

The Post WW II War Years Part 2 **The beginning of Ponderosa Lodge No. 700**

Grand Lodge was concerned that there were not enough Masonic Lodges in the Fresno area to fulfill the needs of the area. At the request of Grand Lodge, a proposal was made to the then existing Lodges to jointly form a new Lodge. This proposal was that each of the 5 existing Lodges in Fresno and Clovis provide 3 members to constitute the 15 necessary charter members to form this new Lodge.

Las Palmas Lodge contributed a total of 4 members who became charter members of Ponderosa Lodge. Three eventually served as their Master: **Paul Claredon McCorkle** (1951), **Donald James Dick** (1953 & 1954) and son of Las Palmas Master Wm. Dick in 1916, **James Guy Huggins** (1956), **Adrian Taylor**.

June, 1948 Stated Meeting "The Secretary read the communication dated May 31, 1948 to form a new proposed Lodge to be known as "Ponderosa " Lodge to be formed in Fresno. It was regularly moved & seconded that Las Palmas endorse this effort and by a standing vote, was carried unanimously." The Master announced that the Masters and Wardens of the 4 Fresno Lodges would pro rate the cost of equipping this new Lodge.

On June 26, 1948 the officers of the soon to be formed Ponderosa Lodge conferred three First degrees on candidates of and at Las Palmas Lodge. On July 24, 1948 they did the second degree and on August 14, 1948 they did a 3rd degree. By August 14, it was now Ponderosa UD.

At the August Stated Meeting a resolution was read that all lodges in Fresno would raise annual dues to \$12 and if any lodge did not pass the resolution, it would fail in all lodges. The purpose was to create a surplus so that a new Masonic Temple could be started. Within the month both Fresno and Sun Garden voted down the resolution.

At the November, 1948 Stated Meeting it was announced that Grand Lodge had issued an edict that the minimum dues for any Lodge would be \$12 per year. The committee of members of all of the Lodges in Fresno concerning the building of a new Temple were meeting monthly.

In 1948, Edgar Christian Smith, a civil engineer who designed over 2,000 bridges in Fresno County, was our Master. Las Palmas Lodge raised 61 new Masons and had 1 affiliation.

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