

When I was progressing through the officer's line at Las Palmas, there were two things set in stone. We wore black tuxes from September to the following Easter. From Easter to summer break, we wore white dinner jackets and baby blue bow ties and cummerbuns. The second thing was that when we came back from summer break (July and August) the officers were in advanced stations. However, if you learned your work early you could do an advanced station earlier if there were several degrees in a given night. There was also a requirement from Grand Lodge that every incoming Master be qualified in the Masonic funeral ceremony. While it was not always possible, the normal practice was for the Master to be the Funeral Master and the Sr. Warden to be the Funeral Chaplain for the fallen brother.

On June 23, 1977 I was officially the Sr. Deacon, but since I knew the Master's part for the first degree, I advanced that night for one candidate. That candidate was Ray Mitsch. Ray and I have discussed the fact that he was the very first candidate that I ever obligated and presented the lambskin apron to. It was with much sadness when I learned that Ray passed away on February 26. I was also very honored by the fact that his widow, Eleanor, asked me to be Funeral Master for his funeral. Over the years, Ray has been a constant participant at Lodge and has held several offices and filled in for many absent officers. Ray, you will be sadly missed.

As my year as Master started in January of 1980, I wanted to include the youth organizations that we shared our Temple with to have an opportunity to exemplify their degree work with our members and spouses. Even though Thursday nights were busy with Lodge degree work, I chose to have our youth join us. On Thursday, March 13, 1980, Bethel 243, Jobs Daughters put on their actual initiatory ritual. In addition to Master Masons, their female relatives, who were over 20 years of age and otherwise eligible to join the Order of Eastern Star, were also invited. The only problem was that Dress code prohibited women from wearing slacks or pant suits.

On April 3, the Las Palmas Chapter Order of DeMolay exemplified the DeMolay Degree for our members. On April 24, Golden Realm Assembly, International Order of Rainbow for Girls exemplified their ritual.