

Leon Golden

Our Golden Transportation Guide

By HERMES BOYATIS

THE day we interviewed our remarkable fundraiser, he was scheduled to take three Stop & Shop managers on a tour of Boston's Shriners Hospital. They would see the target of their monies collected for the Children's Transportation Fund. "It was a remarkable day. They brought breathtaking baskets of fruits for the nurses, candies and teletubbies for the children. They were amazed at the outstanding institute that the Shriners facilitate" said **Leon Golden**.

Whenever Leon describes his activities, he gives great credit to ALL the others involved. "I am co-chairman on the North Shore Committee with a very capable corps under Past Potentate **Bob Pann**. In addition to Stop & Shop, we travel to Shaw's and other stores — among them, Kappy's Liquor Store and DeMoulas Market Basket." We asked about his years before his gifts to Shrinedom: "I was born in Boston on September 1, 1938. I will be sixty-nine in September." He has been married for forty-five years to **Frances**, a graduate of Danbury State College in Connecticut. For thirty-nine years he and Frances have been busy partners in a wholesale optical business, 20-20 Eyewear of New England.

Leon is so proud of their past and present families. "My late uncle, **Wor. E. Louis Greenblatt** was charter member of Moses Michael Hays Lodge and Past Master of the Consolidated Lodge (Germania). June 12, that same Lodge donated one thousand dollars to the Children's Transportation Fund."

"My Uncle Lou and my wonderful grandmother brought me up as a boy. My late mother, **Ida Golden**, had approximately 13,000 hours over twenty-eight years volunteering at

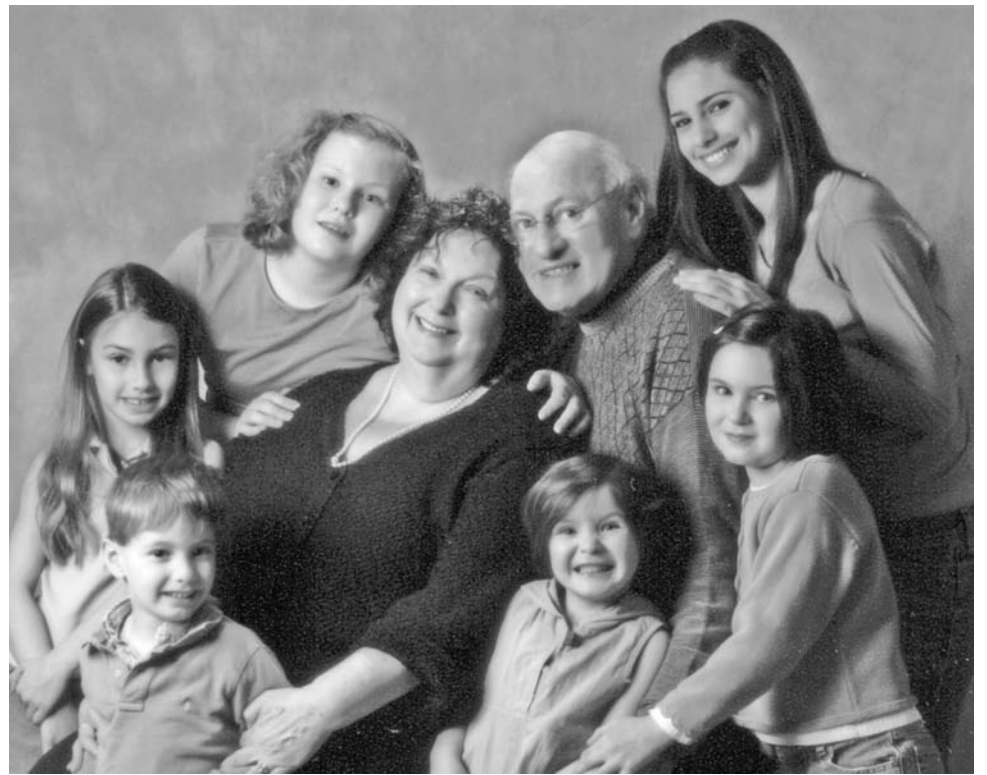
Shriners Burns Institute—Boston. She also contributed to many Masonic charities and was also a major supporter of the Scottish Rite Learning Centers. She was a Past Worthy Matron of Germania and Queen Esther Chapters Order of the Eastern Star." Ida was a school-teacher for over forty-five years in the Revere public school system, bringing in lessons and teaching the children in the hospital.

Leon spoke non-stop about his beloved wife Frances, their three daughters and their remarkable good deeds. Leon's Oldest daughter **Lisa Arnette**, a graduate of Allegheny University and Northeastern University, is a physician's assistant. Her husband **Paul** is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Middle daughter **Cara Shaer**, a graduate of Pine Manor College, lives in Lynnfield, MA., and is a school teacher in Lynnfield public schools. Cara works in the family business as a sales and marketing representative.

"Our youngest, **Beth Anne Golden Kaltsounis**, is a graduate of Bentley College, Mt. Ida College in Newton, and Suffolk University. She is a brilliant girl a CPA and holds a Master's Degree in Taxation. She is also a licensed Optician for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. God has blessed Frances and me. In addition to our daughters, we have six grandchildren. The whole nine yards are here!"

Next we turned to Leon's other Masonic and Shrinedom dedications. "I am a Past Master Counselor of Winthrop Chapter Order of DeMolay, a lifetime member of the Grand Lodge of Masons, Massachusetts and 47-year member of Moses Michael Hays Lodge in Needham. I am also a member of the Consolidated Lodge and



A FAMILY PORTRAIT of Leon with his six grandchildren and wife. Top row left to right: **Calle Shaer, Frances Golden, Leon Golden, Sydni Arnett**. Bottom row: **Georgia Arnett, Luke Arnett, Gabrielle Shaer, Madelyn Shaer**.

Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Boston. I currently serve as chairman of the Blood Committee of my Lodge, and delight in my service on the Entertainment Committee, bringing speakers to our dais."

"You asked me about my hobbies," Leon said. "They are attending Red Sox games, traveling around the world to many Masonic Lodges, volunteering in the Shriners Children's Transportation Fund, driving the children from one hospital to another, and collecting monies from corporate and individual donors. With all my rewards in life, it is most wondrous to be able to help the less fortunate. I love children and the Shrine loves children, as well. It gives me a warm feeling when a person donates at a collection site and tells me what a great bunch of guys we are."

Leon's happiest personal times? "Celebrating birthdays." Your favorite foods, we asked? "Any ethnic victuals: Chinese, Greek, Spanish, Jewish, Middle East. I'm an adventurer in dining, sometimes too adventurous. My cardiologist suggests that I remember my heart, so I've lost 45 pounds."

Our Golden Giver and Guide's concluding thoughts? "The great architect of the Universe has blessed me through hard work and basically good health with a great family, Masons, Shriners, and children needing transportation. I must continue to succeed in sharing my time, my funds, and giving to EVERYONE!"

We hear you Leon Golden. God bless!

May your good deeds continue for years to come!

Friday Night Lights: The 29th Annual Shrine Game

.....continued from page 18

Retaining possession at the start of the second quarter, the South drive ended in a turnover on 4th and 4, and after a turnover and another back and forth series of drives, the North scored a TD at 7:17, following it up with the extra point and what looked to be an onside kick. The South took over at the North 37, and put together a tremendous drive in the closing minutes of the second quarter. That combined with a 15 yard penalty brought them to 3rd and 1 on the 2 yard line with 45 seconds left, and then 4th and 2 with 22 seconds left. Finally, the South scored a touchdown. The North got the ball back on their 44 yard line with 16 seconds to go, and erupted with a 20 yard run. The South defense responded with a sack and a 20 yard loss to end the half, tied 7-7.

After the halftime parade and some more presentations of awards (such as the State Super bowl plaques which were given to the winning coaches), some presentations of donations from the community (\$7500 from the Lowell Firefighters Association, \$3000 from the Billerica FD, and a whopping \$10,000 from Whitman-Hanson High School, among others) and the presentation of the King and Queen of the Game, Jimmy Rosales and Erica Way, the rain finally let up, and it was time for the third quarter.

The second half would prove to be much better than the first; both teams had been sizing each other up, and they were ready to come out in earnest. 7-7 is the same as 0-0, so it was a whole new ballgame. The South started on their own 40, and ended up having to punt the ball after a mediocre drive. The punt was dropped, and the South recovered the ball on the North 26, pushing on to get to 1st and goal on the North 4-yard line, and scored a TD and the point after at 6:36 in the 3rd, making the game 14-7. Now the chess match would begin.

The North took possession on their own 26, and after a sack for a four yard loss, punted to the South, who took a fair catch at their 41. The South

then drove to the North 27, where they turned the ball over on downs. After an interception on the North 21 yard line and a 12 yard sideline run, the South seemed poised to score again, but they were held out of the end zone, and went for a field goal on their fourth down. The teams lined up for the FG try, and it was blocked! The North took possession at their own 28, and the third quarter was over.

The third quarter seemed to be the best chance for either team to get on the board, as it began to rain again in the fourth quarter. The North threw another interception, but the South only got four yards before turning the ball over on downs with a penalty that pushed the ball back to the North 23 yard line. The North was forced to punt, and the South took over. Despite late-game efforts on both sides, the final score of the game was South 14,

North 7.

Some trivia about the All-Star Game: Sometimes it's a family affair - three Fluties played in the Shrine game (Bill in '79, Doug in '81, and Darren in '84), all from Natick High. Matt Hasselbeck (currently the starting QB for Seattle), played in the Shrine game for Xaverian in '94, as did his brother Tim in '96, now the third-string QB for the New York Giants. They're also both sons of former Patriots TE Don Hasselbeck. Speaking of the Pats, they had at least four early 90's Shrine Game participants on the roster, among them Jermaine Wiggins (2000-01 when earned a Super Bowl ring, and is now with Jacksonville). Current WEEI Pats commentator (and former Patriot in his final season) Steve DeOssie played in the Shrine Game in 1980 for Don Bosco.

