

Noble Edward Abram Otting Our "Music Man"

By HERMES BOYATIS

WHenever you see a lead man with a clarinet at his lips, you can be sure it is Ed Otting! He is past president of Aleppo's Brass Band and immediate past president of the Shriners Band Association of North America.

Where did your music life begin we asked? "At the end of grade school, I started with the piano and then moved to the saxophone and clarinet with private teachers. I remember being in an Ohio State contest for various instruments, didn't win, but I enjoyed it."

"I was born in Columbus, Ohio, on February 1, 1925. My parents, who encouraged my musical career, the Herbert Ottings. Their heritage was German, but we all regret never having learned the language. I married **Mae Scheuffler** (also German) fifty-three years ago. We continue to trav-

el and enjoy our family of three children, each with two children, that adds up" he said proudly, "to five grandsons and one granddaughter. Our happiest times are hearing and sharing in family jokes."

"I began my schooling at Ohio State University in journalism/management in 1948. I entered the Cadet Corps and served as Aerial Navigator on a B-24 "Liberator" bomber in the 14th Air Force in western China. After my graduation from Ohio State, I served in the Air Force Reserve. Back to the skies again, I was recalled as an Aerial Navigator during the Korean War. I flew a C-199 troop carrier aircraft." We discover that Ed Otting is far more than a music man!

Ed and Mae love to travel. They've been to Europe, South America, Canada, and all over the U.S.A.—often in this country with the Aleppo

brass bands.

Ed became a Mason in 1946 and has received his 60-year certificate and lapel pin from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. He became a Shriner in 1956 and has been with Aleppo bands ever since.

Your interviewer interrupted Ed's Masonic/Music past to ask "Are you healthy?" "Definitely! And I love to eat fresh fish, but I won't turn down a steak!"

His hope for the future? "To continue loving and enjoying my family, traveling, and certainly continuing the wonders of Shriners goals, funding transportation for the children. "Our problem," he continued, "is the AGING of PLAYERS. RECRUITMENT is my major plan. There are quality community bands around who have to make a decision on what to join and where to play."



NOBLE EDWARD ABRAM OTTING AND LADY MAE

He concluded, still with strong voice and healthy vehemence: "All of us need a replacement sometime in our lives!"

We hear you Music Man. We'll help you recruit!"

Rolling with the Derby Dames

By HERMES BOYATIS

IN our last issue, we described the first season of Boston's Derby Dames in the Shriners Auditorium. As we go to press, we look forward to Season 2.

Your interviewer found **Alison Whitehead**, assistant director of graduate admissions for the College of Arts and Sciences, Simmons College, and one of the board members of the Boston Derby Dames. She noted that Boston's teams are associated with the Women's Flat Track Derby Association National League.

Alison said that she is about to receive her degree in the Master's Program in Communications, and she communicated delightfully. "Boston has three home teams: average age 26, a mix of doctors, lawyers, teachers, public relations and communication specialists — completely diverse! At the moment there is one Simmons College student on the team: **Erin Dalbec**."

She continued: "Shriners are a wonderful group of people. We were close friends of **Sheila** and **Steve Bissett**. Our happiest time was when we gave

them Derby T-shirts. Our saddest: the sudden passing of Steve."

"The Derby scheduled for 5 p.m. on September 22 in the Shriners Auditorium will be our travel team, 'Boston Massacre' versus 'Dominion Derby' of Virginia."

Alison's plans and hopes for the future: "I look forward to my wedding to **Josh** (a tattoo artist) in Hawaii; to continuing my career in higher education; and to support always the wondrous work of the Shriners.

There's so much more to know and watch: the Derby rules about jammers, pivots, bouts, and jams; practice sessions in the Holbrook Sports Center; free black and white outdoor scrimmages, Sundays, 6-8 pm, at Moakley Field/Columbus Park Roller hockey court across from Carson Beach House. There's much, much more! Who are the Wicked Pissahs? What is Boomerangs? Where are the Tattoo Artists? Who are the Cosmo Naughties? Who are the announcers and musicians for the games?

Roll on! Roll on! We'll be there on November 11!

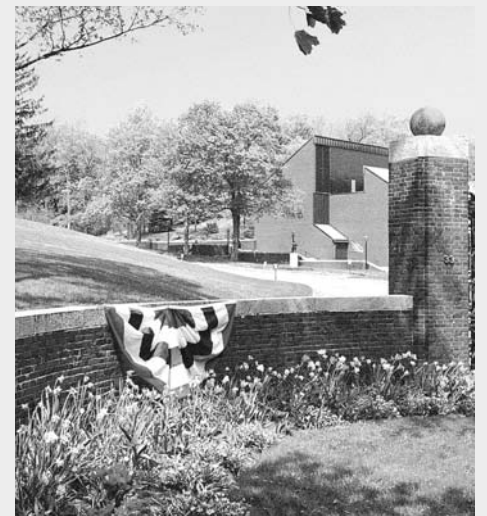
Shrine Bands to Present Concert At the National Heritage Museum

THE Shrine Bands of New England will join together in a massed band concert on Saturday, October 20, 2007 to present an afternoon of "Great American Music." The concert will be begin at 1:30 p.m. at the National Heritage Museum in the Maxwell Auditorium, on the grounds of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite in Lexington, Massachusetts. The museum and auditorium provide an excellent venue for this event, and offer a fun day for the family.

The Shrine Bands of New England represent 6 Shrine Centers — Aleppo Shriners in Wilmington, Massachusetts; Anah Shriners in Bangor, Maine; Melha Shriners in Springfield, Massachusetts; Kora Shriners in Lewiston, Maine; Rhode Island Shriners in Cranston, Rhode Island; and Sphinx Shriners in Newington, Connecticut. They will combine to form a sixty-piece concert band. The program will include show tunes and popular marches, many of them composed by Masonic musicians.

An open invitation is extended to all members of the Masonic Family and friends to come for the day, visit the museum and attend the concert. What a great way to introduce potential members to what Masons do in our communities.

The respective Shrine Centers are encouraged to travel by bus to make the ride even more enjoyable, and to assist keeping parking issues to a minimum. Contact your Shrine Band representative for more information, or request information by e-mail from **John Knox**, Kora Shriners, at jrknex@adelphia.net.



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