

Several weeks ago I got an e-mail from Brother Larry Hopper with an attachment with images of two of the Trestleboards from his father's year as Master in 1950.

Prior to receiving these two documents we had no copies of our Trestleboards from 1946 to 1963, a span of 17 years. I knew from reading the minutes of Las Palmas Lodge for this time period that we were a very busy Lodge and that Brother James Hopper was called "50-50 Hopper". Presumably he conferred 50 third degrees in 1950.

In the January-February Trestleboard, Brother Hopper writes: To date (probably late January) we have conferred three third degrees, four seconds and three first degrees. We have lost five through death all of who had traditional Masonic Services. On February 22, we will take two members to Kingsburg Lodge to have the officers of Kingsburg Lodge confer the second degree and on the 28th we will take two more members to Sanger Lodge for their second degree.

From the June-July Trestleboard, we learn that Las Palmas took two candidates to Kingsburg Lodge on May 31st to be raised Master Masons. In my 50+ years as a Master Mason, I have only seen one occasion when we conferred two third degrees on the same evening. That was on May 2, 1968 when Brother Bob Reynolds PM and other Past Masters conferred the third degree on Brothers John and Mike Reynolds. I think we started around 5 pm and finished up just before 11:00. Today, our Grand Lodge does not allow the conferring of more than one third degree at a time.

Brother Hopper also said that Las Palmas was making history as we had four brothers, the sons of a member of our Lodge, taking all of their degrees together. My research shows these brothers to be: Besley, Ellsworth, Richard and Robert Lewis. They got their first degrees on May 18, 1950, their seconds on July 20th and were raised on August 11th. They must have been smart guys to learn their work so quickly. Besley died in 1996 and his three brothers all took demits.

On Saturday, January 14, 2023, we had our annual Installation of Officers. For the first time in my Masonic career, I was the Master of Ceremonies. I thought that the ceremonies went quite well and that even though it was raining quite hard, I counted 35 sideliners plus the Eastern Starr crew in the kitchen and the newly installed officers.

We have a third degree set for February 2nd. The candidate is Rian Bowman. I take special interest in Brother Rian's progress in Masonry as I coached him in the long form through his first and second degree. I would appreciate all Masons who can attend to show up to Lodge on February 2nd to watch Rian raised a Master mason. We will also have a first degree on February 9th. The free dinner is at 6:30 and the degree starts at 7:30. At this time, Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge seems to be doing quite well.