

The "Sound of Music"

The Aleppo Brass Band

EVERYONE enjoys the Aleppo Brass Band. At the ceremonies, HONS Fair, and community events the Brass Band brings FUN. A band member, Worshipful **Oliver Galaneau**, has asked some provoking questions: "How many Masons know of the Aleppo Brass Band?" "Is the Brass Band Alive and doing anything?" "Why is there no band at the Grand Master's Fair in Charlton?" Civil and community events are diminishing due the lack of funding. Are there any alternatives?

The band members' musical talents are being re-channeled: "New 'old' activities are revisited." One of the most successful endeavors of a band member, **Richard Fink**, is the Swing Band. This is the newest unit joining the Aleppo Temple's list of units.

This idea of sub-groups to the Brass Band like a German Band is being tried by some of the bandsmen. Maybe this sub-group or another successful group from the past, Polka Dots, will return. Once again let us return FUN to the Shrine, while supporting the benevolence. Now we need exposure, visibility, places to be, things to do.

If you have interest in being in or hearing specialty, ethnic or combo type music, let us hear from from you. Let our presents be seen in the eyes of Masons. Let's be "ASKED TO BE ONE" by all others.

— Alexander Moles and Wor. Oliver Galaneau



MUSICIANS WANTED! Showing off the new sign to help recruit new members for the Brass Band is Band Manager **Daniel T. Nager**. They debuted the sign at the January 26 Ceremonial.

Where Have All The Shriners Gone?

MUSIC makes ceremonials, parades and other Shrine events more festive. Because the Brass Band accepts musicians of all ability levels, and we require no auditioning, becoming and staying an active member should be a great opportunity to make and continue friendships, while renewing rusty musical skills or honing more accomplished playing.

However, in the past few years, and especially this past year, the Brass Band, like some other units, has experienced a decline in active bandsmen. Although the Brass Band obtained two new members this year, we have lost more to the Black Camel.

Like some other organizations, although we strive both to recruit new members and keep existing members actively, playing, our efforts are often rebuffed by excuses. The most frequent excuses we hear why people don't join, or stay active, are in sharp contrast with the reality seen by many of its members. Here are the Brass Band's contradictions to the most common excuses we hear:

Excuse — "I'm too old."

Contradiction — Our oldest member is a drummer about to celebrate his 100th birthday; we heard vigorously playing at the last ceremonial. Nobles at the ceremonial also heard music played by other band members in their 70's, 80's and 90's, as well as younger members.

Excuse — "I'm too busy."

Contradiction — Band time commitments are limited. We only play for 3 ceremonials a year, a number of parades (which number has been decreasing), and sometimes one or two concerts. Plus rehearsals are not even every week.

Excuse — "I go south during the winter, I cannot drive at night, I don't have a ride, I'm too ill to be out."

Contradictions — we had 29 band members playing at the last ceremonial, one flew up from his winter home in Florida, many others rode with other bandsmen, shrine clubs, and members of other units. Some Band members at least attend those events for which they are available. Few people are too "ill" to never get out.

The only excuse we cannot contradict is "The Black Camel".

Masonic Lodges have reported an increase in membership and even more new candidates. How do they do it and why have the Aleppo Temple units not enjoyed similar success? As we heard from our Potentate: "Let's put FUN back into Shrine." As past president of the Brass Band and other units, we have lost the energy to have FUN. We are trying new methods to attract members but with little results. Why have we given up on the older proven methods and ideas in getting new members? Let's try them again!

Let's return FUN back to the Shrine!

Noble Alexander Moles
And Bandsmen

The 2008 Circus is less than two months away!

Sign up to be a Volunteer at the 2008 Aleppo Shrine Circus!

See page 28 of this newspaper to fill out the form and mail it in.



The next scheduled meeting is February 28, 2008 at the Aleppo Shrine Center in Wilmington

ALEPPO PIPE BAND

By AL DODGE

THE members of the Aleppo Highlanders started their yearly four week holiday time off by enjoying a Pizza party on December 11, 2007, whereby the members enjoyed a very nice selection of pizza, coffee, cold drinks and other refreshments. Thanks to all who helped make it a festive event.

A Public Service: Three pipers from the Aleppo Highlanders again volunteered their time and talents on Sunday 12/2 at the AMVETS Post #147 in Haverhill. Ceremonies were held in remembering (The Day of Infamy), and remembering the brave men and women who gave their lives on Sunday December 7, 1941, and to the many wounded who lived to witness that terrible day. The pipers performed by playing "Amazing Grace" and a selection of Scottish tunes. On Thursday Dec. 20 these Highlanders performed at the V.F.W. Post 2016 Amesbury/Newburyport, this being the post's 6th annual "Support the troops Christmas Dinner and Reception." The Highlanders performed by playing a selection of tunes to fit the occasion. Pipers present for both of these solemn ceremonies were: P/M **Daniel F. Millett**, P/Sgt., **Robert L. MacNeil**, and P/Sgt. **Walter D. Harmer, Sr.** The Aleppo pipe band performed at the January 26, 2008, ceremonial. The band members strutted to the delight of the Nobility and the general public. The skirl of the pipes and the beat of the drums has always been a fine compliment to the occasion. The band members in attendance were: D/M **William P. Davis**, D/Sgt./Dir. Noble **Robert A. Wright**, Dir./Emeritus/Noble **David T. Wright**; Drummers: Noble **Michael R. Williams** (Bass), Noble **Tyler Jessee**, Noble **Rick Bartlett**, Noble **Gary Bartlett**, and pipers P/M Noble **Daniel F. Millett**, Noble **Richard N. Rehlander**, P/Sgt. Noble



Robert L. MacNeil, P/Sgt. Noble Walter D. Harmer, Sr., Qtr. Master Noble **Robert H. Archibald**, Noble **John M. Bell, Sr.** and Noble **Albert S. Dodge, Sr.**

The Aleppo Pipe Band members congratulate Illustrious Potentate, **Stephen G. Eriksen**, as our newest Potentate, and hope for you and your Divan that the coming year will be all you wish it to be.

The tickets for the Tartan Ball are on sale now and are expected to go fast. Last year's Tartan Ball was a sell out and sales were brisk and were sold quickly. The ball is to be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008. The Aleppo Shriners look forward to presenting a fun filled evening of dining and dancing and fine entertainment. The evening will be filled with beautiful Celtic music and much more. A catered Roast Beef Dinner is on the menu and there will be the piping-in of the Haggis. The "Address to the Haggis" will again be recited by P.P. Illustrious Sir. **H. Richard Cornwell**.

The Tartan Ball committee is grateful again for having the support and talents of Noble Tom Friberg for the preparation of all the printed mate-



THE PIPE BAND saluting Illustrious Potentate **Stephen G. Eriksen** and special guest **Megan Johnson** at the January 26 Ceremonial.

rials that make this event so successful.

A note of sadness is expressed at this time on the passing of Mrs. **Evelyn Campbell**, mother to P.P. Illustrious **Alexander D. Campbell**. Mrs. Campbell passed away on Dec. 13, 2007. Our deepest and most profound sympathy to family and friends.

Sick List: In a recent conversation via phone to his residence Noble **Roger MacKenzie** informed this correspondent that he is feeling better and is looking forward to his return to work sometime in the future and his return to his position as snare drummer with the Aleppo Pipe Band. Good news Noble Roger.

Congratulations to P.P. Illustrious Alexander D. Campbell on his appointment to the office of Jr. Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of A.F. of A.M. of Massachusetts. Best wishes and may your term of office be all you wish it to be.

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