



Legion of Honor Sergeant Major **Russell Wright** and his daughter **Sarah**.

## More Pull-Tabs!

**A**T Sergeant Major **Russell Wright** and his daughter **Sarah** brought in some pull-tabs for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund hoping to get some coverage in the Aleppo News, and we are more than happy to oblige them!

How this came about is actually a funny story: Aleppo Reporter and Noble **Mark Stought** was outside taking photos for the Ceremonial when he noticed the aforementioned Noble Wright and his daughter approaching the Auditorium with some pull-tabs. Upon engaging in conversation with Noble Wright, Noble Stought discovered that Noble Wright was looking for someone from the Aleppo News. Noble Stought was quite surprised at the statement, as he recalled, "I actually have a fez that says Aleppo News right on it, and Noble Wright was only about a foot away from me. So I couldn't figure out why he didn't seem to notice!" Well, apparently, Noble Wright wears glasses, and as can be seen in the photo, he wasn't wearing them! After straightening everything out, Noble Wright and his daughter posed for the photo at left.

The pull-tab collection was a class project done by Sarah's 3rd grade class at Parlin Elementary School in Everett, MA. As can be seen from the photo above, all 27 children worked very hard to collect what is really a very large amount of tabs. Noble Wright hopes that getting this into the Aleppo News will not only show the children of Sarah's class that their hard work was appreciated, but also will inspire our other readers (especially the educators out there) to take up this type of project, and help us help children.



## "Working Hard and Having Fun!"

What a great ceremonial! For the first time in a long time we initiated 60 candidates. Thanks to the Membership Committee chaired by Noble **Phil Kumph**. These Nobles have put many hours into preparing for this ceremonial by visiting different lodges, Lodges of Instruction, Scottish Rite functions, and being visible at different Masonic functions. The Mentors, chaired by High Priest and Prophet **Peter Simmons**, were hard at work also, showing the Candidates and their Ladies our building and unit rooms. It is rumored that 20 of the candidates signed that day to different units. If you would like to help on either of these important committees just contact both of these Nobles.

Remember "5K NO WAY!"

To our newest members an active Shriner is a happy Shriner. Your mentor will be in touch with you to help you keep informed of events happening at Aleppo. Your Shrine Newspaper is one of the best ways to keep informed of what is happening, use it as a tool to fill your calendar.

Thank you to the HONS for hosting a tea for the Ladies while the candidates were being initiated. **Bob Tibbetts** from the Boston hospital volunteers did double duty as he gave a short talk to the candidates and then to the Ladies at the tea.

The Strawberry Festival and Barbeque catered by our Stewards and served by our HONS, was a huge success.

If you didn't stay and dance to our swing band or play casino then you missed a great evening.

The All Star football game, chaired by Noble Peter Simmons, was held at Bentley University in Waltham, and again this year after a day of rain the sun came out so that a great game could be played. This is Aleppo's biggest fundraiser for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund. Thank you to the Nobles that paraded for the opening ceremonies.

The 135th Imperial Session was held at San Antonio, Texas from July 6th through the 9th. It was a history making session, as the delegates were to vote on the possibility of closing 6 of our 22 hospitals. If you have been following the process of events our Hospitals as a whole have been running a deficit balance for a few years. We can not continue this way. As the economy is still downturning so are our endowment funds. Eventually it will just dry up.

Back to the vote; after long discussion it was voted to keep the following hospitals open; Erie, Greenville, Shreveport, Springfield, and Spokane. It was voted to reopen Galveston which had been shut down since hurricane Ike did millions of dollars of damage. The problem as I see it is that we do not have money to keep them open. The Board of Directors is requiring all hospitals to lower their budgets more then they have already this year. A few of the Chairmen of the Boards of Hospitals like Houston said if they are required to lower their budget much more, they cannot operate their hospitals. There is much more to come on this situation.

Another change you should be aware of is that Imperial Sir **Ralph Semb** lost his bid as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Imperial Sir **Douglas Maxwell** was elected to replace him. Ralph always faced the good and bad decisions that had to be made but he did them.

Congratulations to the Aleppo News staff, the correspondents and all the contributors to the newspaper for winning the coveted 2009 Dromedary Award. The Aleppo News has strived over the years to create a quality and up-to-date publication. Keep up the good work!

Es Selamu Aleikum  
Illustrious Robert F. Smith  
Potentate Aleppo Temple - 2009



**Robert F. Smith**  
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*Robert F. Smith*



**5K NO WAY!**

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