

Las Palmas Lodge has had a Widow's club for many years. There were regular members who were widows of members of Las Palmas Lodge and there were associate members who were widows of Masons who were members of other Masonic Lodges. In May of 1979, the regular members voted to have only one class of members which removed the distinction of which Lodge their deceased husbands belonged to. The Windows club would meet monthly, except for July and August, at a local restaurant for lunch. Many of them also attended our Stated Meeting dinners.

At the June, 1979 Widow's luncheon, it was brought to the attention of those present that the by-laws of the California jurisdiction state a husband has to be a master mason in good standing in order for his widow to become a member of this group.

Several years ago, I remember a widower who was a member of Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge ask to join the Widow's club. I hope they gladly accepted him as a member.

I started in the officer's line as the Marshall in January of 1973. At that time, we wore tuxedos for all degrees. Starting immediately after Easter, we wore white dinner jackets with baby blue bow ties and cummer buns. We wore suites and ties for the Stated Meetings except for July and August where we wore more casual clothes as the Lodge was Dark for these two months. Starting in September, we were at "advanced stations" which meant that we took the officer's position one step ahead and returned to our traditional Tuxedos. This gave us a chance to prefect our ritual so that when we were installed in January of the following year, we were proficient in our duties.

When Lodge resumed in September of 1979, I, as the Senior Warden now sat in the East as Master for all third degrees. I also had to know all of the parts of the Master for the third degree which included giving the Master's lecture in the third degree. This historical lecture takes about 18 to 20 minutes to give and must be memorized and given exactly as it was taught to me by then officer's coach Phil Lewis. I believe that I gave this lecture about six times from September of 1979 through June of 1980. In 1980, I was 36 years old and memorizing our ritual was not an extremely difficult task. I actually found this historical lecture quite easy to memorize as I heard it given over 50 times while I was a junior officer.

When I retired from the County in 2003, I decided that I needed some mental challenges and took on the task of re-memorizing this lecture. With the help of Larry Bennett and our newly authorized cypher book, I re-memorized this historical lecture and started to give on Past Master's Night. Recently, I have given it for most of our 3rd degrees in Lodge and at the request of WM Bill Lyons, I plan on giving it frequently. I am now 80 years old and continue to look at this a good way to challenge my memory.