

I thank all of you who have been praying for our daughter, Erica. Her health is much better, but please keep up the prayers. I also thank all of you who attended our May Stated Meeting where Most Worshipful Richard Hopper presented me with my Golden Veterans Award. In my 50 years as being a Mason, I have seen many brothers receive their Golden Veterans Award. To be honest, I think mine was the best because the presentation was done by some really good friends of mine. PGM Hopper gave a great review of my Masonic life and he was assisted by PAGL Cub Jack and PM Larry Hopper. Brother Larry was one of my junior officers when I was Master in 1980.

At the September 26, 1968 meeting, the Master announced that Brother, Sam Dollar had retired as Inspector. Brother Dollar had been an inspector for approximately 30 years and was also the Secretary of Scottish Rite. During his tenure as Inspector, we were moved in and out of his district several times. A reception and dinner for Brother Dollar was held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on November 2. I remember attending this reception and listening to Brother Coyle Chambers play the piano with only a list of songs in front of him as once he was reminded of the name of a song, he knew how to play it without any music to look at.

Fifty years ago, our Grand Lodge met for almost a whole week. Business started on Tuesday and Grand Lodge closed on Sunday with the installation of the newly elected Grand Master. Today Grand Lodge starts on a Friday and concludes on Sunday.

One of the big treats of Grand Lodge week was the opportunity to witness a French First Degree. Normally on Tuesday or Wednesday evening Grand Lodge would ask La parfait Union Lodge No. 17 of San Francisco to confer a First Degree for all of the attendees of our Grand Lodge to witness. The French First is not only spoken only in French, it is very different from any of our degrees. Seeing a French First is a real treat for any Mason and in 1935 Las Palmas had a French speaking candidate who received a French First in Las Palmas.

Unfortunately, today Grand Lodge does not have time for a French First Degree.