

"A Horse! A Horse! My Kingdom for a Horse"

By HERMES BOYATIS

HOW well we remember **Joe McKertich's** tributes to departed and still living equines. In our last issue of *Aleppo News*, we dealt with our Mounted Patrol and the Mahan's Forge Farm.

Now our target on horses will move to equines in history, mythology, and around the world. Our quote is from **John Heywood's** "Proverbs" (1546), later used by Shakespeare in *Richard III*.

But before our scan of horses everywhere, let us focus on a Shriners horse. Announced August 28th in the *Shreveport Louisiana Times* by reporter **Jim Hudelson** is the true tale of "**Thumbelina**," a miniature horse. The wee equine has been officially recognized by the Guinness World Records as the smallest equine in the world.

On August 28 the tiny horse began her tour by a visit to the Shriners Hospital in Shreveport. The Thumbelina Children's Tour will make stops in all 48 continental states (plus Washington, D.C.). Thumbelina will brighten the day for the children and staff at more than 100 hospitals; special camps and schools; group children's homes; and shelters from coast to coast. We shall see our wonder horse soon!

Now back to the past: In Greek mythology there is Pegasus and the legend of the Trojan Horse. The 11th Century records the courage of Lady Godiva, who rode a handsome steed, naked but covered with long hair, through the streets of Coventry, England. It is recorded that she was protesting the tolls impressed by her husband on his tenants.

Remember our presidents who were the greatest astride their horses? **Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Teddy Roosevelt**. Then, we have seen the wondrous steeds which prance or dance to rhythm; the Andalusians and the Lippizansers.

Our U. S. history reminds us of the warfare

between Indians and settlers: the Apaches and Cheyennes against Custer and his comrades.

Just recently featured on television were the small wild horses on the isle of Chincateague between Virginia and Maryland.

We remember the history of the Russian Cossacks, the Afghan tribes, and the Mongolians. We continue to read press coverage of Fox and Hounds in England and Virginia, and the Ascots in England and the Derbys in this country. We know the endless achievements of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police! Many American cowboys and cowgirls have been featured with their mounts: We've witnessed on TV a talking horse, Mister Ed. We know of famous modern riders, **Gene Autry** and **Dale Evans**. General **Robert E. Lee**, graduate of West Point, is figured in bronze in the south astride his horse Traveller. What about Paul Revere's famous ride?

In our chronicle of Horses, your writer found two people at our local Morkis Animal Hospital with very special relations with equines.

The veterinarian, **Edward S. Morkis, DVM**, is a prize-winning rider. When he is not treating animals, he polishes his saddle. He has won many ribbons astride his thoroughbred Shire-Cross: stable name: "Dream," show name: "Perchance to Dream."

His receptionist is **Cindy DeLong**, on her father's side, Apache. She loves and has raised animals all her life: ferrets, an iguana, cats and dogs. She communicates with them and they with her.

Recently Cindy received word that her beloved brother was desperately ill in Lancaster, Pennsylvania's Mennonite-Amish country. After flights from Providence to Philadelphia, she arrived in the hospital in Reading, Pennsylvania to find that he had died in a bad accident. He was a devoted friend of the Amish, often driving them where



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their horse-drawn carriages could not go.

At the hospital Cindy met a young man whose family raises draft horses. Returning to the scene of the accident, Cindy was warned to slowly step back. One draft horse was "nasty," kicking everyone he could. Cindy stood unmoving, still saddened by her tragic loss. The animal came to her and nestled his head on her chest!

Cindy remembered her grandmother's messages when she was just a little girl: "Your place on earth is to take care of the animals. They come to you for a reason and someday you will understand why."

Cindy says she still feels her presence and laughingly adds: "Gram, please don't send me any more!" She added the strange irony, she lives on Custer Street in Brockton.

Ring-In 2008 Party!!!

By CHARLES "BUCKY" BUCHANAN

WE are going to have a New Year's Eve Party to ring in 2008! There has been some speculation about the party this year, but Noble **Jeffrey Arnold**, Aleppo High Priest and Prophet, has picked up the reins and will be this year's chairman.

Jeff said that this year's party will follow the format of the past and will feature a catered roast beef and turkey dinner, family style, and dancing from 6:30 pm until 1:00 am, interrupted around midnight for the dropping of the Times Square ball on two big screen TV's and champagne. There will also be two wine fountains flowing all evening!

The party will begin at 6:30 pm with a cheese and fruit table followed by dinner at 7:00 pm, but the dancing starts when you walk thru the door. The DJ for the evening will be Noble **Peter A. Simmons**, Aleppo First Ceremonial Master, so be sure to let him know that special tune to play.

There will be reserved seating and tables of ten (10) are available and can be reserved by calling **Maribel** at 978-657-4202 ext. 16. The price is only \$100 per couple.

This is one of the most popular events on the Aleppo Shriners calendar and fills the Fez room, so make your reservations early and start the New Year with your Aleppo family and friends.



OCTOBER 6, 2007

The Grand Master Jeffrey B. Hodgdon
Class of Candidates

Arch Degree



Pleasant Smoke Shop & Aleppo Shrine Center
Present The 4th Annual

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Friday – March 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

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Your ticket price includes a variety of handmade cigars from the premium cigar producers. Indulge yourself on a full course steak dinner. Enjoy a variety of premium spirits at our tasting booth. The entertainment for the evening will be a surprise for all to enjoy. Explore the variety of cigars and accessories provided by our local cigar distributors.



Tickets are \$100.00 and are limited to the first 150 participants. Tickets must be purchased in advance – No tickets will be sold at the door. Purchase your tickets at Pleasant Smoke Shop, 428 Main St., Malden, MA or To reserve your seat at this premium event, call Sheila at 1-800-700-0013 ext. 20. Visa and Mastercard are accepted. Proceeds from this event will benefit Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund.

Check of Money Order (\$100.00 per person) payable to Aleppo Shriners

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Address: _____

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Please mail to: Aleppo Shriners, 99 Fordham Rd., Wilmington, MA 01887