

My monthly article in the Las Palms-Ponderosa Trestleboard will now be talking about my personal contacts with Masonry and Las Palmas Lodge.

In October of 1967 I had my Uncle Royal take my petition over to the Lodge Secretary and in a few weeks I got a letter from the Lodge asking me to come over for a meeting with the "screening committee".

When I arrived at Las Palmas Lodge, I found that I was one of four applicants being screened that evening. I remember being seated at a table in the card room with 3 older members from the Lodge. One was Robert Larson who asked me "Why did I desire to join Las Palmas Lodge when there were 4 other lodges in Fresno." The question was asked in such a tone that I felt they didn't want me to join Las Palmas. I answered that "this was the Lodge my late father was a member of". I hoped that this answer would satisfy their desire to let me apply to Las Palmas as opposed to another Lodge. Of course there were lots of other questions.

Years later I learned that this "inquisition", or screening as they called it, was not permitted by the Grand Lodge.

Within the next couple of weeks I was separately visited by three members of Las Palmas Lodge at my home. At the time, I was a second year teacher at Clovis Hi School and was living at home with my widowed mother. I remember two of these members were Wally Scott who served as our Lodge Chaplain for many years. The other was Al Lucas who was later assigned as my coach.

On November 16, 1967 I, and the other three applicants, Perry Fouts, David L. James, and James Buckles were voted to receive the degrees of Masonry in Las Palmas Lodge.

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