

By 1976 I had been back home from law school for 4 years and was the Jr. Deacon. Before Lodge opened and during the breaks, I developed a good friendship with several of the older brethren who were "Lodge Regulars." One was Brother Lawrence Myers. Brother Myers was a semi-retired attorney who practiced out of an office in his home. His home was one of those beautiful homes on the east side of Van Ness Ave. between Belmont and Olive. Brother Myers and I would talk about the practice of law in Fresno long before I became an attorney. One evening, Brother Myers told me that he had been diagnosed with cancer and that the doctors had convinced him to let them do surgery. He had misgivings about the surgery, but finally let the doctors do it. He was absent from Lodge for several weeks and when he returned, he told me that the surgery was a big mistake. Besides the pain from the procedure, he felt that it caused the cancer to spread even faster. Brother Myers, a 50 year member of Las Palmas, died on September 3, 1976.

In 1976 Grand Lodge took place on October 11, 12 & 13. That year, Las Palmas Lodge announced its program for masonic widows, which we believed was the first of its kind in California. The ladies paid their own way on a chartered bus to visit the Home for the elderly at Union City on Monday afternoon. That night they will had dinner together at Mama's, on the ground floor of the apartment complex next to Grand Lodge. They attend the entertainment show at Grand Lodge later that night, where they were introduced as a group and a short resume of our program was told. The ladies returned home Tuesday. Past Master Green L. Young was helping the ladies with their organizational problems. Mrs. Leona Comstock was president and Doris Lewis was secretary of the group.

Some of our Past Masters stay active in Masonry and Las Palmas. It is always interesting to know about them when they first started in the Officer's line. Here is the 1976 bio of Brother John Herring.

**OUR NEW MARSHAL John Herring**

Born in Kansas City, Mo., he was raised in Reedley, California. He attended public schools and graduated from Reedley High and then to Fresno City College. He received his teaching Credentials from University of California at Berkeley thru Calif. State Fresno. He is employed with the Fresno Police Department and has been since 1966. He is currently in Community Relations work for the Department. In addition to the Police work he is also employed by Reedley Junior College as a teacher in the Administration of Justice Department. He has been there for four years. John is married and has three children. His wife, Donna is employed as a bookkeeper for McMahons Furniture. The children, Lisa, 9, John, 6, and Susanne, 2, all attend school in Fowler. The Herring family enjoys camping, water skiing and travel in general. They also raise beef cattle and

horses at their home in the country. The Herring family is involved in the Masonic family. Donna is the Worthy Matron of La Sierra Chapter No. 555 O.E.S. John is also a member and is a trustee of the chapter.

Brother Herring is still active as he is the President of the Las Palmas Temple Board. Several years ago he was our Grand Orator. How many of you remember McMahons Furniture?

Some of us old timers may remember that when Brother Moyers gave us the 2 ½ acres for our beautiful temple in 1958, he retained the remaining 2 ½ acres to the west. Brother Moyers died in 1970 and we do not know who got title to this vacant land. In December, 1976 Master Dan Eckland informed us the property next to the Lodge (West Side) is trying to get it rezoned in order that it can be sold to a developer for an apartment house (Multi story) complex. The plan was to build a 42 unit multi-story set of apartments on the site. The plan had met with very stiff opposition from the surrounding neighbors and the vote taken at the last meeting of the Planning Commission was 3 for and 3 against with one abstention. This meant it would go before the City Council to be resolved. Obviously, we know that the City Council did.