

In his December, 1985 Trestleboard message, WM Larry Duba informed us that Las Palmas was doing better than the trend in California to loose members. Our net memberships only decreased by 5 members while our Grand Lodge of California and Hawaii had decreased by approximately 7,000. By January of 1986, we had over 800 members in our Lodge.

Brother Duba currently has two friends who received their first degree on September 28th. Brother Duba delivered the charge at the end of their initiation.

In his February, 1986 Trestleboard message, SW Jim Hall talked about his attendance at our Grand Lodge annual communication the prior October. "A decision by the Grand Master of Masons in California and Hawaii and a decision by the Grand Lecturer of Masons in California and Hawaii were overridden by a vote of the membership. Think of it Brethren! Decisions by the two most powerful men in our organization were nullified by a vote of the lay membership. It reaffirmed the fact that Freemasonry is not a fraternity governed by the rich and powerful but rather by its membership."

On February 13, 1986 Las Palmas had an "All Proficiency Examination Night". Lodge must have opened on the 3rd degree and then dropped down to the second and then first degrees so that candidates could give their proficiencies in all three degrees. Back then there was only the long form. Back then, as well as now, up to 5 candidates can be examined in their degree at the same time. Back then, multiple candidates giving their proficiencies was common, today it is rarely done.

On April 21, 1986 there was a Candidates Coaches School of Instruction, 7:30 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Temple. All candidates' coaches were required to attend in order that they could see the proficiencies exemplified and have any questions answered. Back then it truly was a mouth to ear experience. The GL approved cyphers were not adopted in California until 2003.

As a candidates coach, I do not know if they cyphers help or hinder our candidates, but for those members who coach, they do reduce the learning of errors in our work by our candidates. With a cypher, the coaches can impart the correct words to the candidates.

On May 10, 1986 we had a Cribbage Tournament at the Lodge. Breakfast was served at 8:00 a.m.