

In addition to Public Schools Month and Youth Orders Month, October was recognized as Constitution Observance Month. At the Stated Meeting, we would have a brother give a talk about our Constitution. Occasionally, we would invite an outside guest, such as local Judge or elected official, to give the speech.

October was also when our Grand Lodge met in San Francisco. In 1973, there were two hotly contested resolutions. The first was to lower the age of admission from 21 to 18. The second was to admit candidates with certain physical handicaps. After much debate, both resolutions were defeated. Then as well as now, it took a super majority to pass a resolution.

December marked the end of the one year term of Brother Phil Lewis as Master. Brother Phil, and his wife Evie, were the owner of Parsons-Boucher Flower Shop which they had purchased in the mid-1960's from Ralph Boucher, a member of Las Palmas Lodge. Brother Phil petitioned Las Palmas Lodge in 1966 and was raised in 1967. The flower shop was initially located in downtown Fresno on Van Ness across the street from Dale Orr's Colonial Chapel. Brother Dale was our Treasurer for many years. By the time Phil was Master, he had moved the flower shop to Ashlan and Fresno Streets.

1974 marked the installation of Craig Shaw as our Master. At the time I knew him, he was a maintenance engineer for Valley Medical Center. Like most Masters, he wanted to make Las Palmas Lodge the best and friendliest Lodge that it could be.

At this time in our history, all Lodge meetings started at 7:30. This meant that officers and members had their dinner at home with their spouses and families before they got dressed in their tuxedos and came to Lodge. Many of the officers would arrive just before the 7:30 starting time. Brother Craig thought that visiting members and sojourners should have a chance to meet and converse with the officers before Lodge opened. Therefore, Brother Craig directed that all officers were to be at the Lodge no later than 7:00 for Lodge meetings.