

Las Palmas Lodge. No. 366 7. & A. M.



September 1987



LAS PALMAS MASONIC TEMPLE 2992 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93703 Ph. 268-2303

From the East:

Brethren:

After a two month vacation your Lodge again resumes its activities. Bro. Jim Kleinknight, PM has agreed to assume the Secretary's position until Bro. Bob Paden recovers from his illness. We all look forward to having Bob



back with us and wish him a speedy recovery.

Our Stated Meeting this month will be one of the most important that we have had in years. We will be discussing and voting on the annual resolutions presented to Grand Lodge this year. There are 10 or 12 resolutions that, if passed, will fundamentally change Masonery as we now know it. Your Master and Wardens will vote as the membership wishes. Your input will be vital in determining how we are to vote.

The Temple Association's plan for the dinner and dance to be held at Crossland's Barn on September 26th are moving ahead with great enthusiasm. Each member of Las Palmas should have received their pre-registration form in the mail. Please return them as soon as possible. It promises to be a wonderful evening with great food and lovely dancing music. See you there!

Las Palmas will hold its annual Layman's night on October 8th under the leadership of Bro. Jim Kleinknight, PM. Each member will be receiving a notice in the mail. Please ask one or more of your non-masonic friends to attend the dinner and speech. You will be doing them and your Lodge a great favor.

Fraternally, Jim Hall Master

From the West

Brethren:

Greetings from the West. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and recovering from the wonderful summer. Linda and I had the good fortune to travel to Greece this summer. While there, braving the elements of temperatures of



up to 118 degrees, we were able to observe many Greek and Roman ruins. The historical sites of Athens, Delphi, and Corinth had many fine examples of Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite Columns. These sites also offered vivid examples of the "Lapse of Time, The Ruthless Hand of Ignorance, and the Devastations of War that have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity."

But summer has drawn to a close and it is time to return to work. Please do not forget the Third Annual Country Cook Out and Dance, sponsored by the Las Palmas Masonic Building Association on Saturday, September 26, at Crosslands Barn.

Your officers have all been working hard learning their degree work for their advanced stations, and the candidates have been learning their lectures, so now we nee the members to turn out to see the work.

See you soon in Lodge.

Fraternally, Charles Alstrom Sr. Warden

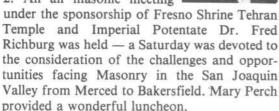
From the South

Brethren:

Although we were dark in July and August, exciting activities have continued to go on.

1. A first degree in July was held with members of the Shrine Officers presiding.

2. An all masonic meeting



3. Stated meetings were held in July and August. Exciting programs are planned for the ensuing

fall program.

a. August 28th - Proficiency for officers.

b. September 26th - The Las Palmas Barn dance will be held. Join us for exciting activities this fall. Degree work and Masonic Fellowship. 4. At the August stated meeting 45 Propositions coming before the Grand Lodge in October were reas for the consideration of the members of the lodge.

Brothers, these Propositions are important considerations that masonry is facing. Please make your self acquainted with them.

Copies are available at the lodge office. Your imformation input is needed.

Join us at the September stated meeting for the discussion and voting on these propositions.

Vote for or against propositions in which you have a particular interest

have a particular interest. For:

Against Fraternally Lee I. French Junior Warden



CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 1987

- 3 Degree
- 10 Degree
- 17 Stated Meeting dinner with Our Dates 6:30 p.m.—Reservations Are A Must Stated Meeting (a VERY important one) — 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Degree

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Reading and studying our Constitution of the United States of America, and realizing how and why it was composed, and why it has been enabled to last these two hundred years, is like looking at your favorite landscape vista, you always see something you hadn't noticed before.

On delving into the significance of the "Bill of Rights", the first ten amendments — we notice that they were passed by Congress September 25, 1789, only two years after the Constitution itself was done — and was ratified by 1791 by the necessary three fourths of the States. It was to guarantee that each American could worship as he pleased, speak out publicly on any subject, and meet with others; it guarded against unreasonable search and seisure, and self incrimination. It provided fair trail by jury, reasonable bail and punishment, and the right of a citizen to keep silent under certain circumstances.

It is interesting to note that there was much hesitation by some States to ratify the Constitution until it was assured that a "Bill of Rights" would be added — that they believed the Constitution itself was too general and too meager in this regard, and some States raged for two and a half years until the "Bill of Rights" was added before ratifying it in

1790, by the last straggler, Rhode Island.

Many of us have believed that the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment securing the right of religious belief and the right to practice and progagate one's faith unrestricted by government action was a throw-back to experiences in Europe, particularly England, and the dangers inherent in a union of Church and State, as also found in Rome, Greece, China, Japan, and Spain - but would you believe that "It is an unfortunate fact of history that when some of the very groups which had most strenuously opposed the established Church of England found themselves sufficiently in control of colonial governments in this country to write their own prayers into law, they passed laws making their own religion the official religion of their respective colonies." Most of the early settlers wanted freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. However many were not particularly interested in granting religious liberty to others. Some of them came, not to find religious liberty, but to establish a state church that was more to their liking than that which they had left in England. There were Puritan Congregationalist establishments in the northeast, Anglican in Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. Maryland had a strong toleration

for Catholics, and the others were much more tolerant. however even in these colonies, Catholics were at times disenfranchised. After the War for Independence, there were thirteen States, each with its own religious groups and many with their own established State churches. Each was afraid of the other's making theirs the national religion of the United States. So, you can see the reasons for the "footdragging", and hesitation until these deliberations were defined and overcome with the First Amendment, and even this dissappointed some staunch believers that their religion should be imposed on others. All this boiled down to the enactment and acceptance, finally of the First Amendment, "that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". Being the first "right" safeguarded in the "Bill of Rights", it is apparent how important it was.

But this was not the end of it. Some states proclaimed that the "Bill of Rights" was Federal Law regarding the United States Government, and that it didn't apply to States' operations, and it soon got out of hand again. So, it was necessary in 1866 to enact the 14th Amendment which provided that (in part) "no State may deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" which was designed to protect rights so basis or fundamental as to inhere our concept of ordered liberty to citizens of the United States. It was not until 1963, that the Supreme Court ruled that the Supreme court ruled that the First Amendment's mandate — has been made wholly applicable to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment.

Let us hope that refreshing our thoughts with a review of the frustrations and problems of our forebears can make us better appreciate the reasons for our Constitution and the "Bill of Rights", and implement them as intended — be glad we've got them -

AND ENJOY!

Ed Carpenter Co-Chairman I&E Committee

Bro. Dale Orr says that during our October Dinner with our Dates, prior to the Stated Meeting, Jack Sachs, President of Tehran Temple Masonic Shrine Band will put on a concert. The Band will be in full dress uniforms playing everything from Marches to some of the old time Dixieland Rhythms. A number of the musicians are members of the Las Palmas Lodge. Don Brooks, the Director, is a member of Sanger Lodge and is a retired instructor of Music at Sanger High School.

Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of California

FRATERNAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the authority vested in me by Sections 7, 100, 106 and 300 of the California Masonic Code, that commencing forthwith and so long as any Temple of the Ancient and Accepted Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine ("Shrine") in California or Hawaii requires Masonic membership, either directly or indirectly, as a prerequisite to its membership:

 No Shrine Temple in California or Hawaii may permit any man expelled or suspended as a Mason in this or any other jurisdiction to retain membership in, or attend tiled

meeting of, any Shrine Temple.

2. All Shrine Temples in California and Hawaii shall strictly comply with the California Masonic Code, which is the Supreme Masonic Power and Authority in the States of California and Hawaii. The provisions of our Code, in order to maintain inviolate the privacy of our business, our Masonic emblems, and our ritual, forbid members of Constitutent Lodges from holding Masonic intercourse with an expelled or suspended Mason. It is further provided that all members of organizations within its territorial jurisdiction', the prerequisite of membership wherein is that a person be a Master Mason, shall be subject to the same standards of Conduct and propriety as are or may be imposed upon Master Masons in this Jurisdiction.

3. No Mason under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California shall sit in a tiled Shrine meeting when there is present and in attendance a Mason who has been expelled or suspended by a Masonic Craft Lodge of any Grand Jurisdiction, nor shall he engage in any Masonic relationship or Masonic Fraternal business or Masonic Fraternal interchange or discourse, or Masonic communication of any kind of connection with any Shrine Temple, or any of its Units, Clubs or other subordinate organizations, which permits any man expelled or suspended as a Master Mason in this or any other jurisdiction to retain membership in such

Shrine Temple.

This Fraternal directive has been caused by the Shrine having adopted at its June, 1987 Imperial Session, legislation which will permit a Shrine member who has been suspended or expelled from either of its prerequisite Masonic organizations, to appeal to the Imperial Council for its determination as to whether the suspended or expelled Mason should be suspended or expelled by the Shrine. As a consequence, should the Imperial Council permit a suspended or expelled Mason to remain as a member of the Shrine, a non-Mason will therefore be entitled to Fraternal intercourse with Masons, in violation of our California Masonic Code.

In an effort to insure that the intent of this directive is carried out, FRATERNAL NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that effective immediately, no Master Mason shall permit a member of the Shrine to be admitted into or remain in a tiled meeting of the Shrine without his first having proven to him or to another Master Mason by satisfactory written evidence that he has neither been suspended or ex-

pelled from his Masonic Craft Lodge.

This is solely a Fraternal directive which is neither intended to nor does it interfere with or supercede any constitutional or statutory right, including employment rights of any Mason. All Masons subject to the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of California are obligated by their oath and honor to obey it and to be responsible for its implementation. Although it is my intent that no Brother be penalized in his employment or civil rights, any intentional violation of this directive shall subject any erring Brother to the condemnation and penalties provided by Masonic law.

Fraternally yours, Jack R. Levitt, Grand Master

^{&#}x27;California Masonic Code Section 7 provides that the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge includes all Lodges and Masons within California and Hawaii and members of such Lodges wherever residing.