

In my November and December article I discussed the impact of World War I on Las Palmas Lodge. At this time in our history there were other interesting things taking place in our Lodge.

The first degree of Masonry is the initiation of a Mason. In the first section the candidate is given his Lambskin Apron along with an explanation of how to wear it and its significance to Masonry. In the second section there is a lecture by the Master which the Master has memorized and takes approximately 15 minutes to deliver. We know that our Grand Lodge has changed portions of our ritual throughout time. When I was giving this lecture in 1977 there was an additional portion that was also printed in the Monitor. Of interest are the minutes of our Lodge from January 31, 1818 when the first First degree in 1918 was conferred: 'The W. M. read the lecture of the First Degree as prepared by a committee from the Grand Lodge."

May 16, 1918 Bro. Swartz suggested a committee be appointed to form a baseball team to play Fresno and Center Lodges for the benefit of the Red Cross and on motion the W. M. appointed a committee consisting of Bros. Swartz, Streeter and Hinton.

June 20, 1918 Bro. Swartz, chairman of the Committee on Baseball reported the game between Las Palmas, Fresno and Center Lodges was a success and that he had turned over \$102.60 to the Masonic Auxiliary of the Red Cross. Further that Las Palmas won the game, the score being 10 to 7.

June 20, 1918 Fees for all three degrees were raised to \$75 and for affiliation to \$5 effective August 15, 1918. In today's dollars, \$75 would be worth \$1,200. And \$5 would be worth \$80.

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