

We know that inflation over the years has brought about higher costs for our personal expenses as well as those of Las Palmas Lodge. In his November 1978 Trestleboard message, WM Paul Ford said that he had just returned from the annual communication of our Grand Lodge and that the annual GL assessment to individual lodges was raised from \$3.75 to \$5.00 per member. In response, Las Palmas increased its yearly dues from \$25 to \$30. In today's dollars that \$5.00 would be \$22.65. However, our GL assessment for 2024 is \$65.50. In 1979 our GL assessment was 17% of our dues. For 2024 it is 44% of our dues. In 1979 we had about 800 members, today we have about half of that.

On September 30th, 1978, W.M. Paul Ford had the honor of conferring the Third Degree upon his son, Phillip Craig Ford, in the historical lodge in Old Town in Los Angeles. While some Past Masters have helped confer the 3rd degree on their son, this may be the only time in LPP history that an acting Master had that privilege.

On April 5, 1979, Las Palmas held its first "Layman's Night" dinner. The Layman's Night program was started by our Grand Lodge and was a way for a Mason to bring a friend to our Lodge and have a speaker talk about Masonry. Obviously, it was intended to acquaint non-Masons with Masonry so that they might ask to be made a Mason. Our first speaker was a Judge from Merced who was an active person in Masonry and a good speaker. The dinner was free for both the Mason and the friend. I brought my brother-in-law and I think he enjoyed the occasion, but he never asked to be a Mason although he did have an uncle who was a Mason. I know this program was repeated in 1980, but I do not know if it continued on past 1980. For the 1979 dinner there were 41 Brothers and 29 guests present.

In his April, 1979 Trestleboard message, WM Bobby Bingham reported on the March Stated Meeting dinner. "This was attended by approximately 230 persons, including 70 members of our Las Palmas Widows Club. The roast beef dinner served by the "Dates" was outstanding, as usual". Now you know why there are so many tables in the closet of our banquet room.

Our Secretary, Bob Paden, reported that "the 1979 Lodge Roster has been published and is at the lodge office for distribution. This year we will not mail the roster to everyone. Those desiring a copy should call the office or drop us a card and we will mail it to those persons only. They will also be available on the tiler's desk each meeting night and you can pick one up. The high price of postage has temporarily precluded a general mailing of this booklet. However, we wish to get one to all those wishing one." How many of you remember the roster which had the name, phone number and home address of all of the Masons in the 6 Masonic Lodges in Fresno and some editions had the members of Sanger Lodge? It was not published every year. I still have them from 6 or 7 different years with the last one from 1992. They have not been published in several decades, most probably due to the cost.

In the May 1979 Trestleboard, Bro. Paul Ford PM reported that the Central California Research Lodge needed a typewriter. Bro. Paul was the Master of the CCRL at that time. I believe that this research Lodge met quarterly where papers were presented by members on various Masonic subjects. The

CCRL is no longer in existence. Not all Grand Lodges allow research Lodges. The Oregon GL does not sanction them so some members in Oregon formed a regular Lodge with the intent of having its members present research papers. To do this, the dues were nominal, but the cost to take the degrees was over \$500. The Oregon Grand Master ruled that this Lodge had to reduce its fee for the degrees and start conferring degrees. I believe that the Lodge returned its charger to the GL.