

Seasons Greetings



The
Las Palmian

FRATERNAL ORGAN

of

Las Palmas Lodge, No. 366
F. & A. M.



DECEMBER 1968



LAS PALMAS MASONIC TEMPLE

2992 East CLINTON AVE. — FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703

268-2303

OFFICERS

Leonard Albert Gottner	Worshipful Master
William Henry Ahlenslager	Senior Warden
Edward Clare Carpenter	Junior Warden
Dale Franklin Orr	Treasurer
Walter Price Robinson, P.M.	Secretary
George William Pope	Senior Deacon
James Joslin Kalstrom	Junior Deacon
John Craig Shaw	Marshal
Ralph Saroyan	Senior Steward
Phillip Lawrance Lewis	Junior Steward
Paul Chandler Shelly	Organist
James Irwin Tucker	Tiler
James Avenell Hopper, P.M.	Trustee
Charles Darrell Dart, P.M.	Trustee
Hambleton Frederick Leas, P.M.	Trustee

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Frederic Stock

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Cal Fox

EDITOR — "LAS PALMIAN"

Harry Learn Buckalew, P.M.

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MASTER'S MESSAGE



Our Masonic year is nearing an end and this will be my last message to you as Worshipful Master. Bro. Sam Pavlovich will soon be passing on to me Las Palmas' Junior Past Master's jewel. The jewel is a large safety pin which the Jr. P.M. must wear suspended from a ribbon around his neck whenever he attends our Lodge. He may not speak before the lodge without first securing permission of all the Past Masters present. If this permission is granted he opens the pin, speaks and again closes it. If you haven't seen this jewel, ask to see it the next time you are in lodge, but be careful of that sharp, blood stained point.

One year ago, I asked Bro. Harry Buckalew, P.M., if he would serve Las Palmas as editor of an expanded and redesigned trestleboard. He agreed to take on the job for one year, to get it started, and the result was the "Las Palmian." Bro. Harry has done a wonderful job and our trestleboard ranks with the best in the land. Thank you Bro. Harry for a job well done! Now, however, the year is up and we need a new editor. Bro. Bill Ahlenslager, our Senior Warden, tells me that he has asked a number of our brothers to take on the job for 1969 but all have declined. The task of gathering together the news, editing and preparing it for the printer is too much for the Master to do along with his other duties. The "Las Palmian" is the first major change in the format of our trestleboard in 40 years. We hope that you have enjoyed it. If you have any training or talent along these lines, why not step forth and serve your lodge as Editor. If you don't, there will be no choice but to return to the old, fold out Masters Message Trestleboard format.

Our Past Masters Night, Nov. 7th, was one of the highlights of our 1968 year. One hundred brethren enjoyed a wonderful dinner arranged by the "Queen" of our "Dates," Mary Perch. The menu consisted of roast beef, baked potatoes with sour cream, green beans with mushrooms and almonds, peda bread, and hot apple pie with ice cream for dessert. After dinner we adjourned to the lodgeroom where our Past Masters conferred the Third Degree upon Bro. Henry Vartanian. During the evening Past Master Ira Farley presented 25 year pins to his Class of 1943. Pictures taken that evening are in this issue.

Our December Stated Meeting will be preceded by our annual Christmas Dinner. Be sure to bring along all the kiddies as Santa Claus will be there. Children under 12 are

admitted free. Christmas carols will be sung after dinner. Our Stated Meeting will include election of 1969 officers and a Memorial Service for our brethren who were raised to that Celestial Lodge above in 1968.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as Worshipful Master of Las Palmas. The job would have been an impossible one were it not for the many, many brethren who gave of their time and talents on committees and as officers. To each of them I give my personal "thank you" and the "thanks" of Las Palmas Lodge.

May the blessing of Heaven continue to rest upon Las Palmas and her members. May Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtue continue to cement us!

Len Gottner, W.M.



TRESTLEBOARD

- Thurs. Dec. 5 Third Degree - Harvey McKenry
Thurs. Dec. 12 Third Degree
Thurs. Dec. 19 Stated Meeting - Election of Officers
Christmas Dinner
Thurs. Dec. 26 First Degree



416th DISTRICT INSTALLATIONS

- Central Calif. Research Lodge - Tentative Dec. 7
Ponderosa Lodge - Dec. 14
Clovis Lodge - Jan. 4
Las Palmas Lodge - Jan. 11

FRATERNAL BONDS

GEORGE LAUCK - The Fresno Bee of Nov. 10 carried a very complimentary story of George's rise to become the city's outstanding baker.

BARRET PATTON, DAN WAY - The presentation of 25 year buttons brought Dan from Oakland and Barret from San Jose. What a treat to see these esteemed brothers after so many years of absence.

Thanks — For A Well Done Job . .



BRO. HARRY BUCKALEW, our Editor, has served Las Palmas Lodge for many years and has also been active in other Masonic related organizations. He was raised in 1923 in the Henry Morse Stephens Lodge No. 541 in Berkeley. He demitted to Las Palmas in 1930. He served as Master in 1947 and has been Third Degree Officers Coach for many years.

He is a member of Fresno Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and was their first Associate Patron in 1930, serving as Patron the following year. He is now serving that organization as Sentinel.

Bro. Harry has been very active in the High Twelve Club since the mid 1920's. He has served as local, state and international president. He has also been active in educational and other societies as well.

Thank you, Bro. Harry, for a job well done as Editor of the "Las Palmian."

(This picture and information was obtained without Bro. Harry's knowledge and should come as a surprise to him — the only thing he hasn't had a hand in concerning the Las Palmian all year.)

YOUR MASONIC BIBLE

You belong to one of the most generous lodges in this jurisdiction. In addition to the lambskin apron which every lodge presents, Las Palmas presents every candidate with his personally engraved trowel. Only a few lodges do this. But the big plus is a Holy Bible (Masonic edition) which comes to every man who earns his third degree proficiency certificate. This is the candidate's first voluntary act in Masonry and the reward will be treasured for the balance of a Mason's life.

Sadly we have some men who have never complied, even from many years back. If you're such an individual, sit down quietly a moment and think. You may decide you've missed something and will start to comply. Anything worth doing, is worth doing well.

Past Master

Ira Farley

Presented

Twenty-five Year

Pins

To

These Members

Of The

1943 Class



Back Row: James A. Hopper, P.M., Chester A. Snyder, Dale T. White, Daniel D. Way,
John B. Warfel, Dale F. Orr, J. Edward Alstrom, Virgil E. Hill
Front Row: Norman S. Foley, P.M., Lawrance R. Taylor, Edward H. Marsella, Ira E.
Farley, P.M., Harry B. Patton, Earl S. Williams, Dr. Howard A. Anderson, Fred G. Borgardt

Past Masters

Who Attended

And

Took Part

In Degree Work

Nov. 7, 1968



Past Masters of Back Row: Sam M. Pavlovich, Robert P. Larsen, Robert W. Reynolds,
James A. Hopper, Harry L. Buckalew, -- Middle Row: Daniel A. Winters, Wayne W. Hearn,
M. Edward Allred, Allard D. Dammun, George B. Posson, Earl W. Smith, W. Price Robinson
Front Row: Ralph M. Jones, Norman S. Foley, Walter D. Randall, Richard D. Hargrave,
Ira E. Farley, Thurman D. Moyers, Roy H. Gerard, Hambleton F. Leas.

Glossy 8x10 prints
of these pictures are
available for a reasonable
charge -- contact
W.M. Len Gottner
at 222-1310

THE INNER CIRCLE

It is said in every organization in America that a small clique controls it and runs the show. That is quite true, altho it does not merit the rancor implied by the accusers. We have such a clique in Las Palmas. It numbers roughly 100 men. They are the chief reason why there continues to be a Las Palmas Lodge. These are the men who fill the offices, coach the candidates, serve the refreshments, visit the sick, welcome the so-journers and serve in sundry other ways. Here are the men to whom Masonry is a way of life; men who rejoice in fraternal fellowship; men who give of their talents, their energies, their love, for the upbuilding of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. The Bible has a phrase for the likes of these, "Ye are the salt of the earth."

To avoid the opprobrium implied by the term clique, we call this the Las Palmas inner circle. Despite accusations this inner circle is never closed. There is always room for another, and another, and another. Entry is so ridiculously simple. All anyone has to do is to approach the Master and say, "Worshipful, I'd like to serve you and my lodge." And Presto! he's in.

The Open Sesame is so easy to say and so rewarding in expected satisfactions. Won't some of you who read these words, this very month, walk up to Len, and paraphrasing the words of Samuel, say, 'Worshipful, here am I. Send me.'



GALLEY NEWS

Wes Tostrup

The following named brothers set up the banquet room for refreshments on the dates indicated: Orval Cook (co-chairman), Mike Reynolds, Dick Good, September 26th; Frank Dake, John Reynolds, Cal Fox and Ralph Ross, October 3rd.

For the Masters and Wardens Breakfast, Sunday, October 6th, Ed Carpenter, Jr. Warden supervised. He was assisted by Orval Cook, co-chairman refreshment committee, Vern Fouty, Dick Frey, Don Lester, Cecil McFarlane and Frank Dake.

Brother David James was the only brother I could manage to get for the Masonic Information Night on October 17. We managed very well.

The banquet room crew for October 24th consisted of Denver Benson, Cal Fox, Jim Stevens, Robert Tennyson and Dr. Stanley Wong.

On October 31st the only help I could get was good old reliable Brother Jim Stevens who handled the job superbly.

GRIPS AND PASSWORDS

To the Mason who has not read any Masonic history (and relatively few have) the grips and passwords may seem quite unnecessary.

Let us go back to operative Masonry (1350 A.D. just for examples) Masons built all the great structures of the continent and the British Isles, cathedrals, basilicas, castles, aqueducts and other major massive structures. Strength and beauty were both essential. To erect a building of heavy stone which would not fall down and kill its occupants and still fashion a thing of beauty required the highest skills of medieval times and top masons were highly regarded and hobnobbed with kings and nobles who so greatly needed their skills. When a master took on an apprentice, he was obligated to see that he was fed, clothed and housed as well as progressively taught the techniques of the art. The normal apprenticeship took seven years.

As jobs were finished, masons moved on. After finishing a building in Italy, the next undertaking might be in Germany among their Steinmetzen, ten years later possibly in Britain. As an advancing mason passed certain rigid tests he was invested with certain grips and passwords, and later still others on a higher level. These became a credential, a passport and a guarantee of a certain level of skill.

If he moved to a new job or a new country, these vouchered for his proficiency - a real international code. They were necessary because there were frauds who tried to pass themselves off as Masons, but they could not communicate the secrets and could easily be weeded out.

In the transition from operative to speculative Masonry, the grips and words were preserved as modes of recognition. They will (with a paid up receipt) open the lodge door in 49 Grand Jurisdictions in our nation and many abroad.

Never let yourself become rusty in these most basic Masonic skills.

FRATERNAL BONDS

WILLIS GOOD is enjoying his retirement from the bank. He has been spending considerable time at his mountain cabin.

RICHARD M. WORREL is a very proud man that his law partner, Herbert Huebner, has been elected Junior Grand Warden.

BUEL WACHHOLD - The sympathy of the Lodge is extended to Brother Buel Wachhold whose only sister was taken by death on Nov. 9.

JOE F. BULLINGTON - The deep regret of the Lodge also goes to Brother Joe, whose brother died suddenly on the same day, Nov. 9.

NEW STRENGTH

WALTER F. WRIGHT - Don't make fun of the Okies. This one has been places and done things. He was born in Delaware, Okla. in 1921 and finished Grammar and High school there. He later graduated from Jr. College at Coffeyville, Kansas and completed a course in Fred Archer School of Photography. The Army Air Force took 20 years of his life for he served that long in the 15th Air Force as a Bombardier, retiring with the rank of Major.

His wife, Marjorie, is on the Guardian Council, Bethel 243, of which his daughter Athol, 15, is Junior Princess. They also have an adult son. Walter manages the Camera and office Equipment department for Sears Roebuck. He is an advisor for Junior Achievement and whiles away his leisure hours at fishing, golf and photography.

HENRY H. VARTANIAN - Here's a relative rarity - a native Fresnoan where he was born in 1915. Henry (Hank to you) did his grammar school in Malaga, three years in Fowler H.S. and was graduated from Roosevelt H.S. His marriage to Betty Jane has not been blessed with any children. Hank is semi-retired, with only seasonal work as a broker in fancy dried fruit packs.

He is in the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame, the Fresno County Gun Club, and the Fort Washington Golf Club, and has belonged to B.P.O.E. No. 439.

You can guess from the above that his hobbies are golf, hunting and fishing. Welcome aboard, Hank. See you in Lodge!

DAVID L. JAMES - Anyone for a new house? If so, contact Dave who is a general contractor for building and engineering. A 1944 native of Fresno, he attended Jackson, Longfellow and Roosevelt schools. His Fresno S.C. course was bifurcated; two years in Architectural Engineering and two years Public Administration.

His admission produced no new prospects for the O.E.S. since he is a bachelor. Dave was already a member of B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 439.

He is an aficionado of the Stock Car and Sprint Car Circuits. The ruffian team breathed a sigh of relief after they finished with this 220 lb. specimen, who at once made himself adept on Wes Tostrup's kitchen squad.

THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

LODGE DUES ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. This means that your check for dues should be in the hands of the secretary by January 1st of each calendar year. 80% of the members do just this; then, on receipt of their second notice on March 1st, another 10% pay up; in July, on receiving their third notice, another 5% see fit to pay; then on October 1st, with the fourth notice in their hands, another 2% pays. This leaves about 1% that must be called on by the delinquent dues committee, and a decision made as to whether to suspend the member or remit the dues if need is evident.

A lot of time and money could be saved if every member assisted by paying on time, or at least letting the secretary know of reason for delay. To facilitate the secretary's work, and to avoid the Christmas mail rush, first notices are usually sent on during the last week of November, or the first week of December each year.

Fifty percent of the brothers include a donation to The Masonic Homes in their check for dues - this is greatly appreciated as it saves a second mailing of receipts.

W. Price Robinson, P.M. Secretary

FRATERNAL BONDS

R. R. (BUD) BAIRD - His wife was matron-of-honor at the christening of the new L.S.T. Fresno. Bud's comment, "what a waste of good champagne."

RALPH SAROYAN - Our senior steward has been signally honored by re-election to a new two year term as section communication manager of the American Radio Relay League. He operates ham station W6JPU.

HELP WANTED

Bro. Bill Ahlenslager, our Senior Warden, is seeking an editor for our 1969 monthly bulletins. We need a man who loves Masonry and Las Palmas, and wants to give something of himself to his Lodge. If you are such a man, please give Bro. Bill a call at 229-1328.