

RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER JOHN B. SUMMERS, 5494 ABERDOUR LN. ST LOUIS, MO. 63129
 INTERNET LOCATION HLPMATE284@AOL.COM TEL. (314)845-2086

GREETINGS, Helpmates;

ALL OF YOU NOTICE MY NEW HOME ADDRESS, AND NEW PHONE NUMBER. IT IS NOW OFFICIAL, AND I AM AT THIS NEW HOME. TOOK FOREVER, BUT IT HAS HAPPENED.

Needless to say, I was so glad to be able to keep working with this publication. The new, or new to us, copier worked without a hitch, but I was hoping it would have duplexing features, as I had expected it to possess. But I am in touch with the owner of the business, and hope to add this in the near future. But it worked, and that put me oceans ahead of the old one.

As I mentioned in the last issue, the home is soon to be moved, and my new address will be
 5494 Aberdour Lane
 St. Louis, MO 63129

I will include my new phone # (if changed) on the address line of this issue. Mail sent to that address will probably be delivered after mid-April, even before this issue is ready for mailing.

The weather has been beautiful. It has rained some this evening, but we needed some of the wet stuff, and so was welcome.

A note from Bill Shick came on the 1st. He tells me that they don't get out much at all any more, and otherwise things are the same. He included a kitty donation which was very welcome.

I also received a thank you from Jean Digirolamo for the donation and for the letter from our group. She wishes to continue receiving the newsletter, and that is certainly going to be done. I hope that she is able to do with us some of the things we get involved with. All those who survive our veterans are welcome to participate with us.

I received word that my oldest brother, an MD, expired this AM (5th). He had been in an extended care facility for the past year, and

was in poor physical condition all that time. I had seen him about 3 months ago, and he did not recognize me. He was 89, and worked until he was 74. His son, Tom Jr. is also an MD, and is the dean of one of the medical schools in the Caribbean. He gave me a lot of financial help when I was in Medical School, and practiced what I considered good medicine. As I said, do not get old.

Have been on the internet with Mel and Betty Donaldson off and on recently. They are back in their summer home, in Michigan, and I am sure they are enjoying the cool and windy weather we all are having. Mel sends me jokes now and then, and I pass on some of the milder ones which I receive. My niece sends me some which I don't send to any of my friends. People think I am a nice guy. I received Mel's Florida newsletter back in the mail today (10th). I knew it should have been returned, because I sent copies to both of his addresses.

Bob Mielke sent a note in today's mail, also. He does not travel much anymore, just sits in the "Yuper" and relaxes, mostly. He celebrated his #80 on Valentine's day, and family and church members added to his delights. He has most of his family in the Upper Peninsula, and they stay pretty close together.

Bob sends a donation for our ailing kitty, and sends greetings to all of his friends and former buddies in the group.

Thanks for the note, Bob. Best regards to Helen. Glad you are having a milder spring than usual.

On the 10th I received a note from Eunice Tibbott which contained a donation for Miss Kitty. She had met Mel and Betty Donaldson for lunch at Sand Key, and enjoyed a nice visit with them. Then she and a former co-worker spent the month of March at a facility at

Madeira Beach, and had a cool, but comfortable stay there. Next year they will be at Indian Rocks Beach, a gulf beach city near St. Pete. The new spot is a high rise, but the 2nd floor trip to the condo in Madeira was too much of a journey for aging extremities. Keep us posted as to your whereabouts next year, Eunice. The west coast regiment meets not too far from that area, and you would be most welcome at our gatherings.

Thanks for the note. We enjoy hearing from all of our members.

Received a note from Roy Roeser, son of our deceased member Roy. He sends a donation for the kitty, and requests that he be deleted from the roster. He thanks us for placing him on the list, and sends regards to all the Helpmates who served with his dad. "Twill be done, Roy.

And a nice note from Jerri Polson. She had a second cataract removed, and sees with both eyes now. She has made her journey to Decatur with the Moose Lodge group, and is currently in good health. Clair Schneider and friend were in to see her at the food store, and they had a nice visit. Clair is not certain as to the Nashville reunion, and Jerri always rode with Clair, so she is going to hope someone in the area will allow her to go with them to the reunion. I am sure someone will accommodate her.

She sent a nice donation for the copier, and hopes it will continue to work for a long time. Jerri knows the grief of keeping the newsletter going, as Ron had it for nearly 40 years. I have only been putting it out for 12 years, and I had a full head of hair when I started it.

Thanks gobs for the letter Jerri.. And many thanks for the kitty fodder.

One of life's minor catastrophe's has struck me. I was visiting daughter Nancy's house on the 20th, and I tripped on the door threshold and ended up flat on the ground. More than my pride was smashed, folks. My left shoulder was broken in 3 places, along with many contusions. Went to the ER, got my Valpeau sling, and went home to lick my many wounds. It still hurts a lot, but it's mine, all mine. I trust that you will forgive the typing er-

rors which crop up. I am taking a lot of codeine and it is visible. I am even more confused than usual, but it does dull the pain. I will have to be in thus contraption for 5 weeks at least, then a few more weeks of exercise and P.T. It could have been worse, believe me.

Got a welcome phone call from Bill and Marian Hartley a few days ago. Marian had been doing poorly, and decided to get a second opinion for her medical problem, and was placed on a different medical regime, and seems to be doing better at this time. I agree with Marian and always welcomed any help I could get. In any event, she seems improved.

Bill also is doing well. He has a few of the old-aged problems, and I believe Marian told me that he will have some eye work done soon.

I apologized to the folks for overlooking the Xmas greeting and donation, and assured them that it would happen again, but hopefully not to them. I had hoped to see the Florida crew in the near future, but that may be postponed by my accident.

I received a note from Jerri and Margaret Stensberg on the 24th. They are doing well at this time, and Jerry will soon be having some eye surgery for cataracts. Their grandson, in the army, is serving in Egypt at this time, and is doing well. No more news from Mugs in the note, so things seem fine in the north. Good luck on the eye surgery, Jerry. And thanks so much for the kitty fodder.

I have lost a note which I made about a call from one of the Helpmates in the near past. I believe it was from Warren Shields who tells me that Gerry Brennan passed away in 1998. I have had no recent letters from Gerry or Jewell, so I regret to agree that this may be so, as he always wrote every 6 months or so to let me know how things were going in the lives of our Brennans. I knew that both of the folks were having medical problems, and that Jewell was getting orthopedic treatment, but no indication that anything had happened to either of them. I believe that someone in the know will report more facts, and more will be published in a later issue. If Jerry has indeed passed away, the sympathy of all the group is extended to the Brennan's in their great loss. He always had a pleasant word, even when

things were bad. I will add more if I hear more.

Got messages from the Maiers. Daughter sent me news that Pat and Ruth were certainly planning the trip to Nashville, and she and her husband were going to try to accompany them. Good. We need good family support. That will keep the world honest in the future.

I have been having some trouble with my computer recently, so I am unable to call up any of the E-Mails that I have received recently. Anyhow, Pat's daughter wrote me a long note, and I cannot answer to it at this moment. But thanks for the note, folks.

Evelyn Panizzi sent a note asking me to remove her name from the roster, and this will be done. She enclosed a bit of fodder for the kitty, for which much thanks is due.

Joe and Florence Zielinski are doing well at this time. They send regards, and also sent a donation for the kitty. More Thanks, Joe. Write often. Send some news, too. Helps me write the newsletter.

Now for some bad news. In my recent move I have put some of the correspondence in a safe place, so safe that I have as yet been unable to find it. Please excuse me for this poor activity. This has been one bad 6 weeks for me. Then last Thursday I had my other eye worked on, and temporarily it is better than before, but is still only a 6 or 6.5 on a scale of 10. I had hoped to have much better vision, but such is not the case as of this moment. Will see. At least all that I see is not a dirty yellow as before.

Now for some more reports on Nashville. I am getting a few better offers than before, but they are still in the mid to high 60\$ range, and several will not furnish a hospitality room if 20 or 25 rooms are not used. It is hard for all of us to make definite arrangements far ahead, so keep August 24-27 open, please. I will do the best that I can, and it may be at the 11th hour that I get a break. Just hope it is not another arm.

I have the copier in good shape now. The man who furnished it has given me a duplexing unit, and now I can print both sides of the paper when preparing it for mailing. It still takes about the same amount of time, but I think it will print better, will not wrinkle the paper, and will make things easier in general. Hope that is

not a famous last words thing.

Nashville has been a tough nut to crack. I am now promised some potential spots in which to reune, but not until June 6 or 7. With that in mind, I will get this on the way, and hope to surprise you with an early letter with good news included. If anyone else has an idea which will hold water, please call me. My new phone # is (314)845-2086, and my new address is:

5494 ABERDOUR LANE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63129.

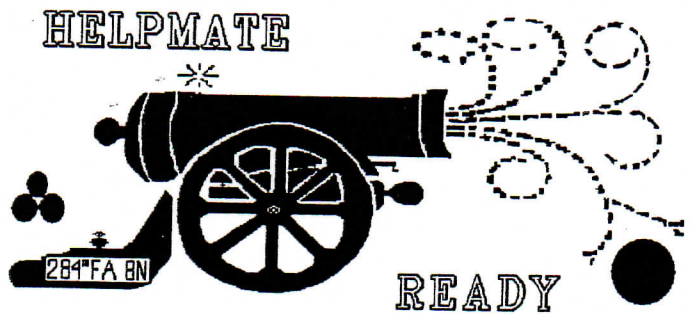
I hope that I have not forgotten some of the correspondence for this issue. I have been so overwhelmed by this move that I have misplaced everything.

I am going to print in this issue the entire letter which I received in the near past about the memories of Betty Grable of former GI's. I was not an owner of any of the articles she is asking about, but if any of you have particular memories, Dr. Sale would appreciate same.

Until next time, hopefully with some good news, take care of yourselves, and do write. It is lonesome out here.

Azever, JB

<i>AUGUST 2000</i>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	REUNION			
			31			



To: 284th Field Artillery Battalion (WWII), Mr. John B. Summers, M.D.
From: Sara Sale, Missouri Southern State College, Joplin, Missouri
Subject: Query for Inclusion in Helpmate
Date: April 26, 2000

Historical Biography in Progress about Betty Grable

All services. Published author and historian researching and writing a definitive historical study in progress about the late actress and WWII pin-up girl, Betty Grable, is seeking written remembrances, brief or long, for inclusion in two chapters about her life and times during the war.

Professor Sale would like to hear from veterans of WWII what Betty Grable herself, or her pin-up photo itself, meant to you. In addition, those veterans who have special first-hand memories of Grable's WWII films as well as of her USO performances are encouraged to add them to any written recollections provided. In doing so, it would be helpful if noted when and where her wartime films or USO shows were seen.

Betty Grable devoted countless hours as a wartime volunteer for U.S. Navy Aide. This is another important era of her life. Thus, veterans who served in the Navy during WWII and who met Grable when she worked on behalf of U.S. Navy Aide are encouraged to contribute their special written memories.

In addition, during the early years of the war, Grable volunteered her time for many evenings of service at the Hollywood Canteen. Those servicemen who may have danced with her or who came to personally know her when she was working at the Hollywood Canteen are encouraged as well to contribute their written remembrances on behalf of this biography.

Any and all written inclusions cited or referred to as sources in the published version of this historical biography about Betty Grable's times will receive formal permission requests provided to each contributor for their signed approval and release. This will follow a careful reading and study of all written remembrances that are sent to Professor Sale in the near future.

For those who would like to share their very special memories about Betty Grable on behalf of this work in progress, please send them, including your return address, to:
Dr. Sara Sale, P.O. Box 2188, Joplin, MO 64803. Or, if fax or e-mail is more convenient, you may contact her at the following: 417-782-7882 (fax) or Sale-S@mail.mssc.edu (e-mail)

JB

**THIS PAGE HAS BEEN LEFT BLANK
INTENTIONALLY. SOME OF THE
COPY WAS DEFECTIVE, AND THOSE
WILL HAVE THE CORRECT IMPRINT
ON THIS PAGE.**

DON'T EVER GET OLD.

JBS

60463-2028 26

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material, Request Prompt Delivery

JOHN A. WASILEWSKI
7534 W. POTTAWATOMI DR.
PALOS HEIGHTS IL 60463-2028

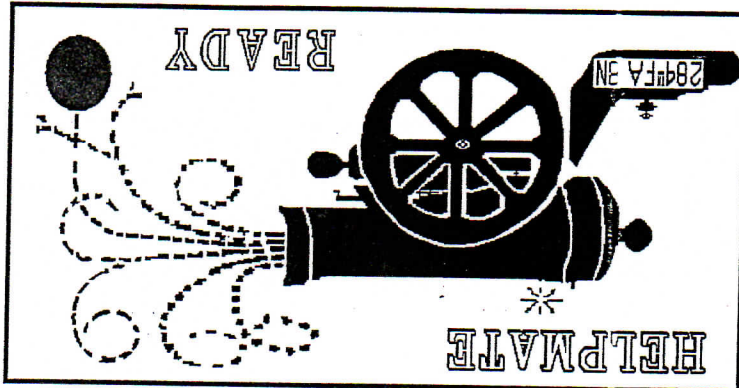
NASHVILLE, TN

AUGUST 24 - 27

2000 REUNION

284TH F. A. BN. WWII

"HELPMATE"



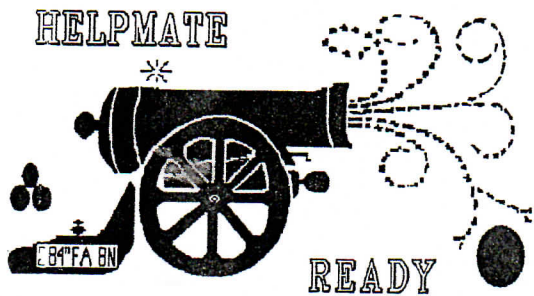
RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER
JOHN B. SUMMERS
5494 ABERDOUR LANE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63129

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FENTON, MO.
PERMIT # 135

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



2000



ISSUE 00=2