

Last month I told you about the other Masonic bodies that were co-owners of the old Fresno Masonic Temple not allowing Las Palmas to get their share of the cash proceeds from the sale of the old Temple to the Fresno Redevelopment Agency in early 1963.

I did not join Las Palmas until 1967 so I do not have any first-hand knowledge of the matter. I did, however, get to talk with many of our members that did have first-hand knowledge. Here is what I have been able to reconstruct from our Lodge Minutes and what was told to me by Brothers who were present at the time.

Our Master in 1945, Dee Moyers, had purchased 5 acres on Clinton Avenue in Fresno where our Temple now stands. My father told me that Dee initially wanted to locate the depot for his Moyers Stage Lines on this spot. For some reason he changed his mind and in 1952 he made an offer to sell to all of the Masonic bodies in Fresno the 5 acres if they would construct a Joint Masonic Temple on the spot. Since other parcels of land were readily available in the new growth areas of the City of Fresno, I think it safe to presume that Brother Dee offered to sell this land at a discounted price.

We know that Brother Moyers did impose a date by which construction had to start on this new joint Temple. Unfortunately, I have never been able to find in writing the number of months and years that the offer was open. All I know is that this deadline was before January, 1959 and that it was not met due to the fact that all of the Lodges could not agree on what to build. The stories from old-timers said that the joint ownership had only one year to get things started. From the above dates it would appear that there was at least three years and perhaps up to five or six years for construction to start.

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