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Greetings, good people,

Greetings and salutations, friends. Hope you are having a cool, wettish summer. I haven't heard much complaining, actually.

I made a miscalculation in the last issue, and the calendar I printed had copied with a black fill color, and I had to revise about 150 copies, and hence the blank pages on many of your papers. I learn - slowly - and make every mistake possible. But I enjoy it. Just have no news to print, and that means I have to look for about anything to bring to you. Come on, guys. Write once in a while.

I finally got a break on our upcoming reunion. I decided to grab the bull by the horns, and called a city of Nashville visitors bureau, and got an immediate response from her. She is to get our requirements, and will have some of the potential suppliers get in touch with me. I was told that this will happen by next Monday, June 5, but I wouldn't hold my breath until it arrives.

I got several letters, 4 or 5 calls, and found a couple of motels which should be able to handle our group. The rates are in our range, and I am going to travel to Nashville next Monday, June 11, to look at the places. I hope to be able to find units in the 50\$ - 55\$ range, but most of them are in the low \$60's. Will look them over, and get the best of the lot. Several of them are not allowing us to bring in even beer, and I will try to avoid that, if possible. Their beer prices are in the 2 - 3\$ range, and that is impossible to stomach. Later on this.

Clair Schneider sent me a book about the environmental problems we are facing. I have been able to get into it a little, but Clair has a lot of inner knowledge of this area of the human existence, and I have to read things over. He hasn't called me for a while, and I think that I will have to call him to thank him for the education he is giving me. Later on this, too.

I received a letter from Eloise Goben Grisham today with the sad news that Al had died early in May. He had metastatic carcinoma of the prostate, and Eloise tells me that he fought a good, but failed fight to the last. He had been active with our group, and was so much help when Gibby Mitchell was failing. He organized the reunion which was so successful in Evansville sometime back. His obit in the local paper will be copied at the end of this issue.

Eloise sends a check for Miss Kitty which I returned as a Helpmate memorial to Al. He was a good friend, and I always enjoyed seeing him on his infrequent visits to St. Louis. He will be missed, and I have sent our groups sincerest sympathy, and condolences, to Eloise.

Just got back from my trip to Nashville. It was very exciting, and I visited 9 facilities there, and found 3 or 4 which will suit our needs.

My plane was met by one of the representatives from the group which I was going to visit on this trip. I would never have been able to go to as many facilities as I did were it not for this individual. I had already gone thru the literature which the various motels had sent, and had decided which of those I thought we could utilize, and wanted to see them first. There were several outstanding properties included in this group, and of those visited, I chose the Ramada Suites and Inn. It is fairly close to the airport, was easy to get to, and altho the rooms were some smaller than other units, they were clean, had adequate seating, had 2 TV's, refrigerators and the like, and were offered to us for \$49.95 (Plus tax). Members could come in a day or so early, and stay a day or so late at the same rate. They had a nice meeting room, offered a limited dining area,

and would cater a dinner meeting for us on Saturday nite. Their rate was the lowest one of the group, and the facility was the best value for the money that I saw. They made no limit on the number of rooms guaranteed, one of the problems we had last year in Branson. I feel this will make a nice facility for us, and it is centrally located, easily reached by plane and by highway. We will be allowed to bring in our own snacks, drinks, and beer, and they will furnish us ice, cups, and a large pot of coffee per day.

But what I saw as a great potential, the other facilities I visited will give us a good spot to go to in the future. There were at least 4 units which figured in the final group, and I would not hesitate settling in those at our next reunion. The choices were hard to make, but necessary.

I called Clair Schneider in response to a message on my answering machine. He is a bit worried about the upcoming reunion, but I tried to convince him how important he was to our success. He sent me a book which fascinated him concerning the squandering of our natural resources. It was on Natural Capitalism, and is very hard to get into. It has been well thought out, and the authors have made many valid points, but it is hard to remember what you read by the end of the page you are reading. He agreed with me somewhat, and I need him at the reunion so that I can return this dissertation on the bankruptcy of our natural resources.

I received a letter from an agency who is making a WWII documentary which I will put on one of the back pages of this issue.

Got a call from George Ralcewich when I came back. He had been in California visiting an ill relative, and was glad to get back home so that he could recuperate. He and Dorothy have been in good health, and haven't seen any of the group down there lately. He was going to call the Crismonds, to see how that part of the brigade was going. I had hoped to get down there soon, but there's always some little thing that needs doing, so I put it off.

And this call got me in trouble with David Hawkins. I got an internet note from him, and

in answering, I hoped that Dorothy was giving him no problems. Well I had just talked with Dorothy, but Mrs. Hawkins name is Virginia. I know this, but my aging fingers didn't remember it, so I apologized to Virginia, and promised to make the same mistake again.

David and Virginia will probably be visiting their Penn. Family, and may not make the reunion. I hoped that they could do both, but I certainly understand. Keep working on it, Dave.

I received a note and a kitty donation from my China Jade buddy, Jeep Rafeld. Geraldine had written it, but the thoughts were Jeeps. He forgot how to write when he retired, I guess. The Rafelds are doing OK. Jeep had a "mini-stroke" in March, and the tests did not localize anything great, and his only residual has been a minimal numbness in his right ring finger, for which he feels much relief. It could have been worse. It is his oriental diet which saved his body, I suspect.

The Rafelds are going to Michigan early this summer for a granddaughter's wedding. Thanks for the note, Gerry, and for the fodder.

I will place a few of the things I found out from the Nashville trip on the last pages. I had much trouble with getting this reunion arranged, but I have tried to get a central location, in a major city, with a nice motel at good rates, and I do not know what else would make this more ideal for our purposes. Please give me some help, register early, make an effort to attend, and let's have a super meeting in Nashville. A registration form will appear on the back page of this newsletter, and I will try to place it so that the label will be on the back of the form. See you in Nashville. And stay healthy until then.

I am going to cut this issue short, and put some of the Nashville things on following pages, and report briefly on any new letters I receive. I will also put in the clipping noting Al Grisham's death on later pages.

Take care of yourselves.

As ever,

JBS

OBIT NOTICE SENT TO ME BY ELOISE, AL'S WIFE.

Albert Grisham

Albert L. Grisham, 77, of Evansville, died Thursday, May 4, 2000, at Deaconess Hospital of cancer.



He retired from Whirlpool after 43 years.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Owls, Veterans of Foreign Wars 1114 and American Legion Post 8.

He was a 1941 graduate of Central High School and a World War II Army and Marine Corps veteran, receiving a Purple Heart.

Surviving are his wife, Eloise; three daughters, Rebecca Grisham-Whitehouse, Patricia Whitehead and Terri Singer, all of Evansville; a sister, Lena Mae Rafferty of Floyds Knobs, Ind.; and a brother, Madison of Mayfield, Ky.

His second wife, Wilma (Stennett), died in 1982.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Browning Funeral Home, the Rev. Bob Cox officiating, with entombment in Alexander Memorial Park Mausoleum, with military rites.

Friends may call from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday and from 10 a.m. to service time at the funeral home.

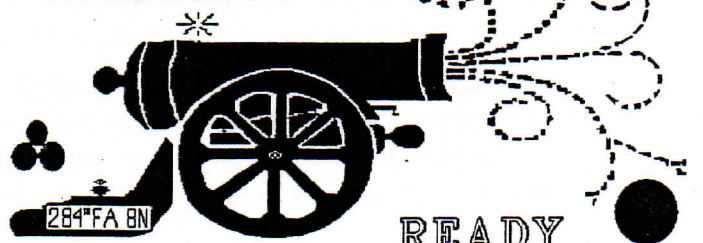
Memorial contributions may be made to the German Township Volunteer Fire Department.



Al Pavlick sent this picture to Norb Obecny, asked him who the culprits were. Al may be the only survivor. WHO ARE THEY ?



HELPMATE



August 2000

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THINGS ARE NEVER AS WE EXPECT. MY COPIER TONER RAN DRY AFTER THE 1ST 50 OF THE NEWSLETTER, AND I HAD TO ORDER MORE, HOLDING BACK THE MAILING OF THIS ISSUE A FULL WEEK. I AM GENUINELY SORRY, BUT THAT'S THE WAY THIS MONTH HAS GONE. IT WILL SURELY HAPPEN AGAIN. IT HAS IN THE PAST, WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. THANKS FOR BEING PATIENT.

JBS

April 18, 2000

John B Summers
284 FIELD ART BN
12658 Alswell Ln
Saint Louis, MO 63128-2509

Dear Fellow Veteran:

Staying in touch with friends you served with just got easier!

Since I left active duty, I've tried to stay in touch with friends I served with using email, letters, and phone calls. As you know, it's certainly not easy to stay in touch! That's why we created Military.com, a new site that will help you and your group stay connected for life. Best of all, it's free!

We've started by building nearly 20,000 homepages for units, ships and squadrons. Each homepage is a single point of contact for everyone ever affiliated with the unit. You can connect with people you know, meet people who served in different eras, post announcements and photographs, share stories, plan reunions, and contribute to the living history of your unit.

Also, these 20,000 unit homepages are starting points for people like you to build your very own page for your unit or group. Building your own page is simple, quick and free. In about 5 minutes, you'll be sharing news and photographs.

Military.com invites you to find your unit's page, to participate in building the community, and to keep your group connected more conveniently than ever before. We're building the alumni association for the U.S. Military and invite you to be a charter member. Join us in creating the online home for the millions of Americans with ties to the military.

I look forward to seeing you at www.military.com.

Sincerely,



Christopher Michel
CEO
Military.com