

As I write these articles about Las Palmas Lodge in the mid-1970's, it seems to me like it was just yesterday. In 1975, I was Sr. Steward. Two years earlier as Marshall I memorized the Marshall's part in the Candidate room, the first degree charge and by September of that year the second degree charge. I gave the second degree charge as Jr. Steward and as Sr. Steward I gave the third degree charge. I had also learned all of the floor work in the second section of the third degree. I sure wish that my memory was that good today. Therese and I had been married for three years, we were living in our own home and I had been practicing law for just over two years. It is hard to believe that it has been 45 wonderful years. What great memories of life I have from back then.

In the August, 1975 Las Palmian, there appeared an article about how many top U.S. executives belonged to fraternal organizations and which organizations had these members. "Out of 60,000 surveyed, just over 25% claimed memberships in any Lodge."

Organization Members

1. Masons 10,199
2. Ben. Protective Order of Elks 3,394
3. Knights of Columbus 941
4. Lions International 415
5. Knights of Pythias 199
6. Loyal Order of Moose 198
7. Independent Order of Odd Fellows 159
8. Order of Eastern Star 88
9. Fraternal Order of Eagles 55
10. Woodmen of the World 31

I am sure if this survey was made today, many of these organizations would not have any representation and that far less than 25% of the executives surveyed would have any fraternal membership. How sad this loss is to all fraternal organizations.

Through October of 1975, Las Palmas, and other local Masonic Lodges placed notices in the classified section of the Fresno Bee to inform their members what degrees were taking place. This ad appeared every week. Due to costs, Las Palmas ceased this practice, but continued to post the notices in the Monday and Thursday editions of the Fresno Guide. How many of you currently subscribe to the Bee and how many of you remember the Fresno Guide?

The Las Palmas Dates prepared each of the dinners before our Stated Meeting. If, at the end of the year, there was a profit, the outgoing Master was to designate how the profit was to be spent to help the Lodge. WM Green Young wanted to start a library in our Temple. He, therefore, designated that the profits would be used to purchase a book cases and a showcase which we now use in our library/card room.

How many of you remember the Freedom Train? To help celebrate the bicentennial of our Country, people refurbished old passenger cars and a steam locomotive which was filled with exhibits about our country. It traveled across the country and on December 18th to the 20th was open for tours at the Santa Fe Depot in downtown Fresno. I remember going through this train and viewing all of the exhibits and the large crowd.