

The 19th Annual Northeast Clown Institute

By DAVID "DO-NO" NEWCOMB
I.S.C.A. ASSISTANT EDUCATION DIRECTOR

FOR 19 consecutive years, there has been an institute held in New England strictly for the purpose of clowning. It has grown over the years and is known throughout North America as the Northeast Clown Institute (NCI). The students and instructors travel from throughout the United States and Canada to Plymouth, Massachusetts every January to participate in this annual week-end event.

Among its alumni are 16 Past Presidents of the International Shrine Clowns Association (ISCA), 658 Shrine Clowns and 251 Non-Shriners and Ladies. Along these lines, 33 different Shrine Centers throughout the United States have been represented at NCI.

The Aleppo Clowns are well represented in this educational institute which is the largest, most successful clown school in the country. David "Do-No" Newcomb has been Dean of the Institute since 2004. Jim "Buttons" Sickles, a Past President of the North East Shrine Clowns Association has held the position of President/Treasurer since 1996. Ed "Pea-Pa" Dowling is Assistant Treasurer. Ernest "Rollo" Pearlstein is on the Board of Directors, and Dave "High Tower" Sullivan and Gordon "Bondo" Lauzon are also instructors.

This is a 3-Year institute. Students register as a "Novice" in their first year, whether they are brand

new clowns or experienced joeys. The novices are introduced to the various clown categories and assigned to attend classes to give them each an understanding of the basics. This year, senior students volunteered to become mentors and they assisted the novices in make-up application. All students were made up as a whiteface, auguste, hobo or tramp and they also received comments and critiques from instructors and other senior students.

Second year students are called "Advanced." Their instruction is more in-depth and the advanced students have the option to compete in the costume & make-up competition. This competition is available for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year students. The understanding is that after completion of the three year institute, students will have two more years at this institute to compete. Of course,



PARTICIPANTS in the Northeast Clown Institute held in January 2008 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

they have the option to compete elsewhere as they wish.

Third year students are called "Master" students and applications of the skills and talents are taught and showcased by top professional clowns, magicians and entertainers from all over North

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Legion of Honor

By JOHN BOHLING

I guess it was all done with mirrors. By that I mean the disappearance of the deep snow cover. One day, two feet, three days later bare ground, then back to heavy snow cover!

The only saving grace was that I was able to find my old Lone Ranger, "glow-in-the-dark" arrowhead with the built-in whistle and decoder device, that I lost in the snow in 1950. How it got from Stoneham

to Wakefield, I don't know, but now it takes that long for "express mail" to transit the same route.

Right now we can't wait for the parade season, because it brings warmer weather. Warm translates to fewer aches in the old joints.

By the time this is printed we will have witnessed our Illustrious Potentate Albert D. Flight, turn over the reigns to our new Illustrious Potentate

Stephen G. Eriksen. I talked to officials from NASA yesterday and they said they can already see a covering of cigar smoke over Wilmington from their satellites!

Our Commander, Wendell McMillan, is now back from sick call following his combat with Bambi.

Also, our deepest sympathy to our Past Commander Abram Simmons, in the loss of his beloved wife Florence. Truly a gracious Lady of a wonderful Mason and Noble.

At our December meeting, the members voted Honorary Memberships to Noble Steve Bissett and our building attendant, Jorge "George" Rodriguez. Steve's award was posthumous and was to acknowledge his many gracious deeds for our unit and in recognition of his being the liaison to the Divan for our unit.

Jorge's was to recognize his many efforts in support of our mission. Under the L.O.H. by-laws, we are allowed to confer this honor on those who are not otherwise eligible for membership, whether or not they are Nobles. I think these were two excellent choices for our first two honorees.

The Unit would also like to say thank you to member Harvey J. Waugh, and good luck in his retirement and on the finance committee.

Please Nobles, join our mascot "Chuck-A-Buck" in support of our Aleppo Flag Fund. To be frankly honest, outside of our uniformed units and a scattering of individual Nobles our continued pleas for support have fallen short of their goals. As stated before, just one dollar from each Noble would put us in "tall-cotton." Send it to Aleppo c/o "Aleppo Flag Fund." Our flags are flown 24-7 in the front of the Aleppo Shrine Center in all types of weather. These don't last forever and need to be replaced, so please help with this cause.

Finally, with all the political hype we must endure for the next few months, let us remember this quote from a former enemy:

"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even when there is no river." - Nikita Krushchev

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