

“Needless to emphasize the tragedy of suffering humanity caused by the present world conflagration. As bad, as horrible, as inhuman as the present conflict is, the things to come will be infinitely worse if we do not win. If we fail, it will mean misery, oppression, and slavery not only for us but for our children and generations yet unborn. The enemies of our country, by the very nature of their teachings and ideals, are even more so the enemies of Masonry and its principles.”

The above statement is very appropriate today, however, it was written 73 years ago during the summer of 1942 by then Las Palmas Lodge Master Arthur Lee Hilderbrand in his Trestleboard message to our members.

Recently, Brother Mike Reynolds provided me with some of the Trestleboards that his father received and kept from 1942 through 1945. I have posted them on our website www.lpp366.org Click on the tab on the left side of the page entitled Newsletters 1942 – 2015. You will have to scroll down the index page to click on the appropriate newsletters.

Our Lodge was very busy during WW II with the busiest year being 1945. In his April Trestleboard message, Worshipful Dee Moyer wrote: “We are entering upon the second quarter of the year 1945 with a great deal of work ahead of us, as well as behind us. We have convened Lodge 21 times during the last three months, have conferred 33 first degrees; 30 second degrees and 9 third degrees, and have 83 degrees yet to confer.” On all of our Thursday meetings, except for the Stated Meetings, Lodge opened at 1:00 p.m. and conferred 5 first or second degrees. Lodge then closed and reopened at 7:30 to confer an additional 5 first or second degrees. Multiple third degrees were also conferred on Thursdays as well as on many Saturdays. During his year as Master, Dee Moyer conferred 72 third degrees.

While our Lodge will never be as active as it was in 1945, our Lodge has experienced a tremendous surge in Masonry this year. It has become pleasingly rare for Las Palmas-Ponderosa to just confer one, or even two, first or second degrees in an evening. On one occasion we even raised two men to the sublime degree of Master Mason on the same day. Our Lodge is truly blessed to be so busy. It has been several decades since we had to confer degrees during July and August when we are traditionally Dark. We are also very fortunate to have so many young men as officers and would-be officers. If you have not attended Lodge lately, come back and experience what Las Palmas used to be like when I was a young Mason in the late 1970's.

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