

Starting with the March, 1979 Stated Meeting Dinner with our Dates, the price was increased to \$4.00. This would be \$15.00 in 2021 dollars. The March dinner had 230 in attendance including 70 members of our Las Palmas widows club.

Prior to the April, 1979 meeting of the Las Palmas widows club, full membership was restricted to widows of members of Las Palmas Lodge. Widows of members of other Lodges were granted an associate membership. This was changed in April so that all Masonic widows had equal membership status.

As you know, Masons are not allowed to ask a man to join our Fraternity, they must ask us. Many good men think of our Fraternity as a "secret society" and since they do not know much about us, they naturally are hesitant to ask for a petition. In 1978 our Grand Lodge encouraged Lodges to have "Layman's Nights". Our Grand Lodge provided Judge Donald Fretz of Merced as the speaker for this first ever event and it provided an opportunity for our members to invite a friend to find out more about our Fraternity. Members who had not attended Lodge in some time were also encouraged to attend. It gave us an opportunity to meet and greet seldom attending members as well as prospective members. On April 5, 1979 Las Palmas held a Layman's Night with a free dinner. I invited my brother-in-law and there were 41 members and 29 guests in attendance.

In October of 1979 at our Grand Lodge Communication there was an important change made in the requirements to become a Mason. Up until now, an applicant had to have a "whole" body; that is he could not be an amputee. The reason for this rule went back to the days of Operative Masonry when a workman had to possess all limbs, or he could not work in his profession. This archaic rule continued to exist in only two Masonic jurisdictions in the United States. These were California and West Virginia. I don't know if West Virginia has changed its rule, but the Grand Lodge of California just did. The new rule will permit an amputee who uses prosthesis to apply for and receive the degrees of Masonry.