

Last month I told you how busy Las Palmas was in 1967. Two days (Saturday) after I and three others were initiated, Las Palmas opened at 10 a.m. in the morning so it could confer the third degree upon three brothers who were all educators. While all of the Las Palmas officers were present, the degrees were conferred by members of other Lodges who were all educators. About 60 brothers were present for the occasion. "Lodge closed at approximately 3 p.m."

The following Thursday evening a degree team consisting of State employees conferred a 3rd degree on Brother Cecil Mac Farland. One week later Brother Loy Leo Earles was raised a Master Mason by the Greyhound Bus Lines degree team. (Brother Earles passed away this last March having been a member of Las Palmas for 49 years.) I haven't seen a candidate's occupational degree team confer a degree in many decades. Things were definitely different 50 years ago.

Another difference 50 years ago was that the election of officers was held in December, not in November like it is now done. Just before the election of officers, the "steam roller" talk was given by Past Master Dan Winters. The purpose of the "steam roller" talk was to explain to the brothers the usual smoothness of elections at Las Palmas as symbolized by the steam roller. This presentation was instituted in 1928 as it was not uncommon in other Lodges in the area to let a brother serve as a Warden and then not nominate, nor elect him to the next office. Las Palmas was above this practice and the "steam roller" speech was to remind the brethren of this fact before they voted. Today the "steam roller" speech is not given before the election of officers, but instead is given at the Installation of Officers. While it is acceptable to give it at the Installation, I would like to also see it given at the time and place as originally intended.

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