

On December 28, 1961 Brother William W. Annis was the 2000th member to sign our by-laws. By this time our 56 year old lodge had lost at least 450 members to death, 200 to demits, 75 unaccounted for, and about 175 suspended for non-payment of dues and other reasons. This would leave an estimated active membership of between 1,000 and 1,100 at the end of 1961 compared to a similar number at the end of 1950. Las Palmas Lodge was definitely holding its own membership wise.

Since Las Palmas only held a minority interest in the old Masonic Temple in downtown Fresno, our financial fate was in the hands of our brethren who were members of the other local Masonic bodies. By 1963 the old Temple was no longer in existence and the other Masonic bodies needed all of the money that they could get to construct a new Temple. Paying Las Palmas our pro rata share of the proceeds from the sale of the old Temple (approximately 21% of the \$130,000 received from the Fresno Redevelopment Agency or \$27,200.) would definitely cut deeply into their budget for new construction. This \$27,000 would be worth \$210,000 in 2016 dollars.

Additional expenses for our new temple were: brazen pillars \$900 (today's cost \$7,100). Federal gift tax on land \$4,500 (today's cost \$35,000). State gift tax on land \$3,890. (today's cost \$30,000). Public Address System in Banquet Hall. The brazen pillars, public address system in banquet hall and federal gift tax were gifts from P.M. Moyers and his wife Gilma.

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