

The WW II War Years Part 3 The Busiest Years of Las Palmas Lodge

In early 1944 WM Edwin Munn Fornes started a new practice. Lodge would open at 1 p.m. and confer the first & second parts of the 3rd degree. Lodge would not close, but would be called to refreshment and then at labor in either the first or second degree at 4 or 6 p.m. for a single first or second degree and then Lodge would resume work in the 3rd degree at 7:30 for another 3rd degree and to lecture the first candidate for the 3rd degree conferred that afternoon. Lodge must not have closed until close to 11 p.m. that night.

At the April, 1944 stated meeting there were 14 petitions for degrees. In November of that year there were 16 petitions. In December there were 10 petitions for degrees and 2 applications for affiliation. In this same month, seven PG&E employees received their 3rd degrees.

Saturday 10/7/1944 Lodge opened at 6:45 am and Bro Frank Lerrigo was obligated, Lodge went to refreshment for breakfast at 7:30 am and at 8:30 am Lodge went back to Labor to raise Bro. Lerrigo. In 1944 Las Palmas Lodge raised 47 new Masons.

In March of 1945 the secretary's salary was increased to \$175 per month expense, an increase of \$50 per month. It was made retroactive to January, 1945. In today's dollars that would be \$2300.00.

On April 12, 1945 Lodge opened at 1 p.m. and 3 candidates were obligated in the 3rd degree, one was raised and at 7:30 Lodge resumed with the announcement of the death of President Roosevelt. The two candidates that were not raised earlier in the day were then raised by Brethren in the field of education. One of these candidates was Paul Chandler Shelly who would become our Lodge organist for many years.

May, 1945 The Secretary read a letter from the director of the 7th war loan drive asking for the co-operation of the Lodge.

Mid 1945 There was much talk about selling the existing Masonic Temple so that a new and larger temple could be constructed.

July 1945 stated meeting "A communication from the Grand Master, dated June 25 relative to the Communication of Grand Lodge being abandoned this year was read."

September 13,1945 after conferring the 3rd degree of Masonry on 3 brothers, "Bro. Alex McLeod, a member of Las Palmas Lodge now a Lt. General in the Norwegian Air Forces visited Lodge for the first time in 15 years and was escorted to a seat in the East and responded briefly, expressing his happiness in again visiting his Lodge."

WWI brought many new men into Masonry. During the early months of 1917 it was not uncommon to have 6 or 7 new petitions for degrees read at the stated meeting. WW II did the same. In 1945, WM T. D. Moyer raised 72 new Masons.

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