



Minutemen News: "Mirror-Mirror"

By: HARRY G. ORCUTT
CAPTAIN

THE Minutemen Unit has an outstanding history of generating donations for Shrine charities. We are engaged in two principal efforts: a yearly donation of \$500 to the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund (this fund provides emergency transportation to injured and sick children to one of our 22 Shrine hospitals when timely life-saving treatment is required); and an annual donation of approximately \$1000 or more to the Shrine Burns Institute of Boston to provide a piece of equipment or other needed item on their wish list, but which they otherwise cannot afford. The first of these Annual Donations, because we want our Potentates to get their year of service started on the money, was presented to Illustrious Potentate **Stephen G. Eriksen**, at the Unit Re-enlistment Dinner, held in the Fez Room this past January 30, 2008.

Our **Warren Irwin** Can Fund money is raised through donation of redeemable cans and bottles, and through the sale of recyclable aluminum cans and tabs. This effort may be more fully appreciated

when it is considered that the bottles and cans are redeemed at 5 cents apiece, and recyclable aluminum tabs bring in 60 cents a pound (it takes 1,400 tabs to make a pound). In Maine, we redeem juice, water and liquor containers. Recently we received a donation of \$360 from the outstanding effort of Minutemen Lady **Sandy Blake** (widow of Noble Bob Blake), who has largely taken over our Maine redemption project.

For our Transportation Fund donation this year we combined a portion of the money the Unit earned for their participation at the Provincetown Pilgrim Monument Rededication with a portion from Sandy's project.

The Minutemen Unit is comprised of three sections: Flags; Music (drums and fifes); and Muskets. The Unit provides flags, fifes, and drums.

Musketmen must purchase their Brown Bess, Model 2, .75 Cal. Musket, within one year of enlistment. New ones cost approximately \$1,000. In the interim period, if any Unit muskets are temporarily available for use, the Unit Armorer, **Bob Vere**, will explain how they can be secured. If none are available, the Unit requests that the enlistee march with the flags section until the situation can be rectified.

Enlistment Papers for 2008 are now available from our Ensign Recorder

der Lt. **John Girdvainis**.

It's not hard for Nobles to enlist in our Unit. Recruits become active members of the unit after they have purchased their uniform (cost: \$247.50), signed their Unit enlistment papers (turned in to the Shrine), and completed whatever training requirements are needed to get them ready to perform their duties as part of the Unit. The participation of each member in an official Shrine Tour of Duty (usually a parade) generates a sum paid to the unit each year from the Shrine itself. The Unit also raises funds through participating in non-Shrine activities (also usually a parade of some municipality or organization). These latter funds are utilized to pay for such Unit activities as the Annual Unit Summer Picnic and Christmas Parties (both of which are legendary.)

So come on down and get started in the only Minutemen Unit in Shrinedom. The Unit meets in their 2nd floor luxurious redoubt, the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (except July and August, and the third week of December), at Aleppo Temple.

Update on Past-Captain Robert "Bob" Vere who suffered a stroke the last week in January: he is scheduled to be released from the Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital in Salem, NH, at the end of February. After that he will recuperate at home. His son, **Christopher**, has just taken his Entered Apprentice Degree, and Bob is determined to be at Dalhousie Lodge, on the second Wednesday in March to see Chris Raised.



Harry Orcutt, Minutemen Captain, presented Potentate Stephen G. Eriksen with the Minutemen Annual Donation to the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund, in the amount of five hundred dollars, at the Re-enlistment Dinner, so that his year of service would begin on the right note.

"Reminiscing"

By EARL T.

THE year 2008 is the fifty seventh year of Aleppo's Oriental Band! Like some of the Political Candidates, let us make this the year of the "Come Back" for the Oriental Band!

It's nice to reminisce, but as Massachusetts Governor **Mitt Romney** said, "look to the future, not the past." None of the Charter Members of the Oriental Band are no longer with us. They are gone, but not forgotten. Many of its current Members, like myself, will be paid a visit by the "Black Camel." To quote Masonic Ritual, "the old must die, the young may die and the wisest knoweth not when." When the "old timers" are gone, who will replace them? Will you be among those who will carry on in the Oriental Band? Or will you be a bystander and watch it fade into the sunset!

The choice, Nobles, is yours! If you are currently a Member of the Oriental Band, have you replaced yourself? If you are not a Member, have you considered joining? Does your "Shrine Life" have a purpose or are you just a Dues Card holder and pin wearer? Why not enjoy your Shrine as a Noble and become a Member of a Unit? Preferably, the Oriental Band!

There are still positions open in the Oriental Band. If you are at all interested, please contact one of the Band Officers below, or attend one of our rehearsals on Thursday evenings. Please call one of the Officer to confirm that there will be a rehearsal. Thanks.

Officers to Contact:

Director: Noble "**Rob**" **Johnson** (603) 427-7900 (cell)

Email: rsclj@verizon.net

Assistant Director: **Les Oshry** (781) 828-0799 Email: bellalester@yahoo.com

Sec/Treas: **John E' K. Kelley** (978) 535-4645 Email: jekelley37@msn.com



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