



# The Las Palmian

of

## Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge #366, F&AM



December 1992

### From the East:

Brethren,

This time of year is for me, a time of seriously mixed emotions. I will be stepping down from the East as Master of the lodge on January 10, 1993. As I reflect on the lodge year for 1992 I am extremely pleased with our accomplishments on the one hand but am nagged by the feeling that we could have done "better" on the other. I can vividly remember the peace and quiet I felt as a "side liner" when as an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft or a Master Mason I sought the lodge room every Thursday night as a refuge from the pressures and uncalled for confusion of the business world. Those early peaceful moments I will never forget.



How can I possibly begin to thank by name those who have so unselfishly sustained me through this last year as Master. The names are endless; their duties range from major to minor. I find great comfort in the words of a famous Masonic writer: "Freemasonry simplicity, its dignity and its spirituality sustain me in all that I try to do, and permit me to forget the incredible pettiness of mind that we sometimes encounter sustaining and enabling me to join hands with my Brethren everywhere to do something, if it be only a little, to make a gentler, kinder and wiser world in which to live."

One person I will thank by name, that of my wife Patricia, who has stood by me and supported me as I tried to steer a democratic course for the good of the lodge during the past year. Your incoming corps of officers are terrific! They are all men of action. The gavel will be passed to these brothers who will take this lodge to new heights. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Respectfully  
Don Scott, W.M.

### From the West:

Brethren,

As the holiday season approaches I find myself reflecting with gratitude for all the blessings which God has bestowed upon me, and perplexed by rapid manner by which time seems to escape me. I wish to thank all my brothers for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me Master for the ensuing Masonic Year. I promise that I will serve to the best of my ability and do my best to uphold the fine tradition of our Lodge.



As the new year approaches our fraternity continues to be faced with a decline and aging of our membership. I find it hard to believe that we have reached a time when men no longer value or are committed to our values. I feel our problem may be more one lack of public exposure for the many fine works which we do. This year it is my goal to try to make the fraternity more visible in the community and to expand our Lodge's participation in worthwhile projects. I have been working closely with Jonathan Higgans and Frank Gann, the Masters Elect from Fresno and Clovis Lodges, and I look forward to many joint functions during the next year. Both of these brothers are enthusiastic in their efforts and dedicated to Masonry and their Lodges and will do much to promote Masonry. Our first joint function will be a MASONIC INFORMATION NIGHT PROGRAM to be held at the Scottish Rite Temple

in Fresno, on Friday, January 22. Reverend Robert Winterton, who was the Grand Chaplain for Grand Master Sam Pavlovich will be our speaker. He is one of the finest speakers which it had been my pleasure to hear and he will inform and inspire any prospective members and help awaken the fire in all of us. I hope each of you will look around at the men you know, who you feel would make fine Masons, and invite them to be your guest at this program. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner will be \$8:00 for Masons and their wives and free to all prospective members.

I hope each of you will join me in making 1993 a time of Masonic recognition and growth, and start by making this Masonic Information Night a success.

Fraternally  
Randy Forrester  
Master Elect

### From the South

Brethren,

I would like to thank the brothers for their vote of confidence by electing me Senior Warden for next year. I hope I can live up to the expectations required of me in this office.



The season is upon us for joy and thanksgiving. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday with family and friends. If you are traveling this time of year please be extra careful and give yourself enough time to get there safely.

If you are going on the cruise—please return the questionnaire to Bairds Travel on your seating and dining arrangements. Bairds needs them as soon as possible for the cruise is coming sooner than you think.

Fraternally  
"Tip" Banks, Jr. W.

### Ladies Program — December 17, 1992

Madeline Davidson, food editor for The Fresno Bee, will speak on a variety of subjects pertaining to food. Please come and join us!

Pat Scott

P.S. Thank you for the support you have shown me by attending the programs over the past two years.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.

### From the Secretary

When you sit down to pay your 1993 Dues, please remember the Masonic Homes. Without the donations from the members, it would be almost impossible to keep these beautiful homes open. One of these days we ourselves may want to move there. It would be a shame if and when that time comes the homes were closed for lack of our donations. Yes times are bad. However they are worse on our Sisters and Brothers who depend on our donations to survive. Please give to the homes it will be appreciated.

**Lodge Calendar**  
DECEMBER

- Thurs. Dec. 3 Officers Practice
- Thurs. Dec. 10** Officers Practice
- Tues. Dec. 15** Las Palmas Building Assoc. Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Card Room
- Thurs. Dec. 17** L.P.P. Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m. —  
Flag Presentation, Necrology, Cer-  
tificates of Appreciation.  
Dinner 6:30 p.m. Santa Claus  
Reservations please.  
Ladies Program
- Thurs. Dec. 24** **DARK — CHRISTMAS EVE**
- Thurs. Dec. 31** **DARK — NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Notice**

At the November 19, 1992 Stated meeting. There were 48 members present. The DUES increase was APPROVED unanimously. There were 48 Yes and 0 No votes. The 1993 DUES will be \$60.00 per annum. The LIFE MEMBERSHIP WAS increased to \$1,260.00. This is in accordance with the By-Laws of the Lodge. The life membership is 21, x the annual dues.

**1993 Officers Elected and Appointed**

- Master ..... Randy Forester
- Senior Warden ..... Tip Banks
- Junior Warden ..... Bill Yelkin
- Senior Deacon ..... Cub Jack
- Junior Deacon ..... Ralph Medeiros
- Senior Steward ..... George Cary
- Junior Steward ..... John Bjorge
- Marshall ..... Dean Philps
- Tiler ..... Tom Pendergraft
- Secretary ..... Marvin Wallace
- Treasurer ..... Larry Hopper
- Chaplain ..... Bill Ennis

**Why, Where and How of AF & AM and F & AM**

The question has popped up again, for the "umpteenth" time. It was after the Lay-man's Night Program. Several of the Brethren asked. It has been answered before, guess it didn't sink in. The question is on course, "why is there AF & AM and F & AM?"

First let's set the stage for an extremely important period in masonic history. In 1751, the Premier Grand Lodge, formed in 1717, was beginning to be criticized, ridiculed and severely blamed for adulterating masonic traditions and altering the proper conduct of the work according to the old traditions. It is true the Premier Grand Lodge did make some changes. Some of the first degree became part of the second, and part of the second became part of the first. Words and signs were also shifted. They were also of the opinion that the Holy Royal Arch should not be a part of the third degree. In defense of these changes it should be said that they were made as a result of the many exposures published at that time, particularly Pritchards' Masonry Dissected. These exposures made it quite easy for non-masons to gain admission into regular lodges.

The movement begun principally by Irish masons and strongly supported by Laurence Dremott, became so strong that in 1751 a new Grand Lodge was formed and assumed the name Antient Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons according to the old traditions. This new group called themselves the Antient Grand Lodge and referred to the Premier Grand Lodge as the Moderns. Notice that the initials forming the new Grand Lodges name are AF & AM. Those of the Moderns remained F & AM.

During this period of confusion and unrest many charters were issued by both Grand Lodges throughout the world. Those granted by the Antients were known as the Ancient Free and Accepted Masonic Lodges and those by the Moderns Free and Accepted Masonic Lodges. Actually the substance of the work, its meaning and the desired result are very similar. The aims of both did not change.

In 1813 the two Grand Jurisdictions combined. Up to that time many charters had been issued here in the States. It is interesting to note that at the present time in this country there are four Jurisdictional titles. There are 25 under the title F&AM, 22 under AF&AM, one FAAM in the District of Columbia and one AFM in South Carolina. The last two chosen at the time of their formation and influenced by the position taken by the Antients regarding the "Old Traditions." The present title of the English Grand Lodge as decided in 1813 is, The United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

W.E. Wharton



**Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge #366**  
**F&AM**

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