

The Aleppo Hillbillies

..... from page 20

seem strange to have a degree in the summer, according to **Curt Nietzsche**, "Hillbillies isn't a Unit, but more like a club within the Shrine. Therefore, all of our members are active in other Units in various capacities, and it was simply easier to schedule the degree in the summer when it was easier to obtain space."

Also in attendance that night was Aleppo Potentate **Albert D. Flight**. He was there, not as a candidate (unfortunately), but rather to receive a presentation of \$1,000 for the Children's Transportation Fund from the "Devil Dogs" of the Natick Detachment of the Marine Corps League. The Marine Corps League raises money which it gives to various charities, and thanks to Legion of Honor charter member and Past Commander **Dan Schuldman**, the Transportation Fund received a donation from the Marines which according to Dan "will hopefully be recurring." The Potentate also presented one of his "Flight for Children" pins to each candidate after the degree was over.

While I'm not going to give away any details of the degree itself, it was unlike anything I have yet experienced in my (short) Masonic career. It was performed very well, and the dues are reasonable: \$40 lifetime dues gets you some goodies, a year's subscription to the Clan News, and, as I mentioned above, the rest of the money goes to the Children's Transportation Fund. Of course, there are other things you can buy, as most Masonic groups are full of little tchotchkes (which is all part and parcel of things). Most notably for sale were handcrafted wooden cribbage boards with turned brass pins, created last winter by current "Rabban of the Clan" **Hedley Ash**. All monies from that particular product (\$32.50 each) are earmarked for the Children's Transportation Fund.

The Hillbillies are all about fun, but they take a serious approach to charity. As I see it, \$40 for life dues is cheap, and you know where the money is going when you fill out the application. There's plenty of sociability for the members as well as for the Ladies, though as with most social events, bringing more than one of the above at a time is discouraged. The Hillbillies are small, but they are active, and do have a positive impact on the overall goals of the Shrine. If you're looking for something just a bit different than what you have experienced thus far as a Shriner and a Mason, the Grand and Glorious Order of the Hillbilly Degree might just be what you're looking for!



AT THE HILLBILLIE DEGREE, **Bob Pann** presented a United States flag to **Dan Schuldman** of the Aleppo Legion of Honor. This flag was flown in Falluja, Iraq, and was presented to **Bob Pann** and **Bob Goodman** at the Neponset Valley Chinese Night, for providing the funds to mail packages to the troops in Iraq. They were contacted by one of the nurses of the Boston Burns Hospital, **Elaine Fraser**, whose son was stationed there and to whom they were sending care packages to. They also presented a certificate of authenticity stating that the flag was flown in Falluja. From left to right: **Bob Pann**, Past Potentate; **Bob Goodman**; **Dan Schuldman**.



AT THE Neponset Valley Shrine Club's Potentate's Reception, **Bob Pann** and **Bob Goodman** were presented with two United States flags that were flown in Falluja, Iraq, for their help in obtaining funds for care packages that were sent over to US Troops stationed there. They were contacted by **Thomas D'Esmond** and Nurse **Fraser** regarding the help. The Neponset Valley Shrine Club stepped up to donate the necessary funds for the postage costs of the packages. Nurse **Elaine Fraser's** son was one of the recipients of the packages and sent the flags back as thanks for their generosity.

Left to right are: **Joe Fraser**; **Elaine Fraser**, Nurse at Shriners Hospital-Boston; **Bob Goodman**, **Bob Pann**; and **Thomas D'Esmond**, Hospital Administrator, Boston.

Another Great Performance Osterville Parade July 21, 2007

By **ALEXANDER MOLES**

THE Aleppo Brass Band was invited and performed its annual fundraiser and community support at the Osterville Parade, Cape Cod, on July 21, 2007. With an excellent ensemble of musicians, the brass band turned "legal," having 21 members and visiting musicians on the band trailer. The parade proceeded through the center of the village led by a large contingency of classic automobiles and sports cars. The brass band followed the automobiles, entertaining a very appreciative crowd of onlookers. The skies were clear and sunny. The only "aging" was the rise in the summer-time temperatures, reaching 75 (degrees). The parade was followed by a concert from the band trailer by the band in the town center. The festivities continued all day and fun was had by all. The funds raised by this event have been distributed to the Aleppo transportation and trailer funds. I thank all who supported and participated in this fun filled day.

Where did your inspiration come from?

Inspiration from Dick "Doc" Winslow, Trumpeter, Aleppo Brass Band

By **ALEXANDER MOLES**

WHERE did your inspiration come from? In the case of our own Noble **Richard (Dick -Doc) Winslow**, it was Brother **Clyde McCoy**. He was a trumpeter born on December 29, 1904, who preferred music over rifles. Maybe you know someone who is full of energy and fun; someone who brightens your day.

"Doc" Winslow crossed my path playing trumpet in the brass band on July 21, 2007, a gorgeous sunny day on Cape Cod. He, too, believes in music and not in the complex war of words or social conflict. As the band played on, peace, fun and tranquility was obvious that Saturday in Osterville, MA. While setting out to earn a living Clyde had many ventures cross his path. One, including a young pilot, **Charles Lindbergh**, during World War I, who later was revealed by a news headline: "Lindbergh Solos to Paris." In seeing the light, "Clyde petitioned Daylight Lodge N. 760 in Louisville, Kentucky. He became a devoted Mason and a life-time member of his lodge. Before long Clyde became a member of the Valley of Memphis, Tennessee, A.A.S.R., and joined Kosair Temple of the Shrine in Louisville, Kentucky. His music was reported to be "corny, sweet and gimmicky."

Considered an embarrassment by some peers and critics, McCoy continued to record his version of music. "...Clyde's formula for success was simple. His own words explained it: 'I always played what the people wanted.'" We, too, say and do what others want to see and hear. This makes us feel comfortable. But we, too, can make a difference should we persevere and remain forever present in our groups. During World War II, Clyde returned to his recording. "In 1941, several Navy officers enjoying the morale-building and uplifting sounds of his hand convinced Clyde McCoy and his band to enlist en masse." I believe Noble Winslow gave this (article) to me to ask you to "enlist the brass band en masse," and listen to the great sounds of music as we performed in harmony. Clyde McCoy died in 1990. A follow-up article was to be in the Knight Templar, something for all to search for themselves.

Excerpts from Knight Templar, July 2004; By Sir Knight Joseph E. Bennett, KYCH, 330, FPS

Noble Ralph Albion Brown

..... from page 22

Sports bring him his happiest times, often resulting in funds for his Shriners. "I love coaching sports for young people. I coached DeMolay basketball; New Bedford's Summer League Championship basketball; young ladies' volleyball in greater New Bedford; Youth ten-pin bowling in New Bedford; Southeastern Massachusetts YMCA champion table tennis; and Coast Guard table tennis in Boston."

"I have season tickets for the Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins, (serving on their Fan Appreciation Board); and season tickets for the New England Patriots. I gave up the Boston Celtics after 39 years."

My favorite collections are autographed balls: when the 2000 Boston Celtics draft took place in Indianapolis, I sat in Coach **Arnold (Red) Auerbach's** office and came away with his and **Bill Russell's** autographed basketballs. I donated my signed **Tom Brady** football to the University of Florida's Medical Department."

What about your reading and TV? "I have a 73-inch Mitsubishi set, and, you guessed it, I watch sports! I read the sport and stock marked pages."

Hobbies? "My middle name, Albion, is for my uncle, **Albion B. Stone**, scrimshaw expert who makes tie-tacks for the Shriners, baskets, and other fantastic items. Not surprisingly, my hobby is collecting scrimshaw and whale's teeth. When **John Kennedy** died, **Jackie** placed a 2-pound whale tooth in his casket; I have a duplicate partner molar. Can't guess what it's worth."

He returned to his childhood. "When my parents divorced, I lived in New Bedford with my mother and grandmother, **Sarah Bonner Stone** from Scotland. She had a 17-room boarding house, mainly occupied by Norwegian seamen who traveled from Norway to Brooklyn to Fairhaven. I went to school there with a Norwegian-American girl. Several years later she wrote a book about the fishermen, Following the Waters, and included my picture and my 2-pound whale's molar."

"Let me add a really amazing addition to my love of sports. My grandmother's brother was a brilliant surgeon and golfer. He discovered the flaws of golf balls with X-rays!"

At the time I telephoned Noble Brown, he was overwhelmingly occupied, but he took the time to tell me why. "Tomorrow I'm heading the largest collegiate athletic event in New England at UMass Dartmouth. Forty-five colleges and one thousand athletes will be here for competitions in volleyball, football, soccer, and track (a 5-mile marathon). We'll be giving out T-shirts, hotdogs, and soft drinks. Last year's event raised more than \$11,000 for the Children's Transportation Fund."

Hopes for the future? "Continuing with sports, but most of all taking care of my three children and seven grandchildren, and All THE CHILDREN and parents in the Children's Transportation Fund!"