

In my last article, I reported that a Layman's Night was to be held at Las Palmas Lodge on Thursday, May 23, 1985 and all non-masons were invited to attend with their wives. In the next Trestleboard, Master Larry Duba reported over 100 people participated in "Helping Masonry Survive Beyond 85". We had 14 non-Masons and their spouses in attendance for Layman's Night. The wonderful steak dinner, musical entertainment and meaningful talk by W. Irving Berliner all contributed to a successful evening. The results of our combined efforts will hopefully be beneficial for our Lodge and Masonry in general. We have no way to track if any of these non-masons ever petitioned for the degrees.

On May 2, 1985, we conferred the 3rd Degree of Masonry upon one of our brothers, John Douglas Montgomery. He was raised by his father, a Past Master from Fresno Lodge. This is unusual but yet not exclusive. Las Palmas has been fortunate enough to have had this happen several times in its history. What was remarkable was the composition of the degree team. The group consisted of members of three different lodges. They varied in age from the early thirties to the late sixties and represented twelve or more occupations. The group had never worked together; indeed, many had never met. Yet this complex and difficult degree was executed with such skill, brotherly love and affection that every member present was moved.

During the month of October, 1985, our Lodge had its 1st Annual Golf Tournament. Brother Whitney Owen was the chairman and planned a great time for all. The tournament was set for October 25th at Sunnyside Golf Course. The price per person was \$55 and included everything including a top sirloin dinner after the game.

WM Duba wrote in the Trestleboard that our September 7, 1985 annual picnic is now history and nothing remains but to thank those wonderful people who worked very hard to insure its success. A very special thank-you went to Tip Banks and his wife Cathy. They not only raised the pig which we prepared on their property, but also hosted a fun party the night before the picnic for the crew. That night, under the expert direction of Larry Hopper, P.M., (Bros. Randy Lawrey, Don Scott, Chuck Alstrom, Mike Daughterty, Steve Harrelson and John Denton) seasoned, wrapped and deep pitted the meat. None of us had deep-pitted meat before and so Larry had to work very hard to whip us into shape. The results he obtained were well worth the effort. The next morning when we uncovered the pit the meat was done to perfection.

At the October, 1985 GL communication it was reported that there were 1500 suspensions for non-payment of dues, 2800 demits and approximately 500 Entered Apprentice Masons decided to not continue in Masonry and forfeited their dues. At this time Las Palmas Lodge had a membership of 836 members which was down from approximately 1050 in the early 1970's.