

A Dress Made of Pull-Tabs?

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tabs. They were everywhere! Pants pockets, Ziploc bags, Tupperware containers – you name it, they were there. One solution came from her uncle **Paul**, who suggested using the small CoffeeMate containers. She soon had containers everywhere: on her desk at work, counter at home, and at houses of relative's and friend's. At least they weren't hidden in clothes to make their way into the washer and dryer. So besides collecting pull-tabs, she was also collecting those containers, replacing full ones with empty ones. She was now on her way to putting together the dress.

While constructing the dress, someone asked her what she was going to do with it. Knowing it would end up in the hands of the Shriners, she thought about wearing it for Halloween. However, halloween came and went that year without the dress still being completed. This year, about four months prior to Halloween, she stepped up collecting tabs and dress production so she wouldn't miss Halloween deadline again.

Success! After a year-and-a-half she finally finished the dress. When she tried it on, she noticed that it had a couple of flaws, one being its weight. It hung down in the back too far, so the next step was modifying the design to include a belt and sus-

pender-type straps to hold the back up. Left-over tabs were strung together to make several necklaces to complete the outfit. She even made extra necklaces and gave them out to people, knowing they would eventually make it into the hands of the Shriners for their program. Making sure she got use out of the dress, Barbara wore it to two Halloween parties. The only small problems she had were solved by a couple of safety pins.

At each party she was asked many questions: How did she make it? How many tabs did you use? How long did it take? Why did you do it? So she told her tale, at the same time helping to spread awareness of the Shriners and the Shriners Hospitals for Children. One surprising thing that she discovered was just how many people were already aware of the Pull-Tab Program and helping out however they could.

Barbara says that there are at least 6,000 tabs on the dress. Asked if she would make another outfit, she replied "My first answer was no, but then again the wheels are turning and there might just be another pull-tab 'something or other' down the road."



Here is Barbara Allen in her pull-tab flapper dress at at the Knights of Columbus, Peabody, MA, during one of the Halloween parties she attended. Back row left to right: Patti Silva, Maura Santos, Melissa Cersosimo, Denny & Maureen Reardon. Front row: Manny Santos & Barbara Allen.



At the Heads of Units meeting on December 3, 2008, the hard-working Stewards Unit presented two checks to Aleppo Potentate **Stephen G. Eriksen**: one for \$5,000.00 for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund and the other for \$2,000.00 for the Cold Sands Fund. The Stewards present for the presentation were (from left to right): Assistant Chief Steward **Ronald Little**, Noble **Gordon Lander**, Assistant Chief Steward **John Allen, Jr.**, Assistant Chief Steward **Freeman "Whitey" Summers**, Chief Steward Emeritus **Albert Gebow** and Ill. **Stephen G. Eriksen**.

This is the second presentation that the Stewards have made. Earlier this year the Stewards presented the same amount of monies for both the Children's Transportation Fund and the Cold Sands.

We would also like to thank those HONS who work the Kitchen at every show and event we have, as without their help, sometimes we would not have enough help to operate the kitchen.

The Stewards are always looking for new members to join the Unit. Remember, in the Stewards, you are never cold, never wet and will always have plenty to eat! So please take a moment and think about joining the Stewards. We would sincerely love to have you.

International Short Shriners of North America

A.A.O.N.M.S.



The Short Shriners held their first informational meeting on Wednesday September 17, 2008 at the Aleppo Shrine Center. There were several Nobles present who were interested in learning what the Short Shriners are all about. The officers of Bektash Short Shriners visited us in their full regalia, which was very impressive. It was explained that we need at least ten members to receive our charter. The Short Shriners is like a Shrine Club, not a marching or uniformed unit. The idea of the club is that you must be under five feet six inches tall, and that you want to have fun and improve the quality of Shrinedom. If you are interested in joining, call Chief Rabban Bob Smith at 978-663-6118 or e-mail robert.smith63@comcast.net.

If you are a "short Shriner," there is a new place at Aleppo for you!

Robert F. Smith, Aleppo Chief Rabban, is starting a new Club here at Aleppo called "The Short Shriners."

Requirements for acceptance are: Nobles in good standing, a height of no more than (5) foot (6) inches tall and willing to have a good time!

It is a Dinner Unit or Club.

No marching (unless you want to), just vertically challenged Shriners having fun.

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Illustrious Stephen G. Eriksen:

I wish to contribute to the Aleppo Building Fund's new air-conditioning system in Shriners Auditorium

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