

Carrie Continues to Follow Her Heart

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the game in July.

This past April 19th, Carrie and family went to the Support Rally at the Springfield Shriners. The news of them possibly closing hit the Holmstrom family hard. Carrie was one of the speakers there as well.

Then coming up in June, they are off to Luxor Shrine in New Brunswick Canada. Carrie's dad was contacted by their Lady **Karen** asking for Carrie to be the guest speaker at their Ceremonial. The Holmstroms are making it a mini-vacation and are spending 5 days there.

That's the Shriner happenings so far this past year and coming up. But her dad says things happen fast and that opening his email these days is always an adventure. He also jokes that he is now known best as "Carrie's dad".

But besides all that, Carrie started her first year at Salem State College this past fall. Shortly after school began, Carrie kicked a soccer ball a little too hard and her leg went flying off, causing her to fall. Lying on the ground in tears, her friends went running to her only to find the tears were from laughing so hard! Unfortunately, she scraped her leg in the process and developed an infection. She missed a week of school and this kept her from wearing one leg for the next 6 weeks. But she still went on with school, living on campus, on one prosthetic leg! Thankfully, after fighting her parents on it, she has an electric scooter to get around campus and she still managed a 'B' average for the semester! Her work with Shriners has even helped her in her course selection - Communications and Public Relations.

Carrie would rally her soccer teammates before a game by saying "this is not a soccer game...this is our passion!" Carrie has and continues to live her life with passion...even more so now.



And her passion for the Shriners cause continues. April 28th marked the 3 year anniversary since Carrie's accident. As she notes in her speeches: "If not for the Shriners...I would not be standing in front of you right now".

Carrie adds, "I will never forget what the Shriners have done and continue to do for me. And I will continue to help them however I can."

"What Came You Here To Do?"

By NOBLE BILL RAWNSLEY
ALEPPO DONOR RELATIONS CHAIRMAN



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™



WHEN you first became a Mason, during your first degree, you were asked "What came you here to do?" Your answer was, "to learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry." You took upon yourself a set of obligations and pledges. Among which were to "aid all poor and distressed Brother Master Masons, their Widows and Orphans." When you were created a Shriner you also made certain pledges: among which were to care for children in ways that you could, to help raise funds for Shriners Hospitals for Children being the most important of all. We here at Aleppo Temple have taken on the additional task of "Transportation" for these Hospitals. All of these are good, and in fact are just "What came you here to do?"

Shrinedom is now in the greatest time of need that it ever was. The recent hurricanes damaged the Galveston, Texas Hospital and we hear that in this economy, funds are being burned through faster than we can replace them. Thus, it appears Galveston is not being repaired and has been closed until further notice, and it there is a strong rumor that our own Springfield Hospital will also suffer an unseen fate. Again I ask, "What came you here to do?"

No! All cannot equally do the same. But all can equally help in the continuance of our pledge. It may be as little as my own favorite project, "Pull-Tab Collection" as I was there when it began. Or maybe it is Noble Leon Golden's "Can Drive" crew at the Stop & Shop, Shaws and DeMoulas supermarkets. Or maybe it is just some other small way to help. How: purchase a '100 MILLION' club as a gift for someone you care for or even just for yourself. Make a small monetary pledge to either Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund or Shriners Hospitals for Children. Make an endowment gift. Maybe even start another funding program. Also, the Aleppo HONS prove this endeavor is truly a family affair.

No Noble stands so tall, as when he stoops to help a Child.

My Aleppo Noble Brothers; I call upon you to keep your pledge. Remember:
"What came you here to do?"

See page 26 to sign up for a tour of the
Shriners Hospitals for Children—Boston and Springfield.

Blue Lodge Happenings

By RALPH REED

Greetings Friends and Brothers,

I'm writing this late on Sunday afternoon. I've spent the entire morning sleeping on the couch.

I totally love rainy days and mindless TV. It helps clear my brain from the past few days of Masonic madness.

"Hi, my name is **Ralph Reed**, and I'm addicted to Masonry," "Hi, Ralph."

On Saturday, March 28, Massachusetts hosted the Spring Square and Compass Day statewide. Every lodge was open to the public.

How did your lodge do? Ancient York in Lowell had three men sign the application paperwork with checks in hand, had one guy fill out the paperwork, but didn't have the fee with him, and one guy just took the tour. He seemed interested but I don't know if we can set the Masonic hook in him. I'll leave that to the deal closer, Wor. **Barry Patterson**. He's a lot better in answering questions about Masonry than I will ever be. I know the answers, but my brain doesn't drag the answer forward fast enough.

The first guy that we talked to on Saturday is an Ancient York "Legacy." Remember the movie *Animal House* where Flounder wants to join the fraternity because his his brother was in the same one? Our legacy came in with his Grandfather's Masonic diploma showing he was a member of AYL back in the day. Other brothers who were closer to the door tried to recruit him to their lodge, but we had him from the second he left his house.

Funny thing, we have four lodges in the Lowell building. All the lodges have had pretty good success in their membership drives. Not every new member is recognized by every other brother in the other lodges. It's fun watching someone trying to recruit another lodge's members. Some serious ribbing was being tossed around.

Hit this "stranger" with your best sales pitch, or even the opening of a sales pitch and his lodge brothers come over to collect him. Too funny, but it is a great way for new men to meet some other guys. *Suggestion - name tags for brothers working the open house*

Many thanks to Paul for the physics lessons about liquids and keys thrown from his 20th story balcony. That will cause a couple of sleepless nights. Thanks to **Kevin Waterhouse**, **Mike Hudon** and **Jim Burke** for manning the table for Ancient York at this open house. I've got the building tour down to point where I can do it walking backwards while answering questions. Fun part is meeting another tour and trying to steal their prospect. It hasn't happened yet, but it is cool to at least try.

We also manned the Acacia Club in Dracut. We put an ad the in the local paper. Two men came by with the ad in their hands. Knew they were interested, one filled out an application on the spot after a few questions and the other asked a lot of questions then deferred filling out an application till after talking it over with his family. One small ad, plus all the Grand Lodge advertising, brought two potential brothers to the woods of Dracut.

The Acacia Club of Dracut sits on 11 acres of undeveloped property in a residential section of Dracut, MA.



THE ACACIA CLUB OF DRACUT
251 SLADEN ST. • DRACUT MA 01826

Being from the city, all those trees kind of scare me, but I manage. The club is open to all Master Masons. The dues are \$15 a year. We meet twelve times a year on the second Saturday morning of the month at 8:30 am.

There is always coffee, most of the time there are donuts, once a quarter there is a full breakfast. The club is a function hall. Picture an open room with tables and chairs and a disco ball in the center of the room.

The Acacia Club is Ancient York's Summer meeting place. You will be invited to a summer lodge meeting. The Acacia Club is very active in the community. We donate hall rentals to many organizations in town, we are home to Boy Scout Troop 80 of Dracut, and we help out during town events. Troop 80 is a very active troop that meets on Monday nights. I went to one meeting to meet the leaders, it brought back some fond memories of my distant youth. Many thanks to Wor. **Jim Orgett** for encouraging us to sponsor this worthy group of young men.

On Friday March 27th, the Acacia Club hosted an Italian Night—Red Sauce competition. It was a fundraiser to pay for a wheelchair ramp for a boy in Lowell. Short history, the Masons were approached about building a ramp for a boy named **Nicky**. He has cerebral palsy. His mom would have to wheel him into the garage then carry him in the house, ok when he's 5, but now he's 14 and a lot heavier. Did a little fundraising, got the ramp built before all the funds were available, the need was that urgent. Thank you Brothers **Mike** and **Bruce** for the hard work you put in to build this ramp. Dozens more blessings for your patience while we raised the rest of the money.

A few months ago, a handful of brothers were standing around curing all the ills of the world and discussing how to get the money to retire the ramp debt. Bro. Jeff Smith told us he just did a pasta dinner for the school PTO, and they made a ton of money. He also said that his red sauce was the best and he would help cook. Of course, everyone there knew their sauce was better, thus was born the Red

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