

The Post WW II War Years Part 1

In 1946 our rent in the old Fresno Masonic Temple was \$120 per month. That would be \$1,500 per month in today's dollars.

December, 1946 "The Trustee reported that a reputable realtor had asked for an exclusive listing for thirty days for the sale of the Masonic Temple for \$175,000.00 and a lease back agreement for 5 years, with an extension of 2 additional year at the present rental." In today's dollars that would be \$1.8 million dollars.

February, 1947 "The communication from Grand Lodge relative to the official conclusion of the War and the cessation of War Service Certificates and the War Fund was read."

November, 1947 Life Membership raised to \$250 and all funds to be forever kept, except for the income therefrom. In today's dollars that would be \$2,400. (In the early days, if a Life Member died and left a widow, the amount paid for the Life Membership was returned to the widow.)

December 18, 1947 "The W.M. asked the Secretary to read the names of the members who had signed the By-Laws of Las Palmas Lodge during the year and there were 61 who responded. They approached the altar and the Master received them with just pride and appropriate remarks." Harry Buckalew, a local educator, was our Master. There were 62 brothers raised and 8 affiliations during 1947 in Las Palmas Lodge.

April, 1948, Our Inspector, Herbert Hargrave, called a meeting of the Masters of the four Fresno Lodges to discuss the formation of a new Masonic Lodge in Fresno. This would be the beginning of Ponderosa Lodge.

April, 1948 In 1945 a committee had been appointed to discuss the building of a new Temple in Fresno. Our PM Meyering was appointed as a committee of one to confer with Bro Chester Warlow, the GM (and a member of Fresno Lodge) as to his findings and conclusions at the time the survey was originally made.

Las Palmas Lodge was still very busy. Applicants for degrees who were elected in January of 1948 had to wait until May to get their first degree.

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