

At our stated meeting on February 21st, 1980, my birthday, I, as Master, read a written memorial for two of our members. These memorials were then placed in the Lodge minutes with a copy being sent to the family of the fallen Brother. This is a photocopy of the memorial for

RALPH WILLIAM BOUCHER, age 85, passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on Wednesday, February 20, after a long series of illnesses. In his earlier years Ralph was very active in masonic organizations, especially the Shrine. He was born in Murphysboro, Illinois on June 19, 1894 and was in the U.S. Army during World War I, after which he was a salesman for Hobbs Parsons Co., a local produce firm. Later he and his wife, Mary, operated a flower shop on Fulton Street in downtown Fresno, which they later sold to Phil Lewis. Bro. Boucher was raised in Las Palmas Lodge June 20, 1928, and received his Golden Veteran Award on July 20, 1977.

The irony of this memorial is not that I ever met Brother Boucher, but his flower shop was across the street from my father's business on Van Ness in downtown Fresno. Brother Lewis then moved his flower shop to Ashlan and Fresno Street which was close to where we lived in 1973. Bro Phil Lewis appointed me to the officer's line when he was Master in 1973 and taught me all of the ritual for the Master Mason degree as the 3rd degree Officer Coach for Las Palmas. On most Saturday's I would go over to Bro Phil's shop and talk to him and his wife Evie. Before I could leave, he had to give me a bouquet of flowers to take home to Therese. These not only pleased Therese, but all of the women who would see me walking to our apartment in the complex would get jealous because they would have loved to have had their husbands bring them flowers weekly from a florist.

Personally, I like the idea of having a committee prepare a written memorial for a fallen brother so that it can be given to his family, read in open Lodge and then placed in the Lodge Minutes.

On March 13, at 7:30 p.m., Bethel 243 conducted the Jobs Daughters ritual. Wives of Master Masons were invited (no pant suits or slacks). On April 3, at 7:30 p.m. Las Palmas DeMolay put on the DeMolay degree for us. On April 24, at 7:30 p.m. Rainbow for Girls exemplify their ritual (only wives of Master Masons who are members of the Order of Eastern Star or are senior member of Rainbow could visit with us).