

Up until September my article talked about Las Palmas Lodge and the need for a new Masonic Temple in Fresno. For several decades attempts were made to jointly build a Masonic Temple to house all of the Masonic Bodies in Fresno (except for Scottish Rite which had its own temple). These joint efforts had not come to fruition and in January, 1959 Las Palmas Lodge ventured out on its own. I was initiated, passed and raised in the New Las Palmas Temple in 1967 and 1968. As a young Mason, I was privy to several old timers who were happy to tell me the reasons that a joint temple was not built and the animosities that developed between the other Lodges in Fresno and Las Palmas once we built our own temple. Stay tuned as I convey to you some of these stories in future articles.

At the July 21, 1960 Stated Meeting, Worshipful Master Dart announced that a contract had been let to Harris Construction Company for the building of our new Temple – at a cost of \$175,958.00. In today's dollars that would be \$1,350,000.00. At the August 18, 1960 Stated Meeting it was announced that the Grand Master would lay the corner stone for our new Temple on September 17.

At the November, 1960 Stated Meeting the Secretary was directed to notify the Fresno Temple Association that Las Palmas Lodge would no longer be tenants of the present Temple after December 31, 1960. The Organ Committee consisting of Organist Paul Shelly and Coyle Chambers was authorized to expend not more than \$3,000 for the purchase of a Hammond, Church Console Electric Organ for our new Temple. At the December, 1960 Stated meeting a motion was made to change the regular meeting place of Las Palmas Lodge from 2030 Merced Street to 2992 E. Clinton.

On December 29, 1960 Las Palmas Lodge convened for the purpose of conferring the second degree of Masonry upon Brothers Robert Shiner, Gerald Littrell, Jack Heitzig and John Alexander. "As the closing ceremony, Worshipful Master Dart ordered the Junior Deacon to inform the Tyler that Lodge was closed, and further ordered him to tell the Tyler to vacate the premises, first gathering together all paraphernalia belonging to Las Palmas, preparatory to transporting it to our New Temple to be in readiness for the opening of our Lodge next Thursday, January 5, 1961. The closing gavel was quite resounding – and marked the end of Las Palmas tenancy in the Temple."

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