



The Cable Tied

GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Vol. 76 No. 6 1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila



FACING THE EAST



FACING THE WEST

**The newly renovated ABAD SANTOS HALL
Now The PAST GRAND MASTER HALL**



VW Rock Tor, DDGM of M.D. No. 3, uncovers marker for PGMs' Hall, while Fr. Leo Usman, RW Nap Soriano and MW Franklin Demonteverde look on.



Sis. Ester Bunyi, Sis. Ching Herrera and Sis. Cynthia Tor cut ceremonial ribbon for official opening of PGM's Hall.

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THE CABLETOW



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Our Cover

Front: the newly-renovated Abad Santos Hall, which was renamed Past Grand Master Hall; **back,** Ancom 2000 Logo; **inside front,** blessing of the PGMs Hall; and **inside back,** MW Franklin J. Demonteverde blowing cake for his birthday.

From the Grand Oriental Chair

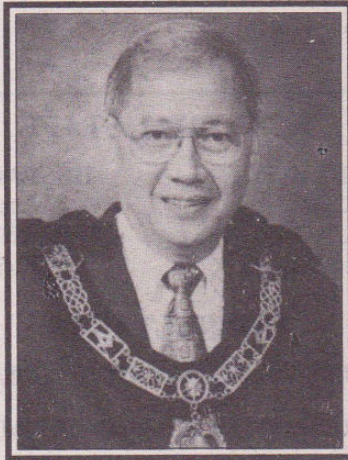
NEEDED: A LITTLE MORE BROTHERLY LOVE AMONG THE CRAFT

Somehow, to some, the basic principles of Freemasonry have lost their characteristic flavor with the passing of time. The tenet of Truth, for one seems to have ebbed in its spiritual appeal as attitudes veer toward materialistic pursuits.

Needles to say, this principle encompasses the very essence of our existence while treading our way through this world of tribulations. It is the most beautiful vehicle in attaining that which has already been drawn on our Masonic treastleboard.

Perhaps, the world would have been more polychromatic and an Elysium of Tranquillity had there been more fire in our actuations to draw that oft-forgotten line between what should be done and what is to be shunned.

Early in our Masonic life, we have learned that truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. We were taught that on this theme, we contemplate, and by it, we endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while being influenced by this tenet, we must always remember that hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, that sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us from the others; and that, with heart and tongue, we always join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's



prosperity. Thus, guided by this teaching and applying the same to our lives, we unknowingly contribute to the universal dream of creating a more unified world and providing everyone a peaceful place to live in. This may sound quixotic, but if everyone of us will just give his share, live with truth and act by it, there can never be any reason why we

cannot attain universal brotherhood. It has been said that Freemasonry is a way of life. Indeed, it is. And being so, truth must be espoused not only by mere words, but also by deeds, for actions do speak louder than words.

But in our daily interaction with the brethren, there were, as there are, instances where we hear a brother mouthing ill-words against another, or even sowing intrigues among the brethren, thereby creating dissension within the Fraternity. Why is this so? Why do we still have envious and ill-meaning brethren within the Fraternity? Why so they still thrive amongst us? The answer to these questions can best be answered

by them, but it would be safer to say that they have but a limited comprehension of the word, and because of this limitation, they have failed to fully assimilate this principle into their lives. For them, truth is a fallacy.

We are supposedly aspiring for universal brotherhood in this world where man is man and not animals fighting for survival. It is ridiculous to say that we are but human, as if by such admission, the evil consequences would be forgotten. Humanity is not synonymous with being prone to weakness. Humanity is kindness and benevolence. We are born to it; it is our *raison d'être*. We must, therefore, be true to ourselves.

A few years back, I had the privilege of listening to a speech given by our MW Rizal Aportadera. In that speech, MW Aportadera essayed the attacks and charges hurled against the fraternity by our detractors. But, according to him, those accusations were inconsequential, if viewed in the context of the destruction being levelled upon the Craft, not by our perceived critics but by the brethren from within us. Those were rather harsh words, but somehow true, for he was referring to the very people who try to destroy the very essence of the brotherhood. These are the people that we should be wary of. And these are the people that we must guard against for the good of the Craft.

My brethren, at one time or another, we have had the occasion of witnessing a brother backbiting another, of one going around telling lies about somebody, of one grabbing a credit that is not due him; or of a brother destroying the reputation of one. We have also been privy to members who attend stated meetings only to criticize the Lodge, and for some

reason or another, just disappear, like a thieves in the night without even offering any positive solution to the problem. There are many more of these destructive situations. The scenarios that I presented to you are but some of the numerous incidents that do happen in our fraternity today. These are situations that gradually erode the very fiber by which the craft is woven--situations that, if not curbed, will transform the fraternity from that of a noble and honorable institution into a mere social club.

Under the circumstances, what then must we do to correct this malady, thereby giving us every opportunity to improve ourselves in Masonry? In answer to this query, I believe that we must repress our basic instincts, if we are to become better men. We must always be sincere, honest, and truthful in what we do or say. Moreover, we must never allow ourselves to be the instruments of deceit and hypocrisy, for by doing so, we unwittingly destroy the temple in us. It has been said that an ill-man is always ill, but he is worst when he pretends to be a saint. Therefore, we must be open and be frank with one another. We must not allow hypocrisy and deceit to stand in our way. If there are things that we do not like in a brother, then we must go to him and tell him so. Or better still, let us whisper good counsel in his ears. We should not go around telling our brothers what we think of somebody, or worse, writing them about a brother and destroying his reputation, for it only reflects the kind of character that we have. If we have caused a brother shame and injustice before many, then we should be men enough to admit our mistake and seek for his forgiveness personally even if our

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pride is at stake; if we are arrogant and bull-headed, it is high time that our inflated ego takes a beating and goes under fire to purify and strengthen it for the good of the Brotherhood; and if we cannot say anything good about anybody, then for the sake of harmony, let us keep our mouths shut. On the other hand, we must always practice the Golden Rule, that is, by doing to him, as in similar cases, we would that he should do unto us.

It is with a pained feeling to hear brothers mouth the beauties of brotherly love when they themselves seem to fall short of their duties as Masons. Masonic charity does not necessarily mean relieving another Brother Mason of mundane destitution; this is merely a superficial expression of fraternal love. What lies hidden in these two words is sublimated in the Holy Scriptures when the Christ said: "Be good unto your fellowmen even as I have been good to you." If a brother has gone astray, lead him back to the right path; if he is crooked, straighten him out; if he is Masonically misinformed, do not jeer at him but teach him; if he is weak, strengthen him; and is he has wronged you, be patient with him and try to forgive him even if it hurts.

My dear brethren, how good and pleasant it is for us to dwell together in unity. Indeed, how wonderful it really would be if we could have peace and harmony prevailing in our fraternity... Hence, I would like you to ponder, to think deeply on this injunction: Be not an instrument of intrigue, for the craft to be afflicted with contempt and discontent is likened unto an edifice founded on loose sand or a house of

cards that topples with the slightest vibration. You think about it.

Let us work as one, for if we do, we can easily attain the very goals that we have set to achieve. The progress would be much simpler and the gains would be much bigger. Let us, therefore, cast aside whatever ill feelings we have against one another and, instead, work for the betterment of the Fraternity. Remember that we joined the craft, not because of anything else, but because of its principles and because it was of our own free will and accord. We sought membership in it not because of somebody, or of the material things and benefits that we can squeeze from it.

In closing, let me share with you a very intriguing but very significant incident which would best typify teamwork.

A few days ago, while I was leaving the house for work, I noticed that I had almost trampled upon a dead cockroach. As I was about to sweep it off with my foot, I saw an ant trying to move it to the other side of the room with too much difficulty. This went on for a few seconds until about a little later, I was amazed to see several ants appear and they helped their companion move the cockroach. True enough, with every ant helping the others, they succeeded in transferring the cockroach to the other side of the room. There is no doubt that the united front put up by these ants proved that, indeed, there is strength in unity.

Like the ants, we, too, can achieve many things and soar to greater heights. Don't you think so?

Editorial

TIME TO RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO DOING MASONRY'S WORK WITH A LOT MORE VIGOR

Ancom is not only a time for renewing fraternal bonds, nor yet only a time for electing a new Junior Grand Warden, but also a time for recommitting ourselves to doing both the inner and the outer work of Masonry with a lot more vigor. That work includes the following:

- Regularly attending stated meetings and other Masonic functions and stimulating our brethren to do likewise.

- Becoming increasingly proficient and actively participating in the Ritual and motivating our brethren to do the same.

- Setting the example to our brethren of acquiring more and more knowledge of Masonic history, jurisprudence and philosophy.

- Demonstrating sustained commitment to keeping the flame of genuine Masonic principles ever aglow in our hearts, so that we will contaminate the people we come in contact with, thereby setting an example for our brethren to emulate.

- Involving our brethren in finetuning our Lodge's year-round program of activities, thereby motivating them to extend support and co-operation in accomplishing the program's goals and objectives.

- Involving the brethren in reaching out to our inactive brethren because we are all our brethren's keepers.

- Demonstrating earnestness in qualifying men for membership in our Lodge by paying closer attention to the

investigation process when petitions are filed in our Lodge; for, certainly, to deny misfits and undesirables admission into the Craft is more prudent than to reform them while dwelling in our midst.

- Cooperating with district officers in carrying out worthwhile projects, and extending support to the Grand Lodge leadership in all its undertakings.

- Effectively telling and enthusiastically showing our families, relatives, friends and even strangers what Masonry is, what it stands for, and how meaningful it is for all in today's hectic world.

- Persuading members of our own families to peruse Masonic publications, join our appendant bodies and youth organizations, attend Masonic functions, and get involved in our benevolent and civic projects.

- Actively participating in the affairs of our communities and establishing linkages with civic, religious and other fraternal organizations as well as undertaking outreach projects jointly with them.

- Doing whatever we can to package Masonry as a "quality product" and create a demand for it.

In short, dear brethren, if we exert a lot more effort in progressively acquiring Masonic light, consistently fulfilling our Masonic obligations, consistently practicing Masonic tenets and principles in our several stations in life, and sharing the Masonic light with others, then, as MW Reynato S. Puno, our highly esteemed Past Grand Master, would put it, we will have

reclaimed our Masonic heritage and, therefore, can rightfully and justifiably claim the future.

During the Ancom, then, let us recommit ourselves to doing the work of Masonry and then go back to our places of residence and subsequently roll up our sleeves and diligently "work in the quarries." – eF.R.eN

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GRAND MASTER'S REPORT

It is indeed a great pleasure and a very rare privilege on my part to extend to you my warmest fraternal welcome in your capacities as representatives of the 277 Blue Lodges comprising the Philippines, Guam, Saipan, Korea, Okinawa and Honshu, Japan. My warmest fraternal welcome especially goes to the representatives of the five (5) Lodges Under Dispensation for their pioneering spirit in establishing new Lodges.

A year ago at about this time, I pledged to you that I would do everything in my power to focus the thrust of my administration on Masonic Education and to improve the management of your Grand Lodge without in any way violating our Ancient Landmarks, Edicts, Regulations and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. And the time has now come for me to render an accounting of what I have done during the twelve months of my tenure of office. For exactly one year now, I have temporarily transferred my residence to the Grand Lodge, sacrificing the warmth and companionship of my family, because I have always in mind my solemn obligation as your Grand Master to work for the improvement of Masonry in general and of this Grand Lodge in particular.

Projects Undertaken

The following program and objectives were given more impetus and substance:

1. The Masonic Education Program- Aside from the sustained efforts of our corresponding committee in the columns of *The Cabletow*, I have

established the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) which would serve as a guide for the formulation of a structured and progressive Masonic education program.

2. The Youth Program - Whenever I have a chance to speak, I encourage the Lodges to sponsor organizations of

DeMolay Chapters, Job's Daughter and Rainbow for Girls. During the year two, DeMolay Chapters were sponsored: one by Cupang Lodge No. 295 in Bulacan, Bulacan and another one in Agana, Guam.

3. Reorientation of MMs - Perhaps the best project we have so far undertaken, as far as the revitalization and rejuvenation of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction is concerned, is the reorientation of all Master Masons in all things Freemasonry and the assimilation of their families into the Masonic way of life. We, Masons, should redirect our thinking into the progressive way of practicing the Masonic way of life - we should not stick to the old practice of hiding one's identities as Masons, but we should involve ourselves as Masons in all the worthwhile undertakings and projects of our government, and lead or follow, but not obstruct the way, towards the accomplishment of these projects. We must educate our families into the tenets of Freemasonry. Even our rituals should not be hidden from them, lest they entertain the thought that, indeed, we have secrets.. All of you will bear me out that the only secrets in the rituals, which unfortunately even many Masons do not know how to decipher, are no more than the grips, the tokens and the passwords. If possible, let the members of your families join our corresponding affiliated organizations. In this way, they will be our very effective propagandists, if ever we need any.

4. Restoration of the Old Jose Abad Santos Hall - This hall, ever since the completion of our new building, has been totally destroyed and unceremoniously converted into a

storage area. This is not a relic of the past simply to be buried in the dustbin of history. Its historical value, as the site of numerous significant Masonic activities, can not or should not be forgotten. Thus, the restoration of the old Jose Abad Santos Hall. This was made possible through the efforts of the brethren of District No. 3, headed by its District Deputy Grand Master, VW Rodolfo 'Rock' Tor, whose selfless dedication to the Craft had made this undertaking a reality.

5. Air-conditioning the Masonic Dormitory - Through the efforts of our Filipino brethren from San Francisco, two rooms have already been provided with air-conditioning units. And two more are coming.

6. Conversion of the Old Canteen into a Social Hall - A social hall has been provided for the brethren where they can rest and refresh themselves after a hard day's work. In addition to a function room, this hall has likewise been laid out with a lounge room where a billiard table, table tennis, dart and chess boards for everybody's enjoyment are to be provided. Moreover, there is also a conference room where the brethren can conduct their meetings in utmost privacy.

7. Physical Fitness Center - As a diabetic who is now very health conscious, I have urged the establishment of a Fitness Center, complete with all the necessary weight-lifting equipment, and a sauna to soothe those tired muscles after a workout.

8. Provision of Required Fire Protection Devices - As mandated

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by the Fire Safety Code, numerous emergency lights, strategically located, have been installed both in the old and new buildings of the Grand Lodge. The necessary 'Fire Exit' signs have likewise been installed.

9. Automation of our Water Supply System - On several occasions I actually experienced the running out of the water supply during a shower. You can just imagine yourself with soap all over your body with water running out. Our maintenance personnel would only know when the overhead tank is empty because there is no more water coming out of the taps. But that is now a thing of the past. An automatic system has just been installed in both overhead tanks that could ensure a continuous supply of water. Of course, this is on the assumption that we have a continuous water supply from the utility company.

10. Computerization of the Library and Masonic Store - The required computer hardware and software are now in place. Our staff is in the process of encoding all necessary data to fully computerize their operation. The card catalogues of the Library will soon be passé. By then, the Masonic store will be using the bar-coding system complete with inventory controls for proper monitoring of all supplies.

11. Installation of a Motion Sensor at the Side of the New Building - To minimize the theft of Grand Lodge property and forced entry into cars parked within the premises by criminal elements entering through fences bordering on Gral. Luna, we installed a

motion sensor that lights up upon any movement. The purpose is to alert our security guards on duty. But then this holds true only when these guards on duty are not sleeping in their respective posts.

12. A More Efficient Collection System - Through the efforts of the Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master, VW Francis Lovero, the number of tenants with past due accounts and arrearages with the Grand Lodge have drastically been reduced. Today, our tenants are current in the remittance of their rentals. Delinquent tenants have either been replaced by better-paying ones or ejected from the premises.

13. External Audit of Masonic Cemetery - This problem has long been a concern of the Grand Lodge. I directed that an audit be conducted by an external auditing firm to, once and for all, identify the problems besetting our cemetery, establish stricter controls in its future transactions and identify, if any, all irregularities which may have been committed in the past.

14. Reduction in Expenditures - All of us are aware of the present financial standing of the Grand Lodge. In addition, we also know the present state of our economy and the subsequent increases in the cost of prime commodities, salaries and wages, cost from utility companies and others. With this in mind, I saw to it that all expenditures, whenever and wherever possible, were brought down. As of February 29, 2000, the financial statement submitted to me by our Accounting Department showed that

expenses for the current year were well below my approved budget. In fact, our incoming Grand Master, RW Oscar V. Bunyi, used my actual expenses as his reference in preparing his budget for the coming Masonic year.

15. Support of Special Youth Projects – As Grand Master, I made sure that my primary concern is the welfare of our youth. In this regard, special projects of appendant bodies were extended support, namely: Perla Assembly (Rainbow for Girls) souvenir program advertisement - two thousand pesos (2,000.00); Tierra Alta (Rainbow for Girls) rejuvenation program – twenty five thousand pesos (25,000.00). I would have been more than willing to extend further support had more projects been referred to me. In addition, I facilitated the early release of the specific purpose funds allocated to the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughter for their immediate use.

16. More Young Masons in the Fraternity - I believe that in accepting younger Master Masons into the Craft, we are rejuvenating the membership of the Fraternity, especially in our jurisdiction where I have noted the static, if not declining, trend in membership. Among us today are young brethren who are the year's addition to the general memberships in our Subordinate Lodges, whether it be in the Metropolitan Manila area or in the provinces. Should this trend continue, I have no doubt that in no time, we shall recover the prestige that was ours in yesteryears. To me, this is one of the most significant accomplishments of my year of service as your Grand Master.

VISITATIONS / ACTIVITIES OF THE GRAND MASTER

1999	
May	
03	Installation of GLIs, District No. 13 (Makati City)
05	Installation of GLIs, District No. 49 (Isabela)
06 - 08	23rd Annual Session, Order of the Amaranth, Carig Plaza Hotel, Santiago City
15	Constitution of Ma-Bu-Ti Lodge No. 339 (Masbate), represented by RW Napoleon Soriano
21	Recognition Night and Fellowship at General Santos City
22	6th National Triennial, Order of the Eastern Star, Davao City
23	50th Anniversary of the Sampaguita Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star - Heritage Hotel
29	Constitution of Kakarong Lodge No. 327, Sta. Maria, Bulacan
30	Masonic District No. 3 Family Outing, Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, Metro Manila
June	
04	Courtesy Call of Hiram Lodge No. 88, and presentation of original GLP Logo
05	Grand Master's meeting with Senior and Junior Grand Lecturers Constitution of Palanyag Lodge No. 323, Parañaque City

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12	Independence Day – Luneta		Lodge No. 305 - Camp
15 - 16	Aguinaldo Golf Tournament at Camp Aguinaldo	30	Aguinaldo 75th Anniversary of the Masonic charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (rep. by RW Oscar V. Bunyi, DGM)
19	Bro. Jose Rizal Birth Anniversary Parade, Calamba, Laguna		
22	Courtesy call of the officers and members of Leonard Wood Lodge No. 105	31	Constitution of Bongabong Lodge No. 324 - Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro (represented by RW Napoleon Soriano, SGW)
25	Cosmos Lodge No. 8 Golf Tournament Ceremonial Tee- off - Meeting/Fellowship with Banahaw Square & Compass Club - Lucena City - Meeting with Bro. Voltaire Gazmin and the Bicol Square & Compass Club at SOLCOM headquarters		
26	Constitution of J.P. Laurel Memorial Lodge No. 325, Lipa City		
28	Diamond Jubilee Celebration Mencius Lodge No. 93 - Grand Ballroom, Western Phil. Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex		
July			
03	Constitution – Apolinario Yap Mem. Lodge No. 328, Victoria, Tarlac		
10	Regional Convention – Quezon, Tayabas represented by RW Oscar V. Bunyi		
17	Constitution – Gov. Eduardo L. Josen Mem. Lodge No. 326 - Muñoz, N.E.		
24 - 25	25th Charter Anniversary, Negrense Lodge No. 200 - Bacolod City		
28	Golf Tournament sponsored by Jacques DeMolay Mem.		
			August
		14	Dinner with Masonic District No. 23 brethren – San Fernando, Pampanga
			August 21 to September 20 - USA Visitation
			September
		24 - 25	7th Multi-Dist. Convention - North Eastern Luzon Regional Convention held in Tabuk; represented by RW Oscar V. Bunyi, DGM
			October
		01	Institution of Palayan City Lodge UD – Palayan City, Nueva Ecija
		01 - 02	Western Mindanao Regional Convention, Pagadian City represented by RW Napoleon Soriano, SGW
		06	Courtesy Call of Aloha Temple Potentate
		07 - 09	Aloha Temple Ceremonial - Cagayan de Oro City
		14 - 16	Philippine Shrine Association Ceremonial – Afifi Shrine Temple
		15	Grand York Rite Annual

	Grand Reunion represented by MW Reynold S. Fajardo, Grand Secretary	03	Phil. Columbian Assn., Plaza Dilao, Paco Mla.
15 - 16	Eastern Mindanao Regional Convention, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur	03-04	1st Grand Master's Golf Cup, Villamor Golf Course
22 - 23	Grand Lodge of China - 44th Annual Communication, Taipei, Taiwan	05	East West Central Luzon Multi-District Convention, Olongapo City
29 - 30	Masonic District No. 50 Convention, Basilan	05	Christmas Party - Masonic Charities for Crippled Children Inc., Mary Johnson Hospital
		07	Institution of Las Piñas Lodge, UD - Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple
November			
06	South Central Mindanao Regional Convention - Gen. Santos City	10	Testimonial Dinner of Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199
11 - 13	Visayas Regional Convention, Tagbilaran, Bohol (represented by RW Oscar V. Bunyi, DGM)	11	Annual District Convention Masonic District No. 10 - Mabini Kalaw Masonic Temple, Lipa City
17	25th Anniversary - Jacobo Zobel Lodge No. 202 - Makati Sports Club	14	Board of Directors Meeting GLP Conference Room
19	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Union Lodge No. 70 (represented by RW Eugenio Labitoria, JGW)	17	GLP Christmas Party
19 - 20	Tri-District Convention - MD No. 37,41 & 47 - Ilocos Sur	18	Masonic Coordinating Council Fellowship - MW Herrera's Rest House, Naic, Cavite
20	Perla Del Oriente Lodge No. 1034 Installation - Scottish Rite Temple	19	Constitution - Ang Tipolo Lodge U.D. - Stafford Hall, GLP
27	National Capital Region Convention - MD Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 & 13	2000	
		January	
28	Night with the Grand Master hosted by Masonic District No. 33 - Nueva Ecija	12	Installing Officer and Guest Speaker at the Installation of Officers - Phil. Lodge of Research
30	Masonic District No. 2 Convention - Cavite	14-17	Installaing Officer and Guest Speaker at the Installtion Ceremonies, Palawan Lodge No. 99 - Puerto Princesa City
December			
02	Maginoo Shrine Oasis Installation Ceremonie	17	Tree Planting - GLP

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18	Premises Guest Speaker at the Installation - Manila Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1		Institution of Dau Masonic Lodge UD represented by RW Oscar V. Bunyi
20	Guest Speaker at the Installation - Tayabas Lodge No. 43	18-19	47th Mindanao Regional Convention, represented by RW Napoleon A. Soriano, SGW
22	Guest Speaker at the Installation - Narra Lodge No. 171, San Jose, Nueva Ecija	17-25	2000 Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America and Sister Jurisdiction held in Savannah, Georgia
26	Acacia Board Meeting - GM's Conference Room		
29	Guest Speaker at the Installation - Beacon Lodge No. 213 - Davao City	26	Guest Speaker at the Installation - Ernesto Salas Lodge No. 280 and Negrense Lodge No. 200 - Bacolod City
30	Installing Officer and Guest Speaker at the Installation - Padomo Lodge No. 294 - Davao		
31	Guest Speaker at the Installation - King Solomon Lodge No. 150		
February		March	
03	Guest Speaker - Convention of District No. 15 in Guam	04-06	Finalization of Grand Master's and other Reports at Fontana, Angeles City
04	Guest Speaker at the Installation - Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123, Agana, Guam	09	Courtesy call of Foreign Dignitaries to the 50th Anniversary and Annual Session of The Supreme Council, A & A.S.R.
05	Installing Officer and Guest Speaker at the Installation of Officers of Emon Lodge No. 179 in Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands	11	Guest Speaker during 50th Anniversary and Annual Session of The Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R.
06	Guest of Honor - Past Master's Night - Shriners Club, Guam	17	Guest Speaker at the Installation of the Officers of Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147
09	Guest Speaker at Saigon Lodge No. 188 Installation	18	Outreach Project of Jacques DeMolay Lodge No. 305 and Reception at the PNPA, Silang Cavite
12	Guest Speaker at the Installation - Kalilayan Lodge No. 37, Lucena City	25	Guest Speaker at the Installation of the Officers of Palanyag Lodge No. 323 - Grand Lodge of the Philippines
15	Board for General Purposes Meeting	26	Family Outing of Masonic District No. 2 - Cavite
		April	

April

- 03 Blessing of the Restored Old Abad Santos Hall, Social Hall and Physical Fitness Gym by Rev. Leo Usman
- 27-28 Annual Communication - Iloilo City

Lodges under Dispensation

We extended the dispensation of one lodge and issued four dispensations to the following Lodges during the period under review:

1. Guillermo E. Bongolan Mem. Lodge, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
2. Palayan City Lodge, Palayan, Nueva Ecija
3. Las Piñas Lodge, Las Piñas City
4. Ang Tipolo Lodge, Antipolo City
5. Dau Masonic Lodge, Mabalacat, Pampanga

Edicts and Circulars

During my term, I issued Circulars and Edicts as follows:

Circular No.

- 01 - Elected and Appointed Officers
- 02 - Schedule of Visitations and District Conventions
- 03 - Winning Numbers of Raffle Draw held on April 23, 1999 Annual Communication in Gen. Santos City
- 04 - Resolutions Passed by Grand Lodge in its ANCOM held at Gen. Santos City on April 22-24, 1999
- 05 - E-mail Address and Fax Number
- 06 - Miss International Order of Job's Daughter
- 07 - Grand Lodge Dormitory
- 08 - Approved Ritual change in

- opening and closing of a Lodge of Master Mason
- 09 - New System of Remittance to the Grand Lodge
- 10 - Appointment of New Assistant Grand Secretary
- 11 - Procedure for the issuance of Dispensations
- 12 - Drop Box for Reports
- 13 - Clarification of Circular No. 9
- 14 - Letter of MW Raymond E. Wilmarth
- 15 - Deadline for the Submission of Nominations for District Deputy Grand Masters for MY 2000
- 16 - Acacia Stockholders Meeting
- 17 - The Brethren II Available on Sale
- 18 - Discounted Fares for Delegates to the 84th Annual Communication to be held in Iloilo City
- 19 - Depicting the Structure of Masonry
- 20 - Masonic Directory Listings
- 21 - First Grand Master's Golf Club
- 22 - A Study of the Per Capita Assessment as it Relates to Grand Lodge Annual Expenditures
- 23 - Deadline for Submission of 1999 Annual Reports and Remittance of Fees
- 23-A - Reminder on the Submission of 1999 Annual Reports and Remittance of Fees
- 24 - Mandatory Written Examination of Masters-Elect and Wardens-Elect prior to Installation
- 25 - Slow Delivery of Mail through the Post Office
- 26 - A study of the Cabletow Rates as it Relates to Actual Expenditures
- 27 - Remittances of premiums to Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc.
- 28 - 84th Annual Communication in

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Iloilo City

- 29 - Proper Accomplishment of Secretary's and Treasurer's Financial Reports
- 30 - Golden Anniversary Celebration of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of the Republic of the Philippines
- 31 - Nominees for the Ten Most Outstanding Masons in this Jurisdiction
- 32 - Reactivation of the Masonic Assistance and Information Center
- 33 - Grand Lodge Loan to Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc.
- 34 - Schedule of Activities at ANCOM 2000 at Iloilo City on April 27-29, 2000

Edict No.

- 185 - Establishing the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies
- 186 - Allowing Plural Lodge Mem.
- 187 - Exempting Certain Portions of Masonic Buildings from the Coverage of Article IV, Section 2 Paragraph 'i' of the Ordinances of the Masonic Law Book
- 188 - Revised Installation Service of Subordinate Lodges
- 189 - Dividing Masonic District 39 into Districts 53 (North) and 39 (South)
- 189-A - Amending Edict No. 189
- 190 - Dividing Masonic District 10 into Districts 10 (Batangas) and 52 (Mindoro)
- 191 - Dividing Masonic District 23 into Districts 23 and 31
- 191-A - Amending Edict No. 191
- 192 - Transferring Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 from District No. 24 to No. 22

Grand Representatives

It has been my privilege to recommend for appointment during my term the following Grand Representatives for Sister Grand Lodges near the Grand

Lodge of the Philippines:

1. RW Oscar V. Bunyi, DGM
- Netherlands
2. RW Napoleon A. Soriano, SGW
- Paraguay
3. VW Deogracias E. Rivera
- South Australia
4. WB Evaristo Leviste
- Colombia-Cartagena
5. VW Manuel Brasileño
- Nuevo Leon
6. VW Leo Cuachon
- France
7. VW Ramoncito B. Piaña
- Dominican Republic
8. VW Emilio G. Jison Jr.
- Venezuela
9. VW Melvyn S. Jurisprudencia
- Colorado

State of Freemasonry in our Jurisdiction today - As of December 31, 1998, there were 277 Blue Lodges under the Philippine Masonic Jurisdiction - 7 of these are in South Korea, Guam, Saipan, Okinawa and Honshu, Japan. The whole jurisdiction has a total population of 15,188 Master Masons, some of whom carry dual memberships. As of March 31, 2000, there were five Lodges working under dispensation from the Grand Master. In relative and absolute terms, our membership has steadily declined.

With our present involvement in the socio-civic activities of the local governments in the provinces and municipalities, membership selection of young men from 21 to 35 years coupled with our living the Masonic way of life in having more Masonry

among us, and in propagating the Masonic tenets to our associates and friends, I am confident that in the following years, Freemasonry in the Philippines will in no time regain the prestige that it used to enjoy in the early 1900s.

Expression of Gratitude - To the Past Grand Masters, especially those who served in the Board for General Purposes and those in the Committees either as Chairmen or Members from whom I have profited from their wise counsels and mature ideas and deliberate guidance, I express my fraternal respects and heartfelt gratitude.

To the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers who have been helping me in the discharge of my duties, either coming along with me or representing me in the Provinces, and for their unflinching cooperation in the discharge of their respective duties, I offer my thanks and gratefulness.

To the District Deputy Grand Masters, the Grand Lecturers and the Grand Lodge Inspectors, for carrying along the administrative and supervisory work of the Grand Lodge in their respective jurisdictions without which link the work of the Grand Lodge in the administration of the Blue Lodges would not have been successful, my appreciation and debt of gratitude.

To the Officers and Members of all the 277 Blue Lodges and the 5 Lodges Under Dispensation scattered throughout our Masonic Jurisdiction,

without whose cooperation to our program of administration no amount of success could have been attained, my fraternal handclasp of fellowship and my eternal debt of gratitude for their unstinted support to my projects during the year under review.

And to the faceless brethren whose concern and undying loyalty to the Craft as well as support to the Grand Lodge have allowed the Fraternity to parry the onslaught of criticisms, from without and from within, thereby strengthening the bond of fraternal ties in this jurisdiction, my Masonic hug and fraternal hand clasp.

For the renovation and furnitures of the Grand Master's quarters, I would like to thank the brethren of Kagitingan Lodge Foundation, Inc. headed by WB Juanito Vaño and Jacques DeMolay Memorial Lodge No. 305 led by its Worshipful Master, WB Nicanor Salvador. I am also grateful to WB George L. So for donating a beautiful scenic wall paper which adorns the wall of the Grand Master's quarters.

For the restoration of the Old Abad Santos Hall, my hat's off to the brethren of District No. 3, more particularly VW Rodolfo Tor, DDGM of Masonic District No. 3, who spearheaded this very costly undertaking. To you, Very Worshipful Sir, a million thanks for a splendid display of Masonic benevolence. I also extend my gratitude to VW Pax S. Mangundadatu for providing the furnitures of the said old Abad Santos Hall. In addition to the above-

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mentioned brethren, my thanks also to Bro. Voltaire T. Gazmin for the assistance he extended in this undertaking.

As I earlier reported, our Library and Masonic store is being fully computerized. All that is left unaccomplished is the encoding of all data into the computer. For the preparation of the software, I thank WB Edward See of Dalisay Lodge No. 14. We all know how expensive computer programs are. But when WB See was informed that his services would be needed by the Grand Lodge, he readily extended his services for free.

For the air-conditioning units now installed in several rooms in the dormitory, I thank the brethren of Sublime Venecia Lodge No. 5, Vallejo, and in the Bay Area of San Francisco, California.

For their unwavering support to the projects of the Grand Lodge and for co-hosting the Grand Master's Night, Ancom 2000, my eternal debt and profuse gratitude to the district officers and members of Masonic District No. 15 composed of Lodges in Guam and Saipan.

I also would like to recognize all the brethren, particularly RW Oscar V. Bunyi, VW Melvyn S. Jurisprudencia, VW Emil Langomez, VW Pax Mangundadatu, VW Rodolfo Tor, VW Danny Mangila, VW Rufino Arias, Jr., WB Ernesto Uy, MW Rosendo C. Herrera, MW Renato S. Puno, and the sponsors who contributed their share

in making the 1st Grand Master's Golf Tournament held last December a very successful one not only in terms of the goodwill it created among the brethren, but also in terms of the funds raised during the affair. For the information of the brethren, its proceeds were spent for the renovation of the Social Hall and the Fitness Room and for supporting the various leadership seminars conducted by RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master, in several areas of our jurisdiction.

All my Masonic endeavors for the past 25 years could not have been made possible without the inspiration and cooperative assistance of my wife, Maria Lorna Gaddi Piccio Demonteverde. Your Sister Lorna has always been an excellent and proficient defender of the Craft. She has never ceased fighting the detractors of the Fraternity whenever she is within hearing distance of these critics. To her go my unflinching love, respect and devotion for her cooperation in my Masonic adventures and labor and for giving me six lovely and likewise supportive children, namely: Joseph Dale, Franklin Jr., Omar Francis, Glenn, Rowena, and Rhett.

To the whole office staff composing the Grand Secretariat, Treasury and Administrative officers, go my commendation and appreciation for jobs well done. Without their selfless devotion and dedication to duty, my year of service as Grand Master would not have been as rewarding and fulfilling.

This affair would not have been

headed by its District Deputy Grand Master, VW Severino C. Aguilar. There were problems encountered in its preparation, but viewed in the context of the success and the goodwill generated from the hosting of ANCOM 2000, the same was inconsequential. To the District Officers, members and sisters of District No. 20 therefore go our heartfelt congratulations for a job well done.

Last but not the least, I hereby express my gratitude to all my Brother Masons and their families, wherever my official visitations had brought me, for their cordial and warm fraternal reception and brotherly hospitality. They had never left any stone unturned toward making my visits pleasant and memorable. Special mention should be made to our overseas brethren and their families for having made me feel at home. May your tribe increase by leaps and bounds!

Recommended Legislation

There are several items of legislation which I consider most urgent and approval thereof is fraternally enjoined.

The per capita dues of the members should be increased from TWO HUNDRED PESOS (200.00) to FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (P450.00). For the past five years, the financial reports submitted in every Annual Communication indicates the Grand Lodge is operating at a deficit. The cumulative losses for that five-year period is equivalent to SIX MILLION SIXTY EIGHT THOUSAND FORTY

THREE PESOS (P6,068,043.00). The Grand Lodge instituted cost-saving measures but expenses like salaries, electricity and other utilities are always increasing. For purposes of information, the last time the per-capita assessment was increased was in 1992 and the effective increase was only FIFTY PESOS (P50.00). Only specific purpose funds were increased since then.

An increase in the Cabletow assessment is likewise in need of your careful consideration. As indicated in Circular No. 26, it is proposed that the Cabletow assessment be increased to P140.00 for local residents and \$11.50 for brethren in foreign countries. This proposal is based on the premise that six issues will continue to be issued per year.

Again, for your consideration, I propose a one-time assessment of P350.00 per member except dual members and life members by longevity. This assessment is necessary for the Grand Lodge to pay its outstanding obligation with the Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. as detailed in Circular No. 33.

As Grand Master, one of my sad experiences is to see brethren who treat Grand Lodge officers and the Grand Lodge, as a whole, with utter disrespect. Though their number is quite small, I still consider them a threat to our beloved fraternity. Like a cancerous growth being excised from a body to preserve its health, these brethren must also be contained either by suspension and, in worst cases, by

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brethren must also be contained either by suspension and, in worst cases, by expulsion lest they infect the fraternity as a whole. I am, therefore, proposing that we legislate that the Grand Master be empowered to effect the immediate suspension or expulsion of a brother for acts inimical to the interest of the Grand Lodge in general and to its officers in particular.

CONCLUSION

Sixty hours from now, I shall be joining the permanent rank of Past Grand Master and I would like to reiterate my innermost feeling of gratefulness to all who have been responsible for making my quest to the Grand Oriental Chair a reality and for having enjoyed a fruitful year of stewardship.

To my critics, I also would like to

Lord:

*Make me an instrument of your peace –
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury – Pardon,
Where there is doubt - Faith
Where there is despair – Hope
Where there is darkness – Light, and
Where there is sadness – Joy.*

O Divine Master:

*Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love,
For it is in the giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are born to eternal life.*

Fare ye well, my dear Brethren

thank you for making my tenure more interesting and challenging.

As I close my year of service, I must, above all, thank the Great Architect of the Universe for giving me the strength of body and spirit, patience and the preseverance to undertake such a noble undertaking.

Human as I am, I may have incurred the displeasure of some Brethren, one way or the other, for which I ask their forgiveness because, in the performance of my duties, I have always been guided in my actuations by having in mind and at heart the best interest of the Grand Lodge and of Freemasonry. As my late father, MW Ruperto S. Demonteverde, PGM, was fond of quoting St. Francis of Assisi, I shall likewise quote him and seek sanctuary in the following prayer:

FRANKLIN J. DEMONTEVERDE
Grand Master

SAN PEDRO LODGE INSTALLS ITS MILLENNIUM OFFICERS

by VW Pyke L. Alibadbad, PJGL

Bro. Renato A. Mogol was sworn in as the tenth Worshipful Master of San Pedro Lodge No. 292 on Jan. 29th at the Dr. J.P. Rizal (Cal.) Lodge Hall, Calamba, Laguna amid solemn installation ceremonies attended by a host of brethren and their ladies from Masonic District No. 6 and visitors from the Grand Lodge.

VWB Ricardo P. Galvez, PGO and Solicitor General, was guest of honor and speaker on the auspicious occasion, also graced by the invaluable presence of RWB Napoleon A. Soriano, Senior Grand Warden, and other Grand Lodge Officers.

VWB Alberto L. Escultura, PDDGM (38), and VWB Lorenzo C. Diaz, PDDGM (6), were Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies, respectively, and ably assisted by WB Renato Sinoy, PM. Also installed with WM Mogol were Bros. Joel Adato, SW; Gil Bugayong, JW; Dionisio Kung, Tr; Filemon Sibulo, Sec; VW Lorenzo Diaz, Aud; Michael Casipit, Chp; Ernesto Cleofe, Mrl; Arthur Austria, SD; Serafin Paladin, JD; Ambrosio Restrivera, Or; Vicente Guce, SS; Ronaldo Cada, JS; Orlando Ortua, Alm; and WB Rolly Nuñez, Ty.

WM Rene Mogol vowed to vigorously

pursue the lodge's various community projects. He specifically cited the streetchildren scholarship program and free medical-dental assistance in the depressed areas of San Pedro, which have already earned kudos from local officials, he said. Moreover, he will conduct an oratorical contest among public school students and also lay the groundwork for the acquisition of a lot for the Lodge Temple during his term, he added.

It is providential that the Lodge on its tenth year and its set of new officers on this popularly acclaimed start of the third millennium, will host the 42nd Annual Masonic District No. 6 Convention on June 19, 2000. This will be the second time for San Pedro, the youngest Lodge in the district, to host a District Convention, having first successfully hosted one immediately after its constitution in 1991.



Newly installed WM Renato A. Mogol (third from left) of San Pedro Lodge. Others from left, VW Romulo Alcala, DDGM; VW Ricardo Galvez, PGO, Guest of Honor; RW Napoleon A. Soriano, SGW; VW Alberto Escultura, PDDGM; and VW Narciso Infante, DGL.

MALINDANG LODGE #130 REACHES OUT TO THE LESS FORTUNATE

by Sis. Delia T. Rosal, PM

Mt. Malindang Lodge #130 in Ozamiz City, together with the Malindang Bodies and the Order of the Eastern Star, and Bukagan Hill Chapter #14, recently conducted a medical, dental and surgical mission at the Lodge premises in Carmen Annex, Ozamiz City.

The services extended included circumcision for boys, dental extraction, harelip and cyst operation and medical services like electro cardiogram (ECG), laboratory exam test for blood sugar and cholesterol, blood typing and also registration with the Philippine Health Insurance. Needed medicines were also given free.

In the end, the "missionaries" were able to serve 623 patients.

WB Mario Lasutaz and Bro. Edgar Villanueva, project chairman, got the approval of the provincial governor, Hon. Ernie D. Clarete, a member of the Fraternity, for the availment by the sponsoring groups of medicines and the services of the Provincial Health Office (PHO) and provincial hospital staff led by Dr. Jose Salomon, Misamis Occidental Provincial Health Officer,

Note: The reporter is the Secretary of the Bukaran Hill Chapter #14, OES, Ozamiz City.

who is also a member of the Fraternity.

The following also played vital roles in the outreach mission: Mayor Hilarion A. Ramire, Sr., the Regional Training & Teaching Hospital staff, the SM Lao Hospital staff, the Ozamis City Dental Society, Dr. Dondon Lumanta and staff, the Ozamis Metro Laboratory staff, United Laboratories, Metro Pharma, Therapharma, Pharex Health Corporation, and other generous donors whose names need not be mentioned anymore.

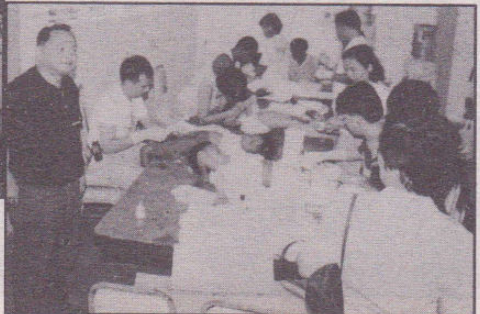
PM Bert Cuizon took charge of the surgical cases, while other Masons and OES members assisted as instant pharmacists, nursing aides, recorders and food/snack caterers.

The Masonic Family in Ozamiz City conduct charitable works like this outreach mission every year.



Dr. Jose Salomon, Misamis Occ. Provincial Health Officer and member of the Fraternity, actively participates in the Medical Mission.

Mt. Malindang Lodge #130 of Ozamiz City in its Medical, Dental and Surgical Outreach Mission held in the Lodge Social Hall at Carmen Annex, Ozamiz City



MT. MORIAH LODGE #252 CONDUCTS "WELCOME TO MANHOOD"

Mt. Moriah #252 in Cebu City (Masonic District No. 24) conducted its annual medical outreach program last April 8. The brethren's project this time consisted in the rite of passage from childhood to boyhood, entitled "Welcome to Manhood."

Some 180 boys, whose ages ranged from 6 to 12, queued for their respective turns to be administered the ritual.

The overall project coordinator for the free operation "tuli" was VW David S. Odilao, Junior Grand Lecturer for Central Visayas. He was ably assisted by VW Patrick E.R. King, DDGM for M.D. #24; VW Johnny Lee Sy, Master of Mt. Moriah Lodge #252; VW Dennis R. Villamor and VW William S. Chu, both District Grand Lecturers; WB Eugenio S. Rogis, Jr., Lodge Secretary; and

other members of the Lodge.

Dr. Felimon Alberca, a very good friend of the Masons, headed the medical team. He was assisted by doctors from Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital and the Cebu City Medical Center.

Boy and Girl Scouts of the Cebu Eastern College provided the needed legwork for errands and other services. For a job well done, each of them received a certificate of participation.



**JACOBO ZOBEL Y ZANGRONIZ
MEMORIAL LODGE #202
CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE**

by WB Romeo R. Velasco & Bro. Horacio S. Gonzales

We, the brethren of Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz Memorial Lodge No. 202, celebrated our 25th anniversary at the Makati Sports Club, with MW Franklin J. Demonteverde, Grand Master, as guest speaker.

The gracious presence of MW Demonteverde lent the occasion a tinge of nostalgia because his father, MW Repurto S. Demonteverde, Sr., and his brother, VW Ruperto J. Demonteverde, Jr., were among the prominent Masons who conceived the idea of setting up the Lodge and Temple in the Makati business district on Dec. 20, 1973. The others include VW Ernesto Z. Gonzales, Sr. m WB Simeon Rene Lacson (who would go on to become a Grand Master), WB Teotimo C. Juan, WB Eduardo P. Gonzales, and WB Norberto A. San Mateo, Jr. Besides, it was MW Ruperto S. Demonteverde, Sr., who, on Jan. 11 1974, granted approval of the brethren's petition to form the new Lodge. Moreover, when on Feb. 21 1974, the Lodge U.D. was instituted at the Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple, VW Ruperto J. Demonteverde, Jr. was installed Master. On that occasion, a resolution was approved that Don Enrique Zobel be informed about the naming of the Lodge after his illustrious grandfather, Don Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz, the first Filipino Mason initiated on Philippine soil, who played a district role in the struggle for the independence of the Philippines from Spanish rule.

The programme for the silver jubilee celebration, which was emceed by VW

Raul A. Laman and Bro. Renato A. Florencio, ffirmly started with an invocation led by Bro. Ricardo K. Manotoc III.

In my (WM Romeo R. Velasco's) welcome remarks, among other things, I thanked all present for their support, specifically for contributing to the success of our Lodge's yearbook project.

VW Abelardo L. Aportadera, Jr., then presented our Lodge's historical background, which may be continued thus:

June 20, 1974 - MW Wallace, Grand Master, granted dispensation that the Lodge might conduct meetings temporarily at the Pio del Pilar High School.

Nov. 15, 1974 - The Charter of the Lodge was granted at Hotel Intercontinental, with Don Enrique Zobel as guest speaker. He granted the Lodge continued use of the Pio del Pilar High School for its stated meetings.

April 25, 1978 - The Lodge was granted a long-term lease of a 1500-square-meters lot at P1.00 per year, plus a sum of money to be used for the construction

of a temple on the lot in two years.

Nov. 15, 1982 - Our Lodge celebrated its 8th Charter Day. Lodge was opened in due and ancient form at the nearly completed temple. This marked the formal existence of the Lodge and its temple.

Subsequently, the Lodge grew in number and strength and influence - thanks to VW Warner A. Rushing, WB Ernesto Flores, WB Ben Liong Cheng, Bro. Oscar Jesus Sy, Bro. Fletcher, VW Norberto San Mateo, and the Locsin brothers, Enrique and Teodoro Jr.

WB Enrique L. Locsin constructed the Fellowship Hall, which now bears his and his brother Teddy Boy's name. He rose to prominence after his appointment by MW John L. Choa as Committee on Media Relations Chair and Grand Bible Bearer.

In 1987, WB Mauricio R. Valdez increased the number of Lodge members further, thereby widening the reach and influence of the Lodge.

From 1988 to 1990, under the leadership of VW Raul A. Lamam, who was Master for three consecutive terms, the Lodge not only became more financially stable, but also focused on the brethren's continuing Masonic Education. VW Lamam was appointed Junior Grand Lecturer by MW Juan C. Nabong, Jr. Then he was appointed the Grand Master's Deputy for District 9B and Grand Lecturer for the old District 9. He is, at present, the Grand Orator.

In 1998-99, MW Enrique L. Locsin

served as Centennial Grand Master.

Today, our Lodge is composed of 71 members, some of whom have either gone back to the United States or have migrated thereto. But these members are still actively in touch through constant communications.

VW Billy Aportadera having finished giving the historical background of our Lodge, Bro. Teddy Boy Locsin delivered a discourse of the life of Bro. Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz and that of his descendant, Don Enrique Zobel, our Lodge's benefactor.

"Both men raised their small voices, which became loud protests," Bro. Teddy Boy states. "Don Jacobo fought for Philippine independence from Spain, while Don Enrique endeavored to right what was wrong even while subjected to to coercive controls of a dictatorship. Both took risks. Don Jacobo lost his life and Don Enrique lost his hard-earned prestige when ridiculed the told to shut up by an unsympathetic media..."

Assisted by WB Rommel P. Garcia, Junior Warden, I (WM Velasco) gave out awards of recognition to Past Masters of our Lodge and then conferred the Hiram Award on MW Enrique L. Locsin, PGM, for outstanding contribution to our Lodge. Decidedly, MW Locsin gave our Lodge distinct honor and integrity.

VW Lamam then introduced the guest speaker, whom he described as "a man both understanding and passionate -- a family man ..."

MW Franklin J. Demonteverde

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delivered his message (the text of which is printed in this issue).

MW Enrique L. Locsin, PGM, in his remarks, reiterated important milestones of our Lodge. He cited the latest improvements on the building and facade.

"We established the Jacobo Zobel y Zangroniz Foundation to source funds for the maintenance of the temple and its facilities and for acquiring pertinent paraphernalia for use by the brethren," he revealed.

VW Enrique L. Flores, Jr., MW Demonteverde's Deputy for District 13,

gave the closing remarks. He mentioned, among other things, that our Lodge had produced three Past Grand Masters - MWBs Ruperto S. Demonteverde, Sr., Simeon Rene Lacson, and MW Enrique I. Locsin.

Concluded VW Flores: "As Masons, we must erect the walls of our spiritual and Masonic edifices by the square of morality, the level of equality and the plumb of righteousness."

Bro. Renato A. Florencio then called on everyone to start the trek to the next 25 years by partaking of the food, refreshment, music, camaraderie and fellowship.



Brththren of Jacobo Zobel pose with Junior Grand Warden Eugenio Labitoria and MW Demonteverde.

WM Romeo R. Velasco congratulates Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde after presenting him with plate of appreciation. At center is Past Grand Master Enrique L. Locsin.



L-R: VW Mario Angeles, AGS; PGM Enrique Locsin; MW Franklin J. Demonteverde; Bro. Teddy Boy Locsin; VW Melvin Jurisprudencia, AGT; VW Raul A. Laman, Grand Orator; and WM Romeo Velasco



BONGABONG LODGE UPDATES

by VW Pablo M. Elauria, PDGL

Cornestone Laying, Installation of Officers

The duly designated representative of the Grand Master, VW Celso B. Sarmiento, DDGM for District 10, presided over the cornestone-laying of the future edifice of Bongabong Lodge at Barangay Labasan, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro on Jan. 29, 2000.

VW Rodolfo Tor, DDGM for District No. 3 and a charter member of Lodge Bongabong, ably assisted VW Sarmiento, acting as DDGM during the solemn ceremony.

Others who participated in the ceremony included VW Servando Lara, WBs Jun Lagsac and Ruel Dote, and Bros. Alex Enriquez, Rogelio Maulion, Herbert Huggins, Ronilo Landicho, Cris Torino and Augusto Arayata.

A big crowd of brethren from Manila, Cavite, Batangas and Mindoro witnessed the solemn event.

The presence of Bro. Herbert Huggins and his wife, Sis Celane, lent the event a deeper significance since they had facilitated the donation of the subject site by their daughter, Ms. Irene Watiwat Mason.

The ensuing installation of officers held at the E. Umali Gym in downtown Bongabong started with the presentation of the Philippine Flag. Mayor Alex Enriquez, a member of the Lodge, led the tribute to the Flag and Rev. Fr. Elmer Fontamillas delivered the invocation.

VW Sarmiento gave the closing remarks.

VW Jaime Concepcion, PDDGM, then installed the officers of Lodge Bongabong, assisted by WB Edgardo Yuson and WB Jay Gutierrez, who served as MC and Asst. MC, respectively.

Newly installed Master Rogelio Maulion stressed that the future of Masonry rests in the hands of its members, that it will be what we make of it...

After the presentation and acceptance of the Past Master's Jewel, Apron and Certificate, VW Tor, upon request, delivered some brief remarks. He even donated a big amount of money for the construction of the lodge temple.

VW Servando V. Lara, another charter member of the Lodge and the guest speaker, dwelt on several Masonic concerns, posing questions in the process.

Other installed officers of the Lodge were: Alex I Enriquez, Senior Warden; Alfonso A. Montalbo, Junior Warden; Herbert B. Huggins, Treasurer; this correspondent, Secretary; WB Godofredo G. Hernandez, Auditor;

Nelson B. Gabutero, Chaplain; WB

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Edgardo Yuson, GLI, Marshal; VW Antonio C. Bernal Jr., PDDGM, Junior Deacon; VW Ruben Medina, Organist; Randolph Gerance, Senior Steward; Julius Cesar Perez, Junior

Steward; and Apollo Ferraren, Tyler.

Dinner and fellowship social followed...



Brethren march in procession to the site of the special event

VWBs Sarmiento, Tor, and Lara, assisted by Bro./Mayor Enriquez, WB Maulion, Bro. Herbert Huggins and others, Read solemn cornerstone-laying ceremony.



Kite-Flying Contest

Bongabong Lodge No. 324 sponsored a kite-flying contest at the grounds of the town's central school on March 14, 2000. The theme of the contest was "Believe you can fly!"

Rev. Fr. Henry Saldites, parish priest, delivered the invocation, and Acting Mayor Bobut Umali gave a short message, in which he stressed that the Masons should sponsor the contest on a continuing basis and other contests, so that juvenile delinquency would be minimized.

Fifty enthusiasts participated in the contest, and curious spectators from Bongabong and neighboring towns cheered their contestants.

The first placer received P4,500; the 2nd P3,000, and the 3rd P2,000. There were seven consolation prizes of P500 each.

The prizes were donated by the Office of the Mayor, c/o Bro. Alex Enriquez; Barangay Poblacion, c/o Bgy. Capt. Jeremy Enriquez; Country Bank, c/o Manager Elvie Saligumba; Bongabong Cable Network, c/o Mr. Rudy Liwanag; Alinco Marketing, c/o Bro. Jaime Tee; Agricultural and Vet Supply Store,

c/o Bro. Julius Caezar Perez; and V.T. Grocery, Ricemill and Agri Supply, c/o Bro. Vic Ong

The Officers and members of the Lodge received invaluable assistance from Country Bank Manager Elvie Saligumba, who was contest treasurer; the Bongabong Police,

headed by Chief Ramon Selas and Sgt. Dazo; the Board of Judges, chaired by Engr. Meonada, with the following as members: Engr. Caquete, Engr. Malaluan, Sir Crisostomo and Mr. Panaligan.

This will be an annual event sponsored by our Lodge.



2nd prize winner...

One of the consolation prize winners...



WAS GEN. PAULINO TORRES SANTOS A BROTHER MASON?

Gen. Paulino Torres Santos (1830-1945) was a military leader and land resettlement pioneer. He was an epitome of Filipino courage and perseverance.

He was honored when Dadiangas (a thorny shrub in Bilaan language) was renamed after him when it became a city on Sept. 5, 1968.

Was he a Brother Mason?

An ante-bellum issue of The Cabletow contains a picture of Gen. Santos, who was the captain of the bowling team. Was the bowling team shown in the picture composed of Masons?

One of the seven children of Gen. Santos, according to VW Gauvain J. Benzonan, holds the key to the mystery as to whether Gen. Santos was a member of the Craft or not. It is hoped that, with the help of VW Benzonan, the offspring of Gen. Santos referred to will soon unravel the mystery regarding Gen. Santos' Masonic membership.

MASONIC EVENTS, CONCERNS IN CAMARINES NORTE

by VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PJGL

3-IN-1 YEAR-END AFFAIR

On December 30, 1999, led by VW Santiago M. Turingan, PDDGM, and WM-elect Fernando L. Rabo, we had a 3-in-1 affair, consisting of a floral-offering

ceremony at the Rizal monument in Daet, a lecture-forum followed by giving of gifts to indigent families, and christmas party of the Masonic Family in the province.



A view of the more than 100 recipients of gift packages...

JOINT PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Setting:

Mega Star Hotel Ballroom Hall in Talisay, Camarines Norte, March 4, 2000.

Installing Officer:

VW Emil I. Andrion, PDDGM, M.D.#9.

Installed Elected Officers

... of Lodge Camarines Norte No. 107: VW Santiago M. Turingan, PDDGM, Wor. Master; Juan A.

Bautista, Jr., Senior Warden; Fernando E. Peteza, Junior Warden; VW Jose Dy Ching, DDGM, Treasurer; VW Jose P. Tabios, Sr., PDDGM, Secretary; and Regis C. Barra, Auditor.

... of Lodge Daet No. 247: Fernando L. Labo, Wor. Master; this writer (VW Peteza), Junior Warden; VW Ong Peng Lee, PDDGM, Treasurer; VW Santiago P. Ferrer, Jr., Secretary; and WB Leo L. Intia, PM, Auditor. (Duly elected Senior Warden Juan C. Bailey, Jr. will be installed later.)

Government Officials Welcome

Guests, Visitors

Gov. Emmanuel "Jess" B. Pimentel and Daet Mayor Elmer Panotes welcomed the guests and visitors, assuring them of their safety in Daet even at night.

Newly-Obligated Brother Gives His Impressions on E.A.M. Ritual: A Historic "First"

Romulo SJ Tolentino of Lodge Naga City No. 257, Asst. Regional State Prosecutor, shared his impressions of the Entered Apprentice Mason ritual, and the assembly gave him appreciative applause.

Masonic Lodges in Albay, Camarines Sur Represented

VW Frank Yap, PDDGM, headed the delegation from Lodge Mayon No. 61. VW Carlos S. Briones, PDDGM, and WB Julian Ocampo III represented Lodge Naga City No. 257. WM Alvin Yater headed the delegation from Lodge Isarog No. 33, while VW Benito S. Ngo, DGL for MAsonic District No. 12, led the group from Memorial Lodge Julian Ocampo No. 146 in Iriga City

Due to bad weather, the delegations from Lodges Bulusan No. 38 and Catanduanes No. 191 did not make it to the event.

Guest Speaker: MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, GMH, Grand Secretary

A principal reason for the anti-Masonic

stand of the Catholic Church, he explained, was the Freemasons' support for the separation of Church and State.

To the hold on to power, he added, the friars dangled the Damoclean sword over the heads of the Filipino people.

He revealed that the alleged document on Bro./Dr. Jose Rizal's retraction first surfaced years before his death and 30 years after his execution on Bagumbayan Field on Dec. 30, 1896.

The signature of Dr. Jose Rizal on the alleged retraction document, he stressed, was the handiwork of a hired forger. When his conscience bothered him, he confessed that he had consented to forge Rizal's signature for a fee.

Our illustrious Brother Jose Rizal, he concluded, did not retract his Masonry; for if he did, why was he ordered shot by the Spanish civil guards and buried outside the Catholic cemetery?



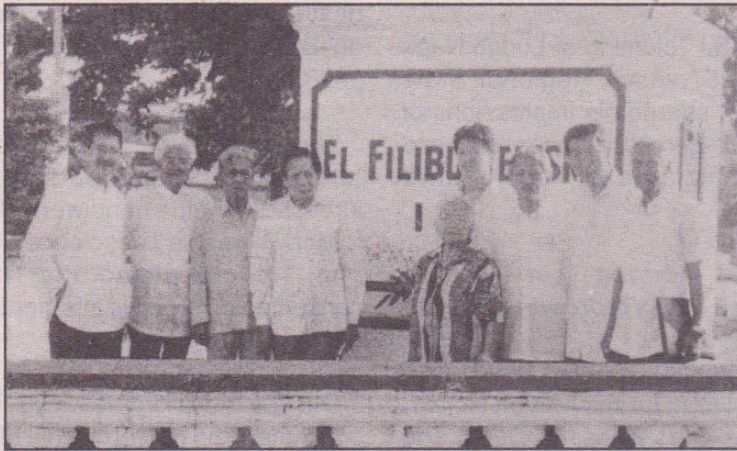
MW Fajardo receives from VW Turingan a replica of the first Rizal monument ever erected in the country.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY, BRO. RIZAL'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

We Freemasons offered flowers at the Bro. Jose Rizal's monument on June 12, Independence Day, but the province did not conduct a floral-offering ceremony on that day.

The provincial government, in

cooperation with the Knights of Rizal and the NGOs, celebrated the 139th anniversary of Bro. Rizal's birth on June 19 with a floral-offering ceremony at the Freedom Park, and we Freemasons did similarly at the Rizal monument in downtown Daet.



(L-R): WB Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr., PM; VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PJGL; VW Felipe M. Jardinel, PDGL; Bro. Juan C. Bailey, Jr., Senior Warden; Sis. Trinidad E. Peteza; WB Fernando L. Rabo, Worshipful Master, Daet Lodge No. 247; WB Roberto C. Rebodos, PM; VW Jose Dy Ching, PDDGM; and VW Jose P. Tabios, Sr., PDDGM

SOME PROJECTS, CONCERNS

Officers and members of Lodge Camarines Norte No. 107 and Daet No. 247 keep on improving the Masonic Center not only to make it conducive for Masonic gatherings but also a credit to the neighborhood.

The lodge hall now has two airconditioning units and it is adorned by beautifully tailored curtains - thanks to the efforts of such Past Masters as WB Mauro O. Mangubat, VW Ernesto

C. Tabanao, and WB Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr.

During his incumbency as Master of Lodge No. 107, VW Tabanao proposed the construction of a chapel inside the Masonic cemetery, which is owned by their lodge and the Lodge approved his proposal.

The incumbent Master of Daet Lodge No. 247, WB Fernando L. Rabo, wants

to bring into fruition the proposed project. Hence, he instructed the Senior Warden, Engr. Juan C. Bailey, Jr., to undertake the subdivision survey of the cemetery for the purpose of determining the exact location of the chapel. He has also tapped the business acumen of his associates in the commercial field.

If this project is accomplished, the brethren of Camarines Norte will have something to say to their provincemates.

Furthermore, the brethren of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 want to pursue the project proposed by VW Vicente N. Ongtenco, PDDGM, namely, that their Lodge adopt a certain barangay. Due to the large amount of money (one million pesos) and work involved, however, the brethren have adopted the make-haste-slowly attitude, as was advised by VW Santiago M. Turingan, PDDGM, incumbent Master of Lodge 107.

Another important concern is the continuance of our nonformal education program, which was launched a decade ago to provide out-of-school youths in the province with livelihood know-how or skills.

VW Vicente N. Ongtenco donated the sum of P25,000 for the operation of the program. Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 used to manage the program, but the Bicol Bodies, A.&A.S.R., has taken over the management.

A recent development, however, has put the continued existence of the program in jeopardy. The donated sum was appropriated for a proposed symposium on Freemasonry to be sponsored by Lodges Camarines Norte

No. 107 and Daet No. 247. The donor approved the appropriation and agreed to donate another sum of P25,000, provided the two Lodges contribute their respective financial shares in support of the program.

The two Lodges, in effect, are hard pressed to raise their respective monetary shares in the maintenance of the program. Will they be able to do it?

Other questions, such as the following, are aching to be answered:

Is it fair to require the Bicol Bodies, A.&A.S.R., to pay a rental fee for the use of the facilities of the Masonic Center?

Who should really manage the program?

Will a new program director be designated by the Venerable Master of the Bicol Bodies?

Are we prepared to finance a program that will take the place of the nonformal education program in case this becomes defunct?

I believe we can find the answers to these and related questions if we search together. Working together in harmony toward common objectives and showing our pride in the Fraternity to one another and to the public will make wonderful things happen.

If we put our act together, we will yet save the nonformal education program from imminent extinction and help the out-of-school youths in our province to earn a living as well as to live a meaningful life.

PAST MASTER OF ARAW #18 CELEBRATES 50TH BIRTHDAY

VW Ely C. Miranda (3rd from left), Past Master of Araw Lodge No. 18, celebrated his 50th birthday recently.



The brethren who attended the birthday party were (from left) WB Ruben Tingco and VW George Hernandez; (from right) WB Raffy Andrada, WB Hernani Barrios, VW George So.

The lady in the photo is Sister Letty Miranda, wife of the birthday celebrant.

3 Masons Inducted Officers of PNRCC Caloocan City Chapter

Very Worshipful Brother and Dr. Antonio F. Joson, Jr. (4th from left in photo below), VW Leonardo Chua (3rd from right), and Bro. Virgilio Young (center) were inducted as Chairman, Director and Auditor of the Caloocan City Chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) on Feb. 12, 2000 by PNRCC Chairwoman L.I. Luciano (2nd from left).

Others in photo: PNRCC Gov. Lina Aurelio, Adviser (extreme left); Dr. Luningning Villamejor, Director (3rd from left); Thomas Cua, Secretary (4th from

right); Dr. Gerardo S. Perlas, Jr., Blood Service Director (2nd from right); and Ernesto Soon, Jr., Immediate Past Chairman.



NARRA LODGE NO. 171 OFFICERS INSTALLED

With MW Franklin J. Demontecerde as its guest of honor speaker, Narra Lodge No. 171 located in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, held its installation of officers on January 22, 2000.

Bros. Edgardo A. Alfonso, Orlando M. Eligio and Alberto S. Alfonso were duly installed as its three principal officers. WB Voltaire A. Francisco and VW Anselmo E. Munsayac acted as Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies, respectively.

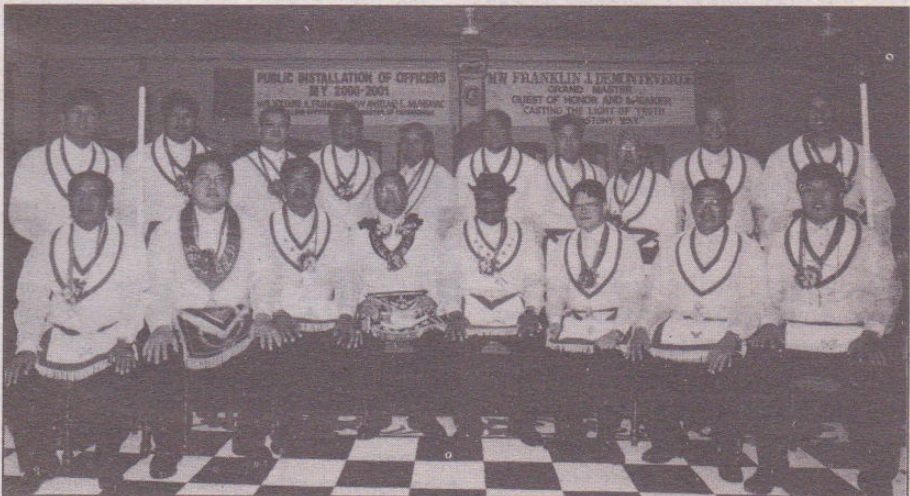
MW Demonteverde was accompanied by a number of Grand Lodge Officers. The occasion was very well-attended. Brethren representing different Masonic Lodges and Districts graced the occasion. The fraternal dinner and fellowship was held at Agrinet Grains Compound in Barangay Tulat, also in San Jose City.

In his speech, the Grand Master stressed the importance of quality in accepting petitioners to our honorable

fraternity, for quantity can take care of itself if we have quality members.

On the other hand, the newly-installed Worshipful Master, in his inaugural address, called the attention of the brethren to the greatest challenge of the new millennium to our fraternity, which is the continuous insidious attacks and criticisms by some sectors of our society.

Under the new leadership, Narra Lodge's programs and projects for the ensuing Masonic year include, among others, the following: a millennium science quiz bee; a wheelchair and crutches project; a free eyeglass program for poor and deserving students; a sports festival for Masons and their families; and a continuing temple improvement program.



ALFONSO LEE SIN MEM. LODGE •158 CONTINUES TO BE A BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITIES

This may be gleaned from the March and April 2000 issues of LEE SIN TIMES.

The most outstanding Lodge in the Philippine grand jurisdiction in 1994, 1995 and 1996, Alfonso Lee Sin has joined cyber space. Its website address in <http://leesin158.usatv1.net>.

It has also continued its inter-Lodge visitation program. Its officers and members attended the private installation of the officers of Lingayen Lodge No. 161 on March 4 and the public installation of the Officers of Urdaneta Lodge No. 302 on March 25. On the same day, they attended the stated meeting of Cupang Lodge No. 295 in Bulacan, Bulacan. Then they visited Pangasinan Lodge on April 8.

The Lodge has continued its community service program, too. It conducted a medical, dental and surgical mission at Barangay Bigbiga, San Fabian Pangasinan on April 6.

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FAMILY DAY SPORTSFEST '99

We, the brethren of Kalilayan Lodge No. 37, and our spouses joined the young boys of Kalilayan Chapter, Order of DeMolay, at the MSEUF Bowlodrome in Lucena City on the 5th of December 1999 to demonstrate to them our support in their Annual Family Day Sportsfest.

MC Joseph Anthony Ronard Z. Villanueva, the only son of Judge Romeo L. Villanueva, PDDGM (No. 37), besides welcoming the participants, exhorted his fellow DeMolay to keep on practicing the tenets of their Order and expressed sincerest thanks to us, their Dads, for relentlessly extending support to them.

WB Raul A. Ibal, in behalf of his brethren, promised continuing support to the DeMolay in all their endeavors



MC Joseph Anthony Roward Villanueva and his parents, VW Romeo and Sis. Juliet, together with other DeMolays and Kalilayan brethren.

*RW Bunyi, Other Masonic Leaders
Install Officers of Blue Lodges in
Masonic District No. 48*

by WM Alawi A. Alhabsi

December to February is, invariably, the period of installation of officers of Blue Lodges in our District.

Dadiangas Lodge No. 225 had its officers, led by WM Stevan T. Co, Jr., installed by no less than RW Oscar V. Bunyi, Deputy Grand Master, who was also the guest speaker, on Dec. 11, 1999. VW Nestor Panlaque served as Master of Ceremony; he was assisted by WB Ega Abrazaldo. The dinner reception was at Rib's and Jazz. The occasion was doubly meaningful because Lodges Matutum 156, Dadiangas 225 and Kaduh 278 held their joint Christmas party then and there.

Koronadal Lodge No. 209 had its officers, headed by MW Suharto T. Mangudadato, on Jan. 11, 2000. VW and Ill. Gauvain J. Benzonan, 33rd degree, was Installing Officer; VW Isaac Alvero V. Moran and WB Nelson U. Tan were MC and Asst. MC, respectively. VW and Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Jr., a member of Kamayo Lodge No. 255, was guest speaker. Dinner reception was held at Marvella Hotel.

WM Allan D. Rivera and the other officers of Kaduh Lodge No. 278 were installed on Jan. 17 by VW Froilan G. Tecson, assisted by VW Panlaque, MC, and WB Ernesto Cruz, Asst. MC. Guest speaker was Mayor Adelbert W. Antonino, a son of a Mason, the late Senator Gaudencio Antonino. Rib's and Jazz was again the venue of the

reception-dinner.

Led by my humble self, the officers of Matutum Lodge No. 156 were installed on Jan. 22 by VW Tecson, with VW Moran as MC and WB Ricardo Tabora as Asst. MC. WM Suharto T. Mangudadatu read the message of the guest speaker, his own father, VW Pax S. Mangudadato, who had another important engagement. We brethren and our guests held dinner reception at Tierra Verde Hotel.

On Feb. 5, VW and Ill. Benzonan, assisted by VWBs Moran and Ramon T. Del Castillo, Jr., installed the officers of Daguma Mountain Range Lodge No. 244, led by WM Romulo B. Jacalan. This time VW Pax S. Mangudadato, Governor of the Province of Sultan Kudarat, was around to give his message. Reception-dinner was at Jemm's Place. VW Tecson and this reporter presided over the program for the fellowship social.

WM Joseph S. Chua of Maribulan Lodge No. 304 and his set of officers were installed on Feb. 12 by VW and Ill. Benzonan, who also served as guest speaker, with VW Panlaque acting as MC. Reception and lunch at Isla Parilla.

RW Bunyi focused his message on

the need for Masons to perform their duty to carry out both the inner and outer work of Masonry, the light of which we should bring into brighter, sharper focus in our communities.

VW and Gen. Camiling focused his message on the peace and order condition in Cotabato. Stressed he: "If only all people are Masons, then it is easy to understand each other."

In his message, Mayor Antonino revealed that during his confinement in hospital here and abroad, he is usually given a discount because he is a Mason's son.

VW and Gov. Pax S. Mangudadato,

on his part, talked about the peace and order situation in his province and about a few of his projects, namely: literacy program, asphalt production, and a mobile hospital.

VW and Ill. Benzonan focused his speech on the ritual, urging the brethren to practice in daily life the lessons and teachings of the three degrees of Craft Masonry.

With the messages of the guest speakers safely lodged in the repository of our faithful breasts, we recommitted ourselves to the all-important task of improving ourselves in Masonry and disseminating the teachings of our Craft among the general public.

NAGA CITY LODGE NO. 257 CONDUCTS MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION

by Redmund V. Pascual, Sr. Warden

Brethren of Naga City Lodge No. 257, led by WM Julian Ocampo, conducted a medical-dental mission in Bgy. Lupi, San Fernando, Camarines Sur on March 19, 2000.

The Kabalikat Civicom Group, led by WB G. Portuguez, supported the brethren by arranging the site, by providing logistics and by preparing a sumptuous lunch.

This writer solicited the medicines, while WB/Dr. Joe Hijastre organized the medical-dental team.

A total of 580 patients were treated. This number may be broken down as follows: 111 dental patients, 233 adults and 236 children with medical

problems.

The donations from the following brethren and friends of Masons contributed a lot to the success of the mission: Bro./Col. A. Doma-ala, G-& PA; Bro./Col. Oca Gonate, Deputy Chief-PASAF; WB R. Nuñez; Bro. Bob Elevado; Jojo Dasco of the Mercury Drug Corporation; and Willy Bisana of Warner Lambert Phils. Thanks, likewise, to WB Harry Ramchand for donating the anaesthetic medicines used.

CAVITE LODGE NO. 2

Cavite Lodge No.2 came out with the maiden issue (January-March 2000) of its official newsletter, THE DEACON, the editor-in-chief of which is Bro. Rafaelito R. Sacdalan.

The Lodge's Wor. Master, WB Braulio A. Candia, together with SW Bayani R. Leoncio and JW Sacdalan, urged the brethren to proudly work together in unity toward making their newsletter a "showcase" for their Lodge in particular and toward successfully celebrating their centennial anniversary in 2002.

THE DEACON informs us that Cavite Lodge No. 2 participated in the DDGM's bowling tournament held at the Grace Bowling Alley in Cavite City on Feb. 24, 2000; that it has launched its own Bring-Home-A-Brother project; that it has organized its Council of Elders, which consists of the Master and all Past Masters; and that it has faithfully

attended the District Council meetings.

However, the newsletter's educational corner (p.18) erroneously ascribes "Attracting More Young Men of Promise into the Craft" to RW Thomas W. Jackson, Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The reprinted material is, actually, an excerpt of the editorial of THE CABLETOW, November-December 1997, pp. 3-4.

In any case, congratulations to Cavite Lodge No. 2 for the publication of the maiden issue of its quarterly newsletter.



MW Franklin J. Demonteverde and other brethren pose with Mayor Hagedorn of Palawan during their courtesy call at his office.

BAGONG ILAW 97 CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

by VW Teddy P. Cleofe, DGL

Bagong Ilaw Lodge no. 97, headed by WM Lino B. Gabriel, celebrated its 75th anniversary on April 1, 2000 by conducting a community outreach activity jointly with Ilang-Ilang Court No. 20, Order of the Amaranth, led by HL Cecile Valero, Royal Matron, and SK Dante Valero, Royal Patron and leading member of the Lodge.

Present were MW and ILL. Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM and PSGC, who was accompanied by his ever supportive wife, Sis. and HL Trifina, PRM, and VW and SK Ireneo L. Racimo, DDGM and PGRP, who was also accompanied by his better half, Sis. and HL Consuelo, PGRM, Grand Court, Order of the Amaranth.

The civic – action project, consisting of “Operation Tuli” and medical – dental treatment, resulted in the circumcision of 117 boys and the treatment of 87 medical and 51 dental patients.

Upon the invitation of WB Gabriel and Bro. Lt. Col. Julna Jerry C. Carillo of the Phil. Marines, the following medical personnel lent their expertise and time:

1. Medical Team from the V-Luna Hospital, AFP Medical Center, Quezon City, headed by Major Edwin B. Bautista, MC, OIC; Capt. Joy Edna S. Renejane, MC; Capt. Ramon C. Villaba, MC; Capt. Ronald A. Manansala, MC; and Ms Lorena T. Cabunagan, R.N.

2. Medical Support Company, of the Combat and Service Support Brigade, Phillipine Marines Corps, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, headed by Capt. Renato A. Esmabe, MC (N (M) – OIC; ILT William A. Averion, VC PN (M); and

a number of Corpsmen.

3. Medical Team of the Naval Station Hospital, Naval Base Cavite, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City, headed by Major Lizardo B. Luistro, MC, PN-OIC; Major Jose S. Come MC, PN; Capt. Mary Christine G. Fillarca, MC, PN; Capt. Librada T. Tagelo, NC PN; PO1 Meliton R. Cabralda, PN, POIC; and several Hospital-Corpsmen and civilian Nurses – Miss Shirley Mangente, and Mr. Pompei Banayos.

4. Dental Team of the 1302nd Dental Dispensary, Philippine Navy, NBC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City, headed by LCOL, Chaucer B. Regalado, DS, PN-OIC; Capt. Jazmin J. Marcelo, DS PN; Dra. Julie B. Agana, DD, a Rainbow Girl, PWA of the Tierra Alta Assembly No. 4, I.O.R.G. in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite; Dra. Blanca Blancaflor, DD; and some Dental Technicians.

The Naval Station Hospital and the 1302nd Dental Dispensary provided some medicines and materials for their respective Civic Action Teams.

The medicines and medical supplies used by the other Medical Teams were donated by the different Civic Organizations through Bro. Col Carmelo

Flores, MC PN and Bro. LCol Jerry C. Carillo PN (M), both members of Bagong Ilaw Lodge No. 97. The donors were:

1. Unang Lingap sa Kapwa Phils. Inc. in Quezon City, headed by Mrs. Lilia Orioste – Project Director and Mr. Caster Qunano – Admin. Officer.

2. Glaxo – Welcome Phils. Inc., in Makati City, headed by Mr. Mike Cruzado – Project Manager, and Mrs. Angeli M. Yupano, Medical Representative.

3. Novartis health Care Phil. Inc. (the ZYMA-Servipharm) in Makati City, through Mr. Manny M. Masiclat and Mr.

Waldo F. Manalili, Medical Representatives.

Through the efforts of HL Cecile Valero, additional medicines were given by Congressman Plaridel C. Abaya of the First District of Cavite.

The venue was at the compound of Magdiwang Lodge No. 238 in Noveleta, Cavite.

Said civic action project was one of the most successful community services conducted by the different Lodges of Masonic District No. 2 during the term of VW Ireneo L. Racimo as DDGM.

CVL NO. 133 CARRIES OUT LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS

Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133, under the leadership of WB Wilfredo de Jesus, put up a livelihood project aimed at transferring entrepreneurial technologies to *hermanas* (Mason' spouses), other members of families of the brethren, and indigent market vendors.

The first seminar-workshop, which was conducted at the mezzanine of the Lodge building, focused on the preparation of *longganisa* and *tocino* for small-time business. The technology transfer was through video-audiovisual demonstration accompanied by reading materials distributed by DOST trainers.

The funds for the video-audiovisual facilities were donated to the Lodge by the DOST trainers.

The funds for the video-audiovisual facilities were donated to the Lodge by the DOST through WB Rustico Santos, DOST Director in Region 2.

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MASONIC DISTRICT #39 CAPTURES NORTHEAST LUZON MULTI-DISTRICT SPORTFEST OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Delegates of Masonic District Nos. 39 (Nueva Vizcaya), 43 (Mountain Province), 45 (Isabela North), 49 (Cagayan) and 51 (Isabela South & Quirino Province) converged at the Isabela Sports Complex in Ilagan, Isabela on Nov. 28, 1999 in order to compete with one another in the first multi-district sportsfest.

MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, PGM, stressed that the sportsfest would further strengthen the indissoluble chain of sincere affection that link Masons together.

VW Leonardo Chua, Past DDGM and Past JGL, presented the various delegations; VW Richard Tan Uy, DGL for District No. 51, led the Pledge of Sportsmanship, and VW Roger M. Balmaceda, DDGM of host District No. 51, declared the sportsfest officially open.

District No. 39 emerged as overall champion by virtue of the following feats: champion in basketball, volleyball, 4x100 meter relay, marathon, obstacle race, and sack race.

First runner-up overall was District No. 43 because it was runner-up in basketball, volleyball, and obstacle race.

Masonic District No. 51 captured the and runner-up position overall since it was 2nd runner-up in basketball,

volleyball, and marathon, and it was champion in tug-of-war and 1st runner-up in the 4x100 meter relay.

VW Cornelius Van Luspo, Grand Sword Bearer, assisted by MW Bañez and VW Balmaceda, awarded the trophies to the winners.

Masonic District No. 39 will host the next multi-district sportsfest. Meanwhile, San Mateo Lodge No. 319 bested all other Lodges in Masonic District No.51 to crown itself as bowling tournament champion. The venue of the tournament was the VICAP Bowling Lanes in Santiago City.

The SML Bowlers were WB Frank Bumagat, Bro. Rioni de los Trinos, Bro. Jose delos Trinos Jr., Leo delos Trinos, Bro. Ely Corbe, VW Dominador Apaga, and Bro. Henry T. Carpiso (team manager).

VW Angel T. Bacoling, PDDGM, a member of the Cagayan Valley Lodge #133 team, emerged as top scorer in the tournament, while his wife, Sis. Edna, got the highest pinning honors.

Mindoro 157 Officers Installed

by Bro. Ferdinand B. Mercene

February 3, 2000 was, indeed, a very memorable day for the brethren of Mindoro Lodge No. 157. RW Napoleon A. Soriano, Senior Grand Warden, installed our officers for Masonic year 2000-2001.

VW Alfredo P. Bihis, PDDGM, acted as Master of Ceremonies, while VW Ricardo P. Galvez, Past Grand Orator, was the guest speaker.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Hon. Josephine Ramirez-Sato, our Provincial Governor and a daughter of a late Brother Mason.

Also present were Vice-Governor Minto, a Brother Mason; Hon. Gene Mendiola, Mayor of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; wives of Masons and selected guests.

Newly installed Master Jose J. Lopez appeared much inspired by the attention given him by those present.



Newly-installed officers and visiting dignitaries: VW Bihis (extreme left, 1st row); RW Soriano (5th from left, same row); VW Galvez (in coat and tie).

The brethren's spouses with VW Galvez (in coat and tie); Hon. Ramirez Sato (4th from the left, back row); and San Jose Mayor Gene Mendiola (extreme left, back row)



MASONIC LEADER GETS FINAL MASONIC CHURCH RITES

When he dropped life's working tools in Manila, VW and Ill. Bro. RUBEN O. AZARCON, SR., 33rd degree IGH, Past District Grand Lecturer of then Masonic District No. 6, Past Grand Master's Deputy for the same District, Life Member by Longevity (LML) of Masonic Lodge No. 171, which he served as Wor. Master in 1977, and Past Venerable Master of Luzon Bodies, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, was mourned by his brethren, who gave him the final Masonic rites.

The father of VW Roy Azarcon, DGL of Masonic District, leading member of Luzon Bodies, and 32nd Degree Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, among other Masonic involvements, the late VW and Ill. Ruben O. Azarcon was given Masonic funeral rites.

A practicing Catholic throughout his

life, he was also given the final church rites in his hometown, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija.

Shown below are Sister Rosalia Gorospe Azarcon, VW Roy wearing white Apron and other members of the family receiving holy communion during the Holy Mass celebrated in his memory.



Family members, relatives, friends and brethren in Freemasonry bade final farewell to VW and Ill. Ruben Azarcon before his remains were taken from the church to his final resting place.

DALISAY LODGE SPONSORS FIRE SAFETY PREVENTION SEMINAR

Dalisay Lodge No. 14 together with the Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigade, conducted a fire safety and prevention seminar at the residence of WB Robert Y. Ong, Jr.

The brethren who brought along their spouses included Bro. Jimmy See, VW Alfred Li, VW Reuben Abenojar, WB Ang Ko Yu, VW Adam Sim, WB Ed Lachica, Bro, Johnny Tan and Bro. Edwin Chiong.

Mr. Wellie Eglorianin of the PVFB headed the trainors' team, composed of

George Young, Juanito See, Jonathan See, Kimberly Tan and Vivian Chua. This team gave residents of Barangay 751, Zone 81 hands-on training in different fire-fighting techniques.

A hearty, sumptuous merienda prepared by the Lodge capped the event.



Brethren of Dalisay No. 14 and PVFB members before the seminar

Young ones and young once alike watch Sparky the Mascot stop, drop, cover your face and roll to put out fire on dress.



Hands-on training for young residents...

A Cheque and a Lecture

by WB Leopoldo c. Hong, PM

Koronadal Lodge No. 209, represented by WM Suharto T. Mangudadato, presented to Sis. Genevova Yñiguez, a cheque for P10,000 issued by Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. (AMASI) as insurance coverage of our departed Brother during its March 18, 2000 stated meeting. The presentation was witnessed by the brethren in attendance, particularly JW Cesar D. Taleon, SW Oscar J. Pagunsan and VW Antonio E. Sarrosa.



After the stated meeting, our visitor from Gen. Santos City, VW Froilan G. Tecson, PRDGM, conducted a lecture-forum on Freemasonry, participated in not only by the brethren but also by some sisters (hermanas, if you wish) and petitioners and their spouses.

Our Wor. Master later hosted a sumptuous dinner.

SADDLEBACK LAGUNA, SHANGRI-LA LODGES BOND TOGETHER...

Two Masonic Lodges oceans apart recently bonded together as Brother Lodges to help promote world fellowship in furtherance of the objectives and ideals of Freemasonry.

This landmark Lodge twinning of Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 of Lake Forest, California and Shangri-La Lodge No. 196 of Tagum, Davao was made possible through the efforts of Narciso Ner, Jr., a Past Master who is a member of both lodges.

The American Masons have scheduled a trip to the Philippines next year to meet and interact with their Filipino brothers as well as to perform a degree work.

Just as many Filipino heroes were Masons, this oldest fraternal organization has among its members in United States historical figures like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere; Military Commanders like Gens. Pershing, Macarthur, Marshall, Roosevelt, Doolittle and Admirals King and Hewitt; Movie actors Gene Autry and John Wayne and nine Astronauts, including Grissom, Aldrin and Mitchell.

URDANETA LODGE #302's MASONS GABAY MANLALAKBAY CENTER IN PHOTOS

Urdaneta Lodge No. 302, F.&A.M., put up on April 19-22, 2000 a Masonic Assistance Service Operations Network System (MASONS) Gabay Manlalakbay (Travellers Assistance) Center. The photos below were taken by the Lodge Secretary, WB Valerio G. Crescencia, PM.



The Gabay Manlalakbay Center with complete "accessories"

Brethren and friends of Masons pose for a souvenir photo.



Brethren in respite...



A Brother and his family drop by at the Center to claim their "pasalubong".



The Cebu Square and Compass Foundation: A Brief Account of Its Growth and Development

by Greg R. Mercado, Jr.

The Cebu Square and Compass Club was an offshoot of a "disheartening" occurrence. Actually, Bro. Cesar Villarin, General of the Philippine Constabulary, dreamt of establishing a Masonic Lodge in Talisay, Cebu. He, together with other brethren, sent a Petition to form the dreamt-of Lodge to the M.W. Grand Lodge of the Philippines, but somehow the latter did not act expeditiously on the petition. The brethren's enthusiasm waned, and Bro./Gen. Cesar's health deteriorated, until the sad news came: The petition was denied. Brethren of various Lodges assembled to discuss the denial, and they agreed to wait a time with patience but to establish a Foundation meanwhile.

The Foundation was formally organized on April 25, 1994, with VW David S. Odilao, Jr., of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252 as first President and Chairman of the Board.

The Members' Commitment

In their initial assembly the members of the Foundation agreed to make it their deep commitment to plant trees on the denuded mountains of Cebu, specifically the military reservation of the Visayas Command at Camp Lapu-Lapu.

A group of Masons, led by VW Boy Odilao, went to see the Viscom Commander, then BG and now Lt. Gen. Ruperto Ambil, AFP (Ret.). They expressed their desire to green a portion of the hill. Before the good General could react to the request of the brethren, Bro. Jack Gaisano enthusiastically stated that a 10-hectare land is most appropriate place for the foundation to work on. Without second thought, Gen. Ambil gave his approval.

May 8, 1994

On that day, the first wave of Masons braved the Cebu summer sun, the sharp-edged stones, scrubs and twigs and painstakingly went up and down the hill, calculating how many trees to plant and what species.

With VW Boy Odilao were Bro./Gen. Pert Andaya, Noble Ernie Lim, the late WB Rudy Lafradez, Noble Sikat Fonacier, Bro./Cdr. Santi Gavas, Noble/Capt. James Domingo, and Bro. Greg R. Mercado. They made the initial survey.

A second group conducted a follow-up survey.

Then the brethren finalized their plans, including funding.

May 29, 1994

The chartering of the Foundation and the induction of its officers took place at

the Casino Español de Cebu. But the scheduled signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Foundation and the Visayas Command, represented by Noble David S. Odilao, Jr. and Major Gen. Ruperto A. Ambil, Jr., was, for some reason or another, cancelled.

June 18, 1994

The MOA between the Foundation and the Viscom was, at long last, signed. The signing was witnessed by Noble Jack Gaisano, Rudy Lafradez, Sikat Fonacier, Leonard Lim, Peter Ong, Joe Bautista, Pepot Pedrosa, Santi Gavvas, Ernesto Lim and Greg Mercado.

July 1994

The brethren kept themselves busy, acquiring needed materials and scheduling the pick-up of donations in cash and in kind.

August 8, 1994

At daybreak no less than Major General Ruperto A. Ambil, Jr. led the brethren in breaking ground, signalling the commencement of "the life and work of the Freemasons" on that hill.

Today

Today there are 27, 000 tall trees on that hill. Some of them have borne fruits and flowers. Birds lay their nests on their branches, and people may find comfort and rest under their shades.

This is an accomplishment of the Free and Accepted Masons - of Mahogany Class (Novices of the 15th Hot Sant); - of Narra Class (Novices of the 16th Hot

Sand; - of the Philippine Eagles; of the Bureau of Customs, Region 7, Cebu City; - of Potentate Lee Skinner of Aloha Temple; - of the NROTC; - of the Job's Daughters and DeMolays; - of the officers and gentlemen of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Visayas Command; - of the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, 2nd District Command, the 201st A Squadrow, PCGA; - of the Filipinas Shrine Club, Aloha Temple, Cebu Lodge No. 128, Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 252, Maktan Lodge No. 30; and above all, of the two gentlemen who made it all possible: Maj. Gen. Ambil and VW Odilao.

Special thanks to Engr. Edgar Galeos of the Bureau of Customs, Cebu City, who labored, free of charge, in designing and constructing the farmhouse.

If I failed to mention anyone who contributed to the success of our endeavor, my apology.



Maj. Gen. Ruperto A. Ambil, Jr., AFP Commanding General, Visayas Command based in Cebu City (currently the Provincial Governor of Eastern Samar) and VW David S. Odilao, Jr., President, Cebu Square & Compass Foundation, Inc.

DECS/NFE AND FREEMASONRY PROJECT IN CAVITE CITY

The DECS/Non-Formal Education of Cavite City, in collaboration with La Naval Lodge No. 269, Cavite Lodge No. 2 and Bagong Buhay Lodge No. 17, launched the Literacy and Vocational Courses last March 16, 2000.

This is a yearly project of the three lodges. Courses are free and will run for three months. Offered are the following: Culinary Arts, Dressmaking, Tailoring, Hi-Speed Sewing, Hair Science, Cosmetology, Reflexology, Flower Making, Basic and Advance Computer, T-shirt Making and String Class exclusively for the blind.

Target beneficiaries are adults and out-of-school youths. The objective of this project is to teach the beneficiaries technical knowledge and skills so they will be productive, self-reliant and responsive citizens.

Last year's recipients were the inmates of the City Jail. They were taught such courses in preparation for their release. At present, they are

released and engaged in small business at home.



WM Bong R. Macalindong of La Naval Lodge No. 269 delivering an inspirational message before the recipients of the DECS/NFE and Freemasonry project. Seated at the background is SW Bobby S. Guinto sending text message to the brethren.





GM blows his birthday cake.



Brethren and sisters hold hands during Mass celebrated by Fr. Leo Usman (inset).

ANCOM 2000

Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons
of the Philippines
84th Annual Communication

April 27 - 29 2000, Iloilo City
Host: MASONIC DISTRICT # 20
Theme: *"Casting The Light of
Truth Upon a Stony Way."*

