

As the Marshall of Las Palmas Lodge in 1973, I was the newest line officer in our Lodge. My ritual functions were that of giving the charge in the First Degree as well as all other duties officially assigned to the Marshall. This means that in the second and third degrees all I had to do was sit in my chair and do nothing. It was during this time that I started to closely observe the floor work of the officers ahead of me as well as memorize the parts that these advanced positions required.

At this time, Las Palmas Lodge had a custom of silencing the junior Past Master. This was to give the new Master an opportunity to govern his Lodge as he saw fit. In order to silence the junior PM, he was required to wear piece of neck ware that included a large diaper pin that was not to be opened unless a minimum of two past masters in Lodge that night agreed that he could open the pin and speak.

Las Palmas Lodge was busy. We met every Thursday night to either confer degrees or have our Stated Meeting. The conferring of three to five First and/or Second degrees was the norm. The Las Palmas Temple was also busy just about every night with three Jobs Daughters Bethels, Las Palmas DeMolay, Daughters of the Nile and one or more Eastern Starr Chapters. Many weekends were also busy with other Masonic Related functions.

On degree nights, Lodge would open at 7:30, followed by an intermission with light refreshments after the last candidate was obligated. When Lodge was closed, there would be more heavy refreshments. Depending on the number of degrees conferred in an evening, Lodge might not close until after 10:30. While smoking was not allowed in the Lodge Room, it was allowed in the foyer.

At the January, 1973 Stated Meeting Dinner, the Dates celebrated their 12th anniversary. They also informed the Lodge members that due to the rising cost of food, the cost of the dinners would be raised to \$2.50 per dinner.

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