

For the last few months I have been writing about the early history of Las Palmas Lodge. For this article, I wish to advance forward to the year 1976. This was the bicentennial of our Country and there were celebrations all over including those at Las Palmas Lodge.

On this last Father's Day, Dan Eckland, our Master in 1976 passed away.



Brother Dan started his year as Master with the bicentennial bald eagle emblem on the front of his installation program as well as on the front page of every edition of the Las Palmian. Dan also brought this



theme into the Lodge Room for when he sat in the East, he did not wear the usual top hat, he wore, with permission from Grand Lodge, a tri-corn hat.

Brother Dan organized a combined bicentennial and public schools program for the April Stated Meeting. Students from Starr Elementary School put on a play entitled "We Must Be Free."



On July 3, there was a bicentennial parade in downtown Fresno and there was a float that had been built by the brethren. Las Palmas's Wally Scott was on

that float dressed as patriot wearing his Masonic Apron.



I always felt close to Brother Dan as he was only 4 years ahead of me in the Officer's line and he and his wife Phyllis invited us to parties at their home. Even though Dan's prolonged illness kept him from attending Lodge on a regular basis, I used to bring him to Past Master's Night for the dinner and first and second sections of the degree. **Dan, you will be deeply missed!**

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