

In 1967 Sam Pavlovich was our Master and Las Palmas was a very busy Lodge.

At the Stated Meeting in November, Perry Fouts, David James, James Buckles and I were elected to receive the degrees of Masonry in Las Palmas Lodge. In addition, the Lodge voted to accept Richard A. Moody by affiliation. I think Richard Moody was better known to viewers of KMJ TV channel 24 as Dick Moody.

The Master announced that Sanger Lodge No. 316, as a courtesy to Las Palmas, had conferred the second degree upon Brothers Wayne Plunk and John and Michael Reynolds on October 19. It was also voted on to ask Center Lodge No. 465, as a courtesy to Las Palmas, to confer the third degree on Brother Edward Soderberg.

Two weeks later at 7:00 p.m. on November 30, 1967 Las Palmas Lodge opened in the first degree and I was the third of four candidates to receive the first degree of Masonry. I will never forget what the Lodge Room looked like when we four candidates entered it to receive the Master's lecture. The only lights that were on were the spotlights in the east and north-east. This lighting, along with the red carpet, was very impressive. It is a shame that we cannot do this with first degrees now. After the degrees and before Lodge closed, two entered apprentice brothers were examined in the candidates lecture of the first degree. Lodge closed at 11:15 p.m. and refreshments were had by all afterwards. At the time smoking was not allowed in the Lodge Room, but it was allowed in the card room, foyer and banquet hall. By the time I got home I smelled like cigarette smoke.

Two of the officers that night, Sam Pavlovich and Richard Hopper later became Grand Masters. While Richard Hopper's office was that of Marshall; for me he was the Senior Steward. Other officers that night that you might remember were Leonard Gottner (Senior Warden) who lives in Washington State and still gives their third degree lecture and Bud Pope who was Jr. Deacon. Since it was the fall, all of the officers were at advanced stations and wearing black, as opposed to the white dinner jackets which were worn from Easter until Labor Day.

Many things have changed in the 49 years since I received my first degree. Smoking is no longer allowed inside our Temple. Refreshments are served before the degrees, not during the break and after Lodge closes. It has been many years since Las Palmas has asked another local Lodge to confer courtesy degrees for us and I can't remember the last time I saw four candidates receive the first degree of Masonry the same night in Las Palmas Lodge. Yes, things have changed, some for the better, some not necessarily so. When other local Lodges helped us out because we were so busy, it also helps them out, which is what Masonry is all about.

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

[Return to LPP Home Page](#)