

# Aleppo Oriental Band

## Champs

By THE ORIENTAL BAND SCRIBE

A new year and a new decade are upon us. Somehow we all managed to survive the great Y2K computer threat that ushered in the last decade but history has given us other challenges to cope with and, hopefully, they will be suitably resolved as easily.



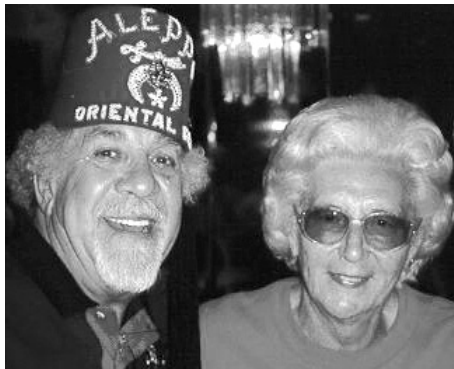
Members of the Oriental Band at the Marlboro Homecoming Parade. From left to right are: Ron Henderson, Rob Johnson, Art Fink, Al Richards, Jim Harvey, Tom Short, Jack Zimmerman, and Fred Pouliot.



We participated in a number of parades and other events in the last quarter of last year and we put on another spectacular performance at the Northeast Field Days where we successfully defended our Northeast Shrine Oriental Band Association titles and had an opportunity to visit CHAMP – the legendary Lake Champlain Monster.

Having been founded in 1951, the new year commences the final year of our fifth decade as a Band. In that course of time, we have experienced many highs and lows. We have also seen many other credible and strong Oriental Bands falter and go by the wayside. We, fortunately, have maintained our own status and are currently recognized as the predominant Oriental Band in the Northeast and as a very credible Band on the National level as well. We are looking forward to our sixth and subsequent decades of existence.

We are contemplating participating at the Imperial Session in Toronto this year as well as the Northeast in Halifax (despite some serious scheduling conflicts), again.



GERARD A. AND DORIS NEAULT

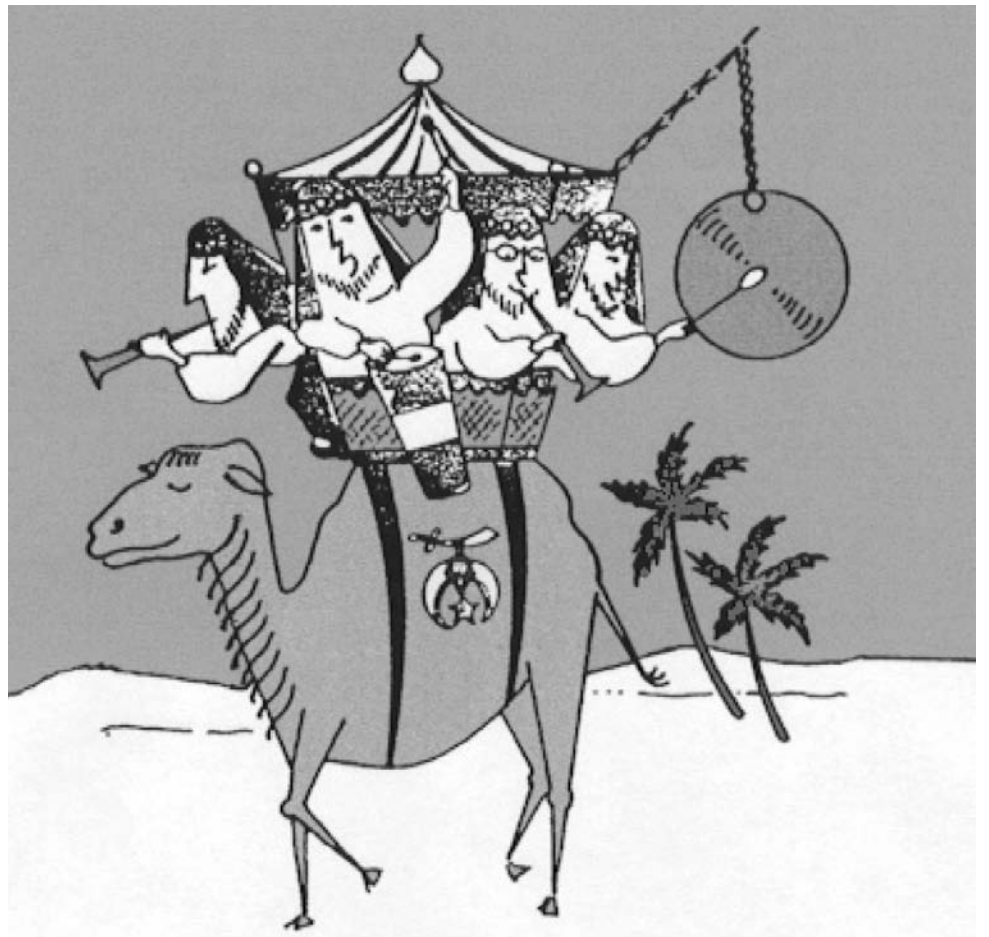
The first of the two individuals we would like to recognize is Noble **Gerard "Gerry" A. Neault**. Gerry has been an extremely talented and versatile member of our Band who could play any instrument and play it well. He also served the Band and The Northeast Shrine Oriental Band Association in a number of capacities including being President of both. Gerry's life reads like a James Bond Novel. He served for three years in Korea in the RANGER Division of the 5th Company and he continued his service for twelve and a half years as a Green Beret in Southeast Asia and elsewhere including three years in Vietnam. His service in the early days of the Vietnam conflict resulted in his receipt of a Bronze Star and he followed that with a distinguished career with the National Park Service as well. The stories that Gerry has told us of his exploits are nothing short of spell binding. Gerry always put his all into his efforts and he has an infectious spirit about him and everything he undertakes. Gerry is currently on our inactive list. Nonetheless, his spirit remains with us and his antics are still things that are talked about and are inspirational to many of us. We wish Gerry and his wife, **Doris**, the best.



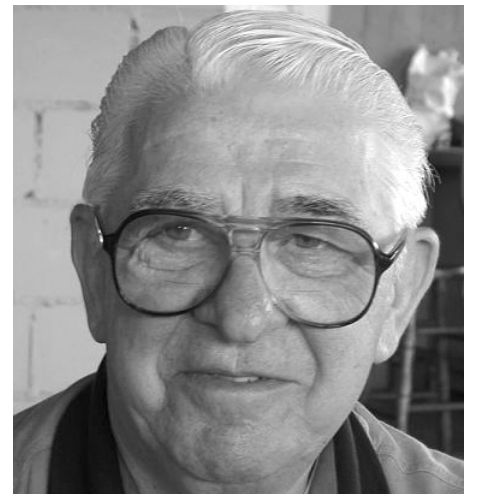
The past year also gave us significant opportunity to tend to some of the more mundane things that keep the Band afloat (pun intended) and that was worthwhile doing.

We are looking forward to working with the new DIVAN and congratulate all who have progressed on the line.

With apologies to **Fred Pouliot** (our now second most senior member of the BAND) and as a digression from the planned schedule of presentations (because space allows it) we would like to pay tribute to two of our Senior Members who are currently a bit under the weather.



The second individual we would like to introduce you to is **Nicholas A. Markos**, aka "Nick the Greek." Despite being under the weather, Nick has made valiant efforts to continue to attend as many of our rehearsals and events as possible and we all appreciate his doing so. Nick traditionally has performed in our percussion section in a variety of capacities and has done so quite admirably. Nick spent a long career in food distribution and his reputation precedes him in almost every restaurant one can imagine in New England and he is recognized by practically every restaurateur in the region as well. All attest to a work ethic that is rare to find nowadays and one that Nick continued to pursue until recently, long after retirement, on a limited basis. Through his various connections, we have enjoyed some very nice events and we are all thankful to Nick for that. Nick's jovial spirit lightens up the Band with its presence and his "damn the torpedoes - full speed ahead" attitude speaks of a life lived to its fullest and it is an inspiration to many of us.



NICHOLAS A. MARKOS

Nick also takes considerable pride in his family and his civic and fraternal associations, both of the latter two which he remains quite active in as well. Nick's wife, **Sophie**, has predeceased Nick but, while she was with us, she was one of the most charming ladies in the Band and remains, for all who knew her, someone special and someone who is continued to be missed. We applaud Nick for his continued efforts with the Band and encourage him to keep up the good work.

Both Gerry and Nick are also "Champs" in our mind for their continuing interest and efforts and the Band would be a very different organization without their current and past contributions - for which we thank them immensely.



NICK "THE GREEK" MARKOS

Please continue to note that the address of our website (which we encourage you to visit occasionally for the most up to date information concerning the band) is as follows: <http://www.oband.mysite.com>

SHALOM  
7th Oriental Band Scribe

## Scribblings of the Scribe

Consider well the plight or enigma of the CONSERVATIVE. If society is in a progressive stage of its development then the CONSERVATIVE are out of step because they are too reactionary or regressive but, if society is in a recessive mode, then the CONSERVATIVE are also out of step because they are then deemed to be too liberal! And, if society is in a conservative mode, then it will ultimately fail through stagnation!



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