

The Southeastern Mass Shrine Club Goes to Jail

By DICK GREENHALGH

THE Shrine Club of Southeastern Massachusetts visited the Bristol County House of Correction prior to its last luncheon meeting on Wednesday April 2nd. Sheriff **Thomas Hodgson** was host to our group. The Shriners vis-

ited the women's wing and were shown how the residents trained dogs for handicapped individuals. The sheriff explained how the facility rehabilitates those incarcerated to reenter society. All in attendance had an educational and enjoyable time.



The Mercury's Rising at the Southeastern Mass. Shrine Club

THE Shrine Club of Southeastern Massachusetts has been very busy lately. Before the May meeting held at the Wamsutta Club in New Bedford, they visited the only thermometer museum in the country in Wareham, MA. Thousands of thermometers were on display encompassing every size and shape imaginable. The group attending enjoyed it tremendously.



Checking out the temperature at the thermometer museum before the Shrine Club of Southeastern Mass monthly meeting are from left to right: Noble **Ralph Brown**; Noble **Richard Pierce**; a guest of the Shrine Club; **Richard Potter**, Curator of Thermometer Museum; Noble **Bill Miller**; and Noble **Ernest Torres**.

After the June meeting, **Ian Day**, who is the new athletic director at UMass-Dartmouth, spoke to the group about the present and future plans of the near-by university.

The tab collection program is in full swing. On Tuesday, June 26, 2008, a group of Southeastern Mass. Shriners paid their annual visit to two Rhode Island schools to collect tabs the students have been saving all year long. The schools visited were the Northern Lincoln Elementary School in Manville and the Lonsdale Elementary School in Lincoln. Over 800 pounds of tabs were collected from the two schools, which were enough to fill the whole pick-up truck.

The summer months will feature the 35th Annual UMass-Dartmouth Track & Field Meet and football game of which the club sponsors. Also in the fall for the first time, the club is involved with the Buzzards Bay Scallop Festival to be held in September.



NOBLE **Paul Cannan**, Noble **Ralph Brown**, Club President **Dick Greenhalgh** and Noble **Vincent Furtado** made their annual visit to the Northern Lincoln Elementary School in Manville, Rhode Island. The children collected hundreds of pounds of pull-tabs. The proceeds will benefit the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund.



CLUB PRESIDENT **Dick Greenhalgh** presented a certificate of appreciation to **Linda Newbury** of the Northern Lincoln Elementary School of Manville, RI, for collecting 500 pounds of pull-tabs.

New Test to Provide Better Answers

MEDICAL professionals working with children who have spinal cord injuries (SCI) are faced with the daunting task of both determining the exact extent of injury and later, after rehabilitation, measuring the overall quality of life.

Typically, this requires massive amounts of testing and questioning. A new research study led by **MJ Mulcahey**, Ph.D., director of rehabilitative services



NEW TESTING METHODS for measuring quality of life will help Shriners Hospitals kids with spinal cord injuries.

and clinical research at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia, seeks to make the task easier and the results more accurate.

The International Standards for Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury, aka The Standards, is the test approved by the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) for determining the exact level of a spinal cord injury, and the corresponding level of paralysis and remaining physical function.

This test evaluates muscle function and sensation and determines if motor function has improved after treatment.

However, the test was designed for adults. Its effectiveness and reliability for children with SCI has not been studied. Two of the potential problems of the exam for children are the time requirements (the exam takes between 30 and 90 minutes) and anxiety related to a pin-prick method used to test the ability to discriminate between sharp and dull sensation. In addition, the subject must be able to follow verbal instructions and answer questions, which can be difficult for young children.

"We want to determine with confidence the lowest age children can participate in the current test effectively, and develop an appropriate test for younger children. We also want to eventually develop a teaching program for assessing children with SCI," said Dr. Mulcahey. "This is important because up to 2,500 children are injured with SCI in the U.S. every year, and there is no accurate way to evaluate them, and there is not a national database with information. We want to be able to evaluate a 1-month-old."

With an appropriate, accepted test and outcome measures for children, youngsters with SCI who are currently excluded from clinical drug trials that might benefit them could be included.

In January, researchers at the Philadelphia hospital moved from evaluating children to conducting data analysis; they hope to have a plan ready to present to ASIA by June 2008.

