

Leonard "Len" Gottner was our Master in 1968. He is also the Senior Living Past Master of Las Palmas Lodge, having held this honor since 2010. For those of you who remember Len, he still lives in the State of Washington and is very active in both his Blue Lodge as well as Eastern Star. His wife, Frances, passed away several years ago.

From January of 1967 until December of that year, the Lodge membership had shrunk by 10 members to 1057. (One of these was my father who passed away in March.)

On Wednesday January 3, 1968, Center Lodge No. 465 was the first Masonic Lodge to hold a meeting in the new Masonic Temple on Shields Ave. This Temple was to be occupied by Fresno Lodge No. 247 and Sun Garden No.530 as well as other Masonic bodies. The Temple was dedicated on February 10 by Grand Master Eugene S. Hopp.

On January 25, Lodge was opened in the 2nd degree and I and Brother Esheim were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. The Sr. Deacon for this degree was Richard Hopper (now a Past Grand Master). At the conclusion of the degree, three brothers were examined as to the Candidate's Proficiency of the 2nd degree.

On February 8, three brothers were examined as to the Candidate's lecture of the 3rd degree of Masonry. After completing this accomplishment, they were presented with Masonic Bibles. Today we present a Masonic Bible to a brother on the night that he is made a Master Mason. I wonder if this has anything to do with the fact that today so few Brothers ever give their 3rd degree proficiency.

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