

# Aleppo Oriental Band

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The end of the year will see us holding our annual Holiday Party in Falmouth, Massachusetts as has been the case for the past several years. Following Falmouth we will be taking our traditional Holiday Break and suspend rehearsal until the early part of January when we will take up the tools of our craft in anticipation of honing them and our skills for the January Ceremonial. In the meantime, we hope that everyone will have enjoyable Holidays and experience the best for the New Year.



EARL T. SPICER

When this article was originally set out to be written, it was planned to introduce Noble **Earl T. Spicer** to you as our second-most senior member of the Band. Unfortunately, Earl passed away on July 18, 2009. Nonetheless, his record of achievement with the Band warrants a final tribute to him. Though our records indicate that Earl joined the Band in the same year as Noble **James Harvey**, due to personal matters and illness, Earl's length of service was slightly shorter because of some intermittent breaks. Earl

admirably served the Band for in excess of forty years which, in itself, is a commendable accomplishment by any standard. Earl's service was not only with our Band, but also with the National (ASOB) and Northeast Regional Association of Oriental Bands (NESOBA) in a variety of capacities and he performed those functions in as exemplary a fashion in every position as he did with the Band. Earl's lengthy service as Secretary and Treasurer of the Band also put him in a position that essentially made him the Band Archivist or Historian and its conscience and guide and, as a result, he was one of its most knowledgeable, dedicated, devoted, and sincere members. It is no small coincidence that Earl's first name also rhymes with the word "pearl" (or that the word "pearl" incorporates his name) and we regarded Earl as one of our treasured gems who selflessly devoted himself to the many demands of running and managing the Band for many years and we were all appreciative of those efforts and the sacrifice that came along with it. Supporting Earl in his efforts was his Lady **Alice** and his family - to whom we are thankful for their having shared Earl with us. It is without small measure that Earl was some of the glue that held us together for many years and we mean no disrespect by referring to him as "Earl, the Pearl" because he truly was and had been an invaluable treasure, gem, and jewel to the Band and he established a legacy that will be difficult for anyone to match - if at all. A part of the Band's heart and soul

went with Earl to the Eternal Oriental Band and his spirit will be with us for a long time to come. Till our paths next meet, Happy Holidays and a healthy and prosperous New Year to all. As you gather together to celebrate, in the spirit of the season, please take a moment to remember the less fortunate and resolve to do what you can to ease their burdens. In the meantime, please note that our website has moved to the following address (visit us there for the most up to date information concerning the Band): <http://www.oband.mysite.com>  
SHALOM  
*7<sup>th</sup> Oriental Band Scribe*



Rick Lemerise, Jr. (left) and Bob Goodwin at the Marlboro Parade.



## March On

By: HARRY G. ORCUTT  
MUKHABIR LT.



"To the Front, March!" Once again the Minutemen Unit is stepping off smartly behind our Captain, Noble **David Sisler**, beginning another active season of Aleppo Shrine parades. Most recently the Unit participated in the September 7th Marlboro Labor Day Parade where our newly minted recruit, Noble **Lester Davis**, finally had the opportunity to fire his Charleville Musket. By the time this worthy publication is sitting in your mailbox, we will have marched in the Northeast Shrine Association Parade at Burlington, Vermont, during the annual Field Days from September 23rd to the 27th. Shortly thereafter, we look forward to sharing a night of fellowship (along with the Motor Patrol) with Illustrious **Robert F. Smith**, in his Temple Apartment overlooking the Auditorium, on the evening of October 1st. (These get-togethers with the serving Potentate are both informative and enjoyable for the Nobles serving in the Units as well as for their significant others.)

To wrap up 2009 we will fall in for the Fall Tours of Duty at the Columbus Day Parade in Everett on October 10th, and the Ceremonial on Saturday, November 14th, where we once again hope to recruit incoming Nobles into our ranks. (Any Noble who is paid up in his dues, and who was inducted into the Shrine at any previous Ceremonial may also submit his application to be a Minuteman, the only such Unit in Shrinedom, whenever he is ready to make that commitment. The present time is a good option).

I apologize for having missed submitting an article in the previous edition (I guess I was having too much fun during the Summer break). There was much to report and if the reader will allow, I will now mention the most significant items: At the Circus in April, four of our members volunteered at 8 or more performances: Lt. **John Girdvanis**, Sgt. **Richard Perry**, Noble **Bob Galpern**, and myself. We also thank our Hillbilly Clan Cousins, Nobles **Curt Nitsche**, **Martin Neistadt**, and **Dick Greenhalgh** for joining in our effort. And we would be particularly remiss if we didn't thank those of our Ladies and daughters who gave of their time. On the first Monday in June, the Unit again turned out for the Ancient and Honorable Drums Head Parade in Boston (see photo). The Ancients, founded in 1638, are the oldest military organization in the Americas, and their annual Change-of-Command parade is usually the largest military public demonstration held in the Commonwealth each year. Not to be outdone, our Past-Captain **John Ralston** and his Lady Randy, once again hosted the Unit Summer Picnic at their personal resort at their home on Saturday, July 25th. Good - now we're all caught up on the exciting lives and times of the Minutemen.

It is with a full measure of sadness that I now announce that I will be ending my Minuteman career in the Shrine at the end of this year. Personal commitments demand my whole attention beginning in 2010. Serving Aleppo Shrine in this outstanding Unit has been a most fulfilling and rewarding experience. I look forward to reading the exploits of the Minutemen in future editions of Shrine News, and thank those who produce this award winning publication for finding space for my scribbles during my tenure as a Unit Correspondent. Before I transition out of the area entirely, I certainly intend to attend future Ceremonials.



Members of the Aleppo Minutemen in front of Historic Faneuil Hall, before the Ancient and Honorable Parade on June 1, 2009. From left to right are: Cpl. **Bill Wayne**; 1st Lt. **Dan Corshia**; Captain **David Sisler**; 2nd Lt. **Harry Orcutt**; and Musket Man **Leonardo Natalino**.



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