

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Boxful of Beanies



A rather large box of Beanie Babies was recently dropped off at the Aleppo Shrine Center by a gentleman on behalf of **Bette Jean Conrad** of Whitman, MA. The stuffed animals were part of a larger collection that was purchased over a period of time, never used and she did not want to throw them away. Her thoughts were that some child might be helped by these small stuffed toys.

Her first large donation of part of her collection went to local fire stations in the Whitman and Rockland Area of Massachusetts. The obvious reason to go there was so that in the event that a firefighter crossed paths with a child who had just experienced a tragedy in their life, he or she would have something to share that might help ease the pain.

With such a large collection of these toys, she needed to find another organization that might be able to use them in their effort to help children. Bette Jean never forgot those who helped her grandson, **Derek**, when he was very young. Derek had been born with what was termed as a "packaging wrinkle." One of his feet was twisted and required about a year of back and forth treatments that involved a cast on the foot that gradually straightened it. At that point in time the boy's parents did not have the resources to get him the treatment that he needed and the young boy's late great uncle, **Harold Welles**, a Shriner from Ohio, made arrangements for Derek to be seen and treated at the Springfield Hospital. Without hesitation the Shriners provided the help that Derek needed and his "packaging wrinkle" was corrected.



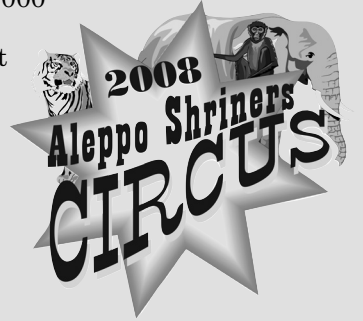
Thank You 2008 Circus Volunteers

The 2008 Shrine Circus Committee members would like to thank all Shrine members, families, and friends who worked so hard to make the 2008 Circus a great success.

All bills have been paid and a total of \$118,000 was raised for the Shrine.

We could not have accomplished this without all of your efforts.

To see the happy expressions on the children's faces, gives us such a great sense of pride. After all, children are our concern.



Fraternally yours:

Roger Metcalfe,
2008 Circus Chairman

Canning Brings More Than Donations

L EON Golden was doing his joyful job of canning with other Aleppo Nobles in Salem, MA, when **Margaret Eckman** of Swampscott dropped funds into his can and handed him a letter. Upon reading it he felt that it was something that definitely needed to be shared with the Aleppo Nobility. The letter is as follows:

"Our son **Peter** was treated at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston in late December of 1992 for third-degree burns on his legs and stomach from a cup of tea. He was only 9 months old at the time. We were in Nantucket for Christmas, visiting my family, who live there year round. Peter was sitting in my husband Steve's lap and my mother put down a cup of tea for Steve. Peter reached for the cup before Steve could put it out of his way and tipped it onto his lap. I learned from Shriners that these types of burns are so common. They're simply called 'teacups' at Shriners. Peter received third-degree burns on 11 ½ percent of his body."

"We rushed him to the local hospital, where by brother works, but my sister-in-law, an RN, said we had to get him to Boston to Shriners Hospital. My brother got a pilot through the local hospital, and that pilot got us to Boston in 25 minutes. They were among the longest minutes of my life as I held my son in my arms."

"An ambulance from Shriners met us at the airfield and took us straight to the hospital. They immediately began treatment of Peter and also took me and my husband aside to help us cope with what we were going through. One of the things I most remember from that night is how caring Shriners was of both Peter and us. Peter was getting the best burn care possible. The doctors and nurses there quite literally saved our son's life. The care my son received was amazing. A close doctor friend in Philadelphia, where we lived at the time, told us Peter could not be at a better place, that Shriners was the "Taj Mahal of burn centers." I'll always remember that comment."

"And, our disbelief, all the care — worth an estimated \$250,000 — was free. With the donations and other funds they collect, the Shriners support the hospital, and other like it, completely. My son was at Shriners Hospital for three weeks, undergoing skin grafts and receiving supportive care. We brought him back for checkups (also completely free) for several years."

"Today, my 16-year-old son hardly ever thinks of the burns he received. Shriners Hospital helped make sure that, outside of some scarring on his legs, Peter could completely recover from his burns and go on to a normal life. We have tried to support Shriners Hospital and the life-saving work they do ever since."



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

Aleppo News Wants You!

Do you regularly attend events at the Auditorium or your local Shrine Club? Are you looking to get active at Aleppo, but don't think you have time for a uniformed unit? Have you always wanted to write or take pictures and never had an outlet? If you answered "Yes" to the above questions, then the Aleppo News wants you!

We need photographers and writers to cover all the things we do here at Aleppo: Shrine events, Shrine Club meetings, public events at the Auditorium, Ceremonials, and Parades. You don't have to go to everything, but every little bit helps. Contact the Aleppo News Production Manager, Tom Friberg, at alepponews@alepposhriners.com for more information or to sign up.



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First Place Dromedary Awards Imperial Shrine of North America

2007, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994,
1992, 1991 *Honorable Mentions: 2006, 2002, 1993, 1990, 1989*

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