



*The  
Las Palmian*

FRATERNAL ORGAN

of

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



April 1986



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

## *From the East:*

Brethren and Ladies:

Fraternal greetings from the East

It is hard to believe that it is already the first day of Spring. Time is an elusive creature, you turn around and you missed it, slipped away, not to be recovered. People sometimes say I take too much time and others say I don't take enough. Sometimes I need more and sometimes I have too much. It always seems that when I need it, I don't have enough and vice-versa. Some say spring forward and fall back, seems like I do the opposite. Spring is the time that we are reminded that life will again spring forth and time will always keep things in proper perspective and in order. I often wondered what I would do differently if I could bloom each year, starting fresh, and then it dawned on me, that each day I do start over with the chance to be better than the day before.

Spring is also the time of year people start planning their vacations. I have some friendly advice if you plan to visit the great state of Texas. First, always say "Howdy" to anyone who says "Howdy" to you. Secondly, avoid anything a Texan says is a little spicy, and finally above all else, don't mention Alaska.

None of the above really has anything whatsoever to do with Lodge business but I figured on such a beautiful spring day, who really has the time to worry about work.

Brother Bob Paden just called and woke me up. Time to go back to work!

Layman's night is coming up on May 8, 1986. We will have a very informative guest speaker for the evening and I invite each one of you to bring a prospective member to dinner. Mark it down on your calendars and start making your reservations early. We need to keep our membership growing with good men.

The Lodge bus trip to Covina has been cancelled. I think maybe it was too far to travel; anyway, we are planning a nice trip to Hormitas Lodge for a 3° and BBQ. If you are interested call Bro. Bob Paden at the Lodge. We will car pool up and back and share the food (BBQ) expenses. Hope you can make it. We will leave the Lodge around 8 A.M., have breakfast along the way, BBQ at Hormitas for lunch, and have a 3° for Bro. John Schmidt: All Master Masons are invited to at-



tend. If you don't have transportation there will be plenty of room for you to go with us. Remember April 19th.

Don't forget May 18th. We will honor our Hiram Award recipient. We will also have a Hawaiian Luau with all the trimmings, even dancers from the Fresno Dance Company. Make reservations early, please.

Enough of my long winded article, by the time you finish reading this article it will be time for a snack and a nap.

The one good thing about my article is that we only have one commercial break.

Las Palmas Lodge meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. See you at Lodge!  
Fore!!

Fraternally  
John Denton  
Master

## *From the West*

Brethren:

Last August your present Master, Junior and Senior Wardens, three Past Masters and several brothers from Las Palmas attended a special gathering of Masons in Redding, California. It was one of the rare out-door degree ceremonies to be performed in this area. Several thousand members assembled to observe the Oklahoma Indian Masonic Team perform the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.) version of the Third Degree. We arrived at the meeting place about 5 p.m. and were fed a steak dinner. At 7:30 p.m. the ceremony commenced and lasted until 11 p.m. It was a wonderful evening filled with fun, fellowship and Masonic Brotherhood. Your Senior Warden was, however, most impressed with what he didn't see. What no one observed was drunkenness, fighting, arguments, and rudeness. Not once among those several thousand men did we witness the least sign of poor behavior. The often used phrase "we met in the manner of Masons" was truly made apparent to every man there. Each of us left that assemblage proud to call ourselves Masons.

Fraternally,  
Jim Hall, S.W.



## From the South



Brethren:

**FLASH** — Change for April 19th trip to Southern California. New plans are for a one day trip to The Masonic Lodge at Hornitos. This is an old Gold mining town near Mariposa. We are planning to meet at our Lodge parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and car pool to Hornitos. We will have lunch and put on the 3<sup>o</sup> early afternoon. We should be back to our Lodge in Fresno before 5:00 p.m.

Please plan to go. The Lodge at Hornitos is quite historic and has much of the original furnishings.

Our candidate will be John Schmidt.

Fraternally  
Charles Alstrom  
Junior Warden

## Secretary's Corner



Recently a member contacted the lodge office to learn his standing in the Lodge. He had been suspended for non-payment of dues two years ago. We had repeatedly sent reminders for almost two years and they were either ignored or thrown

away without reading.

We learned the member had undergone a series of operations and was in and out of the hospital several times. Not knowing this, the lodge voted to suspend him. If he or his wife had bothered to call the lodge office we could have probably helped him over his rough times without losing any of his membership time.

Masonic lodges are charitable organizations and take care of members the same as communities do for their financially disabled. We have several members on our list now who have had their dues remitted because of hard times and financial reverses. No need to be otherwise. Just let us know.

A number of applications for degrees have been issued to various members over several months. There must have been some sort of in-

dications a friend was seeking membership. If you have given one to some person who was interested and have not received it back, now is the time to contact him and find out what is holding it up.

It is permissible to urge a person to get with it and fill out the form because he has already asked for it. Probably needs a little coaxing to get it filled out and back in. The lodge officers are looking for something to do on quiet nights. The prospect will be receiving a favor if you push him a little.

Better not wait until the lodge decides to increase the fees and contributions. Then we will have a disappointed friend and he may never apply again.

Bob Paden, Secretary

## Calendar — April 1986

- 3 1<sup>o</sup> School of Instruction for the 416th Masonic District. All Lodge Officers are required to attend, and all 1<sup>o</sup> members (Entered Apprentices) are urged to attend. Las Palmas is the Host Lodge at 7:30 p.m. We will also be exemplifying the 1<sup>o</sup> proficiency.
- 10 1<sup>o</sup> Mr. Charles E. Erickson, Retired PG&E. All are invited, especially the PG&E Masons.
- 17 Stated Meeting. Public Schools Observance program. Official visit of the 416th Masonic District Inspector, Worshipful Charles E. Bersani. Dinner with our dates with a ladies program will be presented in the club room by Jean Denton.
- 19 3<sup>o</sup> at Hornitos Lodge, 2:00 p.m. All Master Masons are cordially invited to join us. We will car pool to Hornitos and cook BBQ steaks at the Lodge. Brother John Schmidt will receive the Master Mason's degree.
- 21 Candidates Coaches School of Instruction, 7:30 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Temple. All candidates coaches are required to attend in order that you may see the proficiencies exemplified and to have any questions you may have answered at that time.
- 24 Lodge Dark. Lodge observance of Public Schools Week.
- 25 Public Schools Awards Dinner at Hoover High School, 7:00 p.m. 5550 North Furst Street. Tickets are now on sale by all the Lodge Officers. Please prebuy your tickets

by calling the Lodge or contacting one of the Lodge Officers. Price is \$8.50 per person. Come out and support your Public Schools and these talented students.

### **Masonic Information and Education**

#### **“Making a Mason at Sight”**

Several of our Brethren have asked about the procedure of “Making a Mason at Sight” — so here is a brief explanation:

The term, “Making A Mason At Sight”, refers to the authority granted Grand Masters in Landmark Eighth of the 25 “Landmarks of the Unwritten Law”, found on page 21 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of California and Las Palmas Lodge booklet which you received on becoming a Master Mason.

The term “Making a Mason at Sight”, may be misleading to some, and contrary to the suspicions of others, as to the brevity of the ceremony. There is no evidence of Making a Mason at Sight, by a Grand Master’s simple declaration or a brief resume of the degree(s) ritual. Most have been done by compressing time for the degrees into one day, or two or three consecutive days - after proper petition and election to receive the degrees in a lodge. Then the standard ritual is performed, with the dispensation waiving only the time for proficiency, or location, or date being other than in by-laws. Upon the Grand Master’s dispensation to permit these waivers, he usually presides as Worshipful Master, conferring the degree(s) in regular form.

Masonic records show that this prerogative of Grand Masters is used with utmost descretion, only when the elements of time, place, or ability to be present, preclude abiding by prescribed rules, regulations, by-laws, etc. In fact, only one Grand Master in California Grand Lodge has used this privilege, and that was in 1852, when the Jurisdiction was only two years old, on two petitioners. The circumstances on the second one were questionable and objections were raised. No California Grand Master has exercised the procedure since then. While 25 Grand Jurisdictions in the United States have at some time or other Made Masons At Sight, only 17 have done so in the 20th century, and only 4 have a consistent pattern of doing so in recent years. They are, District of Columbia, Florida, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. To date, about 200 in-

stances of Making A Mason At Sight in the Unites States have been recorded.

Seldom, if ever, has the provision, “by unanimous consent of the members present”, nor regular petition and election procedure been waived. The major element of variation is time — like in modern days, when time is at a premium and some worthy men move so fast they have no permanent roots, and the need for special dispensation has become acute — as in the case of then Senator John Glenn (the astronaut) who had petitioned and been elected in 1964, and while the Senator was serving all over the world, the right time never showed up — So finally the Grand Master of Ohio in 1973 issued the appropriate dispensation for him to receive all the degrees in one day in 1978. Another example is the experience of General Douglas MacArthur, who in 1936, while Commander of the Army in the Phillipines, was Made A Mason At Sight by the Grand Master of the Phillipines.

Occasionally a worthy ill brother having already received the first and second degrees, has benefited from this procedure on his death bed in a hospital by becoming a Master Mason before his demise. However, Dwight D. Eisenhower had applied for the degrees while President of Columbia University but upon his nomination as President of the United States two weeks later, he asked that the petition be withheld. After the Presidency, he reapplied, but failing health held up further action, and as his petition had not been received and voted upon, he was Made a Mason At Sight in the hospital.

Some other well known men who were Made Masons At Sight, include: 1824, Marquis De Lafayette (legendary?); 1941, Gen. George C. Marshall; 1909, William H. Taft; 1920, Warren G. Harding; 1928, Andrew W. Mellon; 1946, Gen. Wainright; and 1966, Wallace M. Schirra.

For further clarification, please read, “Making A Mason At Sight” by Louis L. Williams, Illinois Lodge of Research, 1983, from which most of the facts given here were found. A copy may be read in the Fresno Scottish Rite Library, where Brother Bill Wharton is the librarian. Ask him and he will get it out for you.

ENJOY!!

Ed Carpenter, PM  
Co-Chairman  
Las Palmas I & E Committee