

I was raised a Master Mason in April of 1968 so the first Stated Meeting that I could attend would have been in either April or May of 1968. I tried to attend every Stated Meeting and in doing so I have etched in my memory the comments from our then Secretary, Price Robinson PM about Rachel Browne. For many years Rachel Browne was our only guest at the Masonic Homes in Docoto (Union City). Every April, the Lodge would send Rachel a birthday card signed by as members as we could get to sign it as well as a small monetary gift. A similar thing would also be done for Christmas. Rachel always responded with a thank you letter which Brother Price Robinson would read along with a letter from the director of the Masonic Home informing us of how Rachel was doing.

In the spring of 1974 we had an Easter Egg hunt at the Lodge for the children and grandchildren of members. We also had a Lodge picnic at Woodward Park. Brother Green Young, being a Greyhound Bus driver, arranged for the members to charter a bus and go to a SF Giants game at Candlestick Park.

During the summer months when the Lodge was dark but for the Stated Meetings, we had Nationality dinners before our Stated Meetings. The meals were prepared with the assistance of members who were of different ethnic groups. For the other ten dinners, Mary Perch and her group of dates always prepared a great dinner.

In 1974 through at least my term as Master in 1980, we had an Officer's Coach for each degree. It was their job to teach the officers the ritual and floor work for their assigned degree. Today we have a cypher to help with the ritual, but the actual coaching is done by Chuck Bersani who was Master of Ponderosa the same year that I was Master of Las Palmas. Chuck coaches the officers on all three degrees.

After the September, 1974 Stated Meeting Dinner, all Masons and their wives were invited into the Lodge Room where Bethel 49 Jobs Daughters exemplified the Majority Degree for all to observe.

Today, dues are payable in advance for the whole year. Back in time, dues were payable in advance quarterly. While most paid for the full year, those who paid quarterly created a lot of extra work for the Lodge Secretary and eventually this method of payment was dropped.

Sometime in the 1960's, Las Palmas Lodge helped form and sponsored the Las Palmas DeMolay Chapter. For many years the Chapter Dad was Roy Gerard who was our Master in 1937. At that time, the youth groups were required to pay a token rent to the Lodge. To help earn money, the boys in this chapter would help with some of the outside maintenance on our property. When we had an installation of officers, the DeMolays would escort the flag of our country into the Lodge room and they would also assist in seating people.