

If you watched the Vice President, take his oath of office on January 20th, you may have noticed that much of the wording should be very familiar to Masons. The story behind this oath is that it was adopted by our first Congress and is still being used today.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

There must have been many Masons in our first Congress.

I am getting ready to have all of the old minutes of Las Palmas Lodge scanned so they can be stored on the cloud and available to all of our members and saved in perpetuity. In neither the 1913 nor 1914 minutes, was there any indication of the election of officers nor the installation of the officers. The minutes just reflected the names of the officers who were present for a meeting. Starting in January of 1915, the minutes state that Las Palmas and Fresno Lodge held a joint installation of officers.

At our February 7, 1980 meeting I told the brethren: "There will be a reception for the Grand Master at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 3." Back then, when the Grand Master came to Fresno for his annual reception, there were so many people in attendance that neither the Las Palmas Temple nor the Fresno Lodge Temple had a room large enough to hold everybody. Instead, we would rent a building such as the Fairgrounds. I remember one of these functions where local Masons, who were musicians, formed a band with more than 20 members. The music was fantastic.

Our Secretary, Bob Paden, read an invitation to attend the Royal Arch installation Saturday, February 9th. It was noted that five of our members would fill various offices positions for 1980.

At the 3rd degree for Louis Putney on February 14th, Larry Duba delivered the charge. On September 29th, 2023, Brother Duba delivered a fine first-degree charge when his son-in-law and the husband of his granddaughter were initiated. I have asked Brother Duba to deliver the charge at future first degrees.