

Las Palmas Lodge has had its share of elected officials throughout the years. On October 4, 1923, Lodge opened in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree for the purpose of listening to the address of Bro. Henry Ellsworth Barbour, our local member of Congress. Lodge was called off and Bro. Barbour made a very interesting address on the "Work of Congress." Lodge was called on and closed in due form.

At the annual communication of our Grand Lodge, changes can be made in the way that constituent Lodges operate. Before the communication in 1924, for a Lodge to go from labor in one degree to another, the Lodge had to be closed and then opened on the other degree. This was changed so that Lodge could be called down from one degree to another for examinations. The rule on conferring degrees in different degrees was not, however, changed. On November 6, 1924 there was only one candidate ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and Lodge was opened in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and Ralph L. Rehorn was initiated in due form. Hugh McNulty was then examined in the candidates lecture of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and Lodge was closed. Lodge was then opened in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and Cowan A. Sample and John W. Allen were raised Master Masons. Lodge was then closed for the night.

Today we have over 50 Life Members of Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge. This has not always been the case. At the December, 1924 Stated Meeting, Las Palmas Lodge adopted a resolution creating a Life Membership effective January, 1925. The fee was \$125 and the Lodge was able only to get the interest earned until the member died. Then the Lodge got to keep the \$125. Grand Lodge has changed the rules on Life Membership fees and while the Lodge keeps the earnings on the principal, the principal never reverts to the Lodge.

By 1924 Fresno had four active Lodges. The Temple that was constructed in 1911 was so busy with three Blue Lodges plus York Rite, Scottish Rite and Eastern Star, that newly formed Sun Garden Lodge had to meet at another rented facility. At the December 1924 Stated meeting a resolution was adopted, after questionnaires had been sent to all members, that all of the Masonic Bodies in Fresno start work on constructing a new Temple for all to use. Little did they know that their existing Temple would continue to be used for another 36 years.

When a man petitions a Lodge for the degrees of masonry, he must list his occupation. In the 1920's and 1930's some of the typical occupations were: collector, rail road conductor, engineer, agent, telegraph operator, physical director. (What did an agent or physical director do?)

[Return to From the Archives Index Page](#)

[Return to LPP Home Page](#)