

Up until 1936, if a Lodge was to perform a Masonic Funeral for a brother, the first thing the officers had to do was assemble in the Lodge room and open Lodge for the purpose of conducting the funeral. Lodge would then be called to recess and the funeral ritual was conducted at the location of the funeral. After the funeral, the Lodge officers had to reassemble in the Lodge room and then close Lodge. Starting in 1936 Grand Lodge made this procedure optional. If you haven't visited our website recently, do so and click on the tab on the left side of the home page entitled MASONIC FUNERALS. Here you will find links to the text of the old funeral rituals used by Lodges in California. The earliest dates back to the late 1800's, next is the 1929 revision and then the 1946 revision. Currently we use the 1955 version. The most interesting ritual is the oldest one where the whole Lodge got involved and had a procession from the site of the funeral to the final resting place. Pay special note to what the Master did with the fallen brother's Lambskin Apron. Our Lodge website is www.lpp366.org

May 1936 bill: Walter Byde Co. wax for dance \$.88 Do any of you remember the Walter Byde Hardware Company? It was a local company with a main location on Fulton Street in downtown Fresno and a second location in the Tower district where the Chicken Pie Ship is now located.

January, 1937 "A communication from Grand Lodge relative to the Social Securities Act was read." At the March, 1937 stated meeting there appears for the first time a bill to the U.S. Treasury for Social Security tax on employees. Total \$2.78.

After the close of the January, 1937 stated meeting, "Dr. Milholland, a member of this Lodge gave us an interesting discourse on X-Ray and radium." In the bills that were paid in February, there is a bill from Valley Van Co. "Moving X Ray machine \$4.00." That would be about \$65. Today.

On April 1 of 1937 a total of 3 candidates were initiated. "The lecture was given by Bro D.A. Fisher, a Past Master of Fresno Lodge #247 and illustrated by stereopticon slides shown by Bro Fred Roullard, also a Past Master of Fresno Lodge #247." While I never saw these stereopticon slides, I do remember seeing an easel mounted chart that had been stored in the archives of our Lodge. When I asked then tiler Jimmy Tucker what it was used for, he said it used be part of the First Degree Lecture. In October of 1977 our Grand Lodge approved the use of a series of 35mm color slides to enhance the lecture of the First Degree. In 1978 I was Jr. Warden and I used these slides several times when I gave the Frist Degree Lecture. Several years later our Grand Lodge shortened this lecture and the part that was enhanced by the slides was made optional.

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