

Aleppo Chanters Bid Adieu to Former Director Nils Nordberg

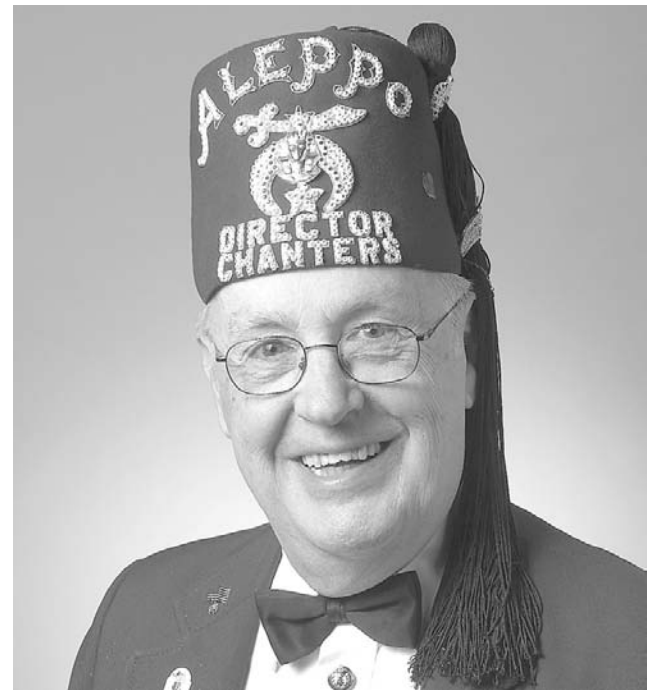
HE waited until just weeks after his 74th birthday to heed the advice to "Go West, Young Man, Go West" first stated by **John Soule** in the Terre Haute Express in 1851 and made popular by **Horace Greeley** in an editorial in the New York Tribune in 1865. No longer a young man, but wanting to enjoy his twin 5 1/2 year old grandsons while he is physically active enough to (attempt to) keep up with them, Noble **Nils** and his Lady **Linda** sold their home in Harvard, MA and bought a new home in Louisville, CO, just around the corner from the home of their daughter, **Ellen**, her husband, **Paul**, and young **Axel** and **Aidan**.

Noble Nils, a veteran member of Good Samaritan Lodge in his hometown of Reading, became an Aleppo Shriner in 1966. His father, also Nils, and his uncle, Noble **Paul Case**, were both serving in the first platoon of the Arab Patrol at that time and, with two such active sponsors, Nils enjoyed two trips over the hot sands at his initiation. Nils' 39-year career as a caterer specializing in wedding receptions, during which period he also served for ten years in the Massachusetts Legislature as a State Representative for Reading, North Reading and

Stoneham, conflicted with participation in Aleppo's activities, but once he left the business and joined the administration of Gov. **William Weld** as Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Training he sought an opportunity to serve Aleppo.

Noble **Jim Standish** was Director of the Chanters at that time and Nils and Jim were friends from their business days in Stoneham. Jim encouraged Nils to follow his love for choral music by joining the Chanters. Within a year, Jim decided to relinquish his responsibilities and Nils was unanimously elected by the members to be Unit Head and leader of the group. With no formal music training, either as a singer or as a director, Nils considers himself fortunate to have been able to rely on Noble **Joel Davidson**, a mainstay of the Chanters Unit for many years, as Music Director, Organist and a dependable tenor voice.

Nils jumped in with both feet, as is his nature, scouring yard sales and "for sale" ads to acquire microphones, cables, microphone stands and a mixing board so that the Chanters' voices could be better heard at Aleppo events. Jim Standish built a wheeled cabinet for the equipment, so that the Chanters could support the work of



NILS NORDBERG

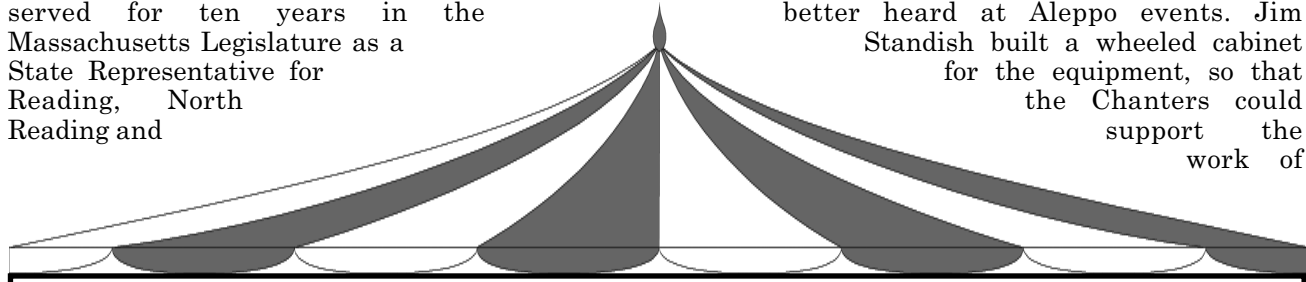
the First Section Degree Team in the Fez Room and quickly move to be in position on the Auditorium floor for the second section. Noble **Elliot Farnsworth**, Chanters' Business Manager, found a source of music stands and individual lights, and the unit was up and running as a full partner in the floor work of Aleppo.

Aided by the late Noble **Arthur Speros**, who convinced a Shriner's widow in New Hampshire to donate her late husband's old pop-up camper trailer to the Chanters, and with financial support from Chanters members and Past Potentate **Dick Johnson**, Nils led the effort to re-establish the Chanters as a Parade Unit. Acquiring more sound equipment, including speakers for the trailer roof and a portable keyboard, and installing a DC/AC inverter in the trailer to convert electricity from his Ford Explorer to power the operation, the Chanters went "on the road again." Aleppo is fortunate to have one of the few Chanters' choruses in Shrinedom that consistently participates in Shrine Parades.

Noble Nils led Aleppo's Chanters' return to participation in the Shrine Chanters Association of North America, and they proceeded to earn a first place award at the SCAONA Competition in Dallas, Texas in 1999, and a second place award at the Imperial Session in Boston in 2000. Believing that the Chanters could spread Aleppo's message to other Masonic bodies, Nils re-introduced the Chanters to musical works appropriate for Blue Lodges to add depth to the floor work of Third Degrees and Installations of Officers. Several local Lodges and Taleb Grotto have called on Aleppo's Chanters to enhance their work.

Noble Nils was recognized by the Aleppo Divan for his devotion to Shrinedom by awarding him the prestigious Robert Gardner Wilson Medal in 2003.

Aleppo's Chanters will miss Noble Nils and his leadership, but we wish him well in his new life in Colorado, where he has already become active with the Chanters of El Jebel Temple in Denver. We also look forward to his participating in our activities when he and Lady Linda come back to their home at Moody Beach in Wells, Maine from time to time. He also wants the volunteers who worked with him on the refurbishment of the ladies' and men's restrooms by the Auditorium to know that he will be looking for their support for a few finishing touches, probably in May.



2009 Aleppo Shrine Circus

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