Voltaire T. Gazmin, RW Oscar V. Bunyi, WB Joselito Tamaray.
Standing (L-R): Bro. Gani Abaricia, VW Jess Decena, Bro. Derick Orbase, Bro. Gus Demaala, Bro. Fred Ciriaco, Bro. Jun Castelo, Bro. Erick Elardo, VW Ramon Borja, VW Willy Frondoza, VW Don Victoria.

MD #10 SPORTSFEST '99 REELS OFF

Masonic District No. 10 (Cavite) commenced its Sportfest '99 last July 4 at the Fleet Multi-Purpose Hall in Sangley Pt., Cavite City, with Cavite Lodge No. 2 and Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97 as hosts. Events played were chess, dart, and table tennis.

On July 25, Aguinaldo Memorial Lodge No. 31 and Indang Lodge No. 115 hosted the badminton and lawn tennis competitions at the Fort San Felipe in Cavite City.

On August 1, Bagong Buhay Lodge No. 17 and Tagaytay Lodge No. 165 co-hosted the bowling tournament at the Grace Recreation Center in Cavite.

Lodge La Naval No. 269 and Pilar No. 269 and Pilar No. 15 will co-host the competitions in swimming and shooting at the NBC Swimming Pool and NBC Firing Range in Sangley Pt., Cavite, on Sept. 5.

The volleyball tournament, hosted by Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49 and Mendez-Nuñez Lodge No. 316, will be held on Sept. 26 on the grounds of Lodge No. 49 in Naic, Cavite. On Oct. 10, with Lodge St. Augustine No. 300 and Pintong Bato No. 51 as hosts, the brethren will compete in basketball at the multi-purpose court in Tanza, Cavite.

Finally, on Oct. 24, they will vie with one another in softball at Carmac, Sangley Pt., Cavite City, with Lodges Magdiwang No. 238 and Primera Luz Fil No. 69 as hosts.

Partial results of the ongoing sportsfest are as follows:

Chess – Cavite No. 2, champion; St. Augustine No. 300, 1st runner-up; Bagong Ilaw No. 97, 2nd runner-up; and Mt. Mainam No. 49, 3rd runner-up.Table Tennis – Bagong Buhay No. 17, champion; Indang no. 115, 1st runner-up; La Naval No. 269, 2nd runner-up; and Cavite No. 2, 3rd runner-up.

Dart – La Naval No. 269, champion; Aguinaldo Memorial No. 31, 1st runner-up; Cavite No. 2, 2nd runner-up; and St. Augustine, 3rd runner-up.

The running status of the various Lodges is as follows: Cavite, 55 pts.; La Naval, 50 pts.; Bagong Buhay, 40 pts.; St. Augustine, 25 pts.; Aguinaldo Memorial, 20 pts.; Indang, 20 pts.; Bagong Ilaw, 10 pts.; and Mt. Mainam, 5 pts.



Brethren of participating Lodges take oath of sportsmanship.

A MEMORABLE GET-TOGETHER IN LEMERY

by WB Noel S. Villena

When their spouses signified their desire to meet their counterparts in Batangas and Cavite, the brethren of Mindoro Lodge No. 157 in San Jose, Occ. Mindoro, conveyed such desire to the Masonic leaders in Batangas and Cavite, who in turn agreed to host a "getting to know you better" affair at a very exclusive beach resort in Lemery, Batangas.

The visiting sisters, led by Sis. Germy (wife of VW Ben Alvaro), Sis. Lydia, (wife of WB Ramon Espada III), Sis. Ching (wife of Bro. Ramon Espada, Jr.), Sis. Pros (wife of WB Isagani delos Trinos), who was with daughter Rosmin, traveled on land and sea all night. When they arrived at the Batangas City pier, they were met by the hosts and hied off to the beach resort.

Fun and games commenced right after the invocation. VW Celso Sarmiento, DDGM, called the officers and brethren of his district to an impromptu council meeting, in which he relayed the Grand Master's message and presented his plans for the district.

After the meeting, a circle was formed, at the center of which the brethren, as well as the guests and visitors, introduced themselves and their respective families.

All present relished the various delicacies prepared by Batangas Lodge No. 35, chaired by Bro. Cesar and Sis. Fina Abaya, such as lechon, kare-kare, grilled pork, roast beef, veggies, etc. The spicy, hot ginataang kuhol and crabs, courtesy of Sisters Azon Crelencia and Neneng Fortuna of Mabini-Kalaw Lodge No. 195 and OES, Lipa Chapter, together with the nuts, crunchies and munchies which Sis. Lita Noche of Sixto Lopez Batulao Lodge No. 129 brought along, seemed to be the favorite of everybody.

With ice-cold beer and booze inexhaustibly flowing, it was, for the brethren, "happy hour" even long after sunset.

Early the next morning, after a hearty breakfast of daingsilog and hot coffee, the visitors, accompanied by VW Patrick and Sis. Lina Casao and this reporter and his lady, Sis. Glory, proceeded to Tagaytay City.

There should be more such "getting to know you better" affairs among members of the Masonic family in various districts, so that eventually a stronger, sturdier, more magnificent temple of Philippine Masonry will be built up.

Brethren of Tagaytay Lodge No. 165, led by VW Jun San Mateo, City Treasurer, VW Virgilio Sarmiento, and WB Roger and Sis. Willy Madlangbayan, met the visitors at the junction and treated them to lunch and, later on, to a guided tour of the city's famous landmarks, particularly the almost-finished Fantasy World Castle, the People Park (formerly Palace in the Sky), and the plush Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club.

The visitors arrived at Batangas City, just in time to board an airconditioned vessel back to Mindoro.

There should be more such "getting to know you better" affairs among members of the Masonic family in various districts, so that eventually a stronger, sturdier, more magnificent temple of Philippine Masonry will be built up.

MEDICAL, DENTAL & SURGICAL MISSION OF ALSM #158
BENEFITS 399 PATIENTS

The medical, dental & surgical mission which Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, under the leadership of WM Joseph Hufano, WB Fred Quinto, and VW Roy Serrano, ad-hoc committee chair, conducted at Barangay Boquig, Bonuan, Dagupan City, benefited 399 patients, broken down as follows: deworming *(purga),* 101; ECG, 9; surgical *(tuli),* 89; dental, 86; and medical, 114.

Present during the community service project were 15 brethren of the sponsoring Lodge and three members of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56, namely, VW Edgar Tacadena, WB Mario de Guzman, and Bro. Delfin Gubatan, Jr.

The mission would not have been a success without the assistance of the following: *Dental* – Dr. Liza Benin, Mila Hortaleza, Milagros Caras, Riza de Dios, and Janet Agustin; *Surgical* – Tita Tatungan, Robert Padilla, Adonis Diaz, Mario Tendero, and Edel Bugayong; *Pharmacy* – Aimee Lyn Garcia and Abe Rectin; and *Sisters* Myrna Servito, Norma Aurelio, and Mita Brown.

Decidedly, the barangay workers, led by Brgy. Capt. Fred Quinto, were a big help in giving the registrants forms and prenumbered cards, and the donations from the following magnanimous souls contributed a lot to the success of the mission: VW Andresito Capati, VW Manuel Misa, WBs Quinto, Jose Benin, and Gerry Padilla, Bro. Angelito Garcia, and Messrs. Arthur Benin and Bonifacio Eleria.

LODGE 158 VISITS LODGE 140

The brethren of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158, led by MW Joseph Hufano, left Dagupan City at 4 p. m., June 4, in order to visit Bontoc Lodge No. 140. They slept at the Governor Garden Hotel in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

Early the next morning they left Solano for Bontoc, stopping at several scenic spots, particularly the Famous Banaue rice terraces. When they arrived at Bontoc at about 4 p.m., they were warmly welcomed by the brethren of the host Lodge. Then they witnessed the passing of a candidate.

During the stated meeting of the host Lodge, WM Hufano introduced the members of his party as well as gave a short talk.

As the brethren of the host Lodge proceeded with their meeting, the visitors took notes on how the meeting was conducted. After the fellowship, they proceeded to an inn owned by a Brother's sister for a much-needed rest.

After breakfast the next morning, they toured the market of Bontoc for some delicacies to take home. Then they started the long trip home, via Baguio City, arriving at Dagupan City at past 7 p.m.

Remarked Lee Sin Times Editor-in-Chief Jaime L. Nabua: "It was indeed a tiresome but enriching journey."

PANGASINAN MASONS, DEMOLAYS PARTICIPATE IN JUNE 12 CELEBRATION

Dagupan City celebrated Independenca Day 1999 in an austere manner, i.e., by offering flowers at the monuments of Bros. Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio. The Masons and DeMolays of Pangasinan joined the WW II veterans, Knights of Columbus, public school teachers and government officials in the simple celebration.

A week later, on June 19, the brethren conducted a floral-offering ceremony cum program at the monument of Bro. Rizal. Afterwards, together with their families, they had an enjoyable outing at the Northern Paradise Resort in San Jacinto, Pangasinan.

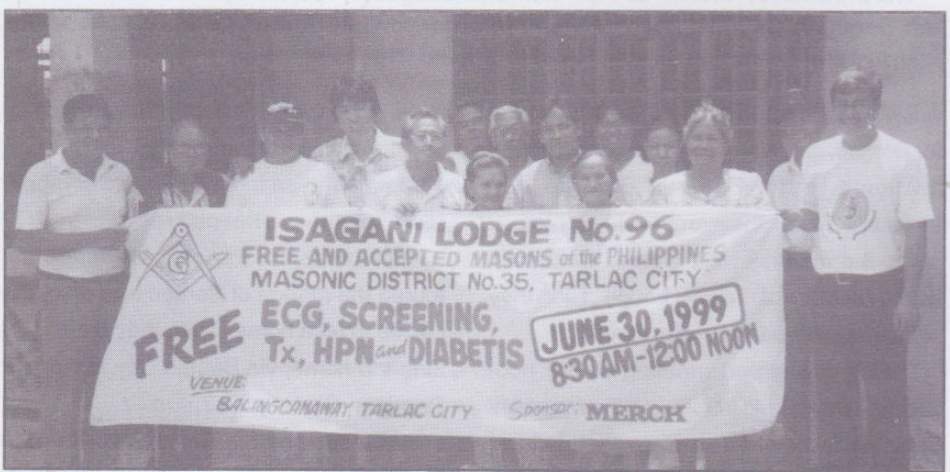
Said WM Joseph Hufano: "I wish to take this opportunity to encourage the brethren to participate again in our future Masonic Family Day. Surely this kind of gathering will strengthen our ties as one big happy family."

He also expressed his appreciation of the enthusiastic support the brethren had extended to him in his project of renovating and beautifying their Lodge's comfort rooms. Then he announced two undertakings of the Lodge in July: gun clinic and seminar on proper gun handling and visitation of Gen. Manuel Tinio Lodge No. 167 in Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

ISAGANI LODGE #96 SPEARHEADS MEDICAL MISSION

Last June 30, the brethren of Isagani Lodge #96 spearheaded a medical mission in Barangay Balincanawan, Tarlac City. They were given support by the brethren of Anchor Lodge #159.

The medical mission benefited several senior citizens.



Brethren of Lodges Isagani and Anchor pose with some of the senior citizens treated.

MT. MAINAM #49 PLANTS TREES, JOINS ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS RALLY

by VM Leodino Del Rosario

We, the brethren of Mt. Mainam Lodge #49, pushed through with two of our projects dubbed "Plant a Tree Today and Save the Future" and "Makiisa, Makibaka Laban sa Droga."

We assembled early in the morning of July 14, 1999 at the Naic Petron Station, which is managed by Bro. Efren Nazareno, and from there proceeded to the tree-planting site – the Naic National High School at Brgy. Halang and the Naic Coastal High School at Brgy. Labac. We were met by the energetic principals of the two high schools.

We planted a total of 60 trees, some fruit-bearing and the others nonfruit-bearing, thereby contributing to the protection and enhancement of the environment.

After the planting session, we partook of the "pancit" prepared for us by Bro. Aurelio Pinpin.

August 2 was cloudy and showery. But this did not prevent the brethren of our Lodge from participating in the anti-illegal drugs rally at the Naic Town Plaza.

The program started at 7;30 a.m., with Governor Bong Revilla as guest speaker. PNP Provincial Director N. Sanares and Mayor Edwin P. Mendoza having delivered their speeches, the effigies of drug lords and drug-users were burned; then the fund-raising activity, "Piso Ko Laban sa Droga," was launched.

The ensuing rally parade was participated in by different non-government organizations, religious associations, students of different schools, officers of barangay councils, government employees, PNP personnel, and members of the Masonic family in Naic.



"Burning of Effigies"

R-L: Mayor E. Mendoza, Councilor M. Dimas, WB L. N. del Rosario, Bro. SPO1 D. B. Cebu.



Some of the "environmentalists" pose for posterity.

LODGE 305 ACTIVITIES: AN UPDATE

1. MW Demonteverde Visits

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde conducted a fraternal visit to Lodge 305 during its stated meeting for the month of May. His party included RW Oscar Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the installation of the Lodge's Worshipful Inspector, WB Andy Tan, also a very strong supporter of the Lodge. VW Egidio Ancajas conducted the short but meaningful ceremony of installation.

It was a very inspiring meeting for all the brethren because the Grand Master shared his vision for the year.

A fiesta was held at the Grand Lodge Freedom Park in honor of the Grand Master.

Lodge 305 would like to thank the culinary expertise of SW Emmer Aviles and Bro. Danny Ignacio of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148.

2. Lodge 305 Joins Independence Day Parade

Members of Lodge 305, led by WM Salvador, joined the early morning wreath laying and Independence Day Parade at the Rizal Park last June 12. Prominent dignitaries of the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines, led by MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, graced this patriotic affair.

Speeches by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo kicked off the affair. The traditional floral offering took place at the foot of Bro. Jose Rizal's monument. Picture taking followed for posterity and documentation purposes. A long beeline of Masons then formed and walked towards the Grand Lodge. It was said that an elderly Mason fainted but was later revived.

A breakfast fellowship took place at the Aguinaldo Hall for everyone to enjoy.

The Lodge was tapped by WM George So of High Twelve to assist in the raising of their two candidates. This took place late in the afternoon of the same day. WM George was grateful to the Lodge since he understood that most of them were present at the Independence Day Parade. He was so happy about the outcome that he invited them to his forthcoming birthday party on June 15.

3. Lodge 305 Turns Seven

Lodge 305 turned seven years old last June 17! From a small nondescript Lodge during its infancy years to an active and talent-laden one today, it celebrated in style with a fiesta at the Grand Lodge Freedom Park. Distinguished guests for that evening were MW Demonteverde and RW Bunyi. Five of its six Past Masters were also present as well as the majority of the Lodge elders. Brethren from other lodges were also present to share in the fun.

WM Nick Salvador read the Lodge's "State of the Nation" report for everyone's benefit. He shared the Lodge's previous accomplishments as well as its future direction. The celebration ended well past midnight.

4. Lodge 305 Accompanies Grand Master to MD #6 Convention

A 12-man contingent from Lodge 305, led by WM Nick Salvador, left Manila at 5 a.m., June 19, for Calamba, Laguna so as to be with MW Franklin J. Demonteverde at the 41st annual convention of MD #6, which was held at the Jose P. Rizal (Calamba) Lodge No. 270, Parian, Calamba, Laguna. A floral offering was held at the Calamba Municipal Hall to commemorate Bro. Jose Rizal's birth anniversary. A very large contingent of Masons from different Masonic Lodges led the affair. Also present were Laguna Governor/Bro. Jose D. Lina and VW Ricardo Galvez, Solicitor General. This year's contingent was by far bigger than that which joined the floral offering last year.The first part of the district convention consisted of speeches by dignitaries of the

consisted of speeches by dignitaries of the said district. They expounded on the Grand Master's vision of improving Craft membership through continuous Masonic education. RW Oscar Bunyi responded to the "well-applauded" speeches.

Six Lodge Inspectors were also installed. Then, having been called from labor to refreshment, the brethren partook of the lunch prepared for the affair.

5. Lodge 305 Confers Chevalier and Honorary Legion of Honor Degrees at Guimba, Nueva Ecija

Lodge 305, acting under the authority of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, conferred the Chevalier and Honorary Legion of Honor Degrees during the installation of officers and members of Nueva Ecija Chapter at Guimba, Nueva Ecija last June 21.

It was a grueling schedule to keep. Some members of the installation team were still "reeling" (or "reeking") from the Calamba trip the previous day. Dad Rosendo C. Herrera, Grand Master of the Supreme Council, was also there to grace the said occasion. VW Jose Dizon, Executive Officer for that part of the region, accommodated the contingent, led by WM Nick Salvador. VW Boyong took care of their needs before and after the installation.

JW Jojo P. Javier led the Chevalier Degree team, while VW Van Luspo led the Honorary Legion of Honor Degree team. It was interesting to note that it was VW Van's debut since it was traditionally conferred by the late Ill. Alberto Reyes. Dad Reyes, as he was fondly called, passed away last June 19.

Incidentally, Ill. Reyes is a charter members of Lodge 305.

BRO. BALTAZAR SERVITO RECEIVES MOST OUTSTANDING IBP CHAPTER PRESIDENT AWARD

Atty. Baltazar Servito, IBP Pangasinan Chapter President, received the Most Outstanding IBP Chapter President Award during the annual convention of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Davao City last May 22-25.

During his term as IBP Pangasinan Chapter President in 1997 and 1998, he introduced several innovative programs and projects of the Chapter, which even hosted a regional conference of lawyers in Hundred Islands.

Atty. Servito is an active member of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158. At present he is the Junior Deacon of the Lodge. A member of the Pangasinan Bodies, he is a 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Mason.

Mabuhay ka, Kapatid!

CDO MASONS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY, BRO. RIZAL'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

By JW Antonio D. Uy

Led by DDGMs Macduffie Tan and Abelardo Plaza Jr., the brethren of MD No. 28 and 30 laid floral wreaths at the monument of Bro. Jose Rizal on June 12 and 19.

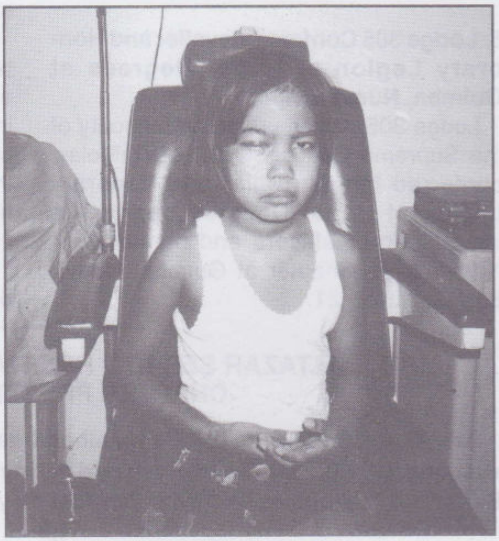
After the wreath-laying ceremonies on both occasions, VW Macduffie Tan treated the brethren to an enjoyable South at Dunkin Donuts in Cagayan de Oro City.

MERCY MISSION FOR SURGICAL TREATMENT,CORNEAL TRANSPLANT

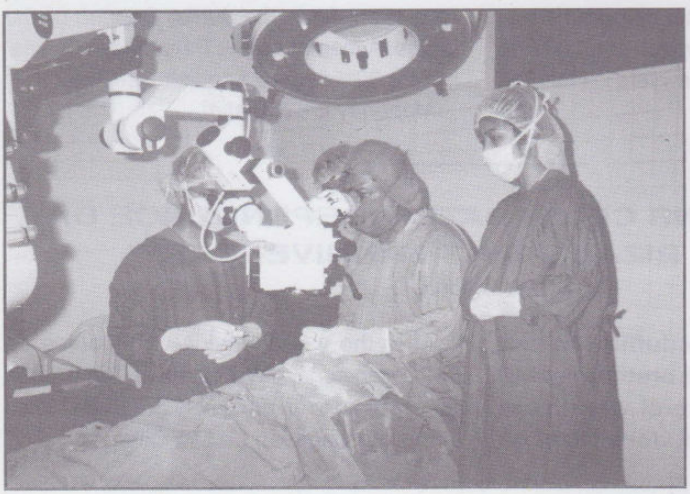
After learning that nine-year-old Claire Casiño of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur had totally lost her sight due to an infection in her right eye, which in turn resulted in a corneal rupture, the brethren of Union Lodge No. 70 decided to sponsor Claire for a corneal operation. It so happened that their Wor. Master, Dr. Ralph Asuncion, is an ophthalmic surgeon, and he agreed to do the operation at the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center in the City of San Fernando, La Union. The donor eye used for the operation was from the Santa Lucia Eye Bank.

The operation was completely successful!

Dr. Asuncion has required Claire to take medication for perhaps two months more. He also makes regular follow-up visits of the nine-year-old in the latter's home in Tagudin. The parents, naturally, are profusely grateful not only to the Master and brethren of the sponsoring Lodge, but also to the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center, as well as to the Santa Lucia Eye Bank.



the beneficiary of the mercy mission



Dr.Ralph Asuncion, assisted by a team of ophthalmologists, performs very delicate, complicated surgery required for corneal transplant.



IF UNDELIVERED, PLEASE RETURN TO:

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

Plaridel Masonic Temple 1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila, Philippines D-2801



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

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