

Hillbillies excel at turning work into a fun time

By Noble Cuzin' Barry L. Jones

HILLBILLY SHRINE CLUB

Greetings friendly and dear readers from all of us at the Rameses Hillbilly Shrine Club and Hillbilly Clan 46.

First off, I would like to express my sincerest thank you to those who have sent along compliments on the Hillbilly columns which appear in each Papyrus. Your kindness makes my 'work' less difficult.

We at the Hillbilly Club/Clan 46 have been doing many parades this Spring and early Summer. We, along with what must have been a record turnout of Shrine Units and Clubs, attended the Spring Ceremonial in Brampton. The general question, however, seemed to be: 'where were all the parade spectators?' If it wasn't for the Shrine Units and Clubs, the streets would have been empty.

As the parade went down main street one store owner remarked, 'what's going on?' Apparently she, like almost everybody else, had no idea about the special occasion. Sad, indeed and let's hope all our future endeavours will be given the red-carpet treatment by those in charge.

The Hillbilly Club/Clan 46 also took part in civic parades - East York during the morning of July 1st, then over to Scarborough for the night parade. July 1st fell on a Tuesday - someone must have been following the Neo-Druid calendar!

Also paraded in such exotic places as Highland Creek's Festival; Oshawa's Arts Festival; Alliston's Potato Festival and the Dundas Cactus Festival. With the large crowds it seemed as though much community pre-advertising was done.

Folks were cheering us on and especially showing their appreciation to Shriners and for what we all do for our Shriners Hospitals for Children and of course those very special little folks for whom we care.

Shrine Clubs always receive a warm welcome and for we Hillbillies, it is great to parade to the sound of the crowds clapping their hands and tapping their toes to the melodious sounds of the Hillbilly Club bluegrass music.

By the way, our new Hillbilly Club float is truly a marvel of engineering plus a BIG bonus - the roof doesn't leak. Shriners and Hillbillies parading and having fun are what our fraternity is all about.

Now, if that isn't reason enough for YOU to get actively involved in a Club or Unit (and of course if your health, etc. permits) what it is you want as a Shriner and from Shrinedom? That's a question only you can answer, so if you are getting tired of sitting around telling your friends you are a Shriner (at least in name only) and want to add a meaningful reason for being so, the Hillbilly Club/Clan 46 offers an open invitation to you Hillbilly Degree 'graduates' and Shriners in general to come along and participate in some or all of our parades. You don't have to be 'fancy like us' but just bring along your favourite Hillbilly hat, clothes, your favourite waving hand and of course your desire to have fun.

Parading with us doesn't require you to walk or march - unless you wish to do so because you can always ride the parade route on our comfortable float (seating will remind you of your favourite chair at home).

In September the monthly meetings of our Club will resume and if you would like to sit in on a meeting and see what we are all about, please drop in to the 'Fez' Room in the lower level at the Rameses Shrine Temple, 3100 Keele Street on the fourth Mondays beginning at 7:30 PM.

We ask you bring along your Fez and also kindly request you wash your feet and wear clean socks (shoes optional). Casual dress is the norm. Our past practice of asking guests to wear tuxedos is no longer followed - we discovered many of our members mistook them for waiters and kept asking them to 'go fetch some cold lemonade for me'.

Information regarding our Club, parades, etc., can be had from one of the members listed below, so don't be shy.

No doubt reading this column has peaked your interest, so why not check us out? Folks, if you wish not to parade with us, please at least consider attending some of the parades we and other Shriner Units and Clubs are in and just cheer us on and enjoy the opportunity of listening to the soft, melodious sound of bluegrass music. When was the last time YOU tapped your toes?

NOTE: Another annual Gathering of the Clan and famous Chowdown is planned for Saturday, September 27th, 2008 in Kirkfield, Ontario. Although once known as the Hillbilly Degree and Chowdown, we have really progressed - thus the new name. Gosh, it won't be long before we are no longer known as Hillbillies, but Hill-Williams!

Anyway folks, look for more information (ie: promotions) or contact Noble Bob 'Preacher Bob' O'Brien at 705-438-3863 or one of those listed below, but make plans for you and your better-half to partake of the famous Hillbilly Degree and at the same time enjoy a great day of fresh air, country setting, fine socializing and tasty Hillbilly food. Become part of the North American recognized Hillbilly Degree.

Bring your own lawn chairs please. Cuzin' David Davidge is selling his house in Scarborough, so if interested, contact him. By the way, he tells me it was only two years ago he replaced all the tires.

To all Shriners and/or their families presently experiencing less than perfect health, our best wishes and prayers are with you and we hope you will soon be back sitting on your front porch saying 'howdy' to your friends and neighbours. For now, dear readers, I will say 'g'day' and may the Good Lord take a liking to you.

President: (Noble) Cuzin' Brian Korson (905) 731-4355

1st Vice: (Noble) Cuzin' Jim Rennie (905) 640-2143

2nd Vice: (Noble) Cuzin' Barry L. Jones (416) 221-7828

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You really need only two tools: WD-40 and a roll of duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.