

In February, 1974 there was an energy shortage in our country and gasoline was rationed by limiting the days when you could purchase fuel. If your car license ended in an even number you could only fill up on an even numbered day, etc. The President asked everybody to conserve electricity and in response, WM Craig Shaw directed that we would be dark one Thursday each month.

In April of 1974 our new secretary, Bob Paden, informed us that Las Palmas Lodge had 981 members. Speaking of Bob Paden, he played a very important role in Las Palmas Lodge for 14 years. As far as I can tell, Bob was the first Secretary of Las Palmas Lodge who was not a Past Master.



On January 1, 1927 Bob went to work for the Sanger Herald as a printer's devil. Around 1934 he purchased a small job printing plant on Blackstone Ave. in Fresno and printed about a dozen high school newspapers until he joined the U.S. Navy in 1943. After being discharged he joined the Naval Reserve and for the next 18 years he was chief in the personnel office.

In 1946 he moved to Antioch to enter a cabinet shop business due to the post WW II building boom. He returned to Fresno in 1947 and went to work for the Fresno Bee in the composing room. In 1950 he went to work for the Fresno Guide as a linotype operator. How many of you remember the Fresno Guide which came out once a week on, I believe, Thursdays? He became foreman of the composing room for eight years and during the last two of these years he converted the hot metal system of printing to computer type printing, which was almost entirely photographic. In April of 1947 Bob was raised a Master Mason in Las Palmas Lodge.

He retired in 1972 after the sudden death of his wife. At this he became active in Las Palmas Lodge. Bob knew that if he wanted to survive he had to remain active and attending Lodge helped him do that. In 1973 our Secretary, Norm Foley, became ill and had to quit the post. Even though Bob had only been attending Lodge for a couple of years, he was there every Thursday night and showed lots of interest. I recommended to the Master that Bob should be appointed Secretary for the remainder of the year. Bob was also elected our Secretary from 1974 through 1987. He was also very active in the Fresno

Scottish Rite and Tehran Shrine Temple in Fresno. In later years, Bob and his lady friend were at all kinds of Masonic functions in the Fresno area.

Back in the 1970's most Masters of Las Palmas took seven years as a line officer before they were elected Master. During these seven years, they gradually learned what a Master had to do to govern his Lodge. While learning the ritual and floor work was required, governing a Lodge is akin to running a business. As the Secretary during my year as Master in 1980, I could rely on Bob to do what a Secretary was supposed to do--keep the minutes, receive dues, issue dues cards and answer many questions from both members and non-members. The actual running of the Lodge was the duty of the Master. Bob never tried to take over any of the duties and responsibilities of the Master. Bob knew that the Lodge was to be run from the East, and not the South-East. Brother Bob, thank you for your faithful and dedicated service to Las Palmas Lodge.