

There have always been differences in the various Lodges in Fresno but in the past it was common to have joint social events such as baseball games and dances. After WW II these social events were becoming more infrequent. While there were large numbers of candidates from the end of WW II through the mid 1950's this started to diminish. While Las Palmas was always fortunate to have plenty of candidates, the other local Lodges were not so fortunate. There was, in essence, competition between the Lodges for candidates.

While I was preparing the biographies of the Past Masters of Clovis Lodge for our website, I noticed one very important difference between Clovis Lodge and Las Palmas Lodge. From the time of WW II through the mid 1950's, it would take a candidate at Las Palmas Lodge almost 2 years to get his three degrees. This was not because the Las Palmas candidates were not learning their proficiencies; it was because Las Palmas was so busy. For many years we conferred degrees two or three days out of the week and it was almost always 5 first degrees, 5 second degrees and between 3 and 5 third degrees at a time. In Clovis Lodge a candidate who quickly learned his proficiencies could get all three degrees in two to 3 months. The reason is that Clovis (and presumably Fresno, Center and Sun Garden) were no way as busy as Las Palmas.

Once Las Palmas started to meet in its new Temple in January of 1961, which was located in a much more desirable location than the old Down Town Temple, Las Palmas continued to get the greatest number of candidates.

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