

The Cable Tow

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



MINDANAO REGIONAL CONVENTION PERSONALITIES

Front: MW Oscar V. Bunji and VW Bonnie Leyson

Second Row: VW James Libres, VW Billy Emphasis, VW Alberto Caga-anan, VW Adonis Macute

Third Row: VW Eddie dela Cruz, VW Roberto Co and VW Jose Fuentes II



MW Oscar V. Bunyi, receiving his appointment as Honorary Ambassador - At Large, from Ms. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Acting Governor of Guam.



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

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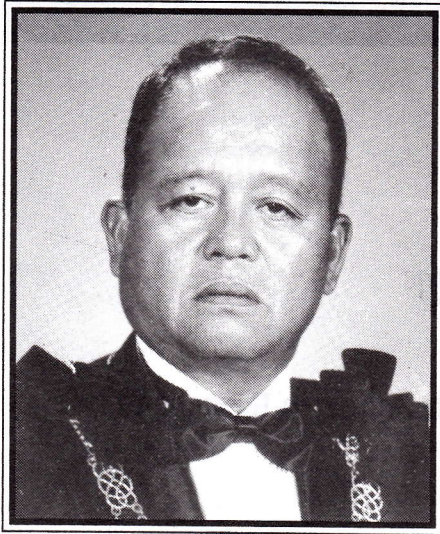
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STEMMING THE TIDE OF DECLINING MEMBERSHIP



Another Masonic year, my year in the Grand East, is about to come to an end. It has been a most memorable part of my life. I will never forget the many acts of kindness and fraternal accommodation you, dear brethren, and your families, as well as members of the appendant bodies, have accorded to me and my party during our visitations of the various Masonic Districts not only in the country but overseas as well. I will never be able to thank you enough for the helpful support and cooperation you have extended to me during my year in the Grand East toward bringing the light of Masonic teachings and principles in a brighter, sharper focus in our grand jurisdiction. Concededly, I have experienced some pains – heartaches even

– during my term. But they are few compared to the significant number of sincere demonstrations that we, the members of our widespread Masonic family, are indeed linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. As a Fraternity, we have, generally speaking, shown unity of purpose and pride in accomplishing things together.

Some of my decisions may have been unpopular to many among the brethren. But I have made my decisions with the welfare of the Craft foremost in my mind. I have wanted to improve the finances not only of the Lodges but of the Grand Lodge as well; for as one sage put it, "Lodges need funds; Grand Lodge needs grand funds." In any case, to show that one of the best lessons one learns during his stay in the Grand Master's Office is that of humility, I now beg the pardon of those brethren I might have in any way offended.

During my term of office it has become clear to me that it is not the quality of our message that is failing, but rather, it is the loss of relevance in Masonry that is causing our inability to stem the tide of declining membership and with the loss of membership we suffer the financial woes attendant to a shrinking base of members.

As proposed by Ill. Ronald Seale, Lt. Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Southern

Jurisdiction of the United States, we must answer the question "What are Masons?" – not in the sense of our traditional response, but in the context of current Philippine society. We need to define what we are trying to do in terms that appeal to the small percentage of young Filipinos who are interested in becoming Masons. More importantly, we have got to understand the needs of our members, as well as those of our candidates.

I fondly hope that Grand Lodge Officers will extend their unstinted support and sincerest cooperation to my successor. It is very necessary that Grand Lodge Officers work together in close harmony to accomplish the goals of the administrative program of our Grand Lodge. Teamwork at all levels of the Craft is indispensable. Otherwise, we will not be able to introduce meaningful and visionary change to make Philippine Masonry appear relevant and attractive not only to potential members but to the general public as well.

The leaders at all levels of the Craft must not focus their attention on ritual proficiency, but rather on continuity of programs and on facilitating, as well as implementing, drastic and radical changes necessary to address and solve the problems of our relevancy to the current social structure within which Philippine Masonry operates.

No, my dear brethren, we need not change the principles and tenets of our

Fraternity. But we have to implement them. And the Craft needs leadership with courage to rid our mentality of meaningless anachronisms.

I am confident that my successor and his worthy and well-qualified team will provide the various Masonic Districts and Blue Lodges with a well-planned, well-coordinated administrative program, and that the brethren, as well as the officers and members of the apprentice bodies, will "work in the quarries" to help the Grand Lodge officers carry out the various forms of such an administrative program.

There can be no doubt that we will succeed if and when we work together in close harmony to accomplish the worthwhile goals we have set before us.

Again, thank you very much for having entrusted to me the highest office within your power to bestow.

Lastly, I appeal to you, dear brethren, to bail out *The Cabletow* out of the peril of becoming extinct because of lack of financial stability and financial support from us.



MW OSCAR V. BUNYI
Grand Master

The best thing we can do for our Fraternity is to strive daily to set and be the example taught by the teachings of Masonry, walking upright with a loving and forgiving heart toward all
... BRO. MARLER

A REQUIEM FOR THE CABLETOW?

The Grand Master's issue of the *Cabletow* (Vol. 77, No. 1, MY 2000) was an 80-pound book paper meant to induce advertisers, so that we will be able to have an attractive, well written Masonic magazine that all of us would be proud of. The venture cost us P 16.75 per copy, and that meant P 251, 250.00 for the 15,000 copies we ordered. Advertisers, however, came in trickles. We therefore decided to change strategy by settling with a newsprint magazine, which cost us P 10.80 per copy. All in all we spent P 162, 000.00 for 15,000 copies. It was very unfortunate, indeed, that very few responded to our call for help from the brethren. Very few helped us out of our financial tightrope by advertising in our magazine.

Seeing that our financial resources did not look viable, we decided to have only four issues. The third issue was a 36-paged newsprint magazine, which cost us P 8.50 per copy. Since we reduced the copies to 13,000 we're charged only P 110, 500.00 for the printing of the issue.

Now this 14-page, concedly emaciated issue of *The Cabletow* is our last hurrah this Masonic year. We had only 3000 printed, and the copies cost us P 23, 880.00 – or P 7.96 per copy.

There is, however, one happy note: we were able to mail *The Cabletow* to our brethren overseas.

Before we say mass for a "dead" *Cabletow*, we want to remind the brethren that our contribution of P 80.00 a year for six issues never been changed since 1992. We should consider this fact: Scottish Rite Masons are charged P 130.00 a year for four issues of the *Far Eastern Freemason*.

Today it cost P 12 to mail a copy of an issue of *The Cabletow* to a Brother subscriber. If we are set to have six issues, that means for mailing alone it will cost us P 72. That leaves us only P 8.00 for printing all the six issues.

If we do not increase the annual subscription fee for *The Cabletow*, we are afraid to close shop – until such time that we find way of bailing *The Cabletow* out of the ocean of financial stress. Frankly, we now find it an impossible task to make *The Cabletow* fulfill its mission as a repository of Masonic history and educational material, as purveyor of glad tiding, as a medium of Masonic wisdom.

This year grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi envisioned a magazine that would do us proud. All good intentions were, needless to say, stymied. We never thought that the mailing cost would be greater than printing cost. Indeed, unforeseen events overtook the best of planned vision.

That is the sorry, pathetic state *The Cabletow* is in today. We, the members of the editorial staff, are therefore appealing to you, brethren, for help. Please help us bail *The Cabletow* out of the mortiferous whirlpool of financial stability. If we dream of a quality magazine, then we must keep up with the value of our peso and the cost of producing and mailing copies of *Cabletow* issues. Or else we may soon hear the tolling of a requiem for the publication we claim to love. - SPF & eF.R.eN

45th Mindanao Masonic Convention: An Affair to Remember

VW Samuel P. Fernandez
Grand Historian

VW Bonafebe D. Leyson's penchant for details and his propensity for carrying out his avowed task is inspiring. For the first time registrants to the Convention superseded all known Mindanao Masonic Conventions. In fact, the 45th Convention had an AnComm ambience - what with the enthusiastic participation of the various Masonic Districts. The following is my Convention account.

February 21-22, 2001 – All roads and flights led to the Land of Gold (Cagayan de Oro) in the Province of sweet coconut (Misamis comes from Kuyamis, a kind of sweet coconut variety).

The two days were designated as Grand Master's Gold Cup Tournament. The tourney was held in Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club.

February 23, 2001 – The Registration was assisted by the De Molays at the Grand Caprice Restaurant, Lim Ket Kai Complex.

The Manila visiting Brethren were met by VW Peter Lim Lo Suy and company and were billeted at the Philtown Hotel compliment of MD No. 28.

VW Boni D. Leyson, Convention Chair, was hospitalized but had the command of the situation. He was ably assisted by VW Henry T. Ching, VW Filomeno O. Chua, Jr., VW Jimmy C. Ting, VW James Go, VW

Benito A.T. Barcelona and VW Richard Go.

Those who played lawn tennis had the time of their lives in the Provincial Capitol Tennis Court. The venue for bowling was at the Ororama Mega Center.

It was unfortunate that Bro. Antonio P. Calingin, Provincial Governor, was not around because of a pressing engagement. The Brethren were not able to pay a courtesy visit to his office. City Mayor Br. Vicente Y. Emano, however, welcomed the Masonic Dignitaries in his well-appointed office. It was very evident that the good Mayor is proud of his membership to the Craft. Hanged in a conspicuous corner of his office was a plaque that featured our Mason heroes. No wonder the week of the Convention was declared by the City Council as a Mason Week!

Deputy Grand Master Napoleon Soriano conducted an orientation seminar to his incoming Mindanao Masonic Officers.

Senior Grand Lecturer John B. Llamas Masonic erudition inspired and challenged the brethren.

The Grand Masters Night was a real Masonic festival and fiesta combined, what with the Brethren and Sisters belting out favorite vintage songs and food and drinks fit for a king. Alived and re-charged VW Boni Leyson was in his element without any trace of pain in his face. Those who stayed until the wee hours of the night did not only have fun and fellowship but brought mementos out of the raffle draw.

February 24, 2001 – The opening ceremony was very impressive. Right Worshipful Masters Napoleon Soriano, Eugene S. Labitoria, Ricardo P. Galvez and Very Worshipful Masters Mario Catalino Q. Angeles, Samuel P. Fernandez, John B. Llamas and Emiliano P. Langomez, Jr; formed Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi's entourage.

Equally impressive was the rendition of the salute to the flag by WM Ramon G. Tabor.

VW Jimmy Y. Gonzales, President and CEO of Reynolds Philippines Corporation regaled his audience with his erudite dissertation of Philippine economic situation and possible Masonic involvement in our national life.

The Convention was stirred alive with the resolution to establish a Grand Lodge of Mindanao.

This Convention report will be incomplete with mentioning the active participation of Mindanao DDGM's VW James Douglas T.

Libres, MD 26; VW Jose A. Fuentesfina II, MD 30; VW Adonis B. Macute, MD 32; VW Alberto P. Caga-anan, MD 34; VW Robert S. Co, MD 36; VW Eddie E. dela Cruz, MD 38; VW Billy E. Emphasis, MD 40; VW Marcelino Z. Claudio, MD 42; VW Antonio Q. Deleña, MD 44; VW Gregorio Nealson M. Dy, MD 46; VW Orlando S. Manaluz, MD 48; VW Mark Peter F. Fernandez, MD 50 and Host VW Bonafebe D. Leyson, MD 28.

Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi exhorted the Brethren to continue working together in unity and harmony.

In the afternoon -- Manila brethren led by GM Oscar V. Bunyi and PGM Pablo C. Ko, Jr. visited PGM and Gen. Manuel D. Mandac (GM 80). What a happy reunion!

VW Bonafebe D. Leyson's herculean effort to make the 45th Mindanao Masonic Convention a success was evident in the all out support of the MD No. 28 brethren like Very Worshipful Masters Andres A.S. Mendoza, Maximo George Lim, Idelfonso G. Agbuya, Taurino C. Ong, Manuel T. Lee, Jose P. Gatus, Stephen Lim, Sison M. Uy, Alfredo T. Goking, Florencio Maghinay and Worshipful Masters Nilo Batinga, Jose Yap, Ben Hur dela Torre, Nelson G. Sia, Idelfonso L. Chavez, Ricardo Uy, Yao B. Chang, Danilo P. Lagban and many others.

VW Peter Lim Lo Suy and VW James Go helped facilitate our return to Manila.

To MD 28 kudos for a successful Mindanao regional Convention. It will be difficult to duplicate the dedication of the brethren of MD#28. To the Mindanao Brethren, Mabuhay!

As the Lord stood on a wall made by a Plumb Line with a Plumb Line in His hand, that should be the standard we should follow. -- BRO. JACK A. MARLER



BIRTH is the acronym for Bureau of Internal Revenue Travellers' Haven. It is an aggregation of official and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, be they in the active service or not, who are active masons. The BIRTH mission is to inculcate among the members, the masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth in their dealings with taxpayers, the government and their fellow employees, especially those who are brethren.



Tagaytay Lodge No. 165 launching of Shoe Shine boys and lecture of diabetes projects. From left to right: DSWD officer Carmelita Ferma, President of Herbcare Lito Abelarde, Jr., VW Rollie Sarmiento, PGM Ray Beltran, WB Rudi Ancheta, Resource Lecturer Dr. Gary Sy, RW Nap Soriano, VW Virgilio Sarmiento, President of the Senior Citizens Federation of Tagaytay City and four of the Shoe Shine Boys. WB Rudi Ancheta is only a member of the Craft for a little over a year only but was elected Worshipful Master because of his extra-ordinary proficiency.



Brethren with Hon. Leonardo B. Roman, Provincial Governor of Orani, Bataan.

Bro. and Gen. Gregorio Camiling celebrating his promotion with Grand Master Oscar V. Bunyi, PGM Rody C. Herrera and brethren.



Official turn-over of Duties and Function from VW Ike Flores, outgoing DDGM to VW Juanito B. Vaño, Jr., incoming DDGM.



Palanyag Lodge No. 323 donating to the Sisters of the Servant of Mary P50,000.00, MW Bunyi with visiting Grand Lodge dignitaries.

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



ANCOM 2001



85th Annual Communication

"BRIGHTER MASONIC LIGHT IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM"

APRIL 26-28, 2001 HOST: MASONIC DISTRICT NO. 14 VENUE: ALBAY ASTRODOME, LEGAZPI CITY