

HELPMATE BULLETIN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
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Issue 00-4

AUGUST 4

2000

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

Had one tough time getting the last issue on the road. The new copier ran out of toner, and I had none stocked up, so I was helpless, and did not know just what to get or where to get it. So I put the issue on hold, and when I got back from my short Florida trip, I had more of the black stuff sent out.

My Florida trip was short, and quite disappointing. Could not raise my usual crew on any of my phone calls, and finally went to New Port Richey, saw my real estate contacts, played a losing hand of Mhing with the Crismonds, and headed back home. Knew that it was a lighting trip from the first, but hoped to see some of the other guys, too. Next time.

Thanks to John Wasilewski, we have a new web site. It can be reached at :

<http://hometown.aol.com/fabn284/index.html>

It has many of the facts which all of you know, and some which are of interest to others who may light on our spot. Check it out, and let John or I know of other facts you would like to have included. John's locate is johnw98765@aol.com. Either of us would be glad to have your input.

I received a letter from Les Lenker with news that he has left the Lakeland winter locate, and will remain in Ohio the year round now. Les has developed a "black spot" in the right eye, and the doctors have not been able to do anything with it as yet, but are still going to try. Their general health is good, but the eye will be keeping them home for the near future. They included some fodder for Miss Kitty, and that is much appreciated. Thanks for the contact, Les. Good luck with your eye. They do great things now.

Bud DeFeo sent me an e-mail, and wondered where I was. He hadn't gotten a newsletter for a while, and was just worried. His

last contact had been to tell me that he and Jean were possibly not going to be able to get to the reunion, but I understand that he is going to try to make it. I got this from Ray Crismond who called me just yesterday with the news that he and Marge may try to fly into Nashville for the reunion. He and Marge are doing fine at this time. They are in touch with Shirley Dawson, and are going to try to see if our 2001 reunion might be held in Fredericksburg. The "C" battery group met there once, and had a great time.

Ray had several of the bulletins which I took to Florida with me, and he sent them to several of the West Coast group. Thanks for the call, Ray. Good to hear from you.

I also got a call from Bob Rosen. He wanted to know if I had heard from his drinking buddy, Lloyd Lage, or from the Entiles. I had not, so he wanted me to be sure to let them know that he was going to be in Nashville, and that they should be sure to be there. I know that they will, if possible, but wanted to be sure to mention this in the letter. Bob is healthy. Sumiko's sister, who was very ill, died while she was visiting in Japan, and she is in the midst of the mourning process after a death. I sure enjoyed hearing from Bob, and will look forward to seeing him in Nashville. Be sure to bring the bottle, Bob. But don't take it with you and Lage when you hit the bars.

I received another phone call from Ray Crismond. He has been in touch with Shirley Dawson, and she is going to try to make it to the reunion. She and Pappy always made it to most of the reunions, and it will seem more normal if she can make it. She always adds to the festivities, and I am sure that she will do likewise at this meeting. Thanks for the news, Ray, and

thanks for making the effort, Shirl.

And I just received an E-mail from Shirl with the news above included. Shirley has many funny stories to tell about the early 284 days. I never tire of hearing about her trip to Dothan. We all applauded her devotion to ill Pappy, and the length she would go to make sure he had a good time at the reunions. It will be good to have Shirl with us. For sure.

Had a note, and a welcome check for the kitty from Bob Rosen. He has made arrangements to stay at the Nashville Ramada Suites, but had made his flying arrangements to Knoxville. We got it straightened out, tho, and Bob will be in Nashville, just aching to get his tennis elbow bending with Lloyd Lage. He also hopes that the Entiles will be there. Not too many from "B" honor us, but there sure is quality in those who come. Glad I called you, Bob. We would have had to ferry you about 100 miles with your original arrangements.

I received a nice note from Joseph W. Summers with news that his mother, Mary, had died May 11. She had a prolonged illness, and Joseph was with her for about 4 years prior to her death, and now he is in the process of closing their family home, a sad chore, as I well know. He asks that he and his sister be kept on the mailing list, as he enjoys reading the newsletter. I well remember the frequent questions of the Helpmates, asking if I were Bill Summers' little brother. He was well known, and very well liked in Service Btry.

Joseph sent along a check for the kitty, and that was much appreciated. Our poor kitty has sprung a leak, and I had to pull some strings to get a new copier with which to continue the newsletter. Thanks for the news, Joseph. You know you have the best wishes, and the deep sympathy of our whole group. I will place the obituary notice you sent at the end of this issue.

I received a very distressing phone call from Clair Schneider. He has had several irons in the fire, and they have caught up with him, and he will be unable to make the reunion this year. I talked until I was blue, or nearly, but what he says makes good sense, and we

will have to do without him this trip.

We discussed the rest of the world's problems, and didn't solve any of them, and ended up with his promising to try to change a few of the problems he is working on, but will be governed by his decision re the reunion.

Hang in there, Clair. You will be missed. Wait until you talk to Crismond. He will object, I would guess.

I have been trying to work out something for the big meal. It is difficult to judge just how many will be there, and that is the first thing that the caterer asks. The prices they quoted me were a little higher than I expected, but they would have the meal in our meeting room, and would tailor the entrees to our wishes, so maybe it will not be too bad.

I had told Tom Allen that we were going to be in Nashville, and he may join me at the function. He has relatives there, and they were in part responsible for the impossible prices I got early in my search. They tailored the facility to what they would like, and could afford, and did not consider our personal needs at all. Tom is a good meeting planner, and I may have him as a guest there. He never did finish the photos of our last reunion, and I may have those available in Nashville.

I think I will close this up now, as I want to get another issue off before the reunion. I will need all the support I can get, and I do want to have a good time there.

I will place the obit notice of Mary Summers in this place. Take care of yourselves.

As ever

JBS

SUMMERS — Mary J. (nee Las-kowski) on Thursday, May 11, 2000 of Little Ferry, NJ. Beloved wife of the late William J. Dear mother of Joseph William Summers and Marianne Dorner. Sister of Wanda Krystofik. Grandmother of Ashley Ann Summers and Christopher Peter Dorner. Funeral from the Trinka-Faustini Funeral Home, 233 Liberty Street, Little Ferry on Monday, May 15 at 9:30 AM. Funeral Mass at St. Margaret of Corona R.C. Church at 10 AM. Interment George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus. Visiting Saturday 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 PM only. Donations to the "Special Care Foundation," 4 Banta Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601 would be appreciated.

I have some late received news today. I received a letter from Paul Martin, one of the West Coast Gang, with the sad news that his wife, Millie, passed away on July 13. She had been suffering greatly from ovarian cancer, and arthritis. Her tumor was discovered in 1995, and had spread throughout her whole body before her death. I have sent our sympathy and condolences to the Martin family for the great loss they have suffered. The Martins had been married 60 years and had 4 children born from the marriage.

I hope Paul will be able to join those of us on the West Coast as we meet once in a while to enjoy the company.

Paul adds that donations may be made to
 Hospice Foundation of the Florida Suncoast
 300 E. Bay Dr.
 Largo, FL 33770-9850

And George and Dorothy Ralcewich called on the 31st to reassure me that they will see me in Nashville. Dorothy bought George a new car, he says, and they will be assured of no auto problems on their trip north.

Again, see you soon.

JBS

August 2000

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MUSIC CITY POINTS OF INTEREST

Continued from Inside

Tennessee State Museum

Fifth, between Union & Deaderick; 741-2692
Exhibits trace the history of Tennessee and the nation from prehistoric Indians to the early 1900s. "Impressions of Normandy: Paintings from France" runs Jan. 10-May 30, 1999. *Cost:* free; charge for "Impressions." *Hours:* Tues.-Sat. 10 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm; closed Mon. & major holidays.

Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum (D-3)

4 Music Square E.; 256-1639; 800-816-7652
Behind-the-scenes look at country music with over 3,000 stage costumes, original song manuscripts and personal items on display plus special exhibits on Gibson Guitars and Hank Williams. *Cost:* \$10.75 adults; \$4.75 children (6-11). Admission includes a visit to Studio B (see listing) and "Walking the Row: The Official Music Row Walking Tour." *Hours:* daily 9 am-5 pm.

Cumberland Science Museum (D-3)

800 Ft. Negley Blvd.; 862-5160
A hands-on adventure in discovery with the Sudekum Planetarium (daily shows), child-sized Curiosity Corner and national blockbuster exhibits. *Cost:* \$6 adults; \$4.50 children (3-12). *Hours:* Mon.-Sat. 10 am-5 pm; Sun. 12:30-5:30 pm.

General Jackson Showboat (C-4)

2812 Opryland Drive; 871-6100
A four-deck paddlewheeler offering 2-hour midday, 3-hour evening and special theme cruises on the Cumberland River. All cruises feature live entertainment. *Cost:* lunch cruises \$22-\$34 adults; dinner cruises \$48-\$52 adults. *Hours:* call for reservations and departure times.

Grand Ole Opry (C-4)

2804 Opryland Drive; Tickets 889-3060
Bringing America country music for over 73 years. See superstars, "Hall of Famers," legends and hot new stars perform every Friday and Saturday night at the Opry House, a 4,400-seat broadcast studio. *Tickets:* (prices do not include tax): Main Floor/Mezzanine \$18; Balcony \$16. *Hours:* Friday nights 7:30 pm; Saturday nights 6:30 & 9:30 pm.

The Grand Ole Opry Museum (C-4)

2802 Opryland Drive; 889-3060
The museum pays tribute to Hall of Fame members and the Opry's stars through interactive displays. Special exhibits honor Patsy Cline, Marty Robbins, Tex Ritter, Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, George Jones & others. *Cost:* free. *Hours:* opens daily at 10:30 am. Located in the Opry Plaza area.

Belmont Mansion (D-3)

1900 Belmont Blvd.; 460-5459
Built by Adelia Acklen, an original "steel magnolia," this 1850 Italianate villa features 15 rooms with original & period furnishings. *Cost:* \$6 adults; \$2 children (6-12). *Hours:* June-Aug.: Mon.-Sat. 10 am-4 pm, Sun. 2-5 pm; Sept.-May: Tues.-Sat. 10 am-4 pm.

The Hermitage: Home of

President Andrew Jackson (C-5)

4580 Rachel's Lane, Hermitage; 889-2941
Nashville's national treasure: The Hermitage, home of the 7th president, features a biographical film, museum exhibits, mansion & grounds tour, Jackson's tomb, self-guided archaeology tour and other related sites. *Cost:* \$9.50 adults; \$8 seniors (62 & over); \$4.50 children (6-12). *Hours:* daily 9 am-5 pm; closed third week in Jan. *International Services:* translations in French and German.

Historic Mansker's Fort & Frontier Center (A-4)

Moss-Wright Park, Goodlettsville; 859-FORT
Two sites comprise the Frontier Center & show the transition settlers made from a fortified station to estate living. *Cost:* \$5 adult; \$3 students. *Hours:* March-Dec.: Tues.-Sat. 9 am-4 pm.

Historic Travellers Rest (E-3)

636 Farrell Parkway; 832-8197
The home of Judge John Overton, begun in 1799, is Nashville's oldest plantation home open to the public. *Cost:* \$6 adults; \$5 seniors; \$3 children (6-12). *Hours:* Tues.-Sat. opens 10 am; Sun. at 1 pm; (last tour: 4 pm).

Music Valley Car Museum (C-4)

2611 McGavock Pike; 885-7400
Automotive museum with antique vehicles, street rods and special interest cars, many owned by stars. *Cost:* \$3.50 adults; \$3 seniors (65 & over); \$1.50 children (6-12). *Hours:* Memorial Day-Labor Day daily 8 am-10 pm; rest of year 9 am-5 pm.

Music Valley Wax Museum (C-4)

2515 McGavock Pike; 883-3612
More than 50 wax figures of country music stars in original costumes plus the Sidewalk of the Stars. *Cost:* \$3.50 adults; \$3 seniors (65 & over); \$1.50 children (6-12). *Hours:* Memorial Day-Labor Day daily 8 am-10 pm; rest of year 9 am-5 pm.

Nashville Shores (D-6)

4001 Bell Road, Hermitage; 889-7050
Enjoy a day of fun and sun. Featuring the four largest water slides in Tennessee, Barrel of Fun Waterfall, multiple pools, children's play area, three miles of lakefront, boat rentals, parasailing and a white, sandy beach. *Cost:* 11.95 adults; \$8.95 children (3-12); extra fee for boat rentals. *Hours:* 10 am-7 pm daily Memorial Day-Labor Day and weekends only May 1-23 & Sept. 7-19.

The Nashville Toy Museum (C-4)

2613 McGavock Pike; 883-8870
Model trains, tin soldiers, antique dolls, bears and other toys are part of this internationally known collection. *Cost:* \$3.50 adults; \$3 seniors (65 & over); \$1.50 children (6-12). *Hours:* Summer: daily 9 am-9 pm; rest of year: daily 9 am-5 pm.

Nashville Zoo at Grassmere (D-3)

3777 Nolensville Road; 833-1534
A walk-through park with wildlife including cougar & black bear, plus "The Jungle Gym," a huge community built playground. See the latest exhibit "Unseen New World." *Cost:* \$6 adults; \$4 seniors & children (3-12). *Hours:* April 1-Sept. 30: daily 9 am-6 pm; rest of year: daily 10 am-5 pm.

The Parthenon (D-2)

West End & 25th in Centennial Park; 862-8431
Replica of the Greek temple housing casts of the Elgin Marbles, fine art, traveling exhibits & a 42-foot statue of Athena. *Cost:* \$2.50 adults; \$1.25 seniors 62 & over & children (4-17). *Hours:* Tues.-Sat. 9 am-4:30 pm; open Sundays April-Sept.

Beverage Containers Museum (A-4)

1055 Ridgecrest Drive, Millersville; 859-5236
More than 36,000 soda and beer cans plus exhibit on Tennessee brewery history. *Cost:* \$4 adults; children under 12 free with adult. *Hours:* Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm. *International Services:* Spanish translator available.

Studio B (D-3)

26 Music Square West; 256-1639
(Country Music Hall of Fame number)
Experience this legendary studio from the perspective of Elvis Presley who recorded here from 1957-1977. Find out why it's known as "the Home of 1000 Hits" and have the chance to see actual recording activity during live session and demo work. *Cost:* included in Country Music Hall of Fame admission. *Hours:* daily 9 am-5 pm.

Tennessee Central Railway Museum (C-3)

220 Willow Street; 781-0262
Experience travel in a fully-restored 1950s-era passenger train. *Cost:* varies by length of excursion. *Hours:* departures are scheduled, normally on Saturdays at 8 am, throughout the year; call for schedule; trips vary from 2-8 hours.

Texas Troubadour Theatre (C-4)

2414 Music Valley Drive; 885-0028
The Ernest Tubb Midnite Jamboree, a live radio show, broadcasts Saturday nights. Also, Cowboy Church on Sundays. Returning in 1999 the hit, "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline." *Cost:* free for jamboree & Cowboy Church; \$18 adults, \$15 seniors (60 & up) and \$5 children (5-12) for Patsy Cline. *Hours:* Jamboree Sat. midnight-1 am (doors open 11:30 pm); Cowboy Church Sun. 10 am; Patsy Cline show April-Dec.: Sun.-Mon. & Wed.-Thurs. 7-9 pm; call for weekend schedule.

TNN: The Nashville Network (C-4)

2806 Opryland Drive; 883-7000
There are many ways to see shows in production at TNN. "Prime Time Country," with host Gary Chapman, tapes Mon.-Thurs. from Studio A in the Opry House. Call for info on other tapings. *Cost:* "Prime Time Country" free, but reservations must be made by calling 457-PTC4.

The Upper Room Chapel and Museum (D-3)

1908 Grand Ave.; 340-7207
Tennessee State Capitol
Charlotte, between Sixth & Seventh;
741-2692 or 741-1621
Completed in 1859, several areas have been restored to their original appearance. *Cost:* free. *Hours:* Mon.-Fri. 9 am-4 pm; closed state holidays.

Van Vechten Gallery - Fisk University (C-2)

Corner of Jackson & D.B. Todd Blvd.; 329-8720
More than 100 works from the Alfred Stieglitz Collection including paintings by Renoir, Picasso, and Cézanne, plus changing exhibits. *Cost:* free, donation suggested. *Hours:* Tues.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm, Sat.-Sun. 1-5 pm; closed Mon. and university holidays; *Summer Hours:* closed Sun.-Mon.

Wildhorse Saloon

120 Second Ave. N.; 902-8200
"Country that kicks!" Show off or learn the newest dances, see top country stars perform live, catch a concert by a hot new artist or be on TNN during special tapings. *Cost:* varies. *Hours:* club open daily 11 am-2 am; dance instruction daily.

Willie Nelson & Friends Showcase (C-4)

2613A McGavock Pike; 885-1515
Paying tribute to Patsy Cline, Elvis with J.D. Sumner and more. Also, Willie's personal items, gold & platinum albums and guitars. *Cost:* \$3.50 adults; \$3 seniors (65 & over); \$1.50 children (6-12). *Hours:* Memorial Day-Labor Day: daily 8 am-10 pm; Winter: daily 9 am-5 pm.

Belle Meade Plantation (D-1)

5025 Harding Road; 356-0501; 800-270-3991
"Queen of the Tennessee Plantations," this 1853 Greek Revival mansion was the centerpiece of a thoroughbred horse farm. The present site includes outbuildings, Carriage House & Stable and a new restaurant. *Cost:* \$8 adults; \$7.50 seniors; \$3 children (6-12). *Hours:* Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm (last tour: 4 pm). *International Services:* multilingual cards (Japanese, French, German, Spanish).

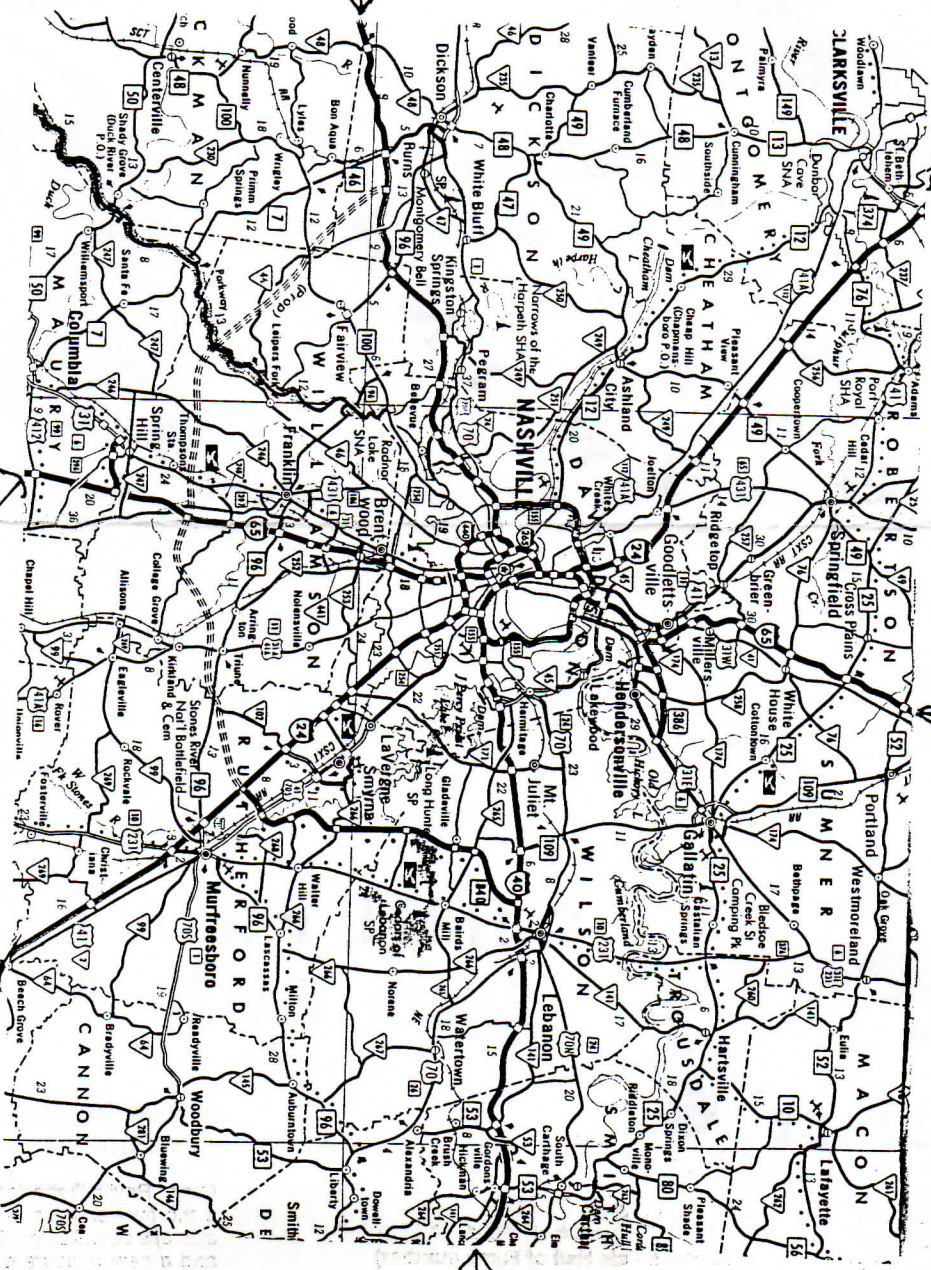


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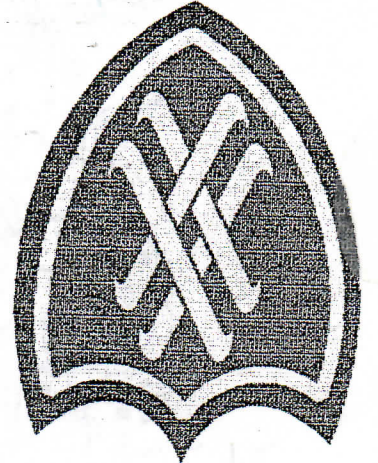


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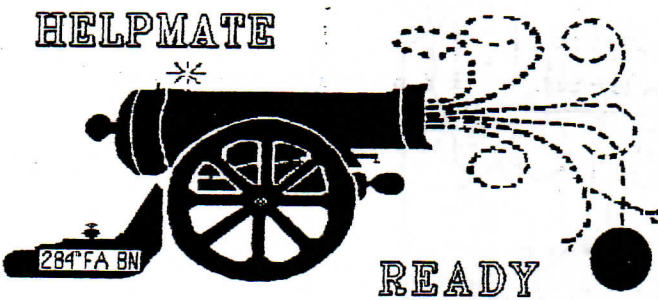
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284th FA Bn WWII

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 AUGUST 24-27

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