

Hermes Boyatis – Newsman Extraordinaire

JUST as we were going to press, our Associate Editor received word from the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts that he was to be designated their prestigious Man of the Year. We Masons and Shriners are compelled to review the man of the past and the Man of the Year.

We realize that **Hermes** (we all call him that), was reluctant to be singled out, believing that each good guy was such a man. Named for his legendary Greek predecessor, Hermes was reluctant to be



Hermes Boyatis as a young man in the US Army Air Corps.

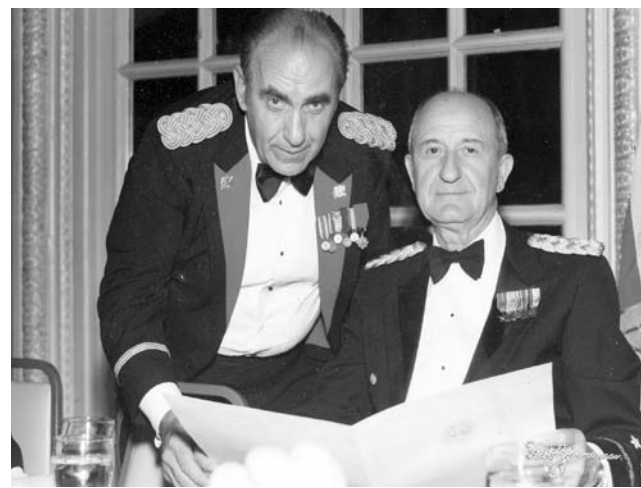
interviewed for the Aleppo Shriners News. He prefers bringing to print profiles of key Shriners.

First, let us call attention to his dedicated freedom-fighting, targeting every worthy cause long before his Shriner's goals. In his youth he was a member of the United World Federalists, meeting for a weekend at Wellesley College (long before Diane Sawyer!). Much later he traveled to New Zealand and Australia with the Ancients. When a knock came at his hotel door, he invited in, unbelievably, a Maori tribesman from New Zealand, seeking help in their aboriginal quest for independence.

Other liberators and friends of Hermes include Andrew Mousalimas and **Joseph Langdell** of California; and Savvas Fotiadis. Years ago Hermes became friends with a remarkable Greek freedom-fighter, the first president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios. "We first met when I was delivering feta cheese to a Greek restaurant in Boston and he was a student at Boston University's School of Theology. I joined him for lunch and discussions of pressing issues of the day." He knows an equally remarkable fighter for women and children around the world, Unity Dow of Botswana. He considers **Norman Peterson**, a man of steel of Worcester County, his most valued mentor.

The other people in his life include chance encounters, appointments, and friends. Among them: King Constantine of Greece; artist **Judith Gwyn Brown**; **Mike Smith** of the ill-fated Challenger; Pulitzer-Prize winner **Doris Kearns Goodwin**; playwrights **Arnold Peyser** and his wife; and Major-General **John Blatsos**. He enjoys thinkers and doers. His favorite statue (except for Messenger of the Gods) is Rodin's "The Thinker."

Events at Tiananmen Square made the scheduled stop of the Ancient & Honorable trip impossible. As Public Information Officer for BGEN **Joseph A. Milano**, Hermes arranged for a floral image of the Goddess of Democracy to be mounted in front of the Old State House, the site of the



LTC Hermes Boyatis with **MGen. John Blatsos** at an Ancients' reception in Boston.

Boston Massacre.

What, we queried, were his many activities in his many lives? He studied airplane engine mechanics just before he enlisted. During World War II he served in the Air Corps, then shifted to the infantry as the war wound down. He is a world traveler and an animal rights activist. He has studied law, earth-moving and well-driving equipment, and molding plaques and figurines. He is an authority on feta cheese and pita bread.

We learned that Hermes finds his greatest delight in books: philosophy, art, how-to, ancient and modern, travel, and history books everywhere! From his boyhood, he remembers and has a copy of Nordhoff and Hall's *Falcons of France*. He can quote paradigms from Chinese philosophers and mythology from ancient Greeks. A contemporary Hellenic author has included a line drawing of Hermes in his book. Another writes mysteries with a Cape Cod setting.

A Friend of the Boston Public Library, Hermes
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Fun and Fundraising with Antique Cars

By HERMES BOYATIS

IN a previous issue of the Aleppo Shriners News, we described how **Bill Katsapetses** used "the power of antique cars to help children in need." Bill, the treasurer of the North Shore Old Car Club, described how members of the club raised \$500 for the Shriners Children's Transportation Fund and \$500 for the Ronald McDonald House at the Topsfield Fairgrounds.

At the same site this year on June 21 and 22, the fund-raising "drive" took place again. Bill was behind the wheel of his 1931 Model-A Pick-up truck, which he had restored in 2004. "It was a good show," he said. "We're still waiting to count the money."

We went on to ask about his Masonic and Shriners affiliations. "I was raised in Jordan Lodge, Peabody and am a member of the Shriners Motor Patrol."

With cars and driving such "motor-vations" in his life, your reporter queried about his first driving. "I learned to drive at 14, started using these skills at 15, and got my license at 16. All of this was safe because we lived close to the woods in Peabody. I'm 67 now and I've been playing with cars ever since!"

He had brief service in the Coast Guard as a Seaman First Class in 1959, but nothing much happened. "I was never called to active duty," he commented.

At last we reached his pride and joys which outshone his auto adventures: family.

"My wife **Jackie** (O'Brien) and our two children, **Nicholas** and **Christa**, and our grandson **Alex**." Bill's Greek Heritage is dominant here as is his dedication to driving.

We'll be watching him in parades, ceremonials, and other events. And we'll be adding our dollar support!

At last your editor arrived at the greatest North Shore Old Car Club event yet. But first, let's describe the wondrous antique cars we've seen in the past at parades which delight the kids and are scrutinized by modern drivers:

1957 Chevy; 1911 and 1914 Model T Fords; Vintage 1969 BMW Motorcycle; 1905 REO Runabout; 1931 Ford Roadster; Worcester Sound Coke Truck; WW2 Gun Carrier; 1970 Pontiac Tempest the list is endless!

We learned that the North Shore Old Car Club

was founded in 1952. Every driver has delighted in the wonders of fun in fund-raising. This year **Rick Becoff** served as President; **Bob De Santis**, Director; and Bill as Treasurer.

At our Ceremonial in January, we celebrated the installation of our new Illustrious Potentate **Robert F. Smith** and our Recorder **Peter Stone**. In the midst of blizzard conditions, with many speeches and none of the usual "goodies" to eat, Bill's big moment arrived. Driver of a 1931 Model-A Ford Pickup Truck, he signed as Treasurer,

North Shore Old Car Club check #2422 (picturing an old car in the corner)! His club is proud that this is the second year of a \$500 fund-raiser!

This coming June 20 and 21 the North Shore Old Car Club will be presenting its 40th Annual Car Show, featuring an auction, corral, and flea market (details can be found on www.nsocc.com).

Bill Katsapetses, now past Treasurer, is only 68. All his fans and transporters for the Children's Transportation Fund are waiting for his next adventures on the highway!



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