

The History of Las Palmas Lodge does not always reflect the fact that Masons are supposed to walk upright and treat others as they would like to be treated.

From the time of WW I through WW II, there were a lot of black cubes cast in our ballot box for men that had a last name that was of German origin, especially if these men were not born in the United States. While we may look back upon these actions with disgust, we must remember that anti-German sentiment was quite prevalent through the whole United States at this time.

By June, 1959 another part of the very dark past of Las Palmas Lodge had ceased. Before that, worthy men of Armenian descent, or at least with a name ending in "ian" were always "black balled" by secret ballot. Because of this, Las Palmas, in open Lodge, would grant a waiver of jurisdiction to the man of Armenian descent so that he could petition one of several Lodges in San Francisco or Berkeley for the degrees of Masonry. Thankfully these out of town Lodges did not have our problem and they would then grant them membership.

Sometimes all three of the degrees were conferred in their home lodges, but many times these men would receive their first degree in their home lodge and then be coached, passed and raised in Las Palmas as a courtesy to the candidate and their home lodge. It was not uncommon for Las Palmas to host the Lodge from San Francisco or Berkeley for a dinner on the night of their candidate's third degree. I can only presume that this problem continued to persist in the other local Lodges or these fine men of Armenian descent would simply have petitioned another local Lodge for the degrees of Masonry. While some of these men who gained Masonry by joining a Lodge out of town later affiliated with Las Palmas, many never did.

The first two successful candidates to be voted in as members of Las Palmas were Archie Nahigian and Leon Peters. Today the Leon Peters Foundation helps our bike fund for students with perfect attendance as well as our Child ID program.

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