

By 1963 we had been in our new temple for 2 years and Las Palmas was beginning to be strapped for cash due to the mortgage payments for our new Temple. By this time the other Lodges in Fresno had vacated the old Temple and the Temple building had been sold to the Fresno Redevelopment Agency. Las Palmas's problem was caused by the other Masonic bodies in Fresno, with whom we jointly owned the old Masonic Temple in downtown Fresno, refusal to pay Las Palmas our fair share of the money that the Redevelopment Agency paid for the Temple, We had counted on this money to help pay off the mortgage on our new Temple.

In January, 1964 we sought help from Grand Lodge. If we had been paid for our 304 shares of stock, we could have paid off our mortgage. Grand Lodge must not have looked favorably on our request. Perhaps this was because our inspector was Sam Dollar who was a past master of Center Lodge which was a shareholder in the old Temple and Herbert Hargrave was the other inspector in the area and even though he was a past master of Sun Garden Lodge, he knew that Sun Garden desperately need a place to hold their meetings.

I received my first degree in Masonry in the fall of 1967 so by the time I became a member of Las Palmas I could easily see that there were real hard feelings between Las Palmas and the other Lodges in Fresno who had denied us our fair share of revenue from the sale of the old Temple.

One of the teachings of Masonry is to treat others as you would like to be treated. Certainly this was not done here. Were the other Lodges envious of the success that Las Palmas was having, or were they just looking out for themselves so that they could build their own new Temple? We will never know as by now all of the principals involved are no longer with us. Sam Dollar retired as an Inspector in late 1968 while Herbert Hargrave would not retire until a young Grand Master started a rule that he would not reappoint any inspector who had served 10 years or more.

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