

A-TEAM

Several Nobles of El Hasa Shrine comprise the Hospital Transportation Team known as El Hasa A-Team. There are currently twelve drivers and two co-drivers that make up the team in transporting children to the Shrine Hospitals.

There is another group of Nobles of Pikeville and Pike County that volunteer their resources with A-Team as well. They formed their unit in 1999 under the leadership of Jackie "Bumper" Stiltner who served as the Chairman/Dispatcher until his death in January 2011. Jackie "Bumper" Stiltner was a faithful and dedicated Shrine Mason who was an inspiration to mankind. The team of Pike County drivers average 8 to 10 visits on a monthly basis to the Shrine Hospitals. Noble Robert D. Adkins assumed the duties and responsibilities as the Chairman/Dispatcher of the A-Team of Pike County.

The A-Team makes regular visits to the Lexington, Kentucky Hospital and the Shriners Burns Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. The A-Team with El Hasa Temple averages twelve to fifteen trips each month to Lexington and one to three trips each month to Cincinnati which will give the A-Team on the average one hundred and fifty to one hundred sixty five trips each year.

The transporting of children and their parents to and from the Shriners Hospitals began between 1968 and 1975. The drivers used their own automobiles and paid for their own expenses at one time when getting started with the transportation team.

The A-Team along with a transportation fund was established in 1986 under the leadership of Illustrious Sir Clyde I. Blevins, who served as Potentate in 1986. The team of drivers spends many hours in transporting children and their parents to and from hospitals. They return to the garage to tidy the vans and be prepared for the next trip. They are always ready to go in transporting the children.

El Hasa Temple is very proud of the fine Nobles who compose of the A-Team and the invaluable resource and services they perform. The following distinguished and dedicated Nobles have served as A-Team Coordinators: Nobles Tom Smith, Charles Hall, William Waggoner, Roy Brewer, Billie J. Prater and presently Fred Fields. A smile or a sparkle in the eye of a small child is all they ask for and that makes it all worthwhile in transporting the children to and from the Shrine Hospitals.

CLOWNS

The idea of a Clown Unit for the El Hasa Shrine was originated in the spring of 1963 with the encouragement and support of Doug Roberts who was in line for Potentate and Benny Dawson who was then President of the El Hasa Uniform Units.

In attendance of the 1963 pilgrimage to the Imperial Council Convention in Chicago, there would be interest by others Shriners in formation of a clown unit and this would be the first test. In the parade route which went from Wacker Drive to Soldiers Field in Chicago, we paraded in front of the Hillbilly Ford driven by Doug Roberts and Jack Wagoner of Grayson and was bumped from behind by the car as one of the clowns was stooped over with a broom sweeping some imaginary piece of dirt from the street. At the time one of the clowns was bumped, the radiator was rigged to squirt water, and the water would shoot water up in the air. This was a crowd pleaser to all.

That fall a meeting with several potential members namely Bill Franklin, Don Franklin, Bill Reffit and Ron Perry was held to start an official unit. Shortly thereafter, the unit was formally recognized as a separate uniform unit known as the Clowns. The next year, three or four clowns went to the Imperial Council Session in New York City, which was home of World's Fair. The following year, nine or ten clowns attended the Imperial Council in Washington, D.C. in which we had a lot of fun giving away funny money printed by Roberts Printing Company of Ironton, Ohio.

The unit quickly established visitations to the Shriners Hospital at Lexington, Kentucky, and on one such trip, traveled by way of Ashland Oil's DC-3 airplane. We also participated in many local charity events as performing clowns as well as Christmas visits to local hospitals. Vera Richey, the wife of L.T. Richey was the first person to donate blood to the Shriners Hospital for Children at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The first clown motor vehicle used in a parade was a 1922 Seagrave fire truck donated from the city of Ashland and restored under the presidency of L.T. Richey, Jr. Many of the early founding clown members were on the degree teams with Poage Lodge #325, Ashland, Ashland Commandary and local Kentucky Masonic Lodges in the Ashland area.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed to be known as the Clownettes which has helped immensely in the success of the Clowns. The El Hasa Clownettes supports projects and activities of the unit.

The Unit is a member of the South Atlantic Shrine Clowns Association. Some distinguished Nobles of El Hasa Shrine have served the South Atlantic Shrine Clowns Association as President. They are Nobles Clifford Metz, Charles Adkins, Ralph Selby and Keith Mason

DIRECTORS STAFF

The Directors Staff comprised of faithful Nobles of the Shrine is dedicated to the performance of the second section of the Shrine Ceremonials. They perform the colorful pageantry in providing various stunts to the Hot Sands with the road to Mecca for all Shriners who received the degrees of the Shrine. Their purpose is to entertain the nobility

and provides the new nobles of the Shrine with a lasting impression of what it is to be a Noble of the mystic Shrine. The Directors Staff serves El Hasa Shrine in providing the new members a favorable impression of the Shrine and an opportunity to belong to another unit with the Shrine fraternity.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed to be known as the Direct Wattes which has helped immensely in the success of the Directors Staff. The El Hasa Direct Wattes supports projects and activities of the unit.

The Unit is a member of the South Atlantic Shrine Directors Association and the SDA Shrine Directors Association and the members actively support both. Some distinguished Nobles of El Hasa Shrine have served the Directors Staff since 1950's as Director in offering their services to the Temple: Illustrious Sir George Polley, Past Potentate, William "Cappy" Miranda, Jack Kelley, Fred Crum, Ronnie Bell, James C. Long, Jim Alley, Dan Allen, and presently Johnny Dixon.

Noble James C. Long was in line to be Illustrious Potentate of El Hasa Shrine who reached the position of High Priest and Prophet but suddenly passed away due to cancer. Noble Long was remembered by many people a true and dedicated Shrine Mason, friend and brother. He was an individual who stood out in his efforts to achieve success in all his endeavors. Noble Long was a man of high quality as he devoted and dedicated his life to the high principles of the family of Freemasonry.

Noble Dan Allen has distinguished El Hasa Shrine Directors Staff by serving as Governor for Region 8 for three years and Noble Fred Crum served on a stunt committee of the South Atlantic Shrine Directors Association. Noble Dan Allen and Noble Johnny Dixon were elected to Director Emeritus for their dedicated service to the Shrine and unique contributions that they have made to El Hasa Shriners and the Directors Staff. All Directors who have served brought a varied and diversified profession to the position of Director in serving El Hasa Shrine.

HILLBILLIES

The Shriners needed a new sideline degree, one that had a new and interesting ritual, and above all a purpose – namely that all profits would go for a worthy cause, to help the children who were admitted to the Shriners Hospitals. Rules were drawn up to assure that all profits went to help those children of the Shriners Hospitals and for no other purpose. This triggers the formation of the Hillbilly Degree.

In 1969 the Grand and Glorious Order of the Hillbilly Degree was written by Noble Jim Harris with the intention of becoming a side-line degree in El Hasa Shrine. He drew upon his experiences of growing up in Hinton, West Virginia. Harris also thought about the traditional outhouse half-moon and it reminded him of the crescent symbol held in that high esteem by the Shriners. The first initiations were held and proved to be very

well received. Noble Dewie Cochran and Noble Ray Van Howerton completed the original ritual team.

A constitution was written to assure that no one made any money from the Hillbilly Degree. All profits would go toward the children of Shriners Hospitals. The next step was to obtain a copyright so that no group could come along later and put on a similar degree and not abide by the rules. Thus, copyright No. 23370 was obtained in 1970.

Since it was apparent that the Grand and Glorious Order of the Hillbilly Degree was a success, some loose ends were taken to tighten up the organization. A Trust Agreement was drawn up between the officers accepting the responsibility of control of any money coming to the hands to be used for the charitable benefit of children with Shriners Hospitals. The agreement was certified and duly registered. An application was filed with the Internal Revenue Service for exemption from Federal Income tax and was approved. Finally approval was granted by the Board of Trustees of the Shriners Hospitals for Children to raise money for the Shriners Hospitals.

James Ralph "Jim" Harris, a retired Armco engineer and decorated World War II veteran, was the Imperial Raban of the Shriners Hillbilly Clans until his retirement in 2002. He was the presiding international officer of the Hillbilly Clans for over 32 years of dedicated and loyal service. He will be most remembered as the author of the Hillbilly Degree and instituting the first Hillbilly Clan in El Hasa Shrine Temple in 1969. Harris was a veteran serving his country in the U.S. Army as an infantryman in the European Theatre during World War II. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry, bravery and skill in the accomplishment of an extremely dangerous mission. He was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre, France's highest honor. Jim's legacy continues today with his outstanding service toward his country, the creation of Hillbilly Clans throughout and potential monies that go toward the mission and care of children through Shriners Hospitals.

In 1970 the Hillbilly Degree work was put on the Imperial Shrine Convention in Miami, Florida where Shriners from Hejaz Temple in South Carolina received authorization to form Clan No. 2 with Clan No. 1 being from El Hasa Shrine. Kosair Shriners received Clan No. 3 and Beni Kedem Shriners Clan no. 4 in 1971. Syrian Shriners received Clan No. 5 in 1972 and the Hillbilly Degree started to grow and flourish.

In 1977, Harris was approached by Pike County citizens Howard Stratton and Grady Kinney who proposed getting the hillbilly clans together in Pikeville every year in April and using the gathering as a basis for a festival. Harris went along with the proposal and basically founded Hillbilly Days in Pikeville which is one of largest public events in Kentucky besides the Kentucky Derby which is the only public event in Kentucky that draws more people, according to organizers. The Hillbilly Clans have created a great image with the provision that a portion of the money raised during the annual Hillbilly Days be earmarked for Shriners Hospitals.

It has been noted that El Hasa Shrine has contributed to the hospitals and transportation purposes of the Shrine Hospitals for Children approximately \$1.8 million dollars. What a milestone in contributing to this worthy cause.

The Imperial Hillbilly Clan was established to guide all Clans and has seen the start of the Hillbilly News which is printed regularly throughout the year and the start of international conventions. An international convention is held annually. Illustrious Sir Clyde Blevins, Potentate 1986, succeeded Harris as the Imperial Raban of the Hillbilly Clans in 2002. Blevins continues to be amazed by the Hillbillies popularity and longevity. The Clans have raised more than \$8 million for Shriners Hospitals.

There are approximately 174 Clans of the Hillbillies scattered throughout the United States and Canada that participate in social activities of the Shrine, colorful parades, and support the worthy cause of transportation purposes and the children with Shriners Hospitals. Hillbilly Clans are common sights in parades with members riding in beat-up jalopies and wearing pointy hats and "hillbilly tuxedos" --- worn and patched bibbed overalls.

KENTUCKY COLONEL

In the early spring of 1982, Noble Jack Gallaher presented the concept of forming a "Kentucky Colonel Unit" to Illustrious Sir Fayette May, Potentate 1982. The idea was two-fold: to add another unit that would be a teetotaler unit in order to utilize the talents of those Nobles wishing to take a more active part in the Temple and for the children.

A rough draft of By-Laws for the unit were drawn up and in mid-summer of 1982 Noble Gallaher enlisted the assistance of Noble Tom Hayes to go through the good and bads of the By-Laws and also sought the help of Noble Stanley Webb, President of the Columbus Shrine Unit of Aladdin Temple, Columbus, Ohio.

In September, 1982, Noble Gallaher dressed in the official wear of the Kentucky Colonel Unit, presented the idea and findings to the Divan and Nobility present for the Temple Stated Meeting and was given permission to further explore the possibility of the unit and proceed.

Approximately 30 nobles met in September 1982 to establish the Kentucky Colonel Unit. A committee was formed to perfect the By-Laws and Charter memberships were issued.

The first officers were elected in November and were installed in December by Potentate Fayette May. The first President to serve the unit was Noble Jack Gallaher.

By October 1982, the Apple Festival in Paintsville saw the unit participate with 20 to 25 Nobles dressed in their white suits. It was a great day of participation with the parade of the Kentucky Colonel Unit.

The Kentucky Colonel Unit was presented an affiliate Charter from the Official Order of Kentucky Colonels of the State of Kentucky and is a recognized Shrine oriented affiliated club of the Kentucky Colonels.

Since that time the Kentucky Colonel Unit has participated in a lot of official Colonel Activities. In 1985 they were extended and invitation to participate in the Kentucky Derby Festival in Louisville, Kentucky, which was quite an honor.

A Kentucky Colonel Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1986 under the leadership of President Billy Joe Callihan who later served as Potentate of El Hasa Shrine in 1995. .

The Kentucky Colonel Unit has grown at its peak with over 200 members in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The unit does its best to help and support El Hasa Temple through its activities.

LEGION OF HONOR

The Legion of Honor (LOH) is one of the smallest units in El Hasa and relatively one of the youngest. Illustrious Sir John Avila was instrumental in chartering the unit with the International Association Legions of Honor in 1984. The perquisite for membership is to have an honorable discharge from one of the Armed Forces, Active duty military, National Guard, or Reserve's.

The objectives of the Legion of Honor are: To foster a spirit of Patriotism, Love of Country and Flag; To perpetuate the memory of our Comrades in Arms who made the Supreme Sacrifice by giving their lives for their country while members of the Armed Forces; To devote our efforts as individuals, to strive for an increase in Friendship and Cooperation between our Legion of Honor Unit and other Units of El Hasa Shrine. Additionally, the Unit strives to actively support the Potentate and all Temple activities.

Although small in numbers, the Unit is extremely active. The LOH has an annual Military Ball that has grown over the years, to include a tremendous amount of Nobles and Ladies from Shrine Temples throughout the realm. The Unit has developed several patriotic programs, which they have conducted at the International level as well as other Veteran's Organizations, Civic clubs, Church's and Schools. While we take every effort to promote patriotism, we think it's extremely important to take every opportunity to instill love of country in our youth.

LOH members make numerous visitations from coast to coast with the highlight occurring in November each year, for the Annual Wreath Laying ceremony at the Tomb of the unknown's at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. The Unit is a member of the South Atlantic Shrine Association (SASA) Legions of Honor and the International Association Legions of Honor and the members actively support both. Past Commanders Woody Mitchell, Jim Smith and Donald J. McBrayer have served as Commanders of SASA, and Ill Sir Paul Daniels is currently the Commander Elect, to be installed in

September, 2011. Woody Mitchell is also serving on the International Line, currently as the Second Lieutenant Commander.

MOTOR CORPS

In 1950, seven (7) Nobles of El Hasa Temple formed a unit which today is known as the "Motor Corps". The unit, originally known as the "Stunt" unit came about as a result of a pilgrimage to the Imperial Session in Chicago, IL in 1949. This is believed to be the first Imperial Session ever attended by El Hasa Shrine in which equipment was transported. At the time of the pilgrimage, equipment transported to Chicago that year was the "Raring" Ford, Calliope a "T" Model owned by Doug Roberts and loaner "T Roadster". Shortly, after the return from Chicago, Nobles Clyde Trivette, Doug Roberts, Dick Martin, Happy Hackworth, Charles Davidson, Banty Simmons, and Ora Jack Waggoner formed the "Stunt" Unit. This unit was formed as a result of the Stunts performed by both Nobles and equipment in Chicago and was encouraged by the popularity they received in the parade.

It has been said that they "Stole the Show" that day. The Stunt Unit was in existence until 1959 at which time the name was changed to "Motor Corps" and still carries that name today. The name change was necessary for two (2) reasons. First, there was no other unit in all Shrinedom known as a "Stunt" Unit and secondly, the unit was using motorized equipment. Thus they became the Motor Corps Unit. During the time of the "Stunt" Units existence, Nobles Sam Waggoner, Jim Curnutte, Bill Curnutte, George Waggoner, Jack Jones, Delbert Rowe, and C. W. "Benny" Dawson were added members. Today the "Motor Corps" is proud to announce they are one of the largest units of El Hasa Shrine.

Bucking Ford

The Bucking Ford (called the Raring Ford at first) was the first piece of motorized equipment owned by El Hasa Temple. A lot of the work at "Armco" and our Nobles in Olive Hill did the body and paint work. Since that time the Bucking Ford has been rebuilt, the last time in 2006. The Bucking (or Raring) Ford attended its first Imperial Session in Chicago, IL in 1949. It still thrills parade watchers as much today as it did back then. It was reupholstered in 2010.

Calliope

The Calliope was purchased several years ago for the Temple by C.W. "Benny" Dawson from an advertisement in Billboard Magazine. It was purchased in Kansas City, MO for \$85 and was to be used at Cliffside Park. It has been mounted on several pieces of equipment, the first being the chasis of an English Austin. Happy Hackworth was the first Noble to play the calliope in parades. The calliope is now mounted on a 1981 Chevrolet pick-up.

The calliope was mounted on a 1976 Chevrolet pick-up. The truck was sold in year 2000 and the calliope was removed. It was reassembled in 2002 on a frame so it could be moved from one vehicle to another without being permanently attached.

Big Wheel Bicycle

This bicycle was built in Europe around 1673 and was called the first safety bicycle. This bicycle has a small back wheel and a towering front wheel. The rider is perched high atop the front wheel and propels the bicycle via pedals attached to the front wheel. The rider is in constant danger of a painful spill to the ground so this bicycle is often referred to as the “bone crusher”.

The bicycle was purchased from the family of Matt Sellers of Carter County, Kentucky by George and Jack Waggoner and donated to El Hasa Temple. Bill Curnutte was the first rider of this bicycle for El Hasa Temple.

Stunt “T” Model

The first piece of individual equipment to be used in an Imperial Session Parade by a Noble of El Hasa Temple was owned by Doug Roberts. This was a 1913 Model “T” Ford purchased in early 1949 for \$20 from someone in Kenova, WV. Our Nobles worked very hard to ready this piece of equipment for Chicago, IL. The project was completed in time for the trip and was a real crowd-pleaser. The stunts performed by these automobile and accompanying Nobles have never been duplicated.

Moonshine Still

In 1960 a Moonshine Still in operation in our local area was put out of use by local agents and was purchased by Noble Ed Kirk. At the same time, the first fire truck of Mt. Sterling, a 1918 Model “T” 1 ½ ton truck was purchased by the Waggoner “boys” of Carter County. These two (2) pieces of equipment were combined to form what is known today as the “Moonshine Still”. Work was done on this equipment by Nobles Ed Kirk, Finley Worthington and Paul Heaberlin and donated to the Temple. The first Shrine parade in which this piece of equipment participated in was in 1960 in Louisville, KY. It is still in use today.

Juice Truck

This truck, a 1924 Model “T” Ford, 1 ton, was purchased from the family of Jr. Cline by the Motor Corps in 1971. The running gear was rebuilt by Finley Worthington and the body rebuilt by other members of the Motor Corps. The truck got its name from the selling of a soft drink known as “Hillbilly Juice” from its bed. The first Imperial Session in which this truck was exhibited was in 1972 in Dallas, Texas. The body was modified in 1986 by Motor Corp members Freddie Alley and Don Hicks. Today, the Juice Truck is

being used to transport the Divan leadership in the various parades. The engine was rebuilt again in 1998.

1928 Touring Chevrolet

This vehicle is known as the Chief Rabban car. It was donated by Illustrious Sir Tom Cox, Past Potentate of Paintsville. It was a basket case in assembling the parts of the vehicle. It became functional in the parades around 1986 and continues to be a parade vehicle for the Chief Rabban. The vehicle wood work for the frame was done by Past Potentate William Refitt and the mechanic work was done by the good boys from Carter County in 1989. It was reupholstered in year 2010.

Past Potentate's Car

A 1919 Ford Model T was converted into a Hillbilly car by the contributions of Nobles Bill Vanover, Finley Worthington and Fenton Wyant. After several years, the car was purchased by Nobel David "JR" Hall. About year 2000 the car was donated to El Hasa Shrine with the stipulation it should be used for Past Potentates. In 2001, a "depot Hack" body was purchased for El Hasa Shrine and installed in the following year of 2002 by Nobles Phil Pelfry and Phil Thompson. The paint job was done by Noble Gary Tomlin and the majority of work was done by Noble Phil Pelfry and Noble Phil Thompson.

Potentates Ford

The "T" Model Ford was donated to El Hasa Temple by Illustrious Sir Tom Cox, Past Potentate of Paintsville in 1970. Our "Good ole Boys" at Olive Hill rebuilt this car for use by the Potentate and was completed just in time to be loaded on the trailer for Dallas, Texas in 1972. Word is that wet paint still existed on the car as it left Olive Hill.

It was painted again in year 2000. A rebuilt engine and transmission was installed in 1999. It was reupholstered in 2010.

The Sign

An eight (8) foot revolving sign was purchased by the Motor Corps and mounted on a motorcycle trailer in 1985. The sign, which is used at the head of Shrine Parades and community parades, can usually be found in front of the motels and hotels establishments where El Hasa stays. El Hasa's guiding light has been pulled for thousand of miles.

During the existence of the Motor Corps a lot of equipment has passed through the portals of El Hasa Shrine. Most of the equipment was and still is individually owned.

Currently, there are approximately twenty-five (25) Model "T" and "A"'s in the Old Car Club of the Motor Corps. In 1962 several Cushman Motor Scooters were purchased and used for many years.

In 1965 Harley Davidson Motorcycles were purchased and a club called the "Potentates Escorts" was formed. This club is still in existence. A group of Nobles from the Big Sandy Area formed a club in the Motor Corps known as the "Red Riders" and was active for several years. The Nobles used a vehicle known as a "Go Cart" Another group in the Big Sandy Area drove "Min-T's". A group of Nobles in the Salyerville area rode bicycles with off-center wheels which bounce along the parade route. There have been various Mini-bikes through the years which are always fun to watch. Another group in the early 1970's was the "Honda Trail" bikes. Although not active today, some of these bikes are still owned by members of the Motor Corps.

The Anteaters was another club that was formed by the Motor Corps in 1989. The Motor Corps purchased seven (7) Mini Kenworth Trucks for the purpose of having a competition unit in the Motor Corps. This would allow the club to compete with other sister Temples at Imperial and conventions at the Association meetings like the South Atlantic Shrine Association. Vehicles started parading with the goal of participating in the Motor Corps. The team of dedicated drivers in forming the club was Chip Womack, Joel Harmon, Tom Craft, Fred Crum, Larry Evans, Past Potentate, Don Hicks Richard Odekirk, Phil Pritchard and Jaime Ward... They first paraded at Fun Fest in Gatlinburg, TN in May 1989. The club practiced regularly, won several competitions and participated in numerous Shrine parades and area activities.

Noble Phil Pelfry of Ironton and Noble Phil Thompson of Russell have been instrumental in maintaining the fleet of vehicles with the Motor Corps for El Hasa Shrine. They have done an excellent and commendable job with entire fleet of vehicles. Since the year 1989 Noble Phil Pelfry has been at the helm of leadership in the maintenance of vehicles while Noble Phil Thompson came to the forefront in 1996. They have worked together as a team in spending considerable number of hours of volunteer time in repairing vehicles, keeping vehicles in running order and in good condition for the parades and other functions of El Hasa Shrine. Nobles Doug Fannin and Don Donta have volunteered many hours as well in transporting the vehicles for parades and other Temple activities.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed to be known as the Motorettes which has helped immensely in the success of the Motor Corp. The El Hasa Motorettes supports projects and activities of the unit.

The Unit is a member of the South Atlantic Association of Shrine Motor Corp and the International Association. The members actively support both. Past Presidents Noble Don Hicks, Illustrious Sir Billy Joe Callihan, Past Potentate and Noble Clyde Tarr have served the South Atlantic Association of Shrine Motor Corp as President of SAASMC, and Noble Phil Thompson is currently the Fourth Vice President in the line to be President of the Association.

MOTORCYCLE

The idea of a Motorcycle Unit for El Hasa Shrine was originated by Noble Carl S. Wellman II in 2008 with the encouragement and support of various nobles. The unit was formed in 2009 under the leadership of Illustrious Sir Jack McClelland who served as Potentate in 2009.

Rick L. Bowling served as the first President of the Motorcycle Unit. The shriners who comprised the unit as charter members were: Carl S. Wellman, II, Kevin L. White, Rick L. Bowling, Kevin Geary, Rodger Ike Raybourn, Bob Pigman, Richard Thompson, Steve Adkins, Rick Porter, Terry Hedge, Charlie Nichols, Johnny R. Bond, Phil Pelfry, Jay F. Elam, Mark R. Duncan, Gary L. Mozingo, Tim Miller, and Doug Fannin.

The Poker Run is the main fund-raising project that the unit helps to sponsor and work with the Temple to hold annually in August. The unit helps with other temple projects, holds social events for their members, ladies and guests and organizes motorcycle runs to the Shrine Hospitals and other attractions of interest. There is every indication that the unit will continue its activities and to be a beneficial asset to the success of El Hasa Shrine.

ORIENTAL BAND

El Hasa's Oriental Band was formed in the 1930's, shortly after the El Hasa Brass Band had disbanded due to the high cost of maintaining a brass band. An Association of Shrine Oriental Bands (A.S.O.B.) had been organized in 1928 and assisted in forming our first Oriental Band. However, this band was dissolved during 1940-1941 as so many Nobles were answering the call to service in World War II.

In 1944 a new Oriental Band was formed under the auspices of Illustrious Sir C.W. (Benny) Dawson, P.P. with 18 Nobles being chartered members. Once again, the A.S.O.B. was called upon to advice and assist. The appeal for drums, tom-toms, and musettes went out to neighboring Shrine Temples which had Oriental Bands of their own. Several Shrine Temples responded with equipment, music and personnel to members who were not musicians. The first uniforms were the old brass band uniforms interspersed with some old oriental band uniforms and homemade burnouses for head pieces. The Oriental Band made its first parade appearance in Pikeville with eleven members during Ceremonial Day in 1945.

The Oriental Band continued to attract new members and had thirty in 1947 with nineteen of them participating in the Imperial Council parade in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1948, the Temple purchased new uniforms and the band took off from there.

The band continued to grow leveling at 65 members, more or less, including a few older Nobles who could no longer parade but appreciated the fellowship and friendship developed over the years.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed to be known as the Oriental Band Harem which has helped immensely in the success of the Band and the unit. The Oriental Band Harem supports projects and activities of the unit.

The Band, along with other Units, receives numerous requests from localities throughout the tri-state area to participate in their parades in addition to our own Ceremonial parades and Regional and International Shrine Associations.

The Unit is a member of the South Atlantic Oriental Band Association (SAOBA), Great Lakes Oriental Band Association and the American Shrine Oriental Band Association. The members actively support all associations. Past Presidents Nobles Ron Coleman, Jerome Hicks, Richard Thompson have served as Presidents of SAOBA. Noble Jerry Blevins have served the Great Lakes Oriental Band Association as President. Richard Thompson is currently the President of the American Shrine Oriental Band Association.

The Band has received numerous awards in their participation of the Great Lakes Oriental Band Association and the South Atlantic Oriental Band Association. The Oriental Band is highly noted for being one of the bands that still marches today in Parades and other events of the Shrine.

There is every indication that the Oriental Band will continue with their activities and will continue to serve El Hasa Shrine with distinction and pride.

PATROL

The Patrol is the oldest and the first unit of the El Hasa Shrine. A historical fact of the unit was noted that a member of El Hasa Shrine had to join a marching unit before participating in any other unit. Many Nobles at the time join the Patrol Unit which was a large unit at one time.

The Unit would secure a hospitality room at a local hotel during parades. Everyone along with the Ladies was invited to participate. Soft drinks, water and snacks were there for everyone to partake. Ladies who could not stand for parades were still invited to enjoy the hospitality room. The spirits were served after the parades were concluded. After the parades and hospitality of the afternoon, the Patrol Unit would get together for dinner and social gathering. They continue their activities and monthly meetings to better serve the Shrine and the community.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed to be known as the Patrolettes which has helped immensely in the success of the Patrol. The El Hasa Patrolettes supports projects and activities of the unit.

Later down the years the Patrol Unit dramatically decreased in numbers with membership, most of the older members are not able to march but enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of each other. The Unit enjoys the parades and participates with a large golf cart that was purchased for transportation purposes for parades and community events.

RITUAL

The Ritual Unit was formed in 1994 under the leadership of Illustrious Sir Paul R. Daniels, Past Potentate. The Ritual Unit performs the first section of the Temple Ceremonials. They comprise of dedicated Nobles that make up the ritualistic cast and perform the ritual to their best degree from memory. Their great aim is to impress the new Nobles of the Shrine with the ritualistic work of the Shrine and provide them with the opportunity to succeed in their Shrine career.

Prior to the formation of the Ritual Unit, Illustrious Sir Walter Swift, Past Potentate, served as Ceremonial Potentate for many, many years with dignity and class. He worked together with a number of volunteers who served the ritualistic cast to make a favorable impression upon the new Nobles.

Serving as Ceremonial Potentate for the first section for so many years was Illustrious Sir Dan Simpson who served as the first Potentate for Ritual Unit of the ceremonial cast and later became Potentate of El Hasa. He did so graceful with dignified fashion in his performance as Ceremonial Potentate. Other loyal members to have served as Ceremonial Potentate were Kerry Sluss, Illustrious Sir Richard L. Patrick, Past Potentate, and Gary Mastin.

The Unit is a member of the South Atlantic Shrine Ritualistic Cast Association. Some distinguished members Illustrious Sir Danny Simpson, Past Potentate; Noble Judson "Jerry" Harper; Illustrious Sir Paul R. Daniels, Past Potentate; and Illustrious Sir Richard L. Patrick, Past Potentate of El Hasa Shrine have served the South Atlantic Shrine Ritualistic Cast Association as President.

UNIFORMED UNITS

All Shrine Clubs and Units are encouraged to have at least one or several representative(s) from your Unit or Club attend the Uniformed Units Meeting on the third Monday of every month beginning at 7:30 pm.

The purposes of the Uniformed Units are to enhance the channel of communication with the Shrine Clubs and Units and in disseminating important information about overall operations and activities of El Hasa Shrine. By working together for the purposes of the Shrine and the Family of Freemasonry, we will succeed in uniting the Shrine Units and Clubs for future generations to come in building El Hasa Temple to New Horizons.