

# Let's Go to the Circus!

By MARK STOUGHT



FOR the 56th time, the Aleppo Shrine Circus made its way to the Aleppo Shrine Auditorium in Wilmington, MA from April 18 to April 22, 2007. It was once again a smashing success, thanks to remarkable performances by the members of the Royal Hanneford Circus and a lot of volunteer work by our very own Aleppo Shriners. If you weren't there, this article will tell you everything you missed.

At the Shrine Circus, there are things to do even before you get to the auditorium! Past Potentate **Al Rose** and members of the Temple Guard were there to greet you at the ticket booth and give you a souvenir program (a great deal for just \$2!). The program has advertising and congratulatory pages donated by individuals, companies, and groups (Masonic and otherwise) from all over the state. There are 40 coloring book pages dedicated to the Shrine Clowns: the Circus is a great opportunity for kids to collect cards and autographs from the Clowns. The

program also has information on the hard-working acts of the royal Hanneford Circus, so you can find out what you'll be seeing, or remember what you saw.

Now, the Shrine Circus is all about family fun, and there are lots of things to do (as if there wasn't enough in just the program)! Moving on from the ticket booth, there's all sorts of things for kids: light-up toys, concessions, and face-painting, popcorn, light-up snow cones, nachos, beverages, fried dough, hot dogs, and even cotton candy was handled by members of Aleppo's Units, who did a magnificent job. The Hons manned the face-painting table, which was doing brisk business throughout all the performances the entire week.

While it is very likely that one could have a ball without ever going into the auditorium I think it's only fair to mention that there was also a three-ring circus! **Dick Johnson**, our three-time Circus Chairman, informed me that things had been going excellently the whole week, with an average of 1000 tickets sold per day, and around 2600 total attendees. Dick also told me to keep a particular eye out for the bears and the elephants. He also told me the show wouldn't wait for me, so it's time to get going and see the show!

The ubiquitous Aleppo Shrine Clowns opened the show, and **Billy Martin**, the Ringmaster of the Royal Hanneford Circus led everyone in a tribute to the

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## SPAM in War and Peace

By HERMES BOYATIS

OUR wondrous philosopher and traveler, Editor **Joe McKertich**, once remembered his Army days when the World War II warriors devoured Spam and more Spam, and accorded their survival to that memorable meat. Joe added that at Aleppo and virtually hundreds of Masonic Lodges across wartime America, diners depended on SPAM. Your interviewer, also a soldier, shared his victual memories, remembering how all his folks at home fried it, grilled it, baked it, broiled it, or put it in salads. A renowned Spamster friend of his sold her production to classmates to help pay for her tuition: the menu: SPAM, chopped celery, dill pickles, and mayonaise, wrapped in white bread.

To interrupt the positive history of Hormel's gourmet creation, let's pause for a cryptic message in fine print on a can:

"So now you know the many secrets of SPAM. This knowledge carries much responsibility. It gives you the power to feed yourself and others. You wield a delicious skill that has far-reaching consequences. Please do not use it for evil." Your reporter asks "Is the CIA involved?"

Remember how Iraq's Saddam Hussein was captured in his underground hideout on December 13, 2004? What had sustained him in his death-defying days? Cans of SPAM!

This month and this year there is new warfare and an astonishing anniversary.

Where shall we travel to bring the Hormel war up to date? Move from Iraq to Hawaii. Not poi, but SPAM, is taking top taste over steak. Herald Wire Services notes that it's SPAM warfare in Hawaii. Burger King battling McDonald's! Hawaiians consume more than five million pounds a year, an average of about six cans for every man, woman, and child — croissants, Spawiches, and other SPAM victuals

Now for the greatest news! Your reporter found the latest SPAM cans, double-packed and seductively designed in every supermarket he visited. What a history the famous edible has had!

In 1937 Hormel Foods first produced their fabulous SPAM. This year, 2007, the company celebrates its "70th Anniversary of American Flavor. Read the history, feel the fun, find the recipes, buy a cool t-shirt."

Year after year we have tasted the gourmet concoctions of our super-chef, Al Gebow — macaroni and cheese, pecan rolls, American chop suey. Do we dare to join the fast-food frenzy of our Hormel diners? and buy a t-shirt? Full SPAM SPEED ahead!



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