

I will jump to 1979 as this was the year that Bobby Bingham was our Master. Brother Bobby got his degrees in Las Palmas Lodge in 1969 and in 1972 he was appointed Marshall by then Master, Ralph Saroyan. At that time, Marshall was the start of the officer's line. Brother Bingham passed away on September 21, 2019 at the age of 84.



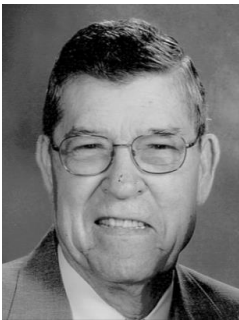
Brother Bingham was a Lieutenant with the Fresno Police Department. I had the pleasure of serving Brother Bobby as his Sr. Warden. The last time that I saw Brother Bobby in Lodge was for the funeral of Past Master John Reynolds which was in February of 2018.

Brother Bobby was a quiet person who accomplished a lot. He had guest speakers at many of our Stated Meeting dinners. For the March Stated Meeting dinner, 230 meals were served. In April, we and our dates filled two Greyhound busses and went to the old Columbia Masonic Temple to confer a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. Also in April, he invited the Las Palmas DeMolay Chapter to confer a DeMolay degree on one of our regular Lodge nights so all of our members could witness a DeMolay degree. Although the nights where we conferred 4 or 5 first or second degrees were dwindling, he did raise twelve brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason.



A personal high for Brother Bingham's career in the Fresno Police Department was on March 22, 1976 when then President Gerald R. Ford visited Fresno. Brother Bingham was in charge of the Presidential motorcade. Gerald Ford was our last President to be a Master Mason.

We lost another Past Master on October 15 when Clovis Lodge's Master, in 1970, Ray Shilling passed away at the age of 90. Brother Shilling took his degrees of Masonry in 1965 in Clovis Lodge. When I was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in Las Palmas Lodge in November of 1967, I had a friend who was gracious enough to take me to First and Second Degrees being conferred by the other Lodges in the Fresno-Clovis area. I probably saw more First and Second Degrees at Clovis Lodge than I did at Las Palmas before I was raised in Las Palmas in April of 1968. During these visits to Clovis Lodge, I got well acquainted with several of their officers, including Ray Shilling.



I remember Ray telling me that he had been a sheet metal worker for 20 years before becoming the Business Agent for his local Sheet Metal Workers Union. He was very active in Union affairs and I also remember hearing him several times being interviewed on local radio station. Ray took a demit from Clovis Lodge in 2011.