

Clowning is Serious Business!

By MARK STOUGHT



ON May 26, 2009, Aleppo Clowns Do-No (who did a spectacular job in costume as RW **David Newcomb**) and Fayzo made an appearance at the 5th District Lodge of Instruction at the Needham Masonic Building in order to talk about the serious business of clowning, along with an overview of Shrinedom. Contrary to popular belief, there is a lot of work, time, and money that goes into being a clown. Obviously some people might say that some other people might not need a lot of work in the makeup department, but there's a lot more to being a clown than just slapping on a bunch of makeup or finding some ratty clothes.

As a matter of fact, I think the most surprising thing out of all the surprising things Do-No told us about clowning is that it is a systematized and regulated art. Do-No actually said "Clowning is a profession," but I think, after seeing his talk, that it's a lot more than that, and I would imagine that you the reader will think so too by the end of this article.

Let's start from the top and work our way down from there. First, there are three (or four) overarching types of clowns: whiteface, auguste (pronounced AW-goost), and the hobo/tramp (which are sometimes considered separate categories). While these are all considered "Western-style" clowns, the whiteface and auguste are European in origin, and the hobo is distinctly American. Examples of these clowns at Aleppo are whitefaces **Rollo** and **Do-No**, augustes **A** and **B**, hobos **C** and **D**, and tramps **E** and **F**.

The role the clown plays also determines the style of makeup the clown wears, and each style is designed to emphasize a dif-

ferent aspect of the performer. The hobo/tramp clown, for example, is supposed to look sunburned and grimy, and has white around the eyes and mouth to show "clean spots" where the dirt has been wiped away, and the style of the mouth is either slightly upturned or straight across depending on the performer (think **Emmett Kelly**). The whiteface, on the other hand, is white all over, and tends to emphasize features (particularly the eyes and cheeks) with contrasting colors.

The makeup itself is professional makeup made by companies that specialize in it. One such company was the one owned by Aleppo Noble and makeup artist to the stars **Jack Stein**, whose makeup can apparently still be found and is still in demand. There are all sorts of brands and shades, and like regular makeup, how it looks depends on the skin tone and skin type of the person wearing it – the same titanium white on a lighter skin tone is going to look different than it would on someone with a darker skin tone. The makeup a clown wears, by the way, is an individual design, and for that reason you will never see two clowns who look exactly the same. It is sort of a "clown copyright" that is upheld on the honor of the performers not to steal each others' looks.

In addition to determining the makeup style, the role the clown plays also determines the personality of the clown and how they interact with other clowns. Do-No gave this example: "If we take the Three Stooges, Moe would be the whiteface clown – he is the boss, and he tells everyone else what to do, but he also ends up

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WORSHIPFUL **Stephen M. Coan**, Master of the 5th District Lodge of Instruction learned first-hand what it takes to become an Aleppo Shrine Clown, thanks to the magnificent make-up magic of **David "Do-No" "Woe-No" Newcomb**.



THE NORTH SHORE SHRINE CLUB

A RECEPTION FOR
ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE **ROBERT F. SMITH**

will be held on

Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm

At the air conditioned American Legion Hall

in Manchester By The Sea

Overlooking the Harbor

Nobles, Ladies and Invited Guests are invited

Nobles bring your Fez

Complete Steak or Lobster Dinner

\$30.00 per person

Hot dogs included at 12:30 • Main Course to follow at 2:00

A Cash Bar will be available

DONATIONS FOR THE GIFT TABLE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Examples: Gift Certificates, Bottle of Wine, Handicrafts, Baked Goods, Etc.

Directions:

Route 128 to Exit 15 east – go to the end, turn right and then take your next left into the parking lot looking at the Town Hall

To Make Your Reservations

MAIL TO: **DAVID CROSS**

13 ECLIPSE LANE, SALEM, MA 01970

DEADLINE: AUGUST 25, 2009

Membership Committee Congratulates...

THE Membership Committee would like to congratulate the Motor Patrol and Director's Staff for having already achieved their membership goal for 2009. Each Unit has been requested to enlist one new member for every eight members of their Unit. As of the June 2009 Ceremonial, The Motor Patrol under Captain **Bill Ball** and the Director's Staff headed up by Director **Kevin Misuraca** have achieved their goal and the Director's Staff is tops on the Unit list with eleven new candidates so far this year.

Each Shrine Club was also requested to jump on the Membership bandwagon and enlist one new member for every eight members of their Club. As of today, The North Shore Shrine Club has signed up ten new Candidates and our number one Shrine Club so far this year is the Worcester County Shrine Club. Members of this Club have signed up fifteen new candidates so far this year. Congratulations to those who have reached their goal. For those Clubs and Units who have not yet reached their goal, please keep trying! If we all stay focused, we CAN increase membership.

The Membership Liaisons to the Units and Clubs have been trying to communicate (sometimes successfully), with the membership chairmen in each of the Units and Clubs to help them stay the course on membership. Noble **Roger Gardiner** has been working as the Shrine Club liaison and Noble **Mario Marchese** is working with the Units. Thank you Roger and Mario.

Noble **Curt Nietzsche** and others recently called all the newly elected Nobles from the June class (those that were home), to welcome them to Aleppo. From the responses, it looks like we have a very active group of new Nobles. The new men are jumping into Units and Clubs, and many have "new ideas" for Aleppo.

If you have any questions pertaining to membership and don't know who to ask, ask me, **Steve Eriksen**. I might not have the answer either, but we can work on it together. Feel free to call or e-mail me with membership questions anytime.

Steve Eriksen: phone: 978-256-8126

e-mail: seriksen@mmicrosemi.com

Remember:

Membership is the Key that opens the Doors to our Hospitals.