

**The opening of our new Temple.** After 2 hard years of fundraising and construction, our new temple was ready for the 1961 Masonic Year. I was told by several "old timers" that some of our brethren helped with the construction of our new temple in an effort to keep costs down. Our new Las Palmas Temple was the very first single story Masonic Temple to be built as a Masonic Temple in California. Before that all newly constructed Masonic Temples had to be at least two stories so that the lodge room could be on the upper floor with windows to let in the light.

On January 5, 1961 WM Dart opened Lodge in our new Temple for the installation of the 1961 officers. All past masters living in Fresno were present (a total of 23 with the oldest being Speed B. Leas (1912), Fred L. Swartz (1917) and Ralph D. Vianello (1920)). An estimated 500 Masons and their friends were present for the installation. PM Speed B. Leas escorted his son, Hambleton F. Leas to the east as he was our new Master. At this time Bud Pope is our only living Past Master who received his degrees of Masonry in the old Temple.

On January 12, 1961 WM Leas handed the gavel to PM Moyer so that he could open Lodge for work for the first time in the new Temple. Brothers William Kreller and Vyron Drake were regularly introduced, obligated and raised to the sublime of Master Mason.

On March 23, 1961 Grand Lodge opened in our new Temple for the purpose of having the Grand Master "Dedicate" our new Temple. Approximately 200 members and guests were in attendance.

On March 29, 1961, P.M. Moyers delivered the Sr. Deacon's 2<sup>nd</sup> degree lecture which initiated the use of our new pillars that had been donated by Gilma and T. D. Moyers.

These pillars cost \$892.65. When Clovis Lodge consolidated with us in January of 2015, the pillars from Clovis Lodge were placed in our lodge room and the pillars given to us by Gilma and T. D. Moyers were moved to the banquet room. If you examine them closely you will find the silver plaque with an inscription that notes who gave them to Las Palmas Lodge and when.

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