

In 1972, WM-elect Phil Lewis asked me if I wanted to be appointed to the Las Palmas Officers line. After checking with Therese and my then employer, I told Brother Phil "yes". Because the election of officers in Masonic Lodges back then was in December, our installation was not until January 6, 1973. The first position in the line was that of Marshall.

At this time, an installation was a well-attended event. Besides all of the seats that are on the sides of the Lodge room, folding chairs were brought in and placed on the floor between the altar and Sr. Warden. Since Brother Phil Lewis was a florist, the Lodge room and Banquet room were filled with beautiful flowers.

I remember standing in the preparation room ready to enter the Lodge when Brother Dan Ecklund, who was waiting to be installed as Sr. Deacon, asked me if I was ready to be the Marshall and if I had memorized the part in the first degree as well as the first degree charge. I said, that was easy, I then jokingly said that I was actually working on memorizing the third degree lecture. Brother Dan gave me the dirtiest look.

While the ritual for the Installation back in 1973 was about the same as it is today, there was one difference. As the individual officers were introduced for their installation, the chairs that they have been seated in were removed by DeMolay members so that when it got down to the installation of the Master, he was sitting alone in front of the altar with no empty chairs in front of him.

The installation organist was Brother Coyle Chambers who played a song that was appropriate for each officer as he was installed. I remember that for the Secretary, Brother Coyle played "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter." For me, being an attorney, he played "Lies, Lies, Lies."