



The Las Palmian

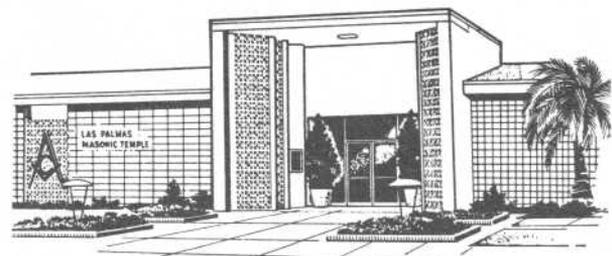
FRATERNAL ORGAN

of

*Las Palmas Lodge, No. 366
F. & A. M.*



December 1985



LAS PALMAS MASONIC TEMPLE
2992 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93703
Ph. 268-2303

From the East:

Brethren and Ladies:



After eight years of serving you as an officer of Las Palmas Lodge, it is with mixed emotions that I will soon leave the Officers Corps. I will however, join the honorable and dedicated Past Masters Corps. It has been an honor to serve you, and with the help of the Officers, Committeemen, Past Masters, Side Liners, and our Dates, we have been able to work together and "Help Masonry Survive Beyond 85".

Upon completion of the Calendar Year, I will summarize the results of our year, however I will make some comments now. The net membership has decreased by approximately 5 members. The Grand Lodge jurisdiction of California and Hawaii has decreased by approximately 7,000 members. We have done relatively well considering the world-wide trend. Probably the best way to impress others about the merits in becoming a Mason is to live in a manner which is above reproach, compassionate and charitable in human affairs and by being an emissary in representing our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity in positive and visible ways to others.

Participation in our activities seems to be one of the greatest challenges. This year we have had a variety of activities which were designed to appeal to you, and give everyone an opportunity to invite the non-Mason to one or more of our social activities. By proper exposure to our tenets of Masonry put into practice, the non-Mason will be more inclined to ask how he may join. I feel these opportunities were missed to a great degree. The buses on two trips were one-half to one-third empty, the fishing trip had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, and only eight people out of approximately 35 people who had signed up for the All Masonic Invitational Golf Tournament attended. The officers should provide the support to the Master that they expect to receive when they are Master. The members should support the Officers Corps which is working so diligently for the benefits of Masonry in general and for Las Palmas Lodge in particular. I have found through life that it is not so important what we did yesterday, but what we are doing today and tomorrow for the benefit of our families and mankind.

I wish to take this opportunity to more formally thank my loving wife Alice. Without her 100% support, serving the Lodge would have been less enjoyable and less productive for the benefit of Masonry. Thank You Dear!

In addition, I would like to thank Worshipful W. Ford, P.M., who appointed me to Marshal and to his loving and supportive family. This wonderful experience would not have been possible without Paul's coaching, guidance and Brotherly love.

In conclusion, let me express my appreciation to all who have supported Masonry in the past and during the year. The future looks brighter, due to the strong and professional Corps of Officers which will be representing us next year. Please remember that I love each one of you!

Fraternally
Larry L. Duba
Master

From the West

Brethren:

Fraternal greetings from the West.

Sunday, November the 17th, will go down in history as the blackest day ever recorded in football. The Dallas Cowboys were shut out by the Chicago Bears 44 to zip.

The only thing that could be worse is being in the middle of the lake fishing and discovering that you left the drain plug to the boat back on the pickup seat.

Hats off to Brother Whitey Owen for his splendid effort in putting on our first annual golf tournament. Even though the attendance was down, it will not dampen our spirits for next year. To Bro. Whitey, his crew, and to the people who played, our hats are off to all of you. Bro. Whitey put so much of himself into this project he was too ill to see his son raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brother Whitey, thanks from us to you.

During the past month we have visited Lodges all over the Valley. The Fraternal friendship and brotherly love that was extended to us by those Lodge brothers was fantastic.

The Holiday Season is here again and from the Denton Family to yours, we wish you the very happiest of Holidays.

For some people this is a sad time of year, those



that are shut in or have no family. Remember someone this Holiday Season and give them the gift of a warm handshake and some warm conversation. The gift you give will last all year in your heart. Try and share your good fortune with those a little less fortunate. Peace on earth and good will toward all mankind.

Happy Holidays.

Fraternally,
John L. Denton
Senior Warden

P.S. Dallas may be down and may seem to be on the way out; Not True, Superbowl all the way.

From the South

Brethren:

In September we had the privilege of escorting Bro. Herbert Johnson to Columbia where he received his Master Mason degree. As we sat in Lodge surrounded by Masonic Artifacts over a century old, our thoughts went back to that time when this town was at its peak and what living there must have been like. One could easily imagine the heat, cold, rain and snow the men endured. The fights, killings, claim jumping, dirt and mud that was a part of daily living. Yet among all this discomfort and confusion there was a bright spot. Many of these men were Masons and though they had to meet on the top of hills and in caves to maintain Masonic Secrecy and used Masonic Jewels carved from wood, they were able to partake of that most valuable commodity, Masonic Communication, with their brethren. They could, for a few hours a month, be among men with whom they could relax. They were with men who could be trusted, not only with their personal possessions but with their very lives. It is small wonder that Masonic Lodges were formed early in the days of the Gold Rush in California.

Today, fortunately, our lives are much safer. We live at a time when we have few needs that are not met. Yet confusion still is a part of our lives just as it was of those Masons of the 1840's and 50's. By God's Good Grace we still have a place to go where peace and harmony prevail. Where Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are the very cornerstones of its existence. It can be found at the same place our Masonic Brothers of



yesteryear found it, at our Masonic Lodge.

Congratulations to Brothers Dennis Keran and John Schmidt on becoming Entered Apprentice Maons. Congratulations also to Bros. Lawrence Owen, George Forrester and Bruce Sims on being raised to the degree of Master Mason.

Fraternally
Jim Hall
Junior Warden

Calendar — December 1985

- 2 Widows Club Luncheon — YWCA 1:00 p.m.
- 3 Las Palmas DeMolay Advisory 7:30 p.m.
Council Meeting
- 4 Las Palmas DeMolay Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Visitation Sun Garden Lodge #530 . 7:30 p.m.
Fresno Temple
- 7 Las Palmas DeMolay Chirstmas Tree Lot
opens (S.W. corner of Cedar and Gettysburg)
- 12 2nd Degree - James D. Morgan 7:30 p.m.
1st Degree Education Class — All . . 7:30 p.m.
Entered Apprentice Masons are requested
to attend (Club Room)
- 17 Las Palmas Temple Assn. Meeting . 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Las Palmas DeMolay Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Stated Meeting Dinner with 6:30 p.m.
Our Dates. — Menu: Pork Roast \$6.00
per person. Reservation deadline:
5 p.m. Dec. 17th. Santa Claus will be present.
Necrology, Jim F. Kleinknight, P.M.,
Chmn. 7:15 p.m.
Ladies Program: Cookie and Recipe
Exchange, by Mrs. Jean Denton. Bring 2
doz. of your favorite cookies along with the
recipe.
Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Dark—Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!
- Jan.**
- 2 Officers School of Instruction 7:30 p.m.
First Degree
- 6 Las Palmas Widows Club Luncheon . . 1 p.m.
- 9 Officers Installation Practice 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Las Palmas Installation 7:30 p.m.

MASONIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

OUR GREAT LIGHT IN MASONRY

Did you ever wonder when you look upon the Holy Bible gracing our Altar in Lodge, or on your desk or table at home, or when you read it — what is the history of this Great Book — the Rule and Guide of our Faith? When was it put together as we know it? Was it always available to the populace to read, study, and better themselves? were there ever problems involved to make it as universal as it is?

Let's take a look — the answers to these questions will probably astound you as they did me.

First, as to when. Well, it sure didn't grace the Altar in King Solomon's Temple — for that was 1004 BC, and they only had the "Book of the Law", written by Moses, which he ordered to be placed inside the Ark of the Covenant. It was what was to become the "Pentateuch", or first five books of the Old Testament, and even it was lost for a period of about 500 years. The earliest standard version of Old Testament Books was made by the Jews at a council in Judea about 100 AD. By 150 AD it had been translated to the Greek but few copies were made available as they were all hand lettered one copy at a time. So, even though Christ quoted from works in the Old Testament, it must have been from separate Books or Scrolls which were later assembled into the Old Testament.

The Books of the New Testament, covering activities and writings of the period 29 to 96 AD were not assembled as such until the 4th century AD, though parts of it were in use in Rome about 180 AD.

Then there were problems by religious factions in accepting the works before they were combined into a complete Bible with both Testaments. There were wars and conflicts related to it during the period and the earliest complete Bible as we know it is thought to have appeared after 1000 AD, a period of over 600 years. Keep in mind that then the most of those who could read, especially Latin or Greek, were professional scribes and the clergy — that most of the populace could know only as much of the Bible as was told them. By the 1300's, many versions and translations into other languages were made, but still only in the hands of the clergy and nobility — so probably even

Columbus didn't have a copy with him in 1492. Prior to the 14th century the only complete Bibles in England were in Latin text used by the clergy. The first full translation to English was done by religious reformer John Wycliffe in 1384, but for 75 years only manuscript copies were available. In 1524, Wm. Tyndale, a critic of the Roman Catholic Church, completed his translated version of the New Testament. As he was under oppression of the R.C. Church, he had it printed in Germany and copies smuggled into England. He likewise in 1530 translated a part of the Old Testament, and for his labors, was imprisoned, tortured, and in 1536, put to death, as were several of his associates. His body, with confiscated copies of his work were burned to ashes by the order of King Henry VIII and Emperor Charles V. In 1540 the Roman Party gained so much strength in England that Parliament was influenced to pass laws abolishing Tyndale's version, and the King's Proclamation forbade having or reading Wycliffe, Tyndale, or Cloverdale Bibles under punishment of death.

Incidentally, the "Gutenberg Bible," one of the first printed, 1456, was in Latin text and not available to nor usable by the populace.

In 1582, the R.C. Church in England yielded to popular demand relaxing the prohibition and in 1606 King James I, ordered a complete translation based on the works of Tyndale and Wycliffe and available ancient texts, which was completed in 1611, printed and distributed to the populace who by this time, many had learned to read. Although King James intended to decree it THE version for the Church of England, that was unnecessary as it became immensely popular by public acclaim, much to the consternation of the R.C. Church. The "King James Version" is the basis for the "American Standard Version", either of which most of us now have. So — though the activities and writings contained in our Bible are 1,800 to nearly 3,000 years old, the Bible as we know it is only 375 years old. Bro. George Washington's Bible at Valley Forge was only 165 years old.

So — with all this time and strife to put our Bible on our Altar, and in our hands, let's give the "Greatest Book Ever Written" the respect it deserves, and use it more often.

ENJOY!

Ed Carpenter, P.M.
Co-Chairman I&E Committee