

As you may remember from my prior articles, by the late 1950's the members of Las Palmas Lodge were getting frustrated with the lack of cooperation from the other Masonic bodies in Fresno to build one large Masonic Temple in Fresno which would serve all five blue Lodges as well as Eastern Star and York Rite. This Temple was to have been built on land which our PM Dee Moyers had offered either for free or at a reduced price. (Old timers had told me that the 5 acres of land was offered for free if construction started within one year. However, I have found nothing in the minutes of Las Palmas Lodge to confirm this.) In July, 1958 our Lodge directed our representatives on the Board of Directors of the Fresno Temple Association (The Fresno Temple Association was the owner of the existing Masonic Temple located at Van Ness and Merced streets in downtown Fresno) to proceed forthwith toward the dissolution of the Temple Association.

November 20, 1958 "P.M. Richter reported that final dissolution of the Fresno Temple Association would soon be completed as 837 of the stockholders were in unanimity in the decision to dissolve the corporation.. . and that all monies would be returned to the stockholders, but for the minimal expense incurred."

January 8, 1959 after the 1959 officers were installed, but before everybody retired to the banquet room for refreshment and fellowship, "P.M. Moyers presented W.M. Reynolds with a deed to property on which to erect a 'Las Palmas Masonic Hall' – with the express hope that plans can get under way immediately for the erection of such edifice. A standing ovation was accorded our Brother." (This land was the eastern 2 ½ acres of the original offer of land for a joint Masonic Temple.)

The terms of the deed provided that the new Temple must be erected on the site by January 1, 1962. At the January Stated Meeting, a motion was adopted to form a committee to "implement the construction and financing of a Masonic Temple on the property that Las Palmas Lodge now owned." At the February Stated Meeting, the Lodge adopted a resolution to form a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of building and maintaining the new Temple. The draft bylaws of this new corporation were read to the members.

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