

Last month I told you that the Masonic Bodies in Fresno could not reach agreement on the construction of a joint Temple on property that was owned by Brother Dee Moyers.

Perhaps agreement could not be reached because Ponderosa had its own Temple and Sun Garden rented space from non-Masonic fraternities. To make things work at least one of them would have to come in on this new Temple. Perhaps it was the enormous cost of building a new Temple that would have two Lodge rooms plus banquet and other facilities.

Another possible reason for the failure to agree on the building of a joint Temple was due to our Inspectors. For several decades there were two Inspectors for all of the Lodges in the area that held tight reigns over Blue Lodge Masonry in Fresno. One was from Sun Garden and the other was from Center Lodge. Both of these Lodge were quite small in the number of members compared to Las Palmas and Fresno Lodges and the cost to build a new joint Temple would be a financial strain on their individual Lodges. Center did own some shares in the old Temple, but Sun Garden did not.

Shortly after the deadline to build a joint Masonic Temple passed, (perhaps it was only a couple of days) Bro. Dee Moyers and his wife, Gilma, offered to Las Palmas a gift of the east half of the 5 acres for Las Palmas Lodge to build its Temple. This offer was formally made in Las Palmas Lodge at the January, 1959 installation of officers. Again there was a deadline, January, 1962, which meant that Las Palmas had to finish construction within 3 years. Las Palmas got its act together and easily met the deadline.

Several members of the other Lodges told me that Brother Dee really wanted Las Palmas to build its own Temple, but first made the 5 acre offer with a very short deadline so that that deal would fail. Others have said that there was plenty of time, but that the other Lodges just couldn't get their act together. We will never know which part of the story is true, but from the dates in our Lodge Minutes and other actions, it would appear that the Masonic Lodges in Fresno were beginning to see that membership was starting to decline and protecting their own Lodge was more important than protecting Masonry in general.

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

[Return to LPP Home Page](#)