

In 1973, my first year in the Las Palmas Officer's line, our Temple was busy just about every night of the week. In addition to Las Palms meeting every Thursday night, we had several Eastern Star Chapters, Daughters of the Nile, three Jobs Daughters Bethels, and Las Palmas DeMolay. For the Fourth of July, some of the youth groups had a fireworks stand.

For Christmas our DeMolay Chapter sold Christmas Trees in what was then a vacant lot just west of our Temple. The Lodge would purchase its Christmas tree from the DeMolays and the Lodge officers and their wives would decorate the tree which was on display in the banquet room. At that time, Lodge meetings were so well attended that some members would park in front of the Lodge on Clinton and enter through the front door.

In February of 1973 the Dates informed us that due to the increase in the cost of food, the cost of our dinners would be increased to \$2.50. In today's dollars that would be \$14.75.

At this time there was no "Social Media" and every week in the classified advertisements of the Fresno Bee, Las Palmas and some of the other Lodges in the area, would post a notice as to what was to take place at that week's meeting. Occasionally, Las Palmas would post a similar notice about a fallen brother's funeral.

In the April edition of the Las Palmian our Secretary, Bro Norm Foley, informed us that we had 1,015 members. April was also Public Schools month and every member was encouraged to visit a public school. During April of some years, Las Palmas would go dark during the week of Fresno Schools Open House.

In addition to our annual Easter Egg hunt at the Lodge, in June of 1973 we held our annual Lodge picnic at Woodward Park. While the Lodge would provide the hot dogs and hamburgers, members were encouraged to bring a side dish making it pot luck.