

# Charlie Collins

## President, North Shore Shrine Club

By HERMES BOYATIS

**Y**OUR editor first saw Charlie when he was "canning" for **Leon Golden**, knowing at once that he was a man worth far more than each can! What, we asked, was the story of his past? His work? His service? His dreams? There was so much to discover about this great man!

"I was born on May 27, 1940, in Beverly, Massachusetts, and my family stayed there for my first five years. We moved to Hamilton, and I received my high school diploma there in 1958. For all my high school years I was involved with baseball and football." (This conversation took place fifteen minutes before the San Diego Chargers/New England Patriots' game.) Later we asked about his hobbies, and, not surprising, "I bowl and watch the Red Sox and Patriot's games on TV."

"After my graduation, I worked at the Commodore Restaurant in North Beverly where I began scrubbing floors and dishes. I ended up as a fry cook - all kinds of seafood and fries, befitting a commodore."

We soon realized that Charlie Collins's life is like cream, rising from the bottom to the top. He recalled, date after date, his progress into the future. "From 1963 to 1965, I served in the Army as Quartermaster Supply Specialist. Next I worked

for five years for the Shetland Corporation at Salem Industry Park. They manufacture all kinds of electrical appliances such as can openers and floor polishers. I began in the warehouse and eventually moved to the assembly line."

He paused to offer the date of his life: his marriage to beloved wife **Arlene**. A McDonald maiden, she was working for a Parker Brothers store when he met her. They have raised one son, Michael, who has worked at Super Stop & Shop for 19 years. Working truly runs in the Collins family!

"In 1970," he continued, "I went to work for the U.S. Postal Service, preparing the mail and loading it into trucks at Logan Airport. I worked there for 36 years."

We came at last to his Masonic/Shriners life. "In October 1982 I was raised at Budleigh Lodge in Beverly and then became a Master Mason. In 1992 Arlene and I joined Eastern Star and we now belong to her chapter in Ipswich. At that time, **Phil and Connie Kumph** were Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron. We have been good friends ever since. In December of 1995 I joined Scottish Rite, Valley of Boston and in January 1996, I became a member of the Aleppo Shriners."

"September was a delightful date for me! I joined



Charlie Collins (center) with his wife Arlene and their son Michael.

the Aleppo Fire Brigade. It's great, riding in miniature fire trucks at parades, ceremonials, at all kinds of events! I'm also a member of Chapter, Council and Commandery, Boston #2 and Salem Chapter and Council."

In this past year I have been president of North Shore Shrine Club, but I have not retired from my job. For the past four years I have worked part-time at Henry's Market in North Beverly as shelf stocker.

His goal? "I'll be 69 in May. I want to stay strong and healthy to help the Transportation Fund!"

We know you will, we know you can, Charles Collins of Beverly!

# Leon Golden

## Still Running and Giving

By HERMES BOYATIS

**J**UST as we were reaching press-time for our Aleppo News, **Leon Golden** was still telephoning with plaudits for the many other givers to the Transportation Fund.

Two days before Christmas he urged your editor to interview **Charles Collins**, president of the North Shore Shriners. Also, absolutely imperative was a life-and-times catch-up with Right Worshipful **Ralph Kaplan**. Our readers know him already for his wine-tasting events, but there's so much more!

It's impossible to put dates on Leon's levitations! He described his December pause at the Saugus Stop & Shop when **Lillian O'Donnell** of the Immaculate Parish in the Fellsway/Medford/Malden Parish announced proudly that she had saved up to 6,942 tabs!

On December 20 at 7:50 A.M., he telephoned, "I've been working diligently and hard. I came in kinda late, had a quick bite and went to sleep."

In still another speedy rush he was heading for the Shriners Burn Hospital, Boston, with a Santa Claus for the children and, of course, bags of goodies!

He interrupted his diligence to say, "Sometimes we do something for our family. We go to our Moses Michael Hayes Lodge in Needham for brunch. I just wish that Hermes and all his friends could join us there."

His friends cannot catch up! He's everywhere, now Saugus, now Manchester, now Stoneham, everywhere! Guess what? When we were settling down one evening to watch TV's "Saturday Night Live," Leon was the liveliest one. He wanted to show your editor the display of collection cans for pull-tabs at the Saugus store. He went on to say, "The Stoneham Stop & Shop wants to do the same; the manager there is a Shriner. This coming Wednesday we are meeting with **Paul Agostino**, the new chairman of the Transportation Fund, so that he, **Roger Metcalfe**, and myself can go to Market Basket."

"We'll urge the operations manager there to use cans instead of buckets (which people use for trash) for their pull-tabs."

There were so many more meetings and thank you's: **Wally Brown** at Stop & Shop, Stoneham; Towne Paint and Supply, a Mom and Pop Store, and Lowe's Super Hardware, to give thanks for their donation of cans.

"Now," he said, "I'm heading to Whole Foods in Swampscott and the Stop & Shop in Malden."

Please, dear Golden Giver, pause from pull-tabs and your frenetic forays into stores everywhere. Rest a little until tomorrow!

# Three Generations of Shriners

**T**HAT picture contains three of four generations of master masons. All members of Marine Lodge.

Richard C. Baker, Son of Harold Baker, Sr., Raised in April 1953, Master in 1962 and 64.

Brian D. Baker— Son of Harold Baker, Jr., Master 52&73 Raised in Mar.2000, Master in 2006.

Jayme K. Baker— Grandson of Sumner Baker Master 1956, Raised in Nov. 2007 newest member of Aleppo Shrine Father is Jeffrey S. Baker, Member of Oriental M.V. Lodge and Affiliating with Marine Lodge.

Harold Baker Jr., Richard Baker, & Sumner Baker were brothers and Masters of Marine Lodge.



JAMIE BAKER

DICK BAKER

BRIAN BAKER



Leon Golden went to the Stop & Shop in Saugus in January 2008 to pick up tabs that they collected over the past several months. From left to right are: **Daniel T. Nager**, Aleppo Brass Band Manager; **Lillian O'Donnell** who saves tabs with the Immaculate Conception Church in Malden/Medford and drops them off at the Stop & Shop; **Norma Lyons** Stop & Shop employee; **Leon Golden**; and **Hermes Boyatis**.

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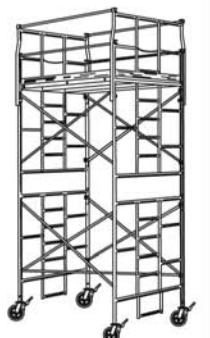
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